

KCF
Kenya Conservancies Fund



When Local Communities are Empowered, Conservation Impact is Realised at Scale

A catalytic fund building investment ready conservancies for people and nature



Local communities conserving Kenya's wildlife are underfunded.

They own and manage the land. They bear the cost of living with wildlife. They benefit the least. These creates conservancies that are at risk of collapse, often out competed by other incompatible land uses when the project funds stop.

A need persists for new funding models that pave the way to resilience and eventual self-sustenance.

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KCF: A bold new vision

Kenya Conservancies Fund (KCF) is a catalytic fund that leverages public, philanthropic and private capital to transition conservancies from dependency to self-reliant economic and conservation engines.

KCF singular vision is to *bring the right kind of money and technical expertise to build conservancies that attract private sector investment*.



KCF was founded in 2024, a program of KWCA, an initiative to bring more partners to fund conservation at the point of impact, recognizing that local communities are the frontline conservation stewards. With financial support from GEF Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Kenya project implemented by UNDP and the Government of Kenya, the fund supports vital lands that link together Kenya's ecosystems. Nascent conservancies, overlooked landscapes, high investment potential and conservancies with high biodiversity value, are key targets.



THE END GAME

KCF builds thriving conservancies. A thriving conservancy is one where there is a strong sense of community ownership, partnerships are equal, own-realized revenue is generated, and nature and wildlife are valued assets that support local livelihoods.

Self-reliant conservancies unlock multiple incomes streams, have strong governance and management capacity and decision-making is fair and inclusive.




“Conservancies are spaces
managed for coexistence”

The Journey

2019

Beginning

Partner with GEF UNDP SGP grants $140,000 to Chuine, Kiborgoch and Irong Conservancies around L. Bogoria

'20

Adapting

Partner with FFI Crisis Fund to grant $ 200,000 to Ol lentile, Satao Elerai, Lemek and Lumo

'21

Boots on the Ground

GOK through KWS fund
3,500 community rangers
Kshs 800million for one year

'23

Capacity Building

USAID Partnership grants $175,000 landscape associations in Taita Taveta, Baringo & Amboseli

'24

Gap Analysis

Support from TNC and Sustain EA, A national Assessment of conservancies funding needs published

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‘24

Formalizing

KCF designed with technical support from State Department for Wildlife and Conservation Capital

‘25

Piloting

GEF UNDP grants $150,000 to supports women and youth enterprises in Mbale, Mbokishi & Orpuaa conservancies

