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The Kenya Conservancies Fund: An Overview

'Empowering Kenya's Future: Uplifting Communities, Restoring Nature'



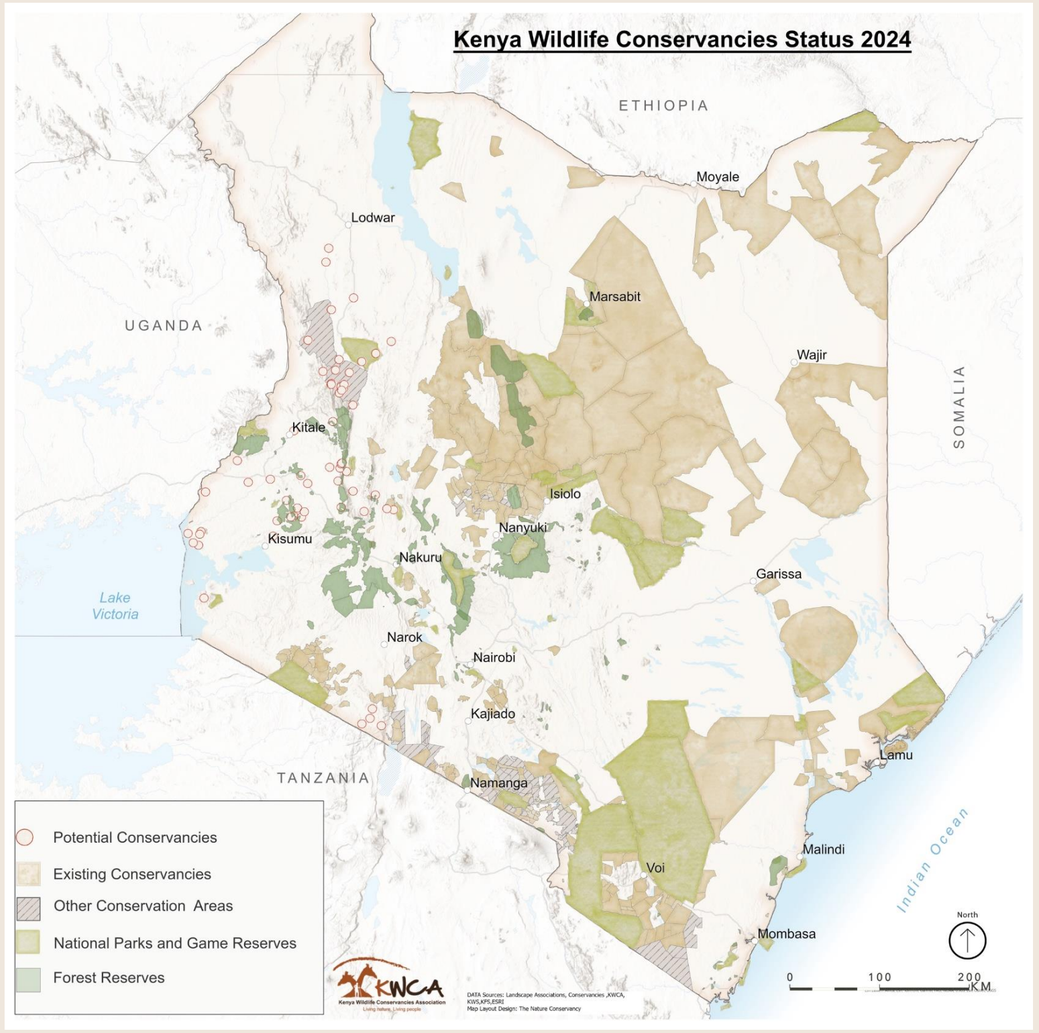
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Kenya's Conservation Challenge

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- **Biodiversity Loss:** Poaching and Land Degradation have resulted in a 68% decrease in biodiversity over the past 40 years.
- **Land Protection Targets:** 25% of Kenya's land is currently under protection which must be increased to 30% to meet the Global Biodiversity Frameworks goal of 30% by 2030.
- **Current conservancy coverage:** 264 conservancies covering 9.3 million hectares.
- **Poor diversity outcomes:** Only 30% of these conservancies show positive biodiversity outcomes.
- **Opportunities:** 65% of Kenya's wildlife lives on community and private lands. Conservancies complement national parks and enable communities to benefit from conservation and wildlife management.



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KWCA - Overview & Objectives

KWCA's mission is broad, aiming to enable conservancies to thrive in Kenya.

Provide conservancies a **voice** at national level.

