



TAITA TAVETA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCIES
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

AGM:	Annual General Meeting
CBO:	Community Based Organization
CEO:	Chief Executive Officer
CGTT:	County Government of Taita Taveta
GCF:	Giraffe Conservation Foundation
GIS:	Geographic Information System
GRM:	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HWC:	Human–Wildlife Conflict
IMET:	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
KES:	Kenyan Shillings
KM2:	Kilometer square
KWCA:	Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
KWS:	Kenyan Wildlife Service
RSC:	Rangeland Security Coordinator
SMART:	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SOPs:	Standard Operating Procedures
TECA:	Teita Estate Conservation Area
TLI:	Tsavo Livelihoods Initiative
TTWCA:	Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association
VSLAs:	Village Savings and Loans Associations

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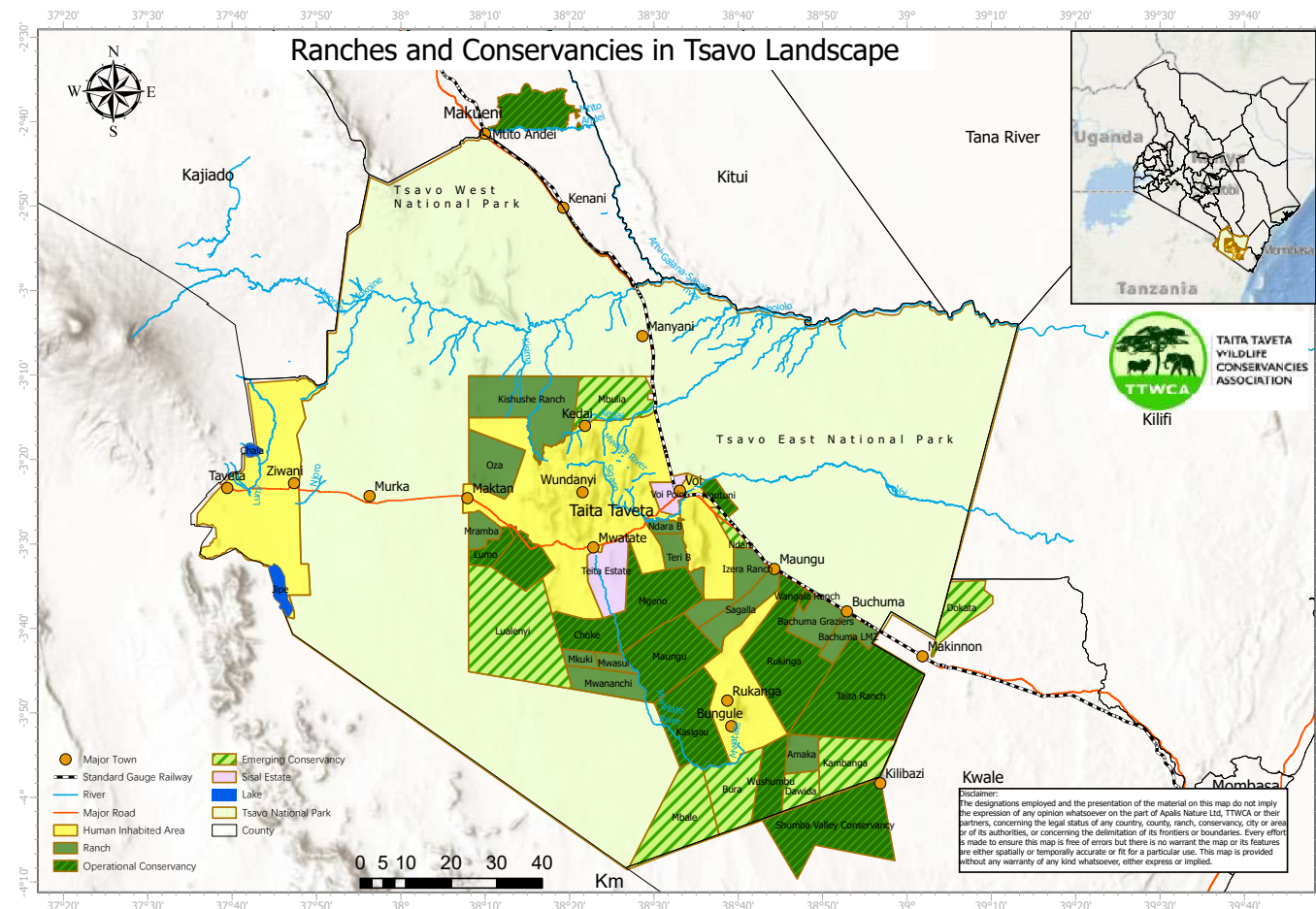


