KWCA
Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Message from the CEO

2025 was a remarkable year that stretched our resilience and strengthened our resolve as a conservancy network. Global funding volatility earlier in the year served as a stark reminder of the vulnerability that comes with dependency on donor financing. For many conservancies, this disruption threatened hard-earned conservation gains and community livelihoods.



Dickson Kaelo
Chief Executive Officer

It reminded me of my conservation journey when establishing conservancies in the Maasai Mara. At the time, my vision was clear: to create and support a model where communities and wildlife could thrive together but also benefit from their stewardship. However, the reality was conservancies had immense conservation potential but struggled to unlock that potential due to weak governance systems, limited institutional capacity, donor dependency and inadequate investment capital to support their long-term sustainability.

During my time at Naboisho Conservancy, in its formative years, the conservancy received a catalytic start-up grant from a bilateral partner that helped address governance, legal, and management challenges. That early investment laid the foundation for a well-governed, professionally managed conservancy that today attracts private capital and has grown into a thriving enterprise generating $ 2 million annually in tourism revenue for the community. The lesson i learnt was that with the right support at the right time, conservancies could transition from dependency to self-sustaining conservation enterprises.

At KWCA, we have seen firsthand the enormous ecological, social, and economic potential many conservancies possess, yet remain constrained by barriers that prevent them from becoming investment ready. Governance gaps, weak institutional systems, limited business capacity, and insufficient access to catalytic financing continue to hinder conservancies from realizing their full potential. We see this moment not only as a challenge, but also as an opportunity to reimagine the future of conservation financing.

In response, KWCA has made a strategic pivot, deepening our focus on supporting conservancies to become effective, resilient, and investment-ready institutions. Through the establishment of the Kenya Conservancies Fund, we aim to provide catalytic funding that helps conservancies strengthen their governance and management systems, build viable enterprises, and position themselves to attract private sector investment. KWCA has also invested in connecting conservancies with the private sector partners through the Kenya Conservancies Investment Forum to position conservancies as viable and compelling investment destinations. We believe conservancies should be viewed and supported as socio-economic and conservation engines capable of delivering measurable returns for communities, biodiversity, and investors alike.

As we move forward, we remain deeply grateful to the partners who have stood with us over the years and believed in our mission and capacity to deliver impact. Your trust has enabled us to support more conservancies, amplify their community voices, and advance locally led conservation across Kenya. Together, we look ahead with optimism, determined to unlock the full potential of conservancies and secure a thriving future for both people and nature.

2025 Outcomes at a Glance

35

new conservancies registered as KWCA members bringing total membership to 230 conservancies conserving 10.8 Million Ha. of land

14

Policy analyses and recommendations developed by KWCA and partners to inform national and county reforms on wildlife conservation, tourism and land

1,700+

conservancy members and stakeholders trained in governance, enterprise & business development, advocacy, Earth ranger and grievance redress mechanisms.

4

Conservancy management plans gazetted to strengthen management effectiveness

6

Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) assessments conducted to evaluate conservancy management effectiveness and inform development of conservancy management plans.

8

Site-level Assessment on Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool conducted in 8 conservancies with implementation of priority governance actions initiated to strengthen equitable governance

$ 2,380,885

secured for the Kenya Conservancies Fund to support 27 Conservancies

555

bee hives and 7 apiaries alongside 140 livestock (70 galla & dairy goats & 70 bulls) distributed across 4 conservancies to support nature-based enterprises and livelihood diversification.

What we do

KWCA is a national membership association of conservancies working with 230 conservancy members to restore biodiversity conservation in unprotected areas and make wildlife conservation rewarding for local communities. We achieve this through four interconnected approaches;

1

Influencing policy and legal reforms by amplifying one coordinated voice of conservancies to participate and inform national and county policy decision making.

2

Mobilizing catalytic funding and private investments to enable conservancies become investment ready and attract private capital to become self-sustaining enterprises.

3

Strengthening Institutional capacity and providing technical assistance to conservancies and landscape associations to improve governance and management systems, plans and structures.

4

Strengthening coordination & network building among conservancies, landscape associations and other community led conservation stakeholders to promote collective learning, advocacy, and community-led conservation at the national, regional and global levels

" KWCA is a worthy partner. Its leadership is driven by incredible men and women from the grassroots, demonstrating authenticity of its bottom -up approach leadership"

Silvia Museiya - Principal Secretary
State Department of Wildlife.



We Believe

IF conservancies receive favorable national and county policy support, incentives, secure land rights and the right kind of financing, **THEN** their governance and management capacity will be strengthened, **LEADING** to more youth and women participation, increased investments, peace and social cohesion, and improved livelihoods, **ACCELERATING** the growth and impact of conservancies in creating more space for wildlife and equitable tangible benefits flowing to communities.

Theory of Change



Advancing Catalytic Funding for Conservancies

KWCA's core strategic focus is to not only increase the space under conservation through conservancies but to make them effective and impactful. With financial support from GEF's Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Kenya project implemented by UNDP and the Government of Kenya, KWCA established the Kenya Conservancies Fund (KCF), a dedicated funding mechanism to make conservancies investment ready and transition them from donor dependency to self-sustaining enterprises.