Equip conservancies with information, tools and technical supports

Build capacity of landscape associations to better support and engage with conservancies

Favorable laws for conservancies

Female engagement

Empowered, well managed and governed conservancies

Youth engagement

Reduce human wildlife and poaching

Community and landowner benefits from conservation

WILDLIFE CONSERVED, THRIVING COMMUNITIES THAT ARE RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

KWCA -Track Record

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UNDP Strategic Partnerships with GEF

In 2019, KWCA partnered with UNDP GEF Small Grants Program to support the Lake Bogoria Landscape Conservation Program, providing technical assistance for grant disbursement totalling $140,000 to three community conserved areas.

Covid-19 Crisis

During the COVID-19 crisis, KWCA promptly allocated $250,000 in grants to support four conservancies and helped design a crisis fund for Mara and Northern Rangeland conservancies, showcasing its adaptability and proactive response.

Capacity Building Initiatives

KWCA goes beyond financial aid, offering capacity-building initiatives. With USAID funding, KWCA provided $175,000 in grants to six landscape associations, enhancing their capabilities and promoting sustainable conservation practices."

Ongoing Conservancy Support

KWCA continues its support for conservancies, allocating an extra $150,000 from the GEF UNDP-funded project to three in Mara and Tsavo. This will enhance business plan implementation, advancing conservation and community livelihoods.

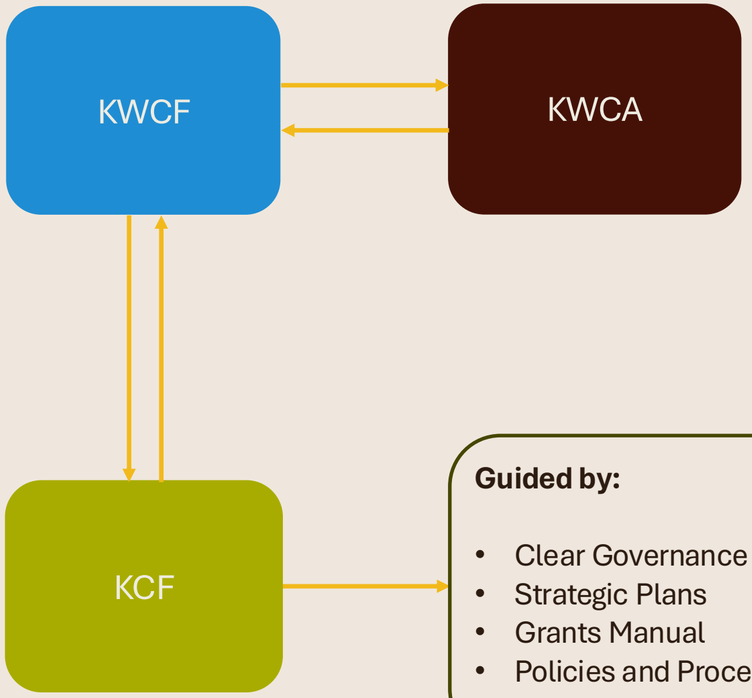
Organisational Capacity & Compliance

Since 2013, KWCA has grown its capacity, with a current annual budget of $1.97 million (2021-2023 avg). It has also established effective strategies and systems for managing a small grant facility, ensuring compliance with gender inclusion, safeguarding policies, and grievance mechanisms.

Legal Framework

Kenya Wildlife Conservation Foundation

- KCWF is the Foundation of KWCA
- Specific conservation mandate
- Close collaboration with KWCA
- Independent Board



Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association

- Broader advocacy and policy objectives around conservation and communities
- Close collaboration with KWCF
- Independent Board
- Able to fundraise for KWCF/ KCF

Kenya Conservancies Fund

- Small Grants Fund, which targets new, nascent and underserved conservancies and landscape associations in Kenya
- Housed under KWCF (see slide 7)
- KWCF board

Guided by:

- Clear Governance Structure
- Strategic Plans
- Grants Manual
- Policies and Procedures

KCF Legal Structure

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The KCF will be legally registered underneath the Kenya Wildlife Conservation Foundation, as Foundations offer several benefits:

Fund Management

Thematic Alignment to KWCF's specific sustainable financing mandate.

Autonomous governance with specific expertise of conservation finance.

Minimal bureaucracy and administration compared to Trusts and Associations.

A distinct brand for a financing platform under KWCF for prospective donors.

Tax Efficiency

Donors

- Domestic donations to Foundation are tax deductible
- Foreign donors can obtain tax deductions in most jurisdictions

Investment Income (Revolving Fund Only)

- Exemptions from corporation tax on earnings
- Most capital gains can avoid tax obligations
- Easier to obtain tax exemption in Foundations that Trust in many cases

KCF Solutions

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Conservation Challenges

Emerging conservancies are overlooked by existing funding models, limiting their development into economically resilient and sustainable models.