ABOUT US

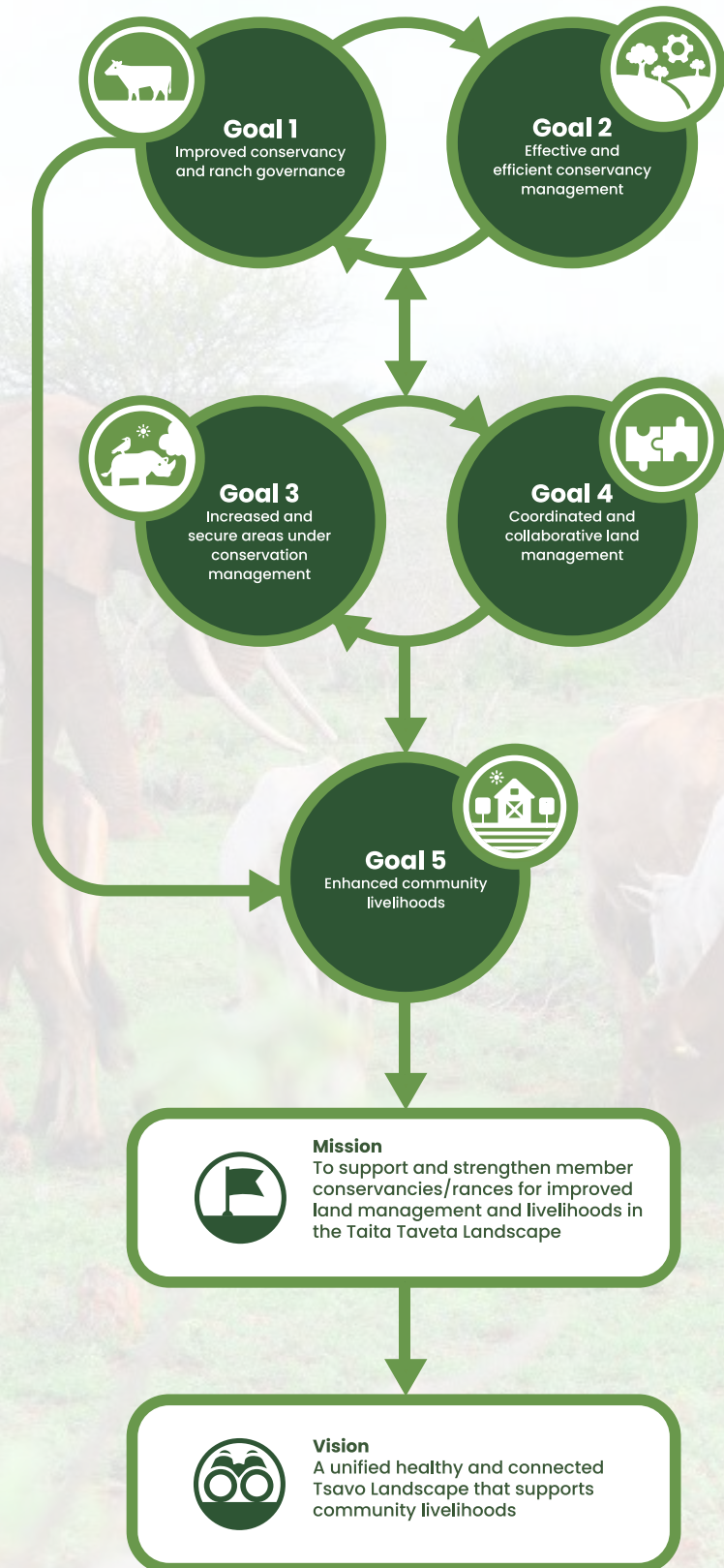
The Taita Taveta ecosystem predominantly hosts the native Taita and Taveta people and is thus rich in cultural heritage. It is a dispersal area separating Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks. It supports the movement and conservation of all the members of the big five: lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino, and the African elephant, holding one-third of Kenya's total elephant population (approximately 17,000).

This ecosystem is made up of 35 ranches and conservancies that came together to form the Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA). These cover an area of approximately 1 million acres (4,046.8 km²) of wildlife dispersal area, with sizes ranging from the smallest of about 95 acres (Chalongo conservancy) to 106,000 acres (Lualenyi Conservancy).

The ranches and conservancies have a diverse membership, ranging from an individual proprietorship to a collective of about 8,000 members drawn from the communities living in Taita Taveta County and beyond. Of this area, 79% of the land is owned by local communities, while the rest is under private ownership, either of companies or individuals.