KCF is grounded in the belief that conservation financing must ultimately reach the point of impact, where local communities serve as frontline stewards of biodiversity and natural resources. The fund focuses on providing catalytic funding to conservancies to strengthen governance and management systems, build climate resilience, improve community livelihoods through nature-based enterprises, and enhance biodiversity conservation outcomes.

The fund's design and grant making framework has been developed to guide sourcing, selection, disbursement and scaling of grants. The application and selection process follows a structured, merit-based eight step approach led by an independent review committee, which assesses applications against a clearly defined eligibility criteria and funding principles to ensure a transparent, equitable and accountable process.





In 2025, KWCA operationalized the fund and piloted support for women and youth led enterprises in three conservancies: Mbale Conservancy, Mbokishi & Orpuaa Conservancies. The support included distribution of 555 beehives across seven apiaries, which has a projected income of KSh 7 million. The fund also supported livestock restocking initiatives and development of tourism campsites to diversify community livelihoods and increase resilience.

Additionally, KWCA secured **$ 2,380,885** through partnerships from the Federal Government of Germany under the International Climate Initiative (IKI) project with GIZ and through the GEF-8 Kenya Global Wildlife Program in collaboration with Conservation International and the State Department for Wildlife. This funding will support 27 conservancies to strengthen conservation enterprises, climate resilience, and community-led biodiversity outcomes.

Linking Communities with Private Sector Partners

In August, KWCA convened the 2nd Kenya Conservancies Investments Forum 2025 in partnership with WWF-US through the GEF funded Africa Nature Based Tourism Platform (ANBTP) to deepen dialogue around conservancies investment needs and link investment ready conservancy opportunities with the private sector. The forum also provided a platform for conservancies to position themselves as viable and compelling investment destinations with the potential to spur rural economies and enhance local livelihoods.

Held under the theme *"Unlocking Investments for Sustainable Conservation"*, the forum combined high level panel discussions challenging stakeholders to reimagine conservancies as not only conservation anchors, but as bankable enterprises, climate solutions, and cornerstones of Kenya's green economy. Landscape associations presented investment opportunities to potential investors and sector experts presented on enabling policies, financing mechanisms, and governance models critical to investment readiness.



Exhibition stands showcasing investment opportunities in eco-tourism, carbon credits, conservation agriculture, livestock production, and nature-based enterprises such as artisan crafts and honey production were on full display and provided networking opportunities for the participants and exhibitors to showcase scalable opportunities across the different conservancy value chains.





KWCA compiled this prospectus to showcase investment ready opportunities in 51 conservancies across four main sectors; ecotourism, carbon credits, livestock and nature-based enterprises to initiate dialogue between private sector partners and conservancies.