Due to insufficient funding, only 30% of Kenyan Conservancies show positive biodiversity outcomes.

Lack of stakeholder engagement and benefits from the conservancies leads to greater levels of poaching and Human Wildlife Conflict.

KCF Solutions

The KCF will provide up front capital (initially grants) and technical assistance to bridge the critical funding gaps and improve the economic resilience of conservancies in these early stages.

KCF will empower local communities, enhance resilience by protecting biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods, and promotes sustainability via environmental stewardship, long-term funding, and community ownership.

KCF will develop conservancies which generate economic value for the communities who live in and around these conservation areas, enabling communities to see the benefits of conservation whilst protecting biodiversity.

Fund Objectives

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Accessibility for New, Nascent and Needy Conservancies

The KCF will provide sustainable grant funding with streamlined processes to enable new, nascent, and needy conservancies quick access to necessary funds.

Empowering Local Decision-Making

The Fund will empower conservancies by being locally-led, facilitating direct engagement and autonomous decision-making, ensuring alignment with local needs and community consent.

Flexibility and Sustainable Support

KCF will adapt funding to diverse conservancy needs, utilising sinking and revolving funds to address immediate needs and provide long-term support.

Risk-Taking and Innovation

Designed to finance innovative projects, KCF will mitigate risks through background checks, capacity building, and low to medium risk appetite.

Building and Sustaining Trust

KCF will invest in transparency and openness to build and sustain trust between funders and grantees.

Catalyst for Growth

Small grants will catalyse progress for conservancies, enabling access to additional funding opportunities.

Balanced Grant Size for Impact

Grants will be carefully sized to add value without disrupting conservancies, focusing on outcomes and impact measurement.

Effective Communication

KCF will disseminate lessons, successes, and impacts through various media outlets to inform stakeholders, funders, and government entities.

Value Proposition

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ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Instead of focusing on outputs (e.g., a new motorbike, vehicle, or office), KCF will prioritize environmental and economic outcomes (e.g., rangeland rehabilitation, increased wildlife numbers, and revenue). KCF will enhance community and conservancy revenue streams, starting with tourism and expanding to livestock, carbon, and biodiversity credits. Conservancies showing economic resilience with diversified revenue streams become more attractive for financing from donors to return-based capital.

LOCALLY LED

KCF will provide donors with a locally led mechanism, supported by robust processes and systems, to directly fund conservancies in Kenya. This approach ensures accountability for the proper use of funds and the achievement of measurable results. By involving local communities and stakeholders in decision-making, KCF empowers those most familiar with the conservation challenges and opportunities.

KCF APPROACH

KCF will collaborate with Technical Assistance partners and KWCA to bolster conservancy capacity. It supports governance, management, and technical improvements to empower conservancies in resource management and sustainable practices, enhancing long-term viability.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH

The Fund aims to uplift underserved conservancies and their communities, ensuring the weak do not become weaker. Our structured application process ensures transparency and clear guidelines for small grant disbursements. Applicants must demonstrate gender equality across governance and management structures.

PROMOTING EQUALITY

Fund Overview & Evolution

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Phase 1

Sinking Fund

The Sinking Fund will offer **grants** to successful conservancy applicants, in the range of **$5,000-$100,000**. It will offer grants to conservancies and will be “sunk” over time. It will focus on providing financing for conservancies which demonstrate a clear plan to financial sustainability. The focus will be on conservancies who have considered the risks and plan to generate revenues from a range of different initiatives.

2025 - ~2032

Phase 2

Revolving Fund

The Revolving Fund will offer **below-market rate loans** to conservancies. The loans should be repaid with the revenues generated from the nature- based enterprises the conservancies establish. Examples of these include:

- Tourism
- Livestock
- Carbon Credits
- Biodiversity Credits

2032 Onwards

A Transformative Grant Cycle

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Eligibility & Application Criteria

KCF run regional workshops to detail the application process, eligibility requirements and the necessary documentation for for applications. This ensures equality in the application process.

Use of Proceeds and KPIs

Conservancies provide concept notes provided alongside uses of proceeds and their objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Approval Process

Applications will be assessed against their ability to articulate their KPIs and environmental, social and economic outcomes from the grant funded activity.

KCF Feedback

Review committee provide unsuccessful applications with feedback to identify weaknesses. Subject to annual funding constraints, these applicants can re-apply.

Grant Disbursement & Capacity Building

Grants disbursed to successful applicants and, if applicable, technical assistance and capacity building provided to optimize impact of grant disbursements.