‘25

Expanding

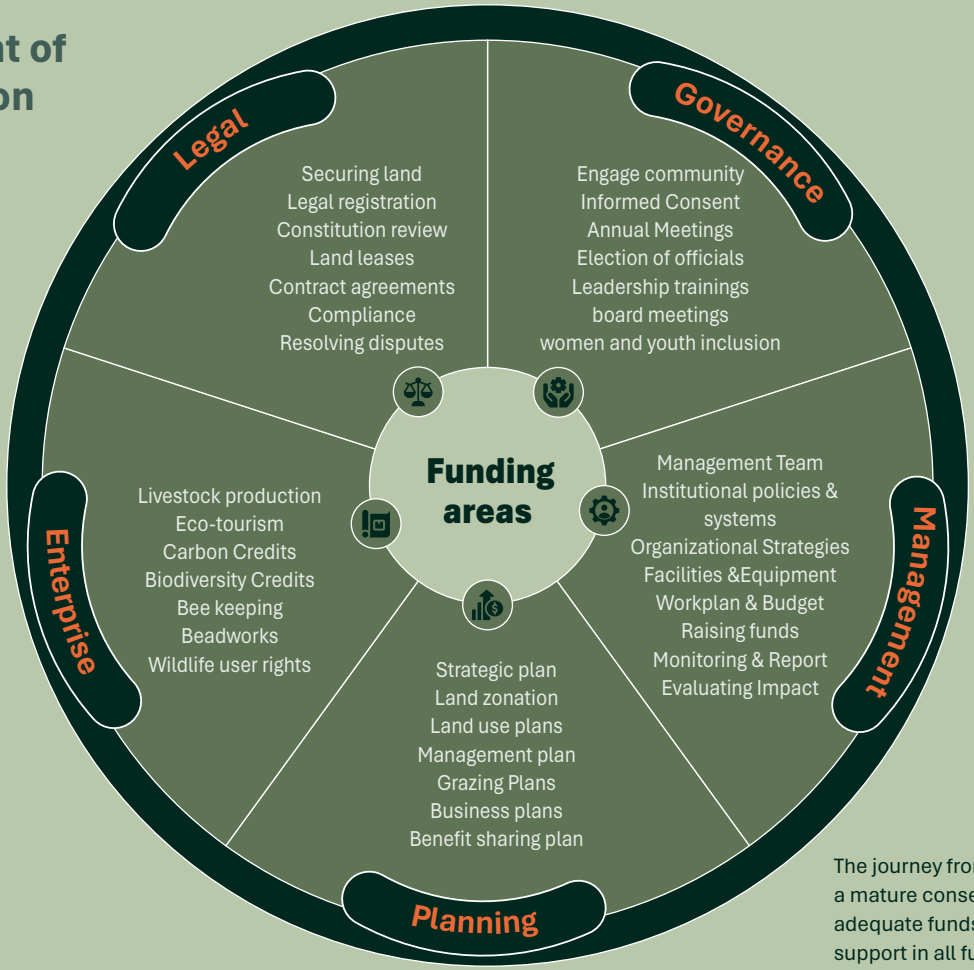
- Secured GIZ IKI grants €950,000 to KWCA & 12 conservancies in 9 Counties
- Secured GEF & Conservation International funding for 2 landscapes associations, 15 conservancies & community groups

‘26

Launch

KCF Launch& Grantees Awarded

Determinant of Conservation Success

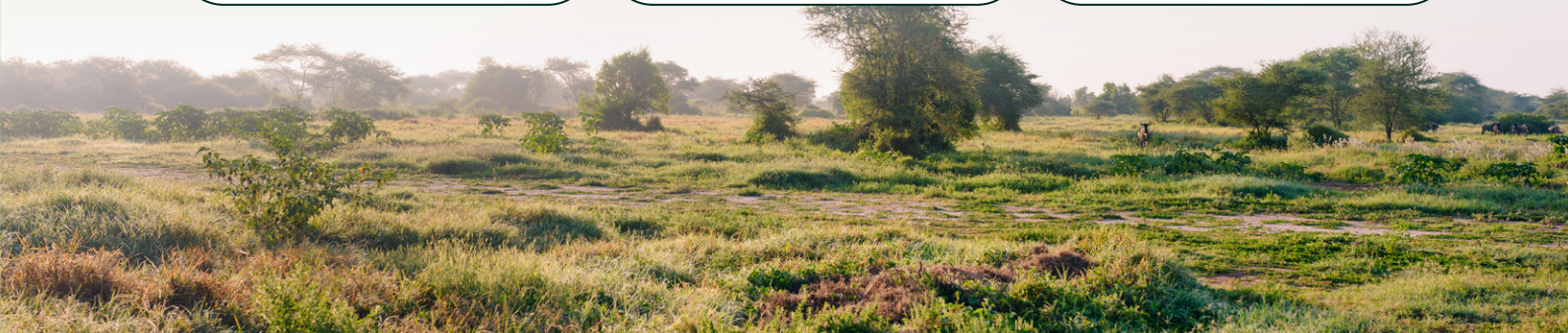


The journey from a nascent to a mature conservancy requires adequate funds and technical support in all funding areas.