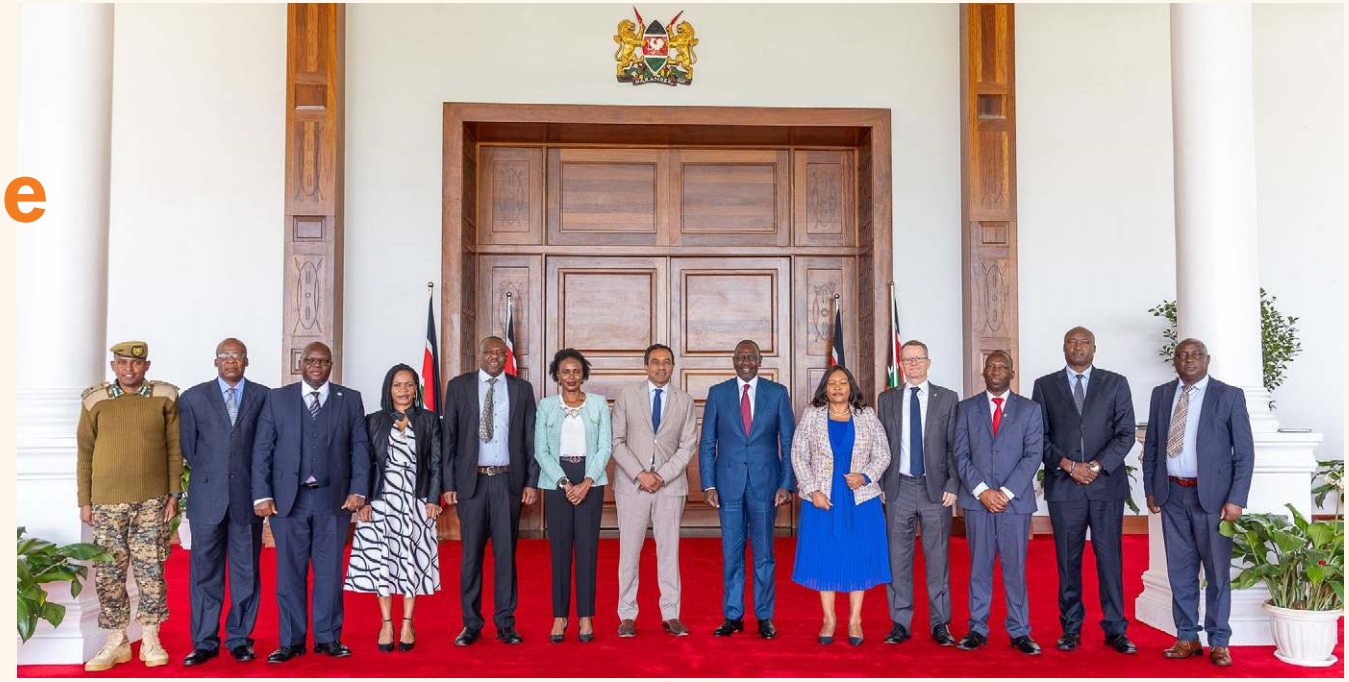


Maxi Louis of NACSO, Namibia and Mohammed Kamuna from the Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC), Tanzania during a panel discussion sharing their experiences on financing community led conservation.

Conservancy Investment Readiness- Business Planning for conservancies

KWCA in partnership with Alibi Design Limited, supported the development of five business plans for Sinibo Conservancy, Kiborit Conservancy, Meibae Community Conservancy, Shurr Community Conservancy, and Kikesen River Conservancy. As emerging conservancies, they undertook a structed investment readiness journey supported through the ANBTP which included months of training, business planning and tailored support to strengthen their investment potential. The tailored business plans are customised to each conservancy's unique eco-tourism and nature-based enterprise opportunities, positioning them as viable partners for investors.

Advancing Legal and Policy Change



KWCA has been advocating for policy and legal reforms to enable conservancies to increase the adoption of wildlife conservation as a land use and benefit from their stewardship. In 2025, KWCA participated in 14 key policy processes including submission of 5 memoranda on various national and county legislations in Wildlife, Tourism, Land and Carbon.

Wildlife Conservation and Management Bill, 2025: KWCA consolidated conservancy inputs of the Bill and submitted a comprehensive memorandum on behalf of its members. KWCA advocacy is seeking to;

- Strengthen legal recognition of conservancies as a legitimate land use that integrates conservation and livelihoods
- Clarify conservancy governance and registration processes
- Recognize conservancy associations
- Strengthen incentives and equitable benefit sharing mechanisms
- Enhance county government support to conservancies
- Promote biodiversity offsets and OECMS
- Improve community safeguards within wildlife and carbon related activities
- Stronger human-wildlife conflict compensation mechanisms
- Enhance incentives and expand monetary and non-monetary benefits by expanding the wildlife economy.

Tourism Laws and Policies: KWCA engaged in the review of the Tourism Policy, 2025, Tourism Bill, 2025, and the Draft National Tourism Strategy (2025–2030) to strengthen recognition of conservancies within Kenya's tourism sector. The advocacy focused on equitable tourism investments, benefit-sharing, community participation, sustainable tourism financing, and integration of conservancies into tourism governance and planning. The reforms are expected to improve tourism revenues, strengthen community benefits, and enhance conservancies as key tourism destinations.

Land Laws and Community Land Governance: Through the Community Land Registration Regulations, Community Land Registration Master Plan, and National Land Policy processes, KWCA advocated for stronger protection of conservancy lands, securing land tenure, inclusive governance, and integration of conservation land uses within land governance frameworks.
The reforms are expected to reduce land conflicts, strengthen governance, and improve long-term sustainability of conservancy landscapes and wildlife corridors.

Carbon Laws and Regulations: KWCA participated in engagements around the Carbon Trading Regulations and Carbon Registry Framework to strengthen community safeguards within carbon markets. The

advocacy focused on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), equitable benefit-sharing, transparency, grievance redress mechanisms, and protection of community rights in carbon projects. These reforms are expected to increase access to climate finance and diversify revenue streams for conservancies.

Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) Policy: KWCA together with partners lead by the office of the President on the INRM policy engaged in the development of the INRM Policy to promote a coordinated and landscape-based natural resource governance. The advocacy focused on strengthening collaboration between communities, conservancies, county governments, and national institutions, while integrating conservation, livelihoods, and sustainable resource management. The policy is expected to improve ecosystem governance and strengthen resilience of conservancy landscapes.



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KWCA signs a 5-year collaborative framework with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHRC) to promote and integrate Human Rights Based Approaches (HRBA) principles and standards in wildlife conservancies across Kenya and ensure compliance.

following 5 years of joint advocacy with Baringo County Conservancies Association (BCCA). The Act, which is the second to be enacted after the Samburu County Conservancies Act, will enable conservancies in Baringo county to access financial and technical support from the county government to expand opportunities for sustainable conservation, expand infrastructural development and tourism initiatives.

Looking ahead: KWCA is currently working with the County Governments of Narok, Kajiado, Taita Taveta and Laikipia in partnership with landscape associations in the respective counties to advance development of enabling wildlife conservation policies and laws within their counties.

