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Northern White Rhino at Ol Pejeta Conservancy, with Mount Kenya in the background. Photo credit: Marvin Mwarangu/Ol Pejeta Conservancy

KENYA

STRENGTHENING LAIKIPIA'S CONSERVANCIES

Laikipia is one of the most important wildlife regions in Kenya. Across this rangeland plateau fringed by highland forests, a mosaic of private and community conservancies collectively manages 3,500 square kilometers of wildlife habitat, sustaining globally significant biodiversity while supporting pastoral and commercial cattle enterprises. Conservancies not only support abundant wildlife populations, but also act as institutional structures through which people can better manage, govern, and benefit from natural resources.

Laikipia faces large-scale issues such as climate change, habitat conversion (for agriculture and development), and land degradation. These increase vulnerability and competition for range and water resources, which increases conflict across the region. Strengthening and promoting collaboration among Laikipia's conservancies has the potential to foster improved resource management, build trust and dialogue, and align conservation around a common vision. The Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) comprises 29 conservancies – it provides a platform to build dialogue and trust among conservancies and provides leadership and technical support to strengthen resource management.

OUR WORK

The overall goal is to strengthen Laikipia Conservancies as resource management institutions. The project also focuses on building the capacity of the umbrella organization, LCA, which is a locally owned organization in this important landscape.

By building collaboration among conservancies and with other stakeholders, natural resource management will improve and help alleviate natural resources as a driver of conflict in northern Kenya.

ACTIVITY AREAS

This activity supports the long-term strategic goals of LCA and strengthens Laikipia conservancies by:

1. Building the capacity of the association as a locally owned organization that will continue to strengthen the role of conservancies in Laikipia past the life of this program.
2. Strengthening collaboration and dialogue among and between conservancies and other stakeholders in northern Kenya; and
3. Mobilizing conservancies and growing their capacity and effectiveness to manage natural resources.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Strengthened the capacity of the LCA, establishing a foundation for a robust organization able to achieve its goals and deliver impact, with five full-time staff.
- Improved collaboration among conservancies and between conservancies and other key stakeholders (including Laikipia County Government and other Regional Conservancy Associations) in Laikipia.
- Strengthened land and resource tenure among Laikipia community conservancies, including the community land process across 11 former group ranches, and strengthened collective management rights to the Mukugodo Forest.
- Improved understanding of the social impacts of conservancies on the people that live in and around them to provide insights on how to better adjust and adopt strategies. This effort is being conducted for three conservancies.
- Expanded wildlife and security monitoring tools for five additional conservancies.
- Creation of a central data hub to monitor impacts and understand trends at a landscape level, for improved decision-making and forecasting.

BUDGET: USD \$597,031

DURATION: 2021-2023

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Laikipia County, Kenya

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

OI Pejeta Conservancy

KEY PARTNERS

Laikipia Conservancies Association
Maliasili Initiatives
Space for Giants

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