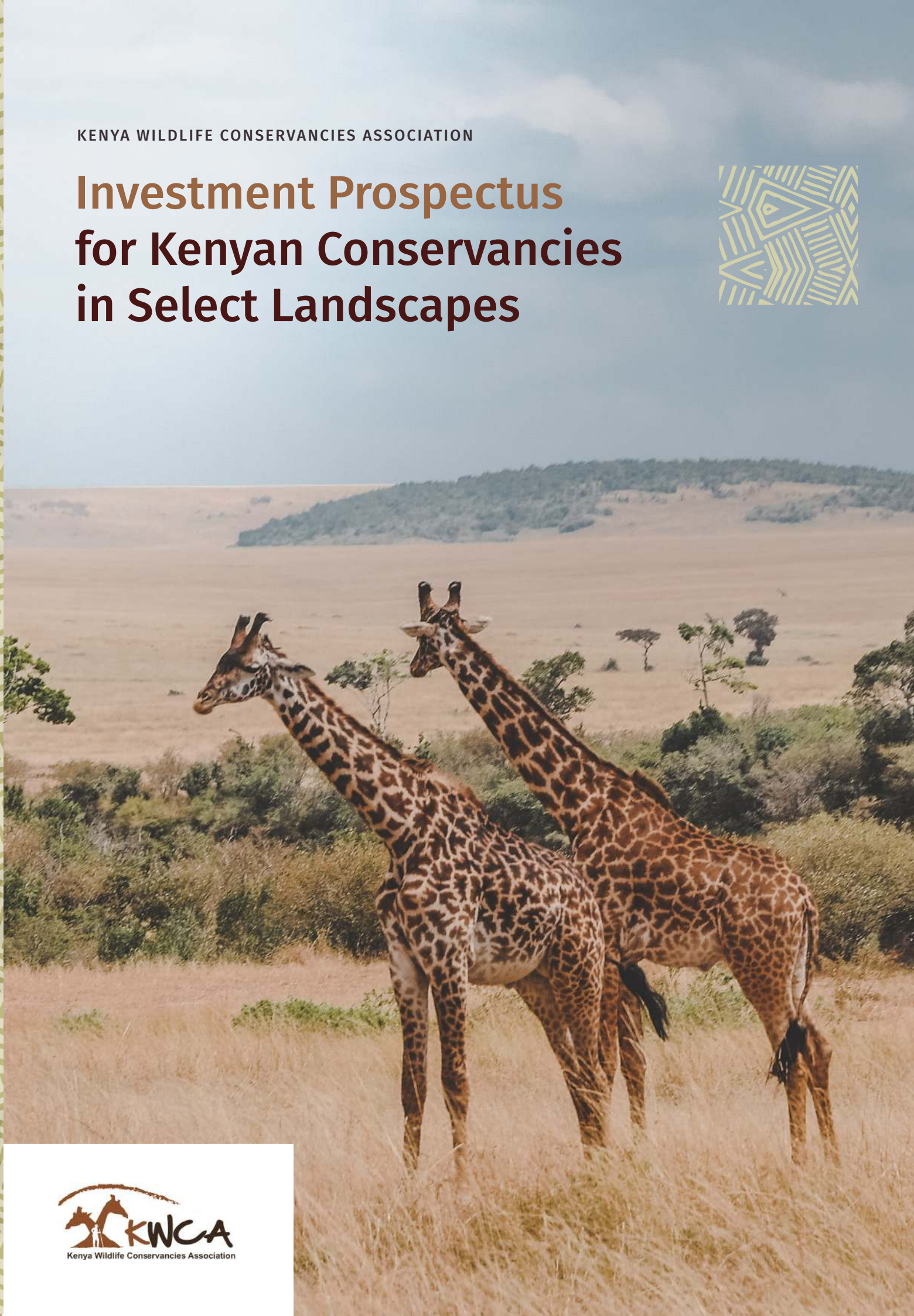
KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION

# Investment Prospectus for Kenyan Conservancies in Select Landscapes



KWCA
Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association



**Project**

Development of Investment Prospectus for Kenyan Conservancies in Select Landscapes

**Project by:**

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association

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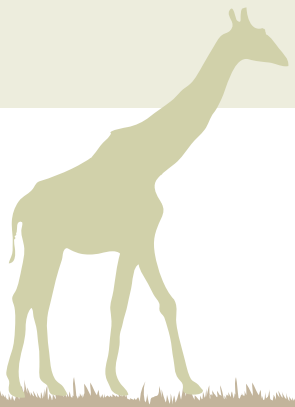
# Annexes

## Annexes

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## Abbreviations

| | |
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| KWCA | Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association |
| KTB | Kenya Tourism Board |
| KWS | Kenya Wildlife Service |
| NRT | Northern Rangelands Trust |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| TA | Tierranjani Africa Limited |
| UNWTO | United Nations World Tourism Organization |



# 1. About KWCA

The process of establishing Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) began in 2012 after several unsuccessful attempts by non-state actors in the sector to establish a national representative forum that would convene and advance the aspirations and interests of communities and private landowners living with wildlife.

However, the strides that commenced the journey of developing a national grassroots conservancy movement in Kenya dates back to the mid-1990s when efforts towards wildlife policy, and legislative and institutional reforms in Kenya were reviewed and formulated.

It was envisaged that the registration and institutionalisation of an independent national organisation for wildlife conservation and management would lead to a structured and coordinated industry, which would contribute to the sustainable management of biodiversity and empowerment of community and private landowners.

**Placing communities at the center of wildlife conservation efforts**

Since the emergence of the first conservancies in the 1970s, conservancies have grown in number and their impact has broadened beyond wildlife conservation and tourism.

While wildlife conservation is a key objective, conservancies have the unique power to transform communities while safeguarding our iconic wildlife by uniting communities, promoting peace and security and improving livelihoods.

As the national umbrella body uniting the dynamic and diverse voices of wildlife conservancies in the county, we exist to harness this power.

Fast forward to 2010… the promulgation of the Constitution provided for a decentralised system of governance for the management of wildlife resources in non-protected areas by landowners.

This saw a renewed vigor to establish a national conservation association to advance wildlife conservancy issues through policy advocacy at the national and regional levels, partnership with private sector and support from the international community.

The draft of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Bill of 2011 and the Conservancy Regulations of 2012 both explicitly recommended devolution of rights to landholders and the institutionalisation of the wildlife industry in Kenya.