KWCA conducts Kenya's First (OECM) Assessment: KWCA in partnership with IUCN conducted Kenya's first Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) site assessment in Mbirikani community land, Amboseli to explore the potential of conservancies as OECMs. Formally introduced in the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), OECMs are defined as geographically areas distinct from Protected Areas (PAs) but managed in ways that yield positive, sustained, and long-term outcomes for biodiversity conservation. Despite being a relatively recent concept, OECMs offer an opportunity for conservancies to receive recognition and support on their impact in conservation at the national and global levels.

Looking ahead: KWCA and IUCN will support OECMs site assessments and reporting to align Kenya's reporting to the CBD. Additionally, KWCA is advocating for the recognition and integration of conservancies as OECMS within Kenya's Wildlife and Environmental policies and laws

Mbirikani conservation area leaders during a an OECMs assessment exercise in Amboseli

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Unlocking Carbon Credits Potential



As interest in carbon projects continues to grow among conservancies, continuous capacity building remains crucial to ensure communities are well informed and receive the right information. The carbon projects must also be well- designed, successfully implemented, and deliver meaningful benefits to local communities.

In July, KWCA hosted the Kenya National Conservancies Carbon Policy Conference under the theme: *Sustainable Financial Solutions for Conservancies: Unlocking Carbon Credit Potential* to build awareness among conservancy leaders on emerging carbon policies, regulatory compliance, and opportunities within carbon markets that can support long-term financial sustainability and conservation outcomes.

A pre-conference survey conducted to gauge the knowledge levels of conservancy leaders on carbon markets revealed that nearly half of KWCA members are not involved in a carbon project and only 28% of the members were implementing a carbon project with 25% in the exploration phase. There were significant knowledge gaps to be addressed with majority of the leaders having a moderate or basic understanding of carbon projects,

The findings further revealed deep seated concerns around benefit sharing and exploitation by carbon developers, less uptake of carbon projects for conservancies in unregistered lands, and sustainability of carbon projects due to market volatility.





33

conservancies with active projects in the carbon market

70

Conservancies in the process of developing carbon projects

The conference noted that while carbon projects offer a significant and sustainable financial opportunity for conservancies, their success hinges on a robust, community-centered, and well-regulated approach. For Conservancies to become equal partners and leaders in Kenya's evolving carbon market; they must;

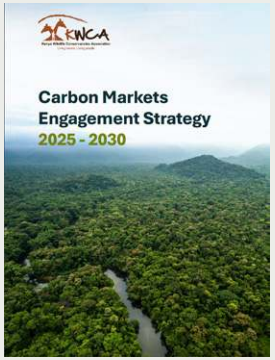
1. Strengthen internal governance structures,
2. Secure legal land rights,
3. Strengthen capacity while ensuring Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC) .
4. Seek expert & legal guidance on contractual obligations
5. committing to transparency and community empowerment

Looking ahead: KWCA will focus on advocating for a review of the benefit sharing structure in the carbon market regulations to ensure more equitable distribution that reflects community contributions and different land tenure systems; support land registration as a foundational step before engaging in carbon projects; establish an advisory service to provide ongoing technical and legal support to conservancies exploring carbon projects, expedite the development and dissemination of the Carbon Contracting Guide to empower conservancies in negotiations.



"There is need to shift from seeing communities as just project beneficiaries to co-developers; and building financial instruments and policies that have a win-win for both private sector and communities."

Gladys Warigia-KWCA Policy & Advocacy Manager during the Carbon Markets Africa Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa



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KWCA's commitment is further demonstrated by its development of its Carbon Credit Strategy 2025-2030, which outlines a clear path for conservancies to leverage carbon markets for supplementary revenue and alignment with Kenya's climate targets.



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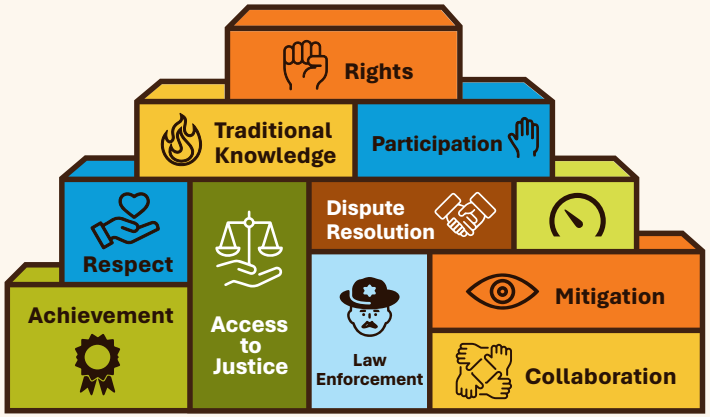
Members of the NRT Carbon Council representing 14 conservancies under the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon projects visited KWCA as part of peer learning exchange visit aimed at providing practical exposure on key aspects of carbon project implementation. The visit focused on strengthening understanding of community engagement, grievance handling mechanisms, governance and benefit-sharing structures and compliance with the Carbon Markets Regulations 2024