Self Assessment & Reporting

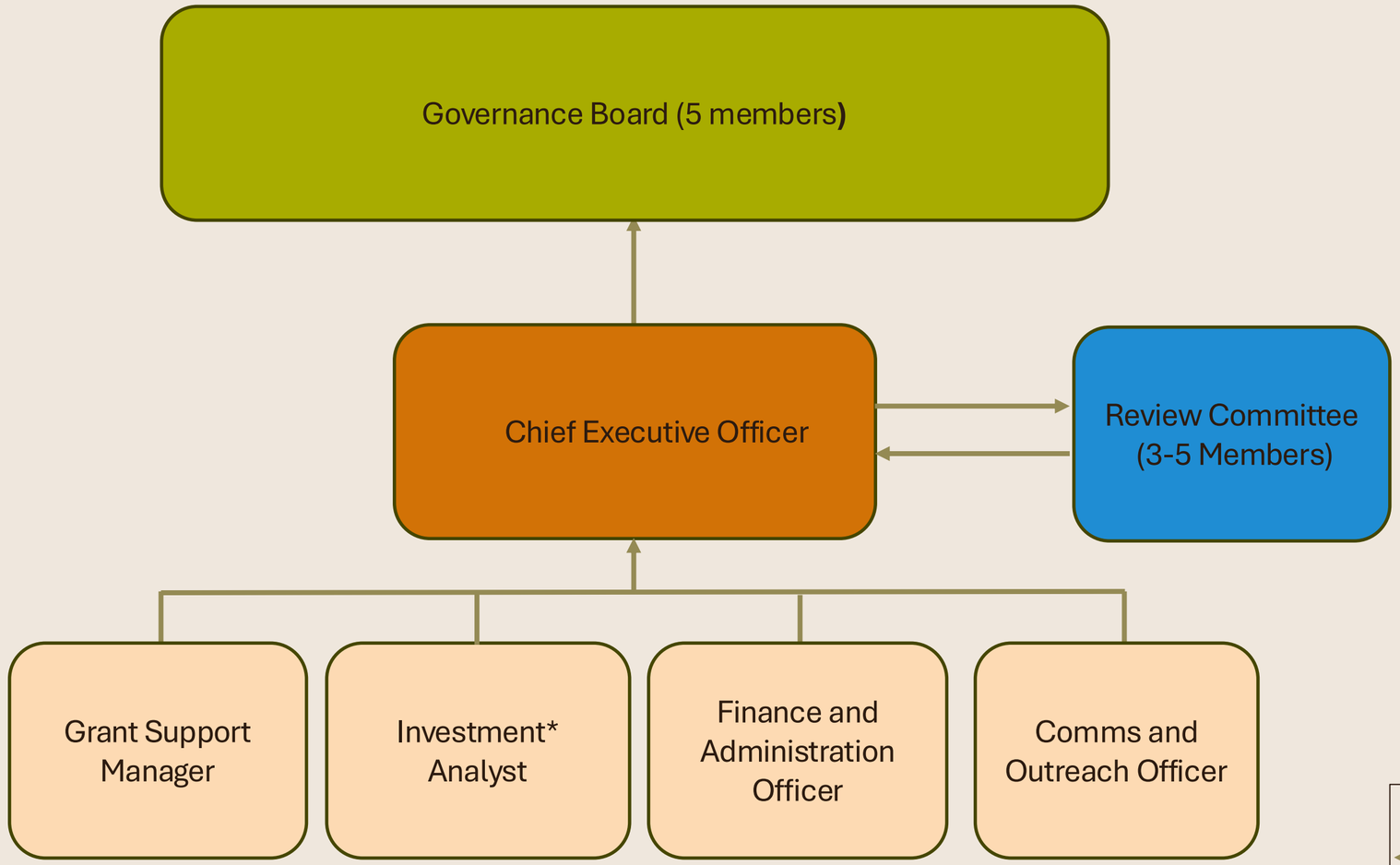
At 6 and 18 months after grant disbursements, conservancies provides self assess the success of their activities to meet outcomes and KPIs laid out in their application.

Grant Process Refinement

KCF Team and review Committee meet with the board to streamline the process for the next call for proposals. Information used to improve the full grant cycle.

Governance and Management

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- Key fund decisions will take place at the governance board level.
- Day to day operations will take place between the CEO and the team of staff.
- Review Committee will lead on due diligence, application processes and decision making for which conservancies receive the grant funding.

Governance Board Composition (5 Members)

- [1] KWCA CEO
- [1] NCC Member Representative
- [3] Individuals with different skill sets and understanding of finance, asset management, conservation, rural and entrepreneurship development

Key

← Reporting Flows

**The Investment Analyst may not need to be an immediate hire. If and when the fund disburses any credit loans a dedicated Analyst be needed.*

Conservancy Eligibility

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Proposed Conservancies

Proposed conservancies are in the conceptual phase, where stakeholders are considering the feasibility and planning necessary steps for development.