Buoyed up by this development, stakeholders in the wildlife sector, led by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and representatives from Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET), Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF), Maasai Mara Group Ranches, South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and World Wide Fund Kenya (WWF-Kenya), rallied together, holding consultative meetings with the government to drive this historic agenda.

# 2. Background on Project

KWCA works to create an enabling environment for conservancies to thrive by advocating for the right policies, laws and incentives and supporting them through information sharing, and capacity building. KWCA recognises that conservancies represent a strong mechanism to promote wildlife stewardship and custodianship by indigenous people, local communities and landowners that share land with wildlife.

Kenya's wildlife conservation sector, including wildlife conservancies, relies heavily on tourism and tourism revenues to support core operations and conservation interventions. However, tourism investments and revenues from wildlife conservancies remain largely modest. For example, the Kenya's tourism sector generated Ksh 99.7 billion in 2016 but the share of tourism income earned by conservancies amounted to a modest 1.3 percent.

Moreover, only 69 conservancies out of the 160 Kenyan conservancies host a total of 131 tourism facilities and a total of 2,510 beds.

This status of tourism within wildlife conservancies presents opportunities and challenges in equal measure. The modest tourism investment within the conservancies presents a considerable potential and scope for expansion. On the other hand, over-reliance on tourism as the major source of revenue has subjected the sector to external shocks such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which together with the measures to control its spread, has brought international tourism to a sudden halt, consequently depriving wildlife conservancies the necessary resources required to secure conservation space and minimise threats to Kenya's iconic wildlife as well as providing social outcomes to the conservancy communities.



KWCA has embarked on a journey to identify and document potential wildlife conservation compatible investment opportunities within conservancies with a view of linking such opportunities to the private sector for improved income and resilience. The need for financial sustainability among KWCA member conservancies is anchored on the organisation's Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and KWCA's conservancies Marketing Strategy.

In order to maximize tourism earnings from all sectors and in view of the untapped potential in the conservancies, Tierranjani Africa as the consulting firm in partnership with KWCA and the select Conservancies have worked together in developing a rich, attractive and innovative investment prospectus for Kenyan Conservancies in the select Landscapes.

# 3. Guiding Principles in Investing in the select Conservancies

Guiding principles are defined as precepts that guide an organization throughout its life in all circumstances, irrespective of changes in its goals, strategies, type of work or the top management (source: The Business Dictionary).10 Feb 2020

In developing the KWCA select landscapes Investment prospectus 2023, the guiding principles have been informed and aligned to the KWCA Strategic Plan 2019-2023 1and the KWCA Marketing Strategy 2022 -20302.

The principles have used the six SDGs identified in the KWCA Strategic Plan 2019-2023 as the foundation of developing the investment prospectus, and further included 1 more SDG that directly links to the tourism sector and these are;



### SDG 1 No Poverty

where conservancies will contribute to the community well-being through interventions that reduce poverty.



### SDG 5 Gender Equality

where conservancies will promote conservancy governance structures that ensure women have the right information, capacity and supportive environments to participate in conservancy leadership, decision making and management.



### SDG 13 Climate Action

where conservancies will improve awareness, institutional capacity and community resilience to climate change mitigation and adaptation.



### SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

where conservancies will contribute to the community well-being through interventions that reduce poverty.



### SDG 14 Life below Water

where conservancies will promote the expansion of Marine areas under protection and extend to coastal regions environmental management



### SDG 15 Life on Land

where conservancies will promote the expansion of terrestrial and wetland areas under protection.

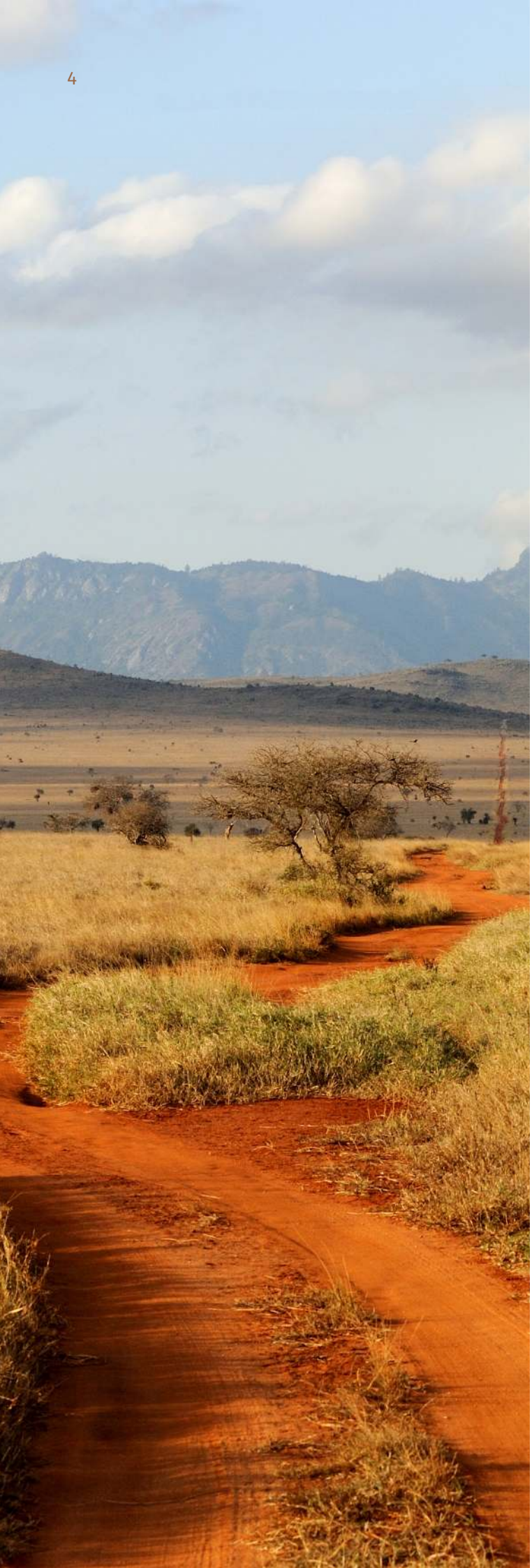


### SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

where the conservancies will advocate for effective, transparent and accountability in conservancies.