Strengthening Equitable Governance in Conservancies

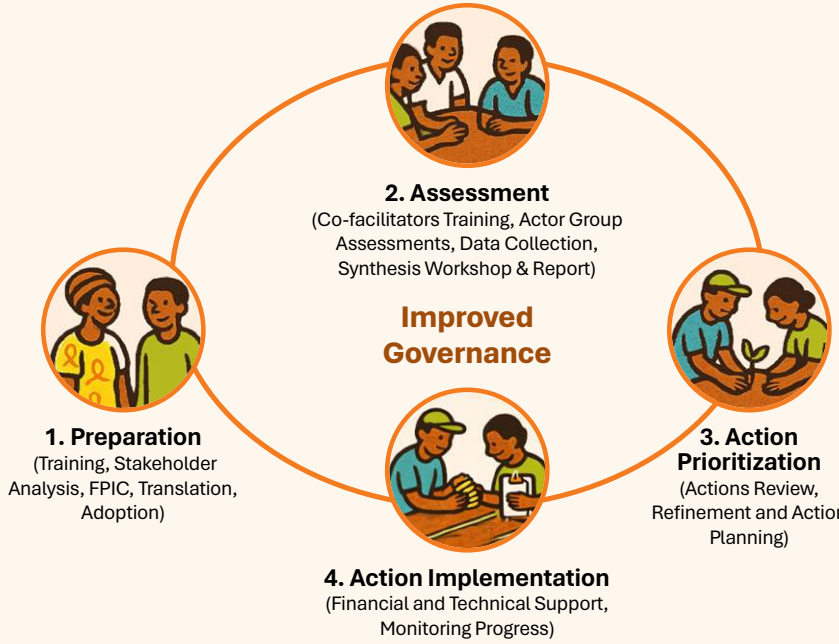
The long-term success of conservation depends on local communities not only participating in conservation efforts but also leading decision making of their land through equitable and effective governance. To support this, KWCA in partnership with the Institute of International Development and Environment (IIED), is implementing the Scaling Up Equitable Governance (SEGA) Project to strengthen governance systems in conservancies through the Site-level Assessment on Governance and Equity (SAGE) governance tool.

SAGE is participatory self-assessment tool that help actors explore governance and equity at their sites in a structured and inclusive way. SAGE puts the people who know the site best-communities, managers, board members and other actors in the lead to reflect on how governance works in practice, identify strengths and weaknesses and use their shared understanding to inform action.

10 Principles of Effective and Equitable Governance



Steps undertaken through the SAGE Process



In 2025, KWCA supported eight community conservancies across four landscapes to undertake SAGE assessments, measuring their governance performance against a tailored 10 principles of equitable governance indicators.

Following the assessments, conservancies developed priority action plans to address identified gaps and guide targeted support. This process has strengthened local ownership of governance, improved information sharing, and created inclusive decision-making spaces such as youth and women forums to bring diverse voices into conservancy leadership.





▲ Mwaluganje Conservancy Elections facilitated by IEBC officials

As a result, the conservancies are now holding more regular annual general meetings, have incorporated women and youth participation platforms, established grievance redress mechanisms, are reviewing their constitutions and by-laws and in some cases, ushering in new leadership.

A notable example is Mwaluganje conservancy, where the SAGE assessment identified weaknesses in the conservancy constitution as a major governance challenge. In response, the conservancy prioritised the constitutional review as a key priority action plan, engaging KWCA to support the review process, and conducting public participation meetings across two villages. The adoption of a revised constitution enabled the conservancy to conduct a more transparent and inclusive election process, managing a generational leadership transition and, for the first time, the election of a youth representative in the board.



"SAGE helped us understand our gaps that we may never have thought about. We had unintentionally locked out women and youth from conservancy activities, our grazing plan was undocumented resulting in misunderstanding and conflicts and we lacked a clear conflict resolution process. SAGE gave us space to collectively listen to everyone's views and their solutions. As a result, we experienced a smooth leadership transition process during our last AGM reflecting maturity from both the leaders and communities."

Daniel Kaura, Mara Ripoi, Conservancy Manager

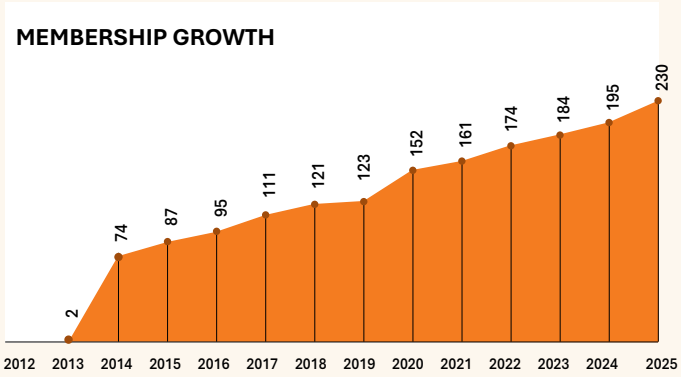




A Conservancy network growing in Strength

Kenya's conservancy network continued to grow stronger and more connected. Landscape conservancy associations worked closely with member conservancies, reporting progress in membership engagement, governance, management and policy advocacy.