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE





Alfred Mwanake
Chief Executive Officer

Our progress this year was made possible through continued support from our partners and stakeholders, alongside growing investment in conservation priorities across the landscape. Total support reached KES. 124,383,131, reflecting 40.4% increase compared with the previous year. This support enabled us to deepen our impact in biodiversity protection, rangeland management, and community resilience, while strengthening the systems that sustain long-term conservation success.

A central priority in 2025 was institutional strengthening. We reinforced transparency, increased member participation, and enhanced local ownership across our member conservancies. Free and fair decision-making processes resulted in more inclusive leadership, with increased representation of women and youth, strengthening legitimacy and resilience within governance structures.

We continued to invest in capacity development as a foundation for effective conservation. Governance and management trainings improved compliance, leadership effectiveness, and oversight. Through the TTWCA Council, we provided a strategic platform for peer learning, coordination, and collective problem-solving, ensuring that conservancies are better equipped to address shared challenges across the landscape.

Our commitment to evidence-based and adaptive management remained strong. Through the application of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET), we generated actionable insights that are now informing planning, improving performance, and guiding resource prioritization.

Biodiversity protection continues to be at the core of our mandate. Investments in strengthening the ranger workforce and coordination contributed to addressing key threats, including poaching, illegal grazing, charcoal burning, and human-wildlife conflict. These gains were driven by improved data-driven patrol planning and enhanced community engagement across the landscape.

Our rangeland restoration and climate resilience initiatives delivered meaningful ecological and socio-economic outcomes. Degraded landscapes were restored while generating tangible economic benefits for women and youth groups, demonstrating that conservation and livelihoods can be mutually reinforcing.

In addition to continued donor and partner support, we experienced growth in public and institutional funding, strengthening our ability to scale conservation activities and enabling functions, which increased compared with the prior year.

Looking ahead, the coming years will be critical as we scale high-impact interventions and mobilize sustainable financial resources to secure long-term conservation viability. We remain committed to strengthening inclusive governance, expanding opportunities for youth and women leadership, and advancing livelihood diversification that aligns conservation with economic resilience.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our donors, partners, member conservancies, and communities whose collaboration makes this work possible. Your partnership is essential to sustaining impact and building a resilient future for the Tsavo landscape.



Our 2025 Highlights

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

 **4,046Km²**
Area under consersation

 KES. **699,200**

disbursed as consolation support for HWC incidents to promote peaceful coexistence.

 **360**
Wire snares retrived and destroyed as a result of evidence-based patrol deployment, improved threat mapping, and targeted ranger responses in identified snaring hotspots.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

 **37,000**
Indigenous trees grown, restoring over 288,262 sq. meters of degraded land

 **3**
Managements plans gazetted bringing the number to 9 in the Landscape and 24 Nationally.

CONSERVATION AWARENESS & EDUCATION

 **1023**
Community members sensitized on alternative livelihoods and Equitable Responses to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya

 **642**
Students reached through the Conservation education program

COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

 KES. **1.03 M**
Savings realised from 8 Community VSLAs

 KES. **200,000**
Grant offered to 4 VSLAs

 **10**
additional tourism accommodation beds established to support community tourism enterprises.

 KES. **500,000**
Revenue attained from sale of baskets by women groups.

 KES. **1.2 M**
revenue earned by 7 tree nursery groups from the sale of tree seedlings

 KES. **131.9 M**
Revenue generated from livestock production in 7 Ranches

 KES. **1.55 B**
Revenue attained from Tourism in 8 conservancies and 1 community enterprise

GOVERNANCE

 **38**
New Board members trained on governance and management

 **68**
Conservancy leaders engaged in the TTWCA AGM, advancing coordination and governance.

 **7**
Conservancies conducted AGMs

 **3**
Conservancy conducted board elections, resulting to more inclusive leadership structures:
58%-Men, 30%-Women, & 12%-Youth.