1 KWCA Strategic Plan 2019 -2023 https://kwcakenya.com/download/kwca-strategic-plan-2019-2023/

2 KWCA Marketing Strategy 2022 -2030



The guiding principles of the investment prospectus therefore are cumulative precepts and foresights that will propel sustainable and inclusive growth in the select landscapes through ensuring the investments injected in the conservancies serve as catalyst for the sustainable growth. These are;

## Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation

All proposed investments should work towards contributing to the wildlife and ecosystem conservation. They must boost the conservancies' current conservation efforts and advocate for new and innovative measures to preserve and conserve wildlife and the environment.

## Community Development and Empowerment

All proposed investments should work towards community development and empowerment. In the spirit of the outlined SDGs, community involvement and engagement allows for inclusive development that contributes to the community's well-being and ownership of development.

## Cultural and Heritage Conservation

The conservation of cultural heritage refers to the measures taken to extend the life of cultural heritage while strengthening transmission of its significant heritage messages and values, this therefore translates that all investments should contribute to maintaining our human identities through Cultural and Heritage conservation.

## Circular Enterprise Development

As highlighted in the KWCA Marketing Strategy 2022- 2027, mainstream economic activities are usually characterized by a "take, make and dispose" style of production and consumption, but because the conservancies work on the foundation of SDG 12, Responsible consumption and production, all investments should encourage the local communities to engage in circular business by developing, scaling and replicating resource efficient, closed-loop and circular business models that will empower the community, with a keen interest on empowering the women, youth and other minority groups.

# 4. The Opportunities

## 4.1 BARINGO

Located within the central part of Great Rift Valley in Kenya, Baringo is well known for its rich and diverse attractions, as well as the home of over 5000 discovered fossils as described in the BCCA Assessing the conservation status and opportunities for community conservancies in Baringo[3]. It is considered part of the vast Afro-Arabian rift system that extends for approximately 6000 km from the gulf of the Suez in the Middle East through the Red Sea to Mozambique.

The name Baringo was derived from the word 'Mparingo' which means 'lake' in the Ilchamus native community language, one of the main inhabitants of the archeologically rich destination. Some of the attractions in the region include; Lake Bogoria, Kapedo Hotsprings, Lake Baringo, the Lake Baringo snake park which hosts a wide range of reptile species such as the black mamba, puff adder, boomslang to name a few including monitor lizards,
crocodiles and tortoises.

Baringo is also home to the Lake Bogoria Game Reserve, home to rare kudus, antelopes, zebras, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, mongoose, monkeys, baboons and jackals. Baringo is also a birding paradise, where at the shores of Lake Bogoria one can easily spot more than two millions lesser flamingos and over 350 bird species. Baringo is home to some of the idiosyncratic conservancies in the Kenyan landscapes that offer diversity in Geotourism, Pre-Historic and cultural heritage.



# i. Irong Community Conservancy



Irong Conservancy is a community led conservancy located in the perplexing Lake Bogoria ecosystem landscape, sized at 61,450 hectares. Irong community conservancy is strategically located next to Lake Bogoria where tourists can engage in lake-driven activities such as boating and in addition, the destination has rock climbing and trekking, due to its unique rocky landscape.

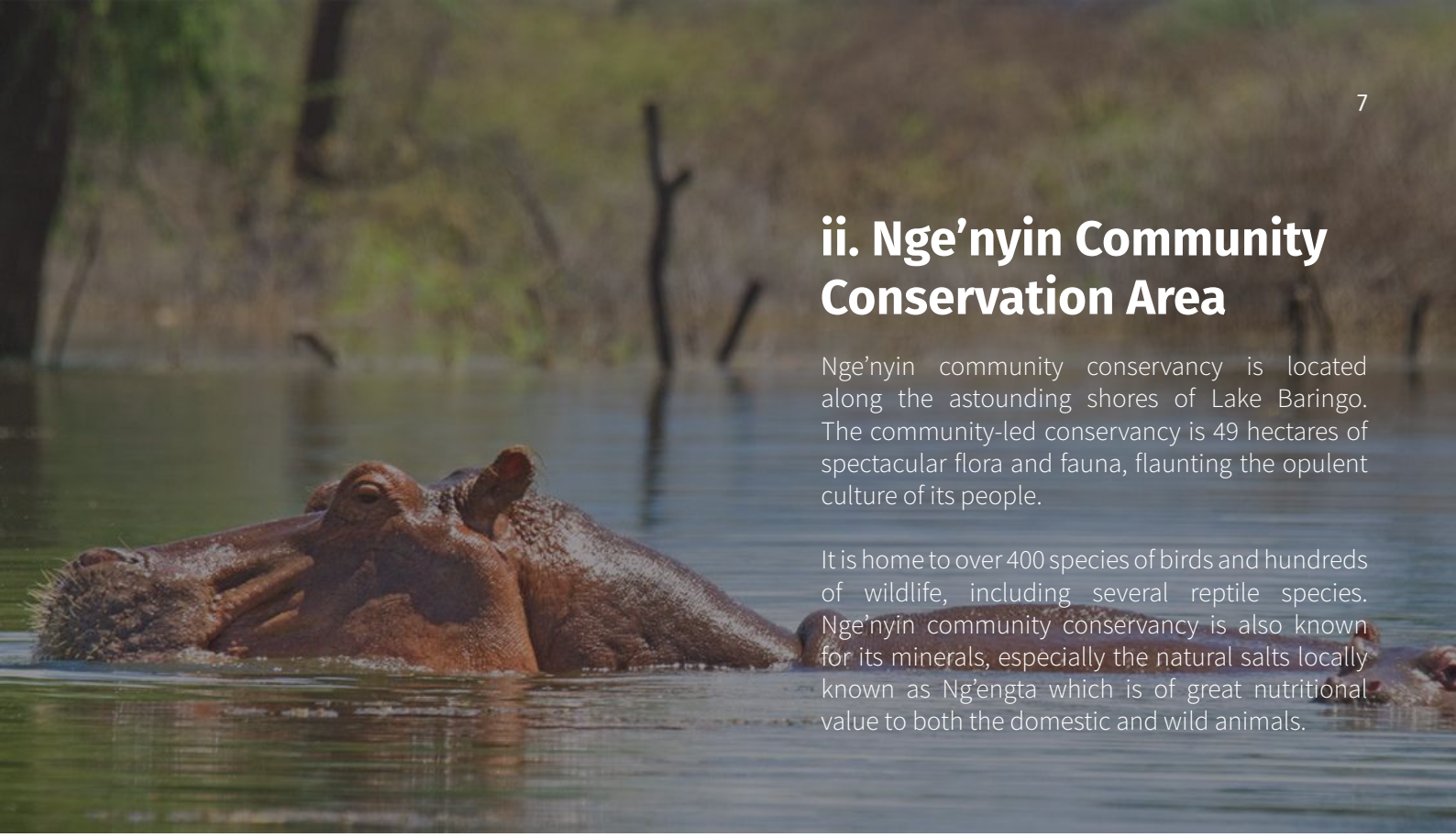


The conservancy hosts rich endangered species such as Kudus, as well as serves as an archaeological research site. The newly discovered archaeological site is a breeding site and migratory corridor for the greater Kudu.