Characteristics:
- Limited Operational history
- Very low annual income, if any
- May still be consensus building with landowners

Emerging Conservancies

Identified their conservation goals and are in the process of establishing the necessary governance structures, management plans, and community involvement strategies.

Characteristics:
- Low annual income
- Developing organisational structures and management plans
- Community engagement & capacity building



Underserved Landscape Associations

Ecosystem based membership associations which lack the funding to effectively coordinate, plan and support conservancies in a designated landscape.

Characteristics:
- Likely newly registered
- Limited financial resources

Operational Conservancies

Conservancies have established and are actively implementing their management and governance structures but are not yet fully self-financing.

Characteristics:
- Financial shortfalls
- Lack resources or capacity to sustain conservation efforts
- Some conservation and community projects

Target Areas

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Four Key Funding Areas

Capacity Building

- Organizational capacity building
- Develop management plans and training
- Financial literacy training

Conservation

- Ranger training, vehicles and other costs
- Species protection and monitoring
- Habitat restoration costs

Community Livelihoods

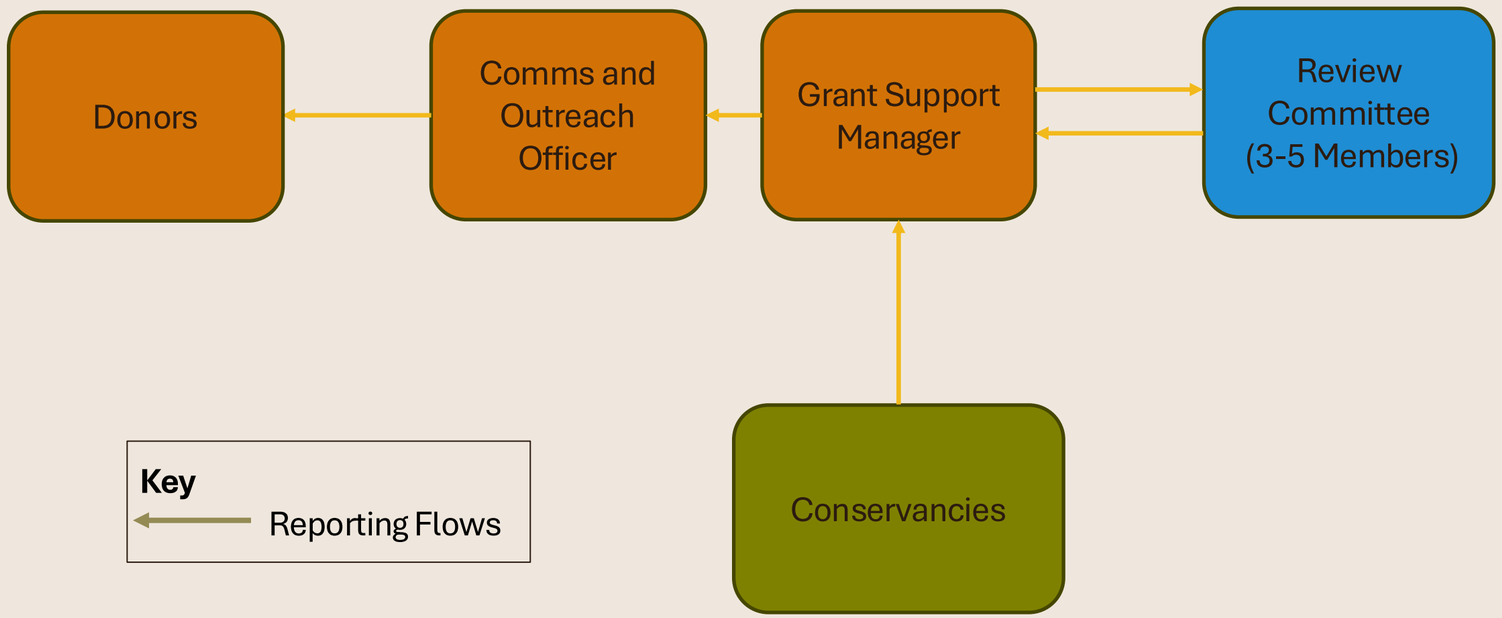
- Community based tourism development
- Consensus building with stakeholders
- Other income generating sources

Infrastructure Development

- Offices, HQ's and road building
- Tourist facilities
- Visitor centres and conservation facilities

Impact Monitoring and Reporting

All grants issued by the KCF will be linked to the Fund's overarching objectives; this will start in the application process before self assessment reporting will enable conservancies to assess the success of their implementation of the grants and the outcomes of the grant inputs.