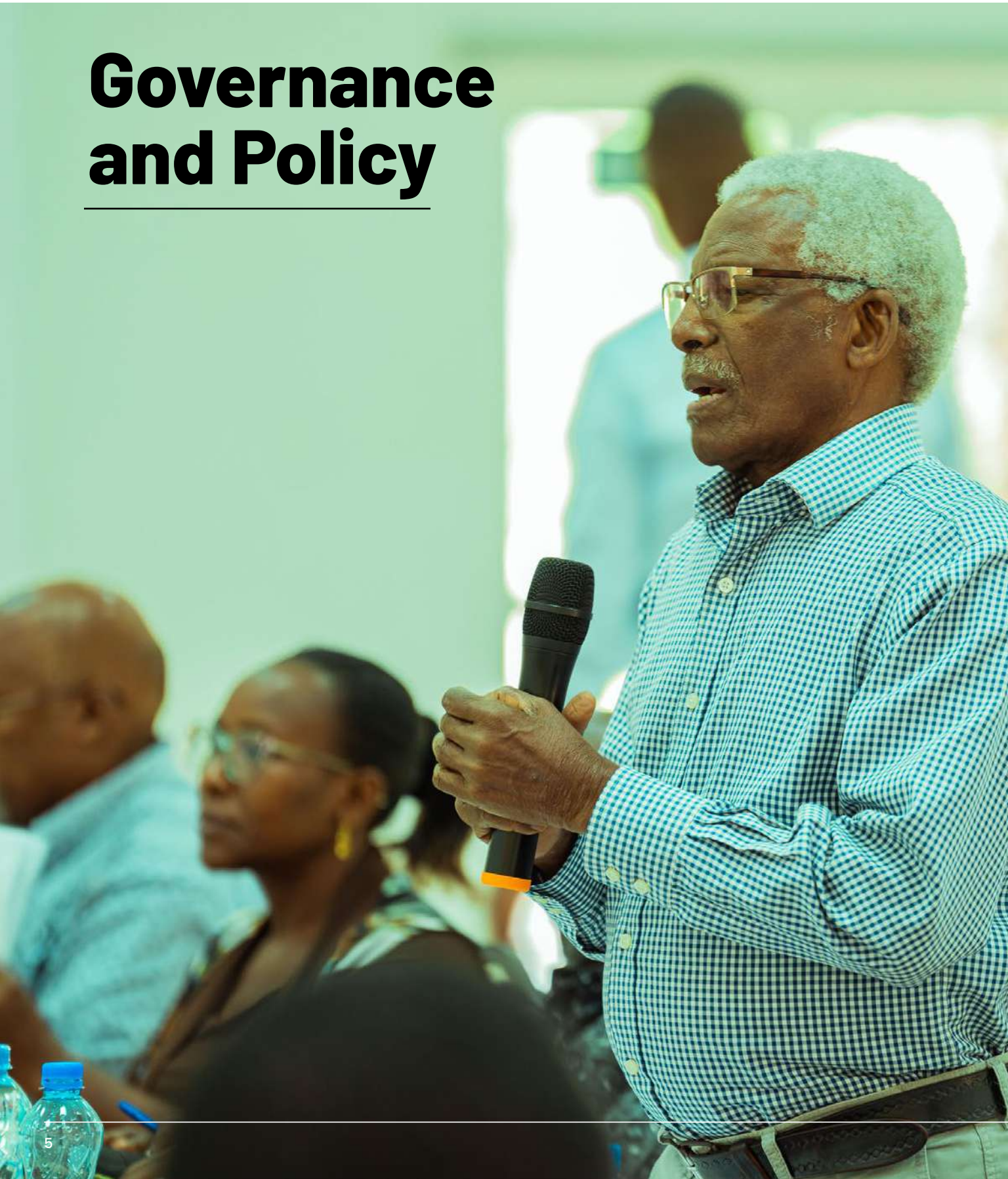


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This award affirms the growing impact of community-led conservation in the Tsavo landscape and reinforces the power of solutions rooted in local stewardship. TTWCA's work continues to gain traction at regional, national, and international levels, demonstrating that conservation anchored in local communities delivers lasting benefits for both people and nature.

Alfred Mwanake, CEO – TTWCA.

Governance and Policy



ADVANCING CONSERVANCY GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP IN 2025

In 2025, conservancies continued to strengthen institutional governance, accountability, and inclusive leadership to enhance effective conservation management and community participation. Key priorities included improving member engagement, strengthening governance structures, and increasing the representation of women and youth in leadership.

In May 2025, TTWCA convened its Annual General Meeting (AGM), bringing together 68 conservancy leaders and council members from member conservancies. The meeting provided a platform for open dialogue, enabling participants to share experiences, lessons, and recommendations thereby reinforcing transparency, peer accountability, and collective leadership.

Earlier in the year, 6 conservancies and 1 Community Land (Oza Community Land, Dawida, Mgeno, Mbale, Lualenyi, Lumo, and Kamungi) conducted AGMs aimed at strengthening member participation and institutional governance. Three conservancies held board elections, resulting in more inclusive leadership structures with increased representation of women and youth, (58%-Men, 30%-Women, & 12%-Youth).