The local community main livelihoods are agriculture and pastoralism, with the community developing their very own organic honey. This community conservancy therefore attracts investment potential in both economic enterprise and touristic ventures.

[3] BCCA Assessing the conservation status and opportunities for community

https://baringoconservancies.co.ke/reports-publications/



## ii. Nge'nyin Community Conservation Area

Nge'nyin community conservancy is located along the astounding shores of Lake Baringo. The community-led conservancy is 49 hectares of spectacular flora and fauna, flaunting the opulent culture of its people.

It is home to over 400 species of birds and hundreds of wildlife, including several reptile species. Nge'nyin community conservancy is also known for its minerals, especially the natural salts locally known as Ng'engta which is of great nutritional value to both the domestic and wild animals.

The community led conservancy hosts a tourism lodge known as the Tumbili Cliff Lodge, ideally located on the banks of Lake Baringo, nestled on a rocky hill, 5 meters above the level of the lake, allowing for unique views of the countryside. It also has a campsite, which can host the adventure lovers. Due to the conservancy's proximity to the lake, some of the activities include boating through the conservancy boats, visit to the cultural centre, and Geotourism.






The local community is mainly engaged in agriculture, producing honey and pastoralism activities contributing to the conservancy's economic pillars, holding a high potential for investments both in the tourism sector and in enterprise as depicted in the Baringo County Conservancies Association strategic plan 2020 - 2024[4], especially in branding and developing their organic honey.

[4] Baringo County Conservancies Association strategic plan 2020 -2024
https://baringoconservancies.co.ke/reports-publications/

# iii. Kimng'ochoch Conservancy

Kimng'ochoch community conservancy is located along the highland's landscapes of Baringo County. The 575 hectares of land boasts of beautiful landscapes collated with indigenous trees such as the red cider.

Further, Kimng'ochoch is strategically located in that the conservancy is only 12 kilometres away from the popular Kabarnet town thus allowing easy access to a trading point for commodities developed by the local community in the conservancy.

This breathtaking conservancy hosts a high number of the white Colobus Monkeys among other wildlife. The conservancy site is also well known for the traditional cultural religious rituals that take place on the camping site. Heritage tourism is befitting because of the rich history and archaeological traces such as historic caves.

The local community's main livelihood is agriculture with a keen interest in beekeeping. Kimng'ochoch community is also interested in scaling up their honey production. They also host researchers at the conservancy especially those interested in geology and archaeology, with plans underway to develop a research facility by working with potential investors.





# 4.2 ATHI KAPITI

## i. Maanzoni Wildlife Estate

Maanzoni Wildlife Estate is a 4,093-acre member's estate in the Athi Kapiti Plains with an ecologically sensitive area. It is made up of mostly unfenced 5 acre lots, allowing for free movement of wildlife, and is only 45 kilometres from Nairobi's central business district and are 1.5 hours from Amboseli National Park, 40 minutes from Nairobi National Park, 30 minutes from the airport, and 20 minutes from Athi SGR Station.



Maanzoni are the closest open wildlife estate to Nairobi, with the area currently zoned as a low-density residential (one house per 5 acres) and conservation area as per the Mavoko Municipality's integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUDP). This covenant-controlled community in Machakos County offers families of all ages a tranquil, peaceful, and well-maintained living environment and an animal sanctuary. Its proximity to the capital city, Nairobi, as well as its surroundings and abundance of open space, bring the countryside to the city. This wildlife sanctuary is home to Maasai giraffe, zebra, eland, Thompson's and Grant's gazelles, warthogs, jackals, honey badgers, wildebeest, Kongoni, and pangolin, among other animals. It is home to a variety of bird species, including the world's largest bird, the ostrich, and the Kori bustard, the world's largest (and heaviest) flying bird, walking with the rangers, and stargazing.

The location draws families of all ages, groups of tourists, conservation and government organisations, and so on. They come for the conferencing activities offered by local businesses, such as weddings, staycations, walking and running tours, picnics, dam fishing and site-seeing. Other activities are: bird watching, hiking, sundowners, horseback riding, trekking on the Lukenya Hills, volunteer walking with the rangers, and stargazing.



There are a number of private Airbnb in the area and three main lodges for accommodation, with a neighbouring ranch having an airstrip that is 5 minutes away from the accommodations.

The wildlife estate has identified the following as potential areas for investments;