In 2025, KWCA strengthened collaboration with landscapes associations to advocate for tangible policy outcomes at both national and county levels. These policies directly impact on the work of conservancies. This coordinated approach has increased participation and responsiveness of our members to advocate for policy priorities and outcomes in wildlife conservation & Management, carbon markets & land tenure rights.





New member conservancies

In 2025, the AGM welcomed 35 new conservancies into KWCA's membership, 11 from Amboseli landscape, 13 from the South Rift landscape, 2 from Maasai Mara, 2 from Laikipia, 2 from North Eastern, 1 from Pwani, 1 from Athi Kapiti and 1 from Rift lakes landscapes. With these additions, KWCA membership grew to 230 conservancy members across 9 counties, a testament to the growing relevance, trust and necessity of the conservancy network.





An expanding membership means more land under conservation and more households actively engaged in safeguarding and stewarding Kenya's natural resources for people and nature. Every new member brings a unique story and an additional voice to our stronger collective voice in advancing biodiversity conservation beyond protected areas.

24
Conservancy management plans gazetted to date to strengthen management effectiveness

63
conservancies under KWS register

230
registered KWCA conservancy members by end of 2025

28
Counties hosting conservancies

New Conservancy members 2025

Name of Conservancy	Size (Ha)	Conservancy Type	County
Amboseli Landscape			
1. Kilitome Conservancy	2,743.70	Group	Kajiado
2. Ole Narika Conservancy	7,284.00	Group	Kajiado
3. Nairrabala Conservancy	15,152.60	Group	Kajiado
4. Empakaai Conservancy	2,400	Group	Kajiado
5. Lenkiloriti Conservancy	8,400	Group	Kajiado
6. Oldonyo Wuas Conservancy	8,800.0	Group	Kajiado
7. Olokurto Conservancy	12,740	Group	Kajiado
8. Loosikitok Conservancy	2,400	Amboseli	Kajiado
9. Noonkiyiaa Conservancy	16,000	Group	Kajiado
10. Illaingarunyoni Conservancy	11,513.6	Group	Kajiado
11. Taiserre Conservancy	3,238	Group	Kajiado
South Rift Landscape			
12. Oldonyo Sambu Conservancy	23,727.73	Group	Kajiado
13. Osewan Conservancy	19,000	Group	Kajiado
14. Ileisai Conservancy	1,500	Group	Kajiado
15. Olchorro Oiborr Conservancy	8,331.56	Group	Kajiado
16. Oloolera River Conservancy	8,094	Group	Kajiado
17. Oltepesi Conservancy	23,803.58	Group	Kajiado
18. Orrgirra Conservancy	4,856	Group	Kajiado
19. Olchorro Oiborr conservancy	8,331	Group	Kajiado
20. Murtuna Community Wildlife Conservancy	25,620.00	Group	Kajiado
21. Karero CBO Community Wildlife Conservancy	9,308	Group	Kajiado
22. Kiluani Community Wildlife Conservancy	10,000	Group	Kajiado
23. Lumbwa Conservancy	3,885	Group	Kajiado
24. Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservancy	16,900	Group	Kajiado
Maasai Mara Landscape			
25. Oletukat Conservancy	404. 60	Group	Narok
26. Partakilat Conservancy	1,000	Private	Narok
Laikipia Landscape			
27. Shulmai Community Conservancy	6,230.00	Laikipia	Laikipia
28. Maiyanat Community Conservancy	6,463.5	Community	Laikipia
Western Landscape			
29. Lugari Green Wildlife Sanctuary	24.28	Group	Kakamega
30. Buteyo Miti Park	32	Private	Bungoma
North Eastern Landscape			
31. Diid Guchi Wildlife Conservancy		Community	Mandera
32. Baraki Community Conservancy	140,000	Community	Garissa
Pwani Landscape			
33. Kora Wells Community Conservancy	13,800	Community	Tana- River
Rift lakes Landscapes			
34. Ecoscapes Wildlife Conservancy	32	Private	Nakuru
Athi Kapiti Landscape			
35. Olosira Community Conservancy	8,093	Group	Kajiado



Membership Satisfaction Survey.

In 2025, KWCA commissioned an online membership survey to assess members' satisfaction of its services and to better understand the perceived value of membership, with the aim of identifying opportunities to strengthen support and priority services. A total of 194 respondents comprising conservancy chairpersons, managers, rangers and landscape associations representatives participated in the survey.

The findings revealed high levels of satisfaction among conservancy members, with 95% of respondents indicating that KWCA adds value to their work. However, the survey also revealed limited awareness of KWCA's membership governance and operational structures, highlighting the need for improved onboarding and member orientation through sensitization meetings, trainings sessions and engagement forums. Members identified networking opportunities, capacity building, and policy representation as KWCA's strongest strategic value areas.