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Fund Components

Sinking Fund	Revolving Fund	Reserve Fund
Nascent and early growth conservancies	**Maturing conservancies**	**KWCA & KCF**
Strengthening conservancies legal, governance and management capacity,	Demonstrating commercially viable enterprises	Core operational costs
Planning and infrastructure development	Value chain development	Admin costs
Community engagement	Nature based enterprises pilot	Staff costs
Investment readiness	Capital expenditure	Travel
	Livestock, tourism, conservation agriculture	Monitoring
		communication



Our Achievements and Ambitions



It is not capacity that communities lack, but access to the right kind of funding and partners

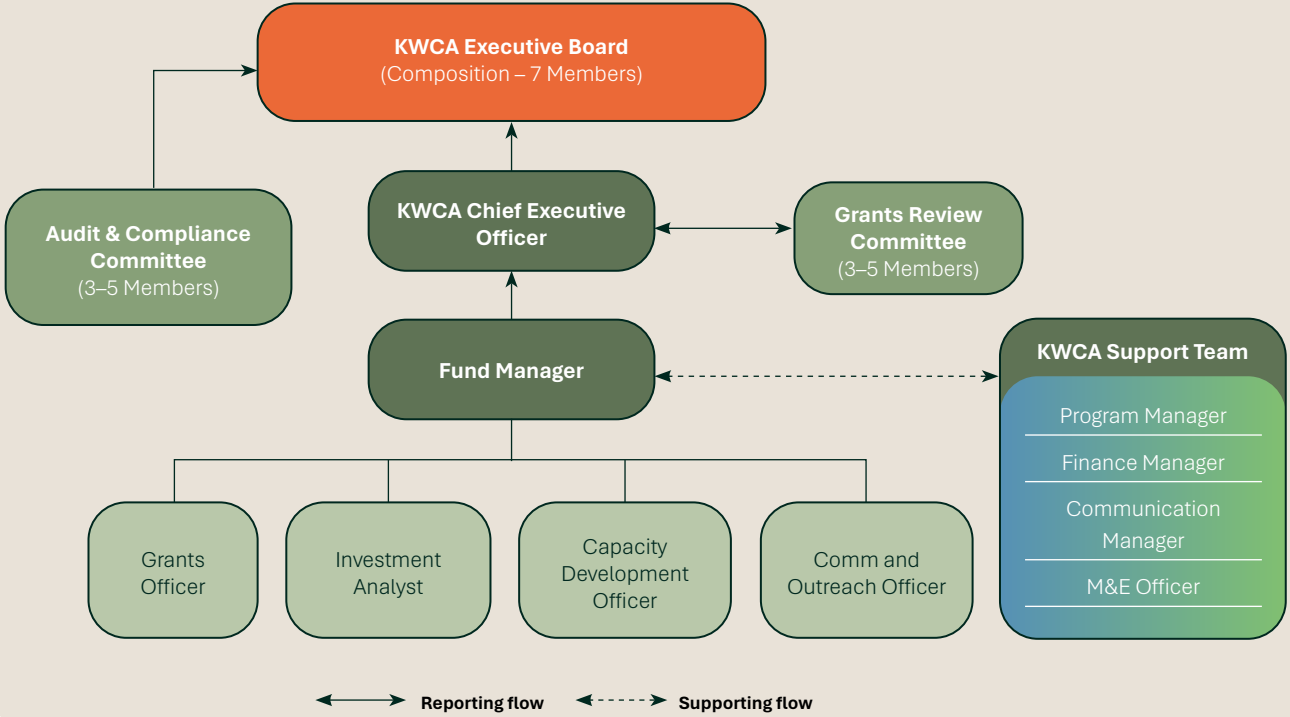
Dickson Kaelo, CEO KWCA

1. **Since 2020 $6.6 Million** mobilised grants to 31 conservancies and 5 landscape associations
2. We target to **raise $500,000** minimum investment from diverse partners to grow the sinking fund
3. **By 2030 we aim to raise $16M** as sinking and revolving fund to sustainable fund conservancies
4. By 2030 we aim to **increase the No. of mature conservancies from 40 to 70** and transition 50 conservancies to the next growth stage
5. By 2030 we aim to **establish 20 new conservancies** to expand the area under conservancies towards attaining 30% of country protected and conserved area by 2030
6. **By 2030 onwards** we aim to expand the sinking find to a revolving fund that offer financing to conservancies to be repaid with the revenues generated from the nature-based enterprises