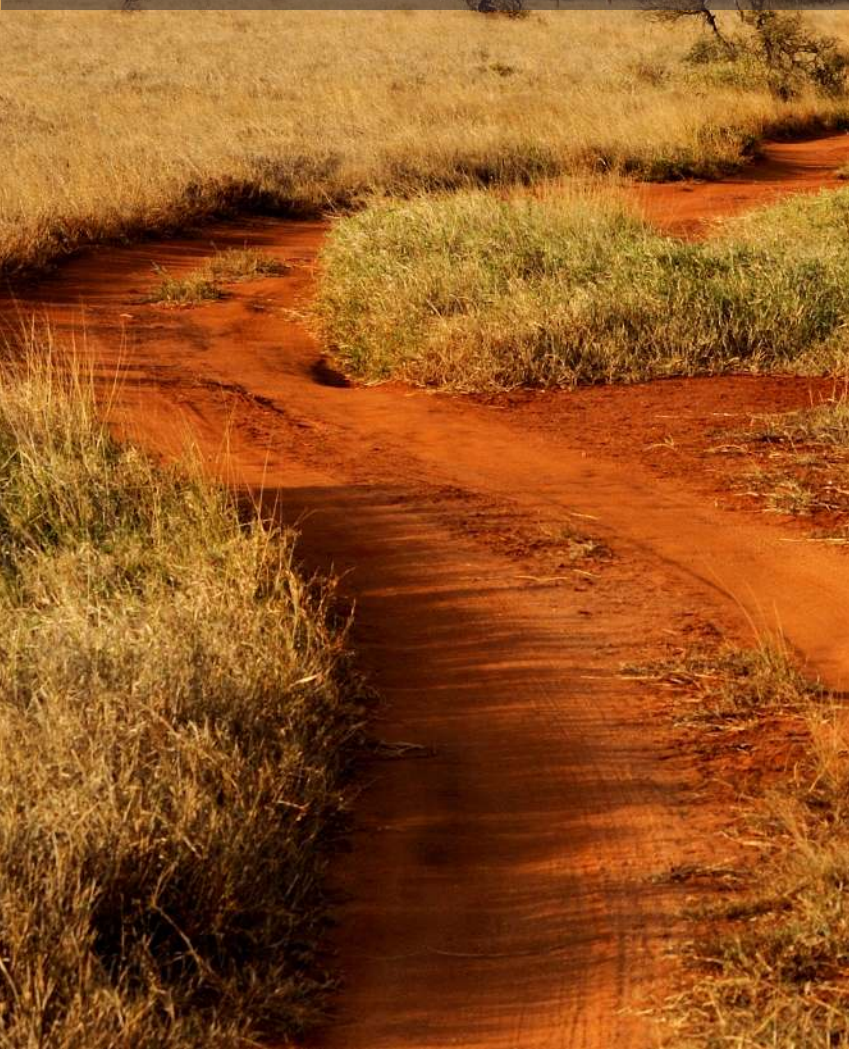
- They intend to turn the dams into picnic areas that will generate revenue for the association.
- They plan to organize ranger walks in the near future to educate people about what rangers do on a daily basis as well as the importance of conservation. They have already completed one successful test run; they are also still working on establishing the legal framework for paying visitors.
- They intend to use carbon credits to generate income in the area, which they hope to accomplish through vegetation planting and by encouraging more members to use solar power.
- They are developing a master plan for the area in which they intend to sell the research gathered from the activities, such as animal and plant counts. The master plan will also propose other viable, environmentally friendly activities, such as eco lodges, that can be carried out to generate income for the area.



# ii. Lukenya Hills Nature Conservancy

Lukenya Hills Nature Conservancy also known as Kasanga Ranch was initially a dairy and beef farm during the colonial days; however since 2014 the owners decided to venture into conservation. The conservancy covers approx 4000 acres of grassland savannah, wooded areas and granite hill with historical caves. It is located in Machakos County, a 50 minutes drive from Nairobi city and part of the Athi Kapiti plains.

The conservancy is profuse with wildlife that is varied and diverse. Some of the large species include; Giraffe, Eland, Zebra, Kongoni, Hyena, Leopard, Wildebeest, Grants gazelle and Impala. Some of the smaller animal species include Duikers, Warthogs, Bushbuck, Reedbuck, Klipspringer, Black Eagles which are endangered, Tawny Eagles, Secretary birds and Ostrich.



Lukenya Hills conservancy offers, mountain climbing, hiking, wild marathons, bush wedding venues, motor sports (10km rally track), horse riding in nature, documentaries and film making. It also hosts 2 bush campsites that allow guests to enjoy the scenic landscapes.

The conservancy identifies potential investors to set up a 100 acre nature trail experience, with keen interest in developing eco lodges and complete off grid living for visitors and residents, including activities such as zip lining and motor sports (quad bikes).





# 4.3 AMBOSELI

## i. Kitenden Conservancy

Nestled between the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro and Amboseli National Park, Kitenden Corridor area is a 26,000 acres community led conservancy, which makes up the migratory route that allows wildlife to freely and safely move between Kenya and Tanzania.

The conservancy was created by the local Olgulului-Olarash community in efforts to conserve the rich species diversity both botanical and of wildlife origin, as well as their culture. The Maasai people in Kitenden Corridor uphold their traditional lifestyles which can be packaged and show cased to the tourists. These include their houses (Manyattas), cultural ceremonies such as rites of passage for the Morans; they also use traditional medical plants to treat various diseases, and their attire including clothes and their decorations.

Kitenden conservancy has a vast plant species of over 300 making up the botanical cover and over 760 mammal species which includes the African Bush Elephant, Grant gazelles, Impala, yellow baboon, zebras, Thomson's gazelle to name a few. Kitenden community conservancy has immense touristic activities such as hiking and trekking since within the Kitenden environs there are hills and valleys which are great for walking expeditions as the tourists engulf in the beautiful scenery and great biodiversity.

Furthermore, Kitenden Corridor is undoubtedly the closest one can get of Mt. Kilimanjaro from the southern part of the Amboseli National Park, and for landscape photography safaris, this then is a photographer's haven, with best shots captured in the mornings, considering the area is a plain therefore there are no obstacles. Kitenden Conservancy community invites potential investors in establish camping sites as the area allows for breathtaking sunrise and sundowners, and good for low impact tourism.







# ii. Nasaru Olosho Conservancy

Nasaru Olosho is a community conservancy located in the Amboseli ecosystem. Nasaru is a Maa word which means to come to the rescue of, to help, to give reprieve. The name is symbolic to the conservation efforts that the local community is investing in to ensure conservation of the flora and fauna of the 168,975 acres.

The area is defined as a missing mosaic of protected areas that form the Amboseli – Tsavo ecosystem, in Kenya's southern wildlife corridor which hosts a wide range of wildlife including lions, elephants, giraffes, ostriches, wildebeests, zebras, and gazelle among others. The conservancy operations are in line with the four main pillars of conservation; Environmental integrity, wildlife conservation, people's rights and income generation and profits. The lifestyle of this nomadic community including livestock grazing, and the traditional pastoral way of life has well known to have served both wildlife and the Maasai people for generations.

Nasauru Olosho conservancy offers developers the opportunity for multiple uses of the rangelands ecosystems and the possibility of making income from sustainable tourism, through developing low impact tourism activities and building ecosystem conscious accommodation such as eco-lodges. The conservancy is suited to create a home away from home for visitors, with unforgettable authentic experiences.