KWCA appointed as the Africa regional representative for ILCN

In 2025, KWCA strengthened its global and regional partnerships to enhance knowledge exchange and position conservancies within broader international conservation networks. A key milestone was KWCA's appointment as the Africa Regional Representative for the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN), a global network dedicated to advancing private and community land conservation.

Through this partnership, KWCA will support and facilitate knowledge sharing among private and community led conservation practitioners across Africa, create opportunities for peer learning, cross-border collaboration, and promote exchange of best practices. This role reinforces KWCA's growing leadership in elevating Africa's community-led conservation voices and connecting conservancies to global conservation conversations, innovation, and partnerships.

INTERNATIONAL LAND CONSERVATION NETWORK



Expanding Community Led Conservation Practice across Africa



◄
Participants from Uganda, Tanzania, Namibia and Kenya during a workshop on strengthening regional collaboration for Community led Conservation in East and Southern Africa

The lessons and successes emerging from Kenya's conservancy network coordination efforts is increasingly informing community-led conservation efforts across Africa and beyond. For the past 3 years, KWCA has hosted peer learning visits from community led conservancies associations in Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Nepal.

In September 2025, KWCA advanced this discussion further with Honeyguide from Tanzania and 14 other community led conservation leaders from 13 national conservation associations and organizations from Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, and Uganda to build a shared understanding of Community-Led Conservation (CLC) from an African Sub-Saharan Perspective.

Recognising each country is guided by a different legislative framework, the concept and principles of CLC remained the same across board. Together, we agreed on the foundational definition of CLC as **"A conservation model where local communities take the lead in decision making and management and benefit sustainably from their natural resources."**

The guiding principles that underpin CLC include;

1. Secure land and resource rights,
2. Positive conservation outcomes,
3. Good governance,
4. Equitable benefits,
5. Multiple land-use systems,
6. Integration of traditional knowledge,
7. Strengthened community capacity,
8. Human Rights-Based Approaches (HRBA)

These principles define how conservation in Africa should be practiced and how it can systematically reduce inequalities and reflect a unique collective process built upon trust and the unification of communities' decision-making power in conservation stewardship and sustainability. The establishment of a community of practice will enable CLC leaders to advance its collective power to influence policy, mobilize financing, and elevate global recognition of CLC as a practical and effective model for conservation and community development.

World Conservation Congress 2025:

The World Conservation Congress 2025 was a whirlwind of inspiration and learning bringing together over 10,000 participants from around the world to influence meaningful action on nature conservation. KWCA was thrilled to participate for the first time as a member of IUCN and contribute to these transformative discussions. KWCA's CEO, Programmes Manager, Communication Manager and the Senior Private Sector Engagement Officer participated participated in eight impactful panel discussions that continue to shape the future of community conservation. Themes around community led conservation, conservation financing, equitable governance, and inclusive conservation were discussed throughout the congress.



▲
KWCA CEO Dickson during the opening of the High level panel on Inclusive conservation



Africa Rangers Congress:

In September, in collaboration with the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA), the Association of Wildlife Conservancy Rangers, Kenya Wildlife Service and Lewa Conservancy, we participated and supported 51 conservancy rangers to participate in the 3rd Africa Rangers Congress held for the first time in Kenya at the Lewa Conservancy.

The gathering brought together over 150 rangers from more than 20 African countries to share experiences, develop strategies for anti-poaching mechanisms and community engagement and to advocate for the promotion of ranger welfare and standards to strengthen their vital role in protecting biodiversity and natural environments.

Among the key outcomes was the adoption of the Lewa Call to Action, the revised African Ranger Declaration, which highlights rangers' priorities, including training, equipment, safety, welfare, mental health support, and professional recognition. The declaration will contribute to deliberations within the International Ranger Federation and inform discussions at the 2027 World Ranger Congress in Argentina, strengthening the representation of Africa's rangers on the global stage.



A coordinated approach to securing Loita–Mara East Sub-Ecosystem



Oletukat Conservancy
©Joseph Njogu

The Loita- Mara East Sub Ecosystem is one of Kenya's most culturally rich and ecologically valuable landscapes. At the heart of this landscape lies the Loita (Naimina Enkiyio) community Forest and surrounding communal rangelands, which have historically been governed through strong Maasai indigenous knowledge systems, customary institutions, and communal land-use practices. These traditional systems have played a pivotal role in conserving biodiversity, protecting water catchments, and maintaining migratory corridors for both wildlife and livestock.

The forest hosts more than 95 herbivore species and is a critical elephant corridor connecting Magadi sub ecosystem to Mara Serengeti Transboundary ecosystem serving as a biodiversity refuge. However, this Iconic landscape is facing increasing pressure from rapid land use changes including land subdivision, speculative land sales, encroachment into forest blocks and wetlands, conversion of rangelands into farms, over exploitation of forest resources, weakening of traditional governance structures and potential fragmentation of key wildlife corridors.

KWCA initiated a process to coordinate and convene partners working within the landscape to develop a multi-stakeholder collaborative framework aimed at preventing irreversible ecological loss with the firm believe that no single organization can effectively address the scale and speed of the threats alone.