In addition, Dawida Conservancy reviewed and updated its by-laws to strengthen accountability and governance effectiveness. These incorporated employment agreements designed to provide clearer terms of engagement and improve remuneration structures for conservancy staff, contributing to more transparent and professional management practices.

To strengthen leadership capacity, board and management teams from Oza, Mbale, Lumo and Dawida participated in governance and management trainings attended by 38 participants. The trainings focused on principles of good governance, clarifying governance versus management roles, and improving regulatory compliance. A second training for Mbale Conservancy, conducted in partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, reinforced peer learning and the adoption of governance best practices.

Collectively, these efforts strengthened institutional leadership, promoted more inclusive and accountable governance structures, and enhanced the capacity of conservancies to manage resources and decision-making processes more effectively.

STRENGTHENING RESPONSIBLE MINING AND COMMUNITY LAND GOVERNANCE

At Kutima Ranch, a Master Mining Agreement was developed and presented to the County Government of Taita Taveta (CGTT) for validation following the ranch’s engagement in commercial mining activities. The agreement was designed to address persistent governance challenges, particularly the abandonment of open mining pits after extraction, which has posed significant risks to community members, livestock, and wildlife.

The framework establishes clearer environmental, safety, and operational standards for mining companies, including mandatory land rehabilitation and site restoration upon completion of mining activities. By defining responsibilities and compliance requirements, the agreement strengthened accountability mechanisms and promoted safer, more environmentally responsible mining practices within the conservation landscape.

Similarly, mining agreements at Oza Community Land were reviewed to address long-standing governance concerns linked to illegal mining activities. The revised agreements strengthened compliance with environmental standards, clarified operational expectations for mining actors, and enhanced oversight of extractive activities, contributing to improved regulation and protection of community land resources.

These efforts have advanced responsible natural resource governance, reduced environmental and safety risks associated with mining activities, and strengthened community capacity to safeguard conservation areas and livelihoods.





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Participatory planning process ensures that activities reflect local priorities and landscape needs while supporting coordinated, transparent, and effective implementation of carbon and biodiversity initiatives across the landscape.

“Inclusive and participatory governance structures within conservancies enhance accountability, transparency, institutional legitimacy, and other governance best practices. In addition, the use of evidence-based tools such as IMET is critical in identifying institutional gaps and guiding targeted capacity strengthening.”

Noel Kasololo,
Programs Manager, TTWCA.

EVALUATING CONSERVANCIES’ PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE 2025 IMET ASSESSMENTS

Effective conservancy management requires strong governance systems, informed decision-making, and the ability to identify operational gaps that may hinder conservation outcomes. To strengthen institutional performance and adaptive management, Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) assessments were conducted across six conservancies, i.e, Bura, Mgeno, Choke, Amaka, Shumba Valley, and Mbale.

The assessments generated evidence-based insights into governance effectiveness, management capacity, and operational challenges affecting conservancy performance. Findings from the process informed targeted institutional strengthening interventions aimed at improving accountability, planning, and management practices within the conservancies.

By providing reliable data to guide decision-making and performance improvement, the IMET assessments enhanced the capacity of conservancies to implement more effective governance systems and strengthen long-term conservation management outcomes.



Biodiversity Conservation

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

Focused on strengthening frontline conservation security, the Kasigau Security Sub-Hub was operationalized to support coordinated ranger operations, enhanced field equipping, and the establishment of a functional command centre to enable real-time response and intelligence-led patrols.

Ranger activities were intensified through joint patrols, improved deployment strategies, and the provision of essential field gear to enhance both effectiveness and safety in the field. The establishment of the command centre created a centralized coordination and communication hub for security operations across the Tsavo landscape, improving response times and operational oversight.

Under the GCF (Giraffe Conservation Foundation) framework, a complementary Giraffe Monitoring and Spotting activity was implemented and coordinated by the RSC. The initiative strengthened species protection through systematic monitoring, data collection, and rapid reporting, supporting informed conservation decision-making and improved wildlife security outcomes across the landscape.



BASELINE SURVEY IDENTIFIES DRIVERS OF WILD MEAT HUNTING IN TSAVO

In February 2025, a wild meat baseline survey was conducted across 122 households in Mwachabo, Maktau, and Njukini, identified hotspots for wild meat hunting within the Tsavo landscape. Developed by the Zoological Society of London in collaboration with the Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association, the survey assessed food security, household livelihoods, and patterns of wild meat hunting, consumption, and trade to better understand the drivers of illegal hunting.