# 4.4 TAITA TAVETA

## i. The Mgeno Conservancy

Mgeno wildlife conservancy is one of the 37 Ranches that make up the landscape of the Taita Taveta County covering an area of about 21,232 hectares. The conservancy is strategically located as a dispersal area and along the Tsavo Wildlife Corridor that connects the core habitats of Tsavo West and East National Parks to the East of the Marungu range. This corridor is considered one among the 10 migratory routes in the Tsavo's and is significant for species survival and the long-term viability of Tsavo ecosystem.

Mgeno conservancy is rich in different species of trees, shrubs, herbs, mammals, birds, reptiles, insects among others. The key exceptional resource values are based on the regions physical features, natural and cultural resources, mainly categorized into three primary groups that include; biodiversity, scenic and socio-cultural values. Some of the biodiversity value identified for conservation and tourism importance are mammals and include the giraffe, lions, ostriches, elephants, Kudus, hyena, leopard, cheetah, buffaloes, wild dogs, heart beasts to name a few.

The conservancy takes pride in the beautiful floral diversity of diverse indigenous tree species estimated at 61 different species that provide critical habitat to the wildlife. The tree cover within the conservancy also supports the birdlife and makes it ideal for bird watching. Other exceptional resources within the conservancy is the scenic beauty posed by Mwatate seasonal river which attracts the wild animals, while Pusa and Zaghatise hills are some of the highest points within the conservancy with aesthetic and historical importance such as Pisa hill being a maternity area for lions and a key war site with caves used during World War two.



Mgeno conservancy identifies with the unique Taita culture and targets to tap into native craftsmanship, entertainment, farming and indigenous knowledge to enrich the tourist experience through collaborating with like-minded potential investors, they are also planning on developing an eco lodge all directed towards conservation efforts.

# 4.5 MASAI MARA – NAROK

## i. Nyekweri Kimintet Community Forest

Nyekweri Kimintet Community Forest Conservation Trust is a developing forest conservation area within the Narok County. The region was formed to conserve Nyekweri forest which serves as a water catchment for both Kimintet and [5]Oloirien group ranches.

Packed with thick indigenous trees that provide the earthy scent and thrill for nature lovers, this forest once served as an elephant maternity, with the local community wildlife tales pointing out how mother elephants with their new calves frequented the area to give their young ones a glimpse of what life portended for the young calves. The young elephants would be welcomed to the world with the creeping plant with succulent tubers that are full of energy and after the mother elephant and her young elephants would trek for about 14 kilometres to the world famous Maasai Mara National Park.

Nyekweri Kimintet Community Forest is not only home to beautiful wildlife stories, but also a bird paradise for bird watchers. More than 200 species of birds including Turacos, Trogons, Eagles, Wood-hoopoes, Hornbills, among others can be spotted in the canopy of the forest. It is also host to amazing wildlife such as Giraffes, Zebras, Buffaloes, Waterbucks, Impalas, Leopards, Duikers and even the endangered greater Pangolin to name just a few.

However due to logging of trees and encroachment, the forest has been slowly disappearing in the last 15 years and tree species such as East African Olive, Dispyros, Wild Olive, Kenya Greenheart and Manikara Butugi which once dominated the region have greatly reduced and replaced with human settlements.





The conservancy's formation has therefore slowed down the logging and advocated for conservation through developing sustainable inclusive economic activities such as Beekeeping, tourism accommodation through 12 Women manyatta huts with good facilities for up to 15 guests, a resource centre hall with 24/7 power source for conferences with 150 pax capacity. They also have a forest restoration Project tree nursery that targets 100,000 tree native indigenous seedlings in the next 2 years.

Their strength and resilience showcases a community open to innovation and creative concepts that will boost the afforestation and other sustainable economic activities that will impact the community and environment positively.

[5] The Nyekweri Kimintet Forest Conservation Story https://youtu.be/coUB3JSNiuU

# 4.6 LAIKIPIA



## i. Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy

Found in the semi-arid Laikipia Plateau, near Mount Kenya in Northern Kenya, Naibunga Upper conservancy is 10,140 hectares of community led conservancy, where the local community has come together in efforts to sustainably grow, protect and conserve their environment.

The scenic landscapes, embroidered by astounding flora and fauna highlight the tourism appeal for the conservancy, depicted by dry plains filled with unique trees and shrubs. Naibunga upper conservancy is rich in wildlife such as giraffes, buffalo, cheetah, rhino, and antelopes to name a few. The conservancy also has a high number of resident elephants.



Naibunga Upper conservancy boasts of having authentic cultural centres and Manyattas at Twala Tenebo and Naatum, where in Twala Tenebo the Cultural African bomas and activities are fully run by a group of local women. The conservancy scenic plateau also sets a beautiful back drop for their main camping sites in Osunyai, Wuakumpe and Ilpolei. Naibunga Upper allows tourists to engage in colourful Maasai cultural immersive experiences where while at the Bomas, you can engage in activities such as song and dance, as well as in beading the famous Maasai beaded ornaments. The conservancy also offers activities such as the Maa Cultural show, trekking, beadwork and the famous baboon walks. The local community also engages in farming activities such as livestock keeping, aloe farming and beekeeping.



Naibunga Upper holds great potential for tourism and economic investment that can inclusively contribute to the conservation efforts from this prodigious community. They have also identified the potential development of additional bandas at Twala, and two lodges within the conservancy's most scenic points.

# ii. Naibunga Lower (Oloiborsoit)

Naibunga lower is a community led conservancy in Laikipia North also known as Oloiborsiot. They are within the Naibunga Conservancy system which is divided into three, Naibunga Upper, Central and Lower. It is further divided into three subregions, Koija, Ilmotiok and Tiamamut which make up the 16,701 hectares of the conservancy.

Situated in the semi-arid Laikipia Plateau, Oloiborsiot Conservancy has a breathtaking landscape that includes Kenya's third largest river, the Ewaso Nyiro River and as such being a permanent source of water, it draws the wild animals and local community alike to feed from its streams.

The conservancy has a good mix of bush and grasslands with diverse species for both plants and animals. The main tree species as documented include the Acacia spp., Euphorbia spp., African Olive, Sandalwood, Aloe spp., Fig trees all along the Ewaso River. Large areas are also covered with the invasive Opuntia spp and Sansaveira spp, which the local community is trying to sustainably manage due to their quick spreading.







Some key wildlife species found within Naibunga Conservancy include Grevy's and common zebra, Elephants, Grant's gazelle, Gerenuk, Eland, Greater and Lesser kudu, Baboons, Spotted and Striped hyenas, Leopard, Lions, Wild dogs, Cheetah, Ostrich, Hippopotamus and Crocodile which are found in the Ewaso Nyiro River.