Self assessments will take place **6 months** and **18-months** post grant disbursement on topics such as. This non-exhaustive list will be be pre-designed templates to reduce the burden on conservancies:

Outputs:

- Is the project operational?
- Was it executed on time?
- Were there problems or complications?
- Were there unintended consequences?

Outcomes:

- Reduced Human Wildlife Conflict
- Increased Biodiversity
- Improved Soil Quality
- Increased Household Income
- Improved Water Access
- Enhanced Conservancy Economic Resilience

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Timeline and Key Milestones

2023/24

Fund Design & Strategy

- Governance, management and financial frameworks designed
- Conservancy needs assessment
- Funding areas identified
- Fundraising strategy developed

2024/25

Establishment and Fundraising

- Recruit key management personnel: Grants Support Manager etc., Review Committee
- Start donor fundraising process to capitalize sinking fund

2025

First Grant Disbursements

- First workshops for eligible conservancies to explain application guidelines
- Calls for proposals
- First grant disbursements and capacity building

2025 +

Scale Up

- Expansion of grant disbursement
- Refine application process
- Expand capacity building work to maximize impact of grants

Funding Areas

KCF Establishment

Less than 1% of (~ US$ 100,000) funding is envisaged to be needed to establish the KCF:

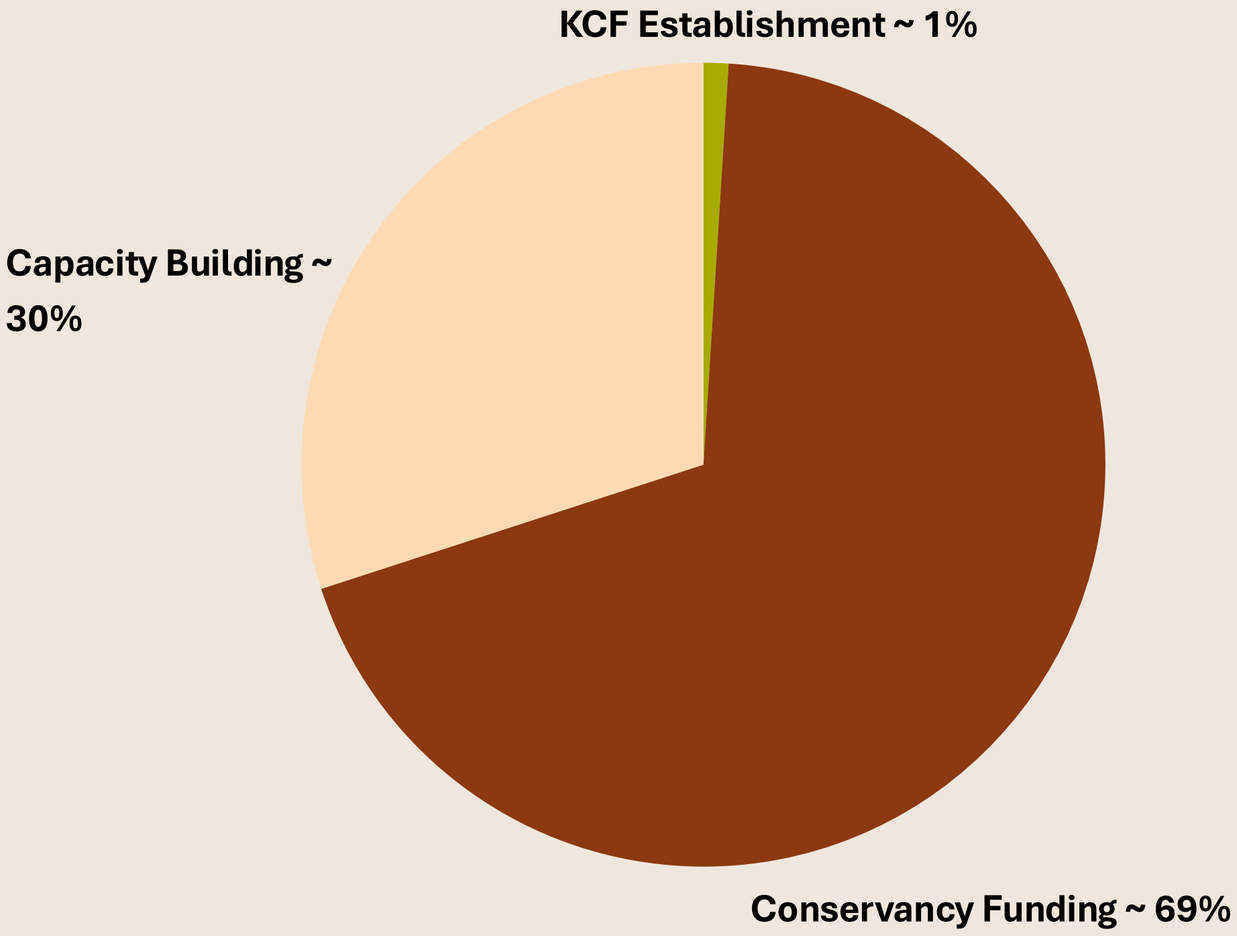
- Hire Staff
- Fundraise
- Legal and administrative costs of registration

Conservancy Funding

~ 69% of funding will be directed straight to crucial conservancy needs and development projects.