Findings showed that subsistence farming is the primary livelihood, with 34% of households earning between KES 10,000–20,000 per month. While 90% of households reported overall food insecurity, seasonal shortages were noted between July and September. Economic necessity, poverty, and limited alternative income sources emerged as key drivers of wild meat hunting, with species such as dik-diks, antelopes, impala, zebra, and giraffes among the most targeted.

More than 70% of surveyed households reported involvement in hunting, selling, or consuming wild meat, highlighting the scale of pressure on wildlife in the landscape. The survey provides a critical evidence base to inform targeted livelihood support, food security initiatives, and biodiversity conservation interventions across the Tsavo ecosystem.

“More than 70% of surveyed households reported involvement in hunting, selling, or consuming wild meat, highlighting the scale of pressure on wildlife in the landscape.”

Wild meat Baseline Survey report, 2025

DATA-LED RANGER OPERATIONS ADDRESS BIODIVERSITY THREATS IN TSAVO

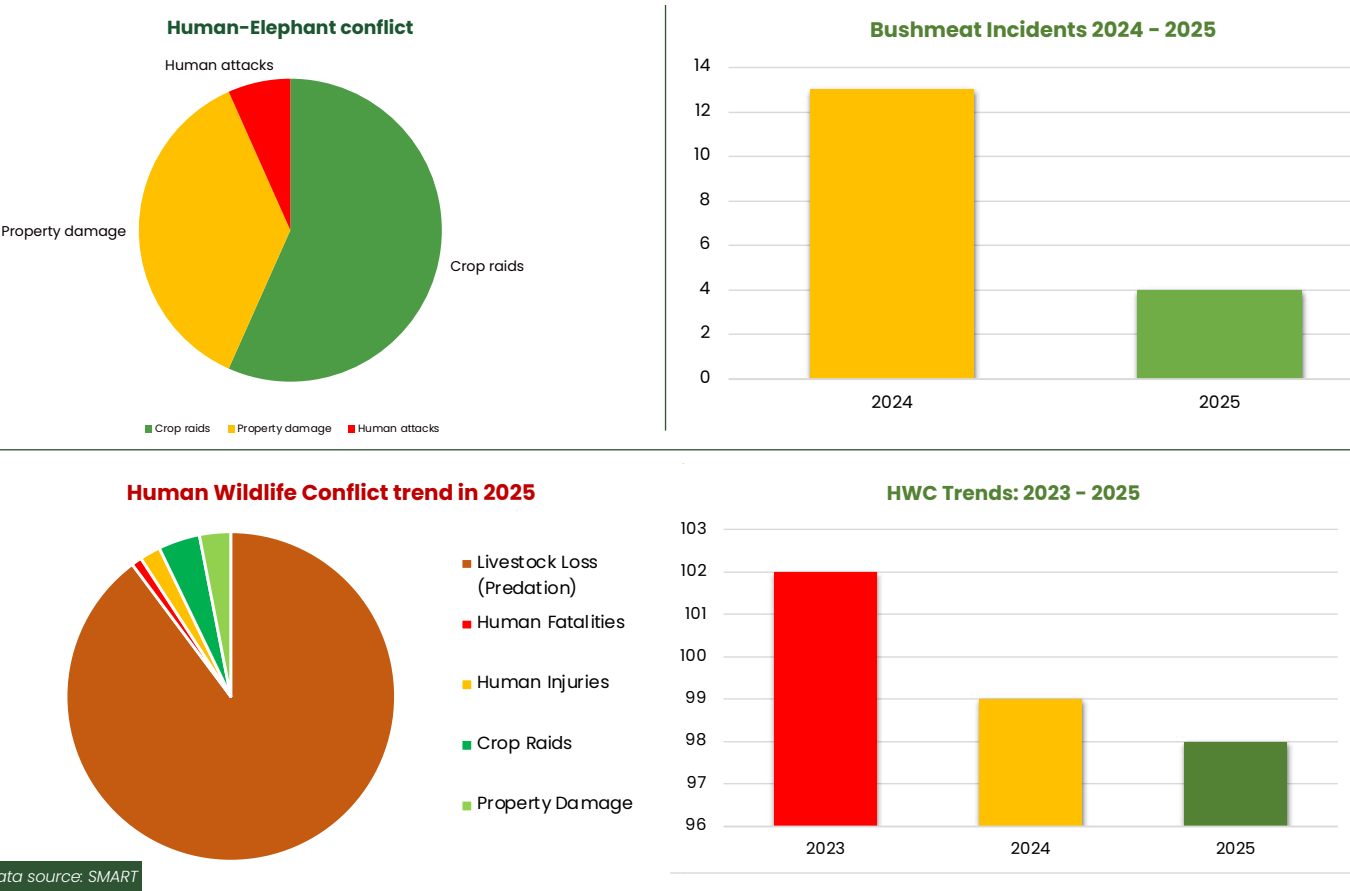
Biodiversity protection across the Tsavo landscape relied on sustained ranger effort, rapid response, and strong collaboration to address threats including illegal hunting, resource extraction, fires, and human–wildlife conflict. Using monitoring data from SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) and EarthRanger, rangers from member conservancies and the Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association Security Hub coordinated patrols and intelligence-led operations to detect and respond to emerging threats.