The conservancy has two community lodges, the stunning Koija starbeds and the amazing Olngaboli Bandas. Further there are 10 camping sites along the Ewaso Nyiro. Touristic activities include exclusive game drives with local guides, trekking, Baboon walks, Cultural immersion by engaging in activities like beading, visiting the Manyattas, fishing along the Ewaso Nyiro river, camel rides, bush camping and also joining in the traditional songs and dances.

Naibunga Lower conservancy community do small scale farming, bee and livestock keeping therefore making the conservancy appealing for tourism and enterprise investments. The local community has also started to develop plans of a new lodge called Tiamamut Camp and building extra bandas at Koija starbeds and Olngaboli, and they are open to working with potential investors to realize their proposed plans.

# iii. IL Ngwesi

IL Ngwesi Conservancy is a community – owned and managed area of 8,645 hectares in the Mukogodo division, in the Laikipia County. It is mostly made up of the semiarid and arid Savannah area, located near to the Ngare Ndare River on the edge of the Mukogodo Hills and is one of the first ever Kenyan Laikipia Masai owned and managed conservancy. [6]

The IL Ngwesi conservancy story starts as far as back in 1996, when the local community members agreed to test this then new model of wildlife and area conservation that involved community management and engagement, which to date set the stage for community conservancy in Kenya.

In the stunning IL Ngwesi landscape one can easily spot wildlife such as the Impala, Waterbuck, Greater and Lesser Kudu, DikDik, Gerenuk, Common and Grevy's Zebra, Reticulated Giraffe often in large numbers, Rock Hyrax, Vervet Monkey, Baboon and Warthog. More wild animals include the Cheetah, Jackal, Spotted and Striped Hyena are commoners seen at the water hole around the conservancy. For thrills, the Lions, Leopards and the Hyenas are heard calling almost nightly. IL Ngwesi is a destination well known for the African Wild Dog and its famous IL Ngwesi eco lodge that has hosted global royals and celebrities. However, the truth is before starting the community conservancy, the rich wildlife described was slowly declining from poaching and encroachment, but through consistent actions the numbers of wildlife have over the years steadily increased, and through it the community has managed to develop various economic livelihoods for the community to survive on.







IL Ngwesi Community Conservancy hosts the award winning Il Ngwesi Eco-lodge which has six spacious rooms that accommodate two to four people, each one offering a slightly different experience, being either tucked away with views up the valley, adjoined to another by rope bridge for families, or overlooking the water hole. All are designed in style with opportunities for viewing wildlife, and two have extended verandas for visitors who wish to sleep under the stars in large star beds.

Activities with the conservancy consists of swimming, cultural immersions, hiking, picnic breakfasts, sundowners, nature walks and game drives. If interested in community development, one can spend time with local women learning about beading techniques, or visit a local school or health clinic built with funds from the Eco lodge.

IL Ngwesi Conservancy seeks to reinforce their sustainability through innovative and continuous development, therefore lay a good foundation for "tested and tried" investment opportunities for potential investors and developers.

[6] The IL Ngwesi Story
http://ilngwesi.com/content/visit/2016/04/04/the-il-ngwesi-story/

# 4.7 NORTH COAST – TANA RIVER

## i. Ndera Community Conservancy

Ndera conservancy is a community owned organization whose mission is to conserve natural resources, transform lives and promote peace among its people. Ndera Conservancy is located in Ndera Location in Garsen North ward, Tana Delta Sub County in Tana River County. It is in the coastal region of Kenya, Tana River County in Ndera location operating in a total area of 116,370 hectares that represents the Pokomo & Wardei community.



Ndera is home to critically endangered Tana River Red Colobus, Tana Mangabey monkeys, Hirola antelope (Beatragus hunter), elephants, Buffalos, Hippo, Crocodile, Reticulated Giraffe, Cheetah, Leopard, Lion, Hyena, Bush pig, Oryx, Ostrich, Grants gazelle, Bush buck, Lesser Kudu, Red Duiker, Eland and a broad diversity of bird species. These endangered primates exist in only a few small, fragmented forest patches along a 60km stretch of the Tana River and occur nowhere else in the world. Their populations are estimated at between 1-2000 individuals only, out of which 1000 individuals are within Ndera Community Conservancy.

The Conservancy is characterized by riverine gallery forest with diverse tree species such as Figs (Ficus spp.), Phoenix palms (Phoenix reticulate), Acacia robusta, Blighia unijugata (Mwikuni), Sorindeia madagascariensis, African ebony (Diospyros mespiliformis) and Mimusops obtusifolia (Mugambo-kapee).

While Ndera conservancy may enjoy a vast range of physical and natural attractions, the conservancy is yet to develop tourism facilities or explore bush camping as a tourism experience, however they are interested in exploring tourism ventures to contribute towards the conservancy's sustainability, with possibilities of offering activities like bird watching, game drives, river activities in the famous river Tana, which also offers a rich riverine forest that would be suitable for adventure camping.

Though the local communities mainly depend on farming as their means of livelihood with the Pokomo community almost entirely depending on crop farming for subsistence and commercial use and the Wardei communities on livestock keeping, they are open to potential conservation and investment opportunities.





# 4.8 PWANI ECOSYSTEM - KWALE

## Golini Mwaluganje Community Conservation

The Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary is a corridor between the Shimba Hills National Reserve and the Mwaluganje Forest Reserve. It measures approximately 36 square Km2 and is situated to the north of Shimba Hills National Reserve in Kwale County, between Kinango and Matuga Sub-counties.

A long time ago this area was forested and was a home to a variety of wildlife and had no Elephants. At the height of poaching in the Tsavo National park in 1970s, the elephants population was almost wiped out in Kenya and as a result elephants were scared and run for safety from Tsavo National Park into Shimba Hills National Reserve. Since they were few then, the elephants caused no problem and there was no human-elephant conflicts within the Digo -Duruma community who are the local community from that area.

Years later and successful anti-poaching campaigns, the elephant numbers started to steadily increase. The numbers were further boosted when the neighbouring Tanzanian Mkomazi National Park had an influx of elephants and this trickled into Shimba Hills, increasing the number of elephants tremendously. As a result, while in the corridor the elephants would destroy crops, attack people and cattle, causing injuries and loss of human life. This created a catastrophe, causing the local communities to retaliate by attacking the elephants with bows and arrows. By 1990, the Elephant - human conflict had become severe despite Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) animal control unit interventions. It was at this juncture that KWS decided to make a comprehensive conservation proposal that would solve the elephant-human conflict within the area.