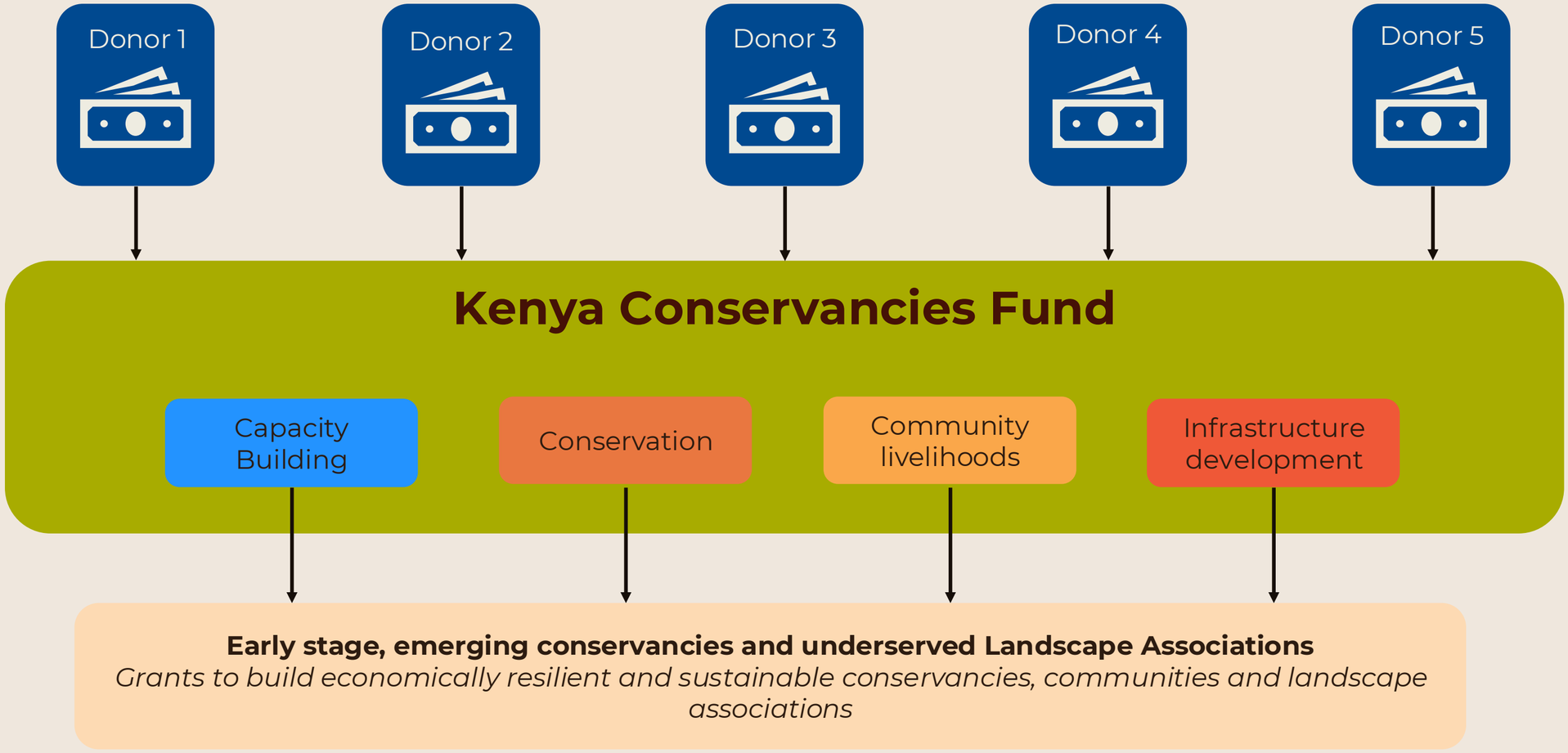
Capacity Building

To ensure funds are spent efficiently and hence maximise the impact, ~30% will be spent on technical assistance will will accompany some grants to provide extra capacity for conservancies.