Throughout the year, rangers removed and destroyed more than 360 wire snares, confirming snaring as the most widespread threat to wildlife. Enforcement efforts also addressed illegal grazing and trespassing, with 23 illegal grazing incidents recorded, over 500 cattle confiscated, and 17 trespassing cases managed, helping secure critical wildlife habitats across conservancy areas.

Targeted patrols further disrupted illegal resource extraction, with 11 charcoal burning cases recorded and over 21 charcoal kilns destroyed across multiple conservancies. Fire outbreaks also posed a major ecological risk, with 13 fires affecting more than 280 acres. However, coordinated responses involving conservancy rangers, rapid response teams, and community members helped contain these incidents and limit wider ecological damage.

Bushmeat-related incidents declined to 4 confirmed cases in 2025, compared to 13 the previous year, indicating improved detection, coordination, and deterrence. Despite these gains, human–wildlife conflict remained a challenge, with incidents of livestock predation (88), crop damage (4) , property destruction (3), and three human attacks, including one fatality, recorded during the year.

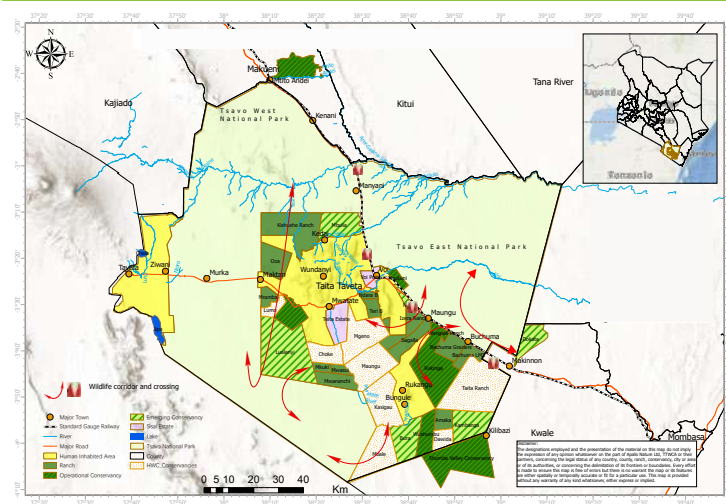
Overall, strengthened ranger coordination, data-driven monitoring, and cross-institutional collaboration improved the ability to detect threats, disrupt illegal activities, and respond rapidly to ecological risks, contributing to stronger wildlife protection outcomes across the Tsavo landscape.



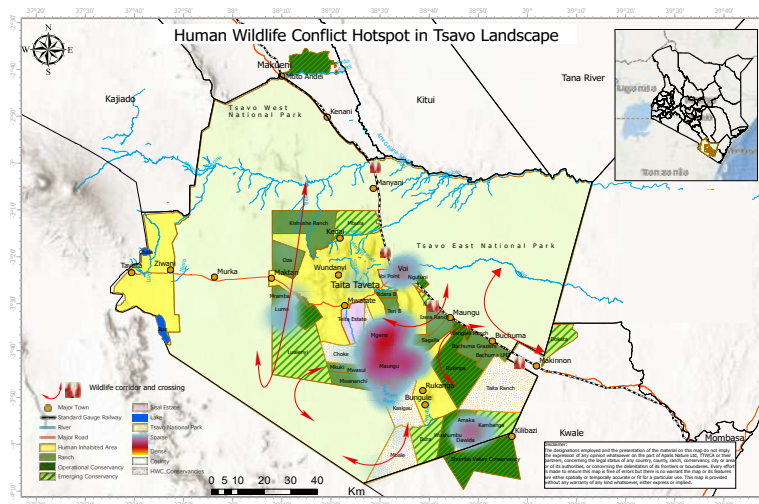
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Bushmeat-related incidents declined to **4** confirmed cases in 2025, compared to **13** the previous year, indicating improved detection, coordination, and deterrence in 8 conservancies.