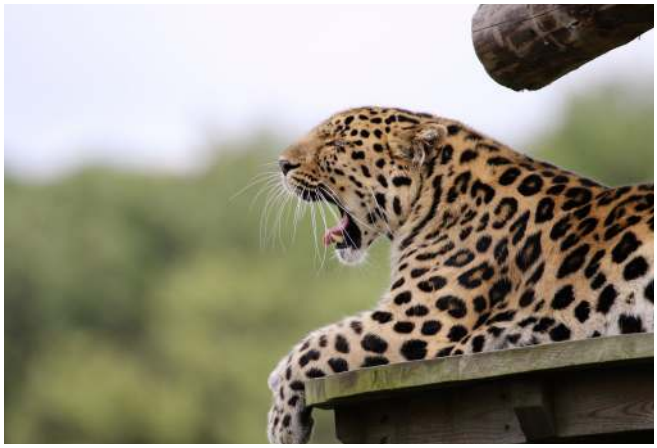







The proposal had the objective of establishing a migratory corridor between the Shimba Hills National Reserve and the Mwaluganje Forest Reserve, and as such stakeholders embarked on a journey of push and pull to find an amicable solution. In 1992 a solution to create Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary was brought to life.

Fast forward 30 years later, the area is rich with wildlife. The southern half of the sanctuary is characterized by cliffs, rolling forested hills and bush land with baobab trees (Adansonia digitata) all ideal for wildlife. To the northern is Mwaluganje Forest Reserve characterized by a montage of evergreen dry land forest cover. River Manolo flows from south to the north of the sanctuary creating a bush riverine forest along it.



Further, the conservancy is depicted by unique attractions such as the Elephants in Mwaluganje who are mainly bulls, with the females coming from as far as Tsavo National Parks during the breeding season. The six species of cycads, believed to be as old as the Dinosaurs. There is also the Jiwe la saa (time telling stone), which is a rock that changes colour with time.

Other attractions include; the peculiar petrified wood, a rare site in the tropics where petrifaction took place, with a similar place only in Kobiphora in Turkana. There is also the spectacular Manolo river, which is the lifetime river of the animals in the sanctuary, having been named after rocks which are used in sharpening pangas. The magnificent Chitsanze falls, Daraja la mungu (natural bridge), the cultural Kaya Mtae (a holy shrine for the Duruma community), the Golini cliff which offers panoramic view of the sanctuary and is a habitat for leopards and the gentilerolling hills. It is a haven for tourism opportunities that could feed into the sustainability of the area and give life to further enterprise developments for the local communities who gave their land for conservation.

# 4.9 SOUTHERN RANGELANDS - SUSWA

## Mount Suswa

Mount Suswa Conservancy is a community conservancy own by the Lkeek Onyokie sub clan Maasai found on both Kajiado West and Narok East sub counties respectively.

Mount Suswa is twin sister mountain to Mount Longonot which is directly opposite from the northern side. Its elevation is 2356 meters above sea level. You can access mount Suswa Conservancy via Kaplong Mai Mahiu road and Suswa Ngong road which seems to be the shortest route to Suswa.

Mount Suswa has a vast number of wild animals including, Zebras, Gazelles, Antelopes, Elands, Dik Diks, Goat Springers, Hyenas, Leopards, Wild Dogs, Baboons, Monkeys and Elephants among others.

Some of the attractions of the mountain are the view points, the crater which houses the lost world, the lava tunnel, the hot steam from underground and the beautiful Maasai culture.



The mountain has one private owned lodge on the mountain called Mount Suswa Bush camp and two undeveloped community campsites at the crater view point and caves area· The mountain serves as a great conservation region for different animal and plant species that has vast opportunities for green investments that could sustainably contribute to inclusive growth for the local communities·



# 5. Why Invest In Conservancies



Conservancies are defined as 'land set aside by individual landowner, body corporate, group of owners or a community for purposes of wildlife conservation' as outlined in the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013.

NRT[7] defines a Community Conservancy as a 'community-owned and community-run institution which aims to improve biodiversity conservation, land management and the livelihoods of its constituents over a defined area of land traditionally owned, or used, by that constituent community'.

Investing in conservancies contributes to sustainable development and this is portrayed in the roles of conservancies as outlined by KWCA[8].

## Investing in conservancies directly contributes to wildlife management.

Human-wildlife conflict is one of the major threats to wildlife conservation and one of the best and proven ways is by maintaining a balanced ecosystem through the protection and management of both the human population and wildlife. Conservancies work to maintain healthy wildlife populations, ensuring steady increase in numbers and diversity of species.

## Investing in conservancies supports community development and empowerment

The SDGs strive to ensure basic human rights are provided for in all communities. Through conservancy investments, we can endorse community support for conservation and participation in decision making to ensure equitable sharing of benefits and improve community access to services such as health, water and education, while supplementing national services. Community involvement allows leveraging community support so as to create tangible benefits from conservation and to change attitudes and behaviour of communities towards wildlife and sustainable land use.



## Investing in conservancies promotes sustainable land and natural resources and management.

Conservancies serve to promote an all inclusive healthy ecosystem that supports wildlife, livestock and human needs. As such investing in conservancies contributes to improving the conditions of degraded areas and minimizes invasive species; to ensure adequate supply of water for wildlife, people and livestock.

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## Investing in conservancies promotes peace and security

One of the challenges that any developing region faces is peace and security. Investing in conservancies promotes peace within neighbouring communities as a foundation for economic development and effective planning and management of natural resources. Conservancy Scouts are responsible for providing security for residents and visitors to the conservancy.

## Investing in conservancies promotes sustainable tourism

In 2017, UNWTO declared the year as international year of sustainable tourism for development. This marked the beginning of understanding tourism as a potential economic model that can contribute to sustainable development. In Kenya, tourism is one of the largest sources of foreign exchange revenue and contributes 8% to the GDP. Investing in conservancies promotes diverse forms of tourism which in return generate income to support the conservancy operating costs, whilst improving the livelihoods of communities.

[7] A guide to establishing community conservancies, the NRT model January 2015, Version 1

[8] The role of establishing conservancies in Kenya https://kwcakenya.com





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