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Lions in Lemek Conservancy in the Maasai Mara. Photo courtesy of Roshni Ladhia.

## KENYA

### KENYA CONSERVATION POLICY LOCAL WORK PROJECT

Kenya's land mass includes snowy mountain ranges, rich grasslands, iconic forests, coastal bluffs, and majestic plains. Changes in land use and management, human wildlife conflict, and wildlife crime are among the threats to the iconic animals and lands in Kenya. Rangeland degradation and habitat fragmentation from human activities are further exacerbated by external drivers including climate change. Wildlife loss threatens the tourism industry which in the past has contributed between 10-15 percent of Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP). It threatens to further complicate rural poverty, resource-use conflict, and localized instability.

This program's objective is to expand the community conservancy model that focuses on enhancing localized efforts to address development and conservation challenges by shifting decision making, leadership and priority setting to communities and building the institutional capacity of locally led institutions. Specifically, the program aims to empower the national advocacy body for conservancies and to provide an enabling policy framework, incentives, and support for conservancies from the government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

To achieve this, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) will implement activities under the following result areas:

- Advancing land, environment, and natural resource policy and legislative frameworks at the national and county level.
- Establishing an enabling environment for conservancy-based actors to engage in private sector partnerships that diversify income generating opportunities and foster self-reliance; and
- Transforming KWCA's national leadership agenda to drive the growth of conservancies and support three landscape-level conservation associations in Amboseli, Tsavo, and

## Baringo.

The program will also advance the participation of women and youth in conservancy governance, management, and benefit sharing to address decades of marginalization.

### OUR WORK

KWCA is the national representative body and voice for conservancies in Kenya. Their role is to help catalyze the conservancy movement by connecting, informing, convening, and representing conservancies and other key stakeholders in a shared effort to make wildlife conservancies thrive in Kenya. Their focus areas include policy advocacy, networking, communication, and capacity building across 167 community and private conservancies. KWCA empowers conservancies to be entities in which communities can plan and manage their land and natural resources and optimize benefits for current and future generations.

### Project Goals

The project aims to empower KWCA and its landscape associations and conservancies to solve development challenges by addressing policy gaps and building institutional capacity. Anticipated project outcomes include:

1. Strengthening land tenure rights of community conservancies through advancing land, environment, and natural resources management policy and legislative framework, including transitioning to more equitable community land tenure.
2. Reinforcing wildlife policies and laws to recognize, support, and incentivize community-led conservation as an economically beneficial land use that is both preferred by communities and conservancies and attracts and incentivizes private sector investment.
3. Embedding community-led conservation and development within county-level policies through a targeted county engagement strategy. The strategy will include partnerships between county governments and landscape level associations for joint participation in land use planning and county-based support for the growth of community-based conservation efforts.
4. Empowering KWCA as a locally led organization with improved internal control systems and institutional capacity to advance community conservation and development. Elevating KWCA as a national and regional leader in East Africa that influences and promotes growth in conservation of the environment.

**BUDGET:** USD \$2 million

**DURATION:** May 2021 – June 2024

### ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Target Key Biodiversity hotspots in 28 counties

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)

### KEY PARTNERS

Institute for Law and Environment Governance (ILEG), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kenya Tourism Board and Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA), Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) and Baringo Community Conservancies Association (BCCA)

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