KCF Financing Structure

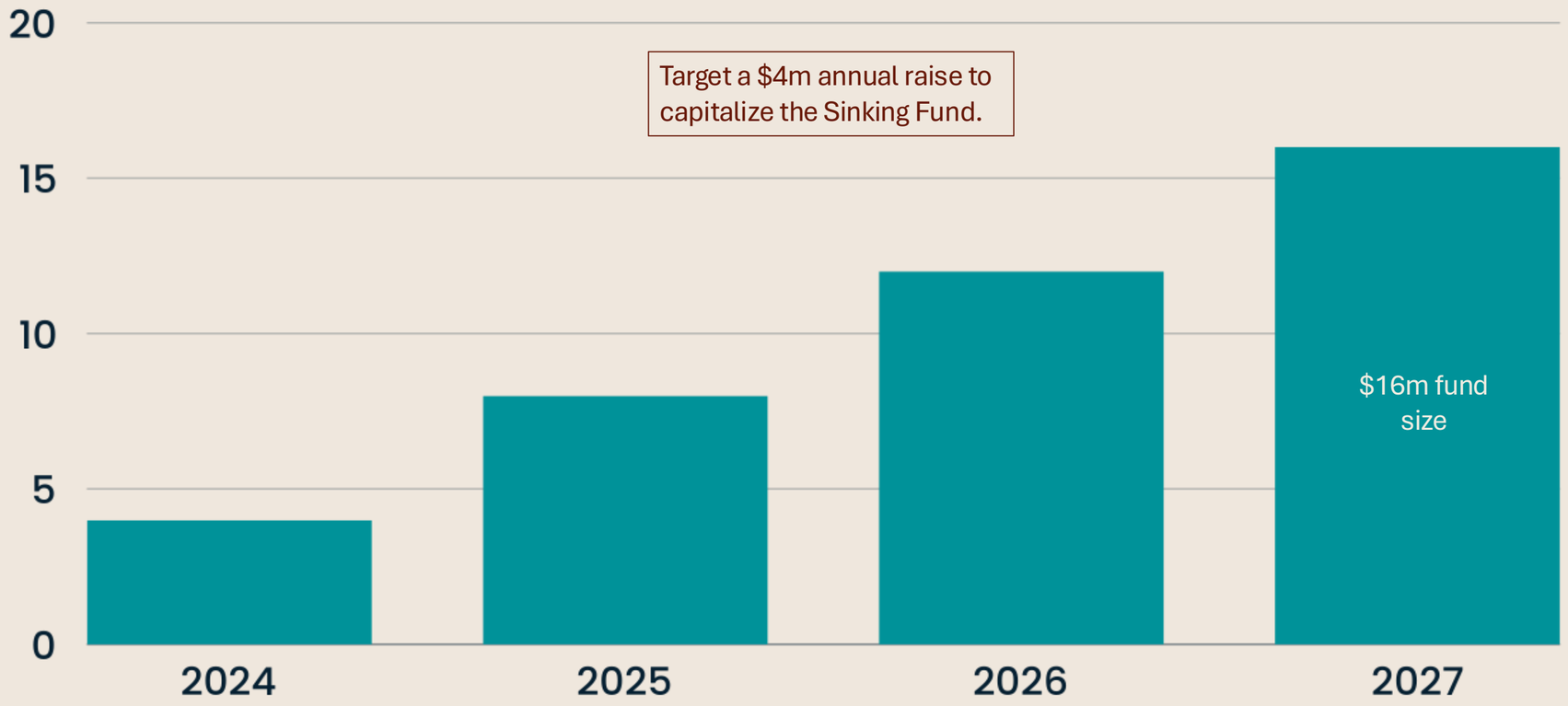
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Sinking Fund - Fundraising

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$140,000 has so far been raised from UNDP – GEF and disbursed across three conservancies in the Maasai Mara and Taita landscapes. The initial fundraising ask would be for grant capital in the Sinking Fund as below:



- The Sinking Fund will be full Grant Capitalized
- Capitalization of the Revolving Fund element will start following Sinking Fund disbursements.

Funding Opportunities

KCF seeks strategic partnerships with **donors & philanthropies** to capitalise locally-led **grant fund**. Immediate funding needs include an establishment cost of **$100,000** and a sinking fund requirement of **$16 million**. To achieve its goals, KCF is actively seeking strategic partners and donors willing to contribute **$500,000** or more. Annual disbursements to conservancies will exceed **$1.5 million**, ensuring sustained support for conservation efforts. At an average grant size of **$30,000**, this provides essential funding to over **50** conservancies.

	2024-2027
Establishment Costs	~$100,000
Fund Size	$16m
Grant Opportunity Sizes	$500,000 +
Fund Disbursements (p/a)	$1.5m+