Additionally, KWCA is supporting the establishment and operationalisation of Ole Tukat conservancy and working with the Elang'ata Enterit community to finalise the registration process of a legal entity that will spearhead the process of acquiring title of the Elang'ata Entirit adjudication section of the Naimina Enkiyio (Loita) community forest.

Looking ahead: KWCA and partners will support the development of a harmonised landscape plan to optimise and leverage funding to address the ecological threats. This will include empowering communities to lead in engagement and awareness on land-use planning, land leasing, governance, and exploring new and sustainable revenue streams for forest conservation.



KWCA's New Leadership

Good governance drive our strategy to secure our conservation targets. In July, our AGM resulted in the election of a new leadership team at the National Conservancies Council, after 10 years of existence majority of our leadership team is comprised of a new, vibrant young elected men and women under the leadership of John Sengeny, the chairperson of Mara Naboisho Conservancy. Our independent executive board chaired by Richard Vigne was also constituted and will play a pivotal role in shaping the next phase of KWCA's strategic growth.

KWCA governance structure

KWCA governance structure is three-tired, comprising of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), National Conservancies Council (NCC) and the Executive Committee (EC).

Decision Making	**Annual General Meeting:** represents registered conservancy members. It is the apex organ for decision making
Strategy and Direction	**National Conservancies Council (NCC):** Assembly of elected representatives from each of the 12 landscapes. Makes decisions on KWCA membership, strategy and acts as a linkage between KWCA and conservancies in their respective landscapes. **Executive Committee (EC):** Comprises 4 office bearers of the NCC and 3 independent expert members and makes decisions on management, programme supervision and fundraising
Delivery	**Secretariat:** Headed by the CEO and is responsible for program coordination and implementation and managing the affairs of the association.

National Conservancies Council Members



Executive Committee members



A growing operational team

In 2025, we welcomed 4 new staff and interns to enhance our work.



Senthil Balasubramanian
Fundraising Officer- LGT Fellow



Eric Gaitho
Project Accounts- LGT Fellow



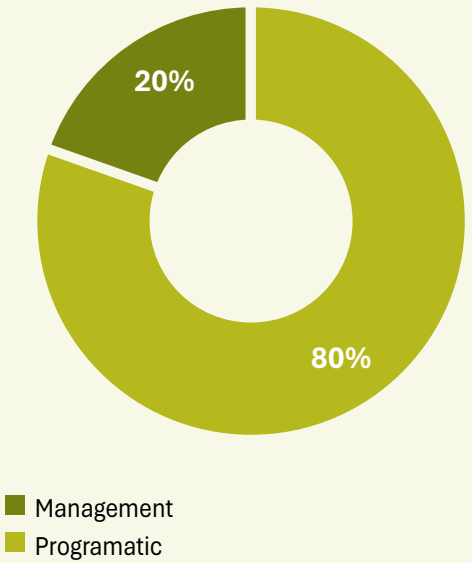
Mercy Mwangi
Intern



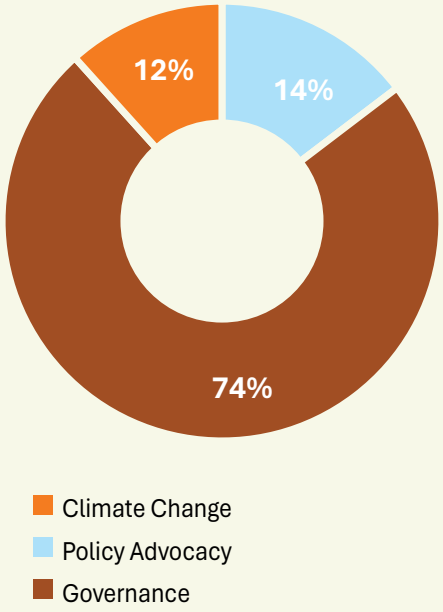
Sidney Mwamburi
Intern

2025 was a year characterised by global funding volatility, KWCA demonstrated remarkable resilience. We exceeded our projected budget for 2025 driven by renewal of multi-year grants, new funding partners and investments through endowment fund.

Total Expenditure 2025 (Expenses)



Expenses by Programme area



$ 3,996,416

Secured Funding

18

projects Implemented

12

Funding partners

5

new Projects

5

new funding partners

$ 500,000

disbursed to conservancies and landscape associations

We are grateful to our supporters who make our work possible.

New Donors

Funding Partners

Implementing Partners

Landscape Conservancy Associations

Network partners



Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association

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Writing, editing and design team:
Joyce Mbataru, Atandi Anyona& Michael Lusaba
Cover Photo: © Jonathan Kaelo
Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
Magadi Tenting Centre
Seminary Road, off Magadi Road
P.O. Box 1038-00517, Nairobi, Kenya

www.kwcakenya.com
info@kwcakenya.com
+254 708 418 522



Magadi Tenting centre,
Seminary Road off Magadi Road.
P.O Box 1038-00518 Nairobi Kenya
Mobile: +254 (0) 708 418 522
Email: info@kwcakenya.com
Website: kwcakenya.com