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Fund Governance

Governance and Management Structure



KENYA CONSERVANCIES FUND



Conservancy Grant Application process

1. Call for concepts & Initial screening
2. Shortlisting & full proposal stage
3. Committee review & final selection
4. Field work & due diligence
5. Board approval
6. Co-creation & Project alignment
7. Community Endorsement
8. Notification & contracting



Risk Mitigation Architecture

KCF seven step risk mitigation framework to de-risk investments.



- Structured co-creation prior to contracting
- Enterprise feasibility validation
- Tranche-based disbursement
- Activity-based procurement controls
- Dedicated project bank accounts (where required)
- Governance & FM technical assistance
- Enhanced monitoring and compliance

This significantly de-risks capital deployment across the portfolio.

Conservancy Grantees

Supported by:

The Federal Government

on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag

IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



KCF anchor capital of €950,000 from the Federal Government of Germany, International Climate Initiative (IKI) Project with GIZ will invest in 12 conservancies across critical ecosystems in Kenya. The fund will provide catalytic support to build strong governance systems, build climate resilience, and improve livelihoods through sustainable climate-smart enterprises.

1

Shulmai Conservancy, Laikipia County - 6,230 Ha.

ACTION: Reducing land fragmentation in a high-pressure wildlife corridor by supporting alternative livelihood initiatives.

2

Nareto Conservancy, Laikipia County, 2,864 Ha.

ACTION: Strengthening accountable governance systems to unlock long-term biodiversity financing.

3

Naibunga Lower, Laikipia County, 16,401 hectares .

ACTION: building financial sustainability mechanisms to restore and maintain ecological connectivity

4

Kiborit Community Conservancy, Baringo County 101 Ha

ACTION: Protecting the threatened pancake tortoise while improving community livelihoods through beekeeping enterprises.

5

Oloisukut Conservancy, Narok County: 6,477 Ha

ACTION: Restoring landowners trust to secure wildlife habitats for threatened species, including pangolins, amid competing land uses.

6

Bora'ana conservancy, Garissa County North eastern – 66,136 Ha

ACTION: Enhancing water resilience as a nature-based incentive to promote human–wildlife coexistence.

7

Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary, Kwale County 24,281 Ha

ACTION: Conserving coastal forest ecosystem by promoting and scaling sustainable eco-tourism enterprises.

8

Osewan Conservancy: Kajiado County – 7,773 Ha

ACTION: Enhancing access to water for wildlife and communities to promote human–wildlife coexistence.





9

Mbale Ranch, Taita Taveta County: 21,906 Ha

ACTION: Strengthening livestock value chain to generate conservation-compatible income and enhance community resilience.

10

Ruko Community Conservancy: Baringo County: 19,000 Ha

ACTION: Sustaining peace and social cohesion among communities while strengthening resilience through climate-smart enterprise development

11

Westgate conservancy, Samburu County: 48,000 Ha

ACTION: Restoring rangelands to sustain wildlife habitats, including for the endangered Grevy's zebra, and improve livestock-based livelihoods for communities.

12

Songa Community Conservancy Marsabit 103,868 Ha

ACTION: Enhancing pastoralists' adaptative capacity through climate-smart agriculture integration.

Conservancy Grantees



The GEF 8 Kenya Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Child Project, *"Advancing Human–Wildlife Conflict Management Effectiveness in Kenya through an Integrated Approach,"* implemented by State Department for Wildlife and Conservation International is supporting conservation in three priority landscapes Tsavo, Laikipia and Meru.



From a total grant of $ 4,870,733, KCF follow-on capital grant of $ 1,147,733 will support 15 conservancies and community groups over a period of five years.

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Partner with us & amplify our impact!

Together, we can increase conservation impact, empower communities and improve economic resilience

For more info, contact us at fund@kwcakenya.com

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