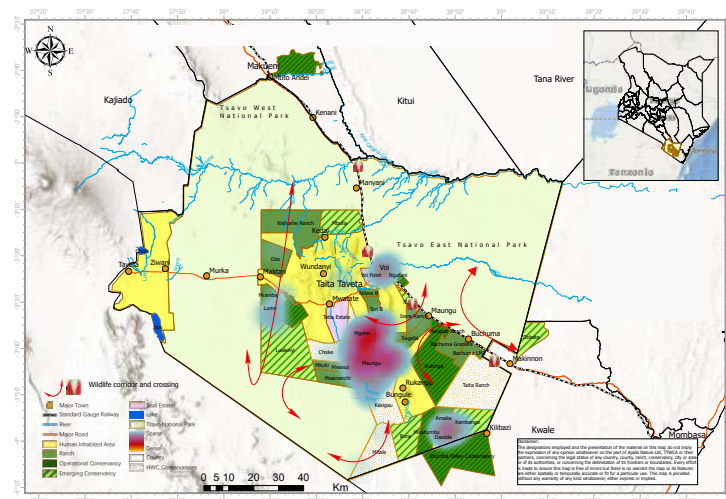
Conservancies mostly affected by Human–Wildlife Conflict in the Tsavo Landscape



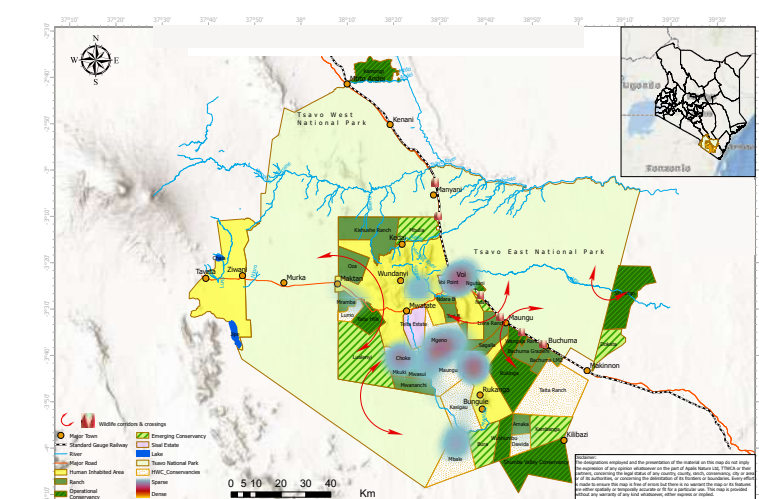
Human–Wildlife Conflict hotspots in the Tsavo Landscape



Human–Carnivore Conflict Hotspots in the Tsavo Landscape



Human–Elephant Conflict Hotspots in the Tsavo Landscape



SUPPORTING WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE IN TAITA TAVETA COUNTY.

Human–wildlife conflict continues to place significant social and economic pressure on communities across the Tsavo landscape. The Kenya Human–Wildlife Coexistence Strategy and Action Plan 2024–2033 identifies Tsavo as the most affected landscape in Kenya between 2017 and 2021. In this context, sustained investment in community-responsive mechanisms remains essential.

To address this challenge, the pilot consolation programme *Kikapu cha Pole*, was developed to provide timely support to households affected by human–wildlife conflict while strengthening peaceful coexistence between communities and wildlife.

In 2025, KES 699,200 was disbursed to sampled households affected by human–wildlife conflict, providing practical and timely support to families facing immediate losses. Implemented in partnership with AB Entheos and KWS, the initiative reached communities in Ngolia (Ngolia Ward), Mwachabo (Chawia Ward), and Kasigau (Kasigau Ward) in Taita Taveta County, and later expanded to Sagalla (Sagalla Ward). This targeted delivery model enabled support to reach frontline communities where the need was greatest.

Beyond immediate relief, the programme helped reinforce trust with frontline communities and demonstrated how locally grounded partnerships can strengthen long-term coexistence efforts. For partners and stakeholders, *Kikapu cha Pole* provides a practical example of how modest but timely investments can generate meaningful community-level impact while creating opportunities for learning, adaptation, and future scale-up.

Building on the lessons and impact of *Kikapu cha Pole*, TTWCA and its partners will continue investing in integrated approaches that strengthen human–wildlife coexistence across the Tsavo landscape. Priority actions include enhancing ranger response capacity through recruitment, training, and deployment; strengthening radio communication infrastructure to enable real-time coordination; improving ranger mobility through the provision of patrol motorcycles; and establishing strategically located community ranger bases in human–wildlife conflict hotspots. Additional investments will focus on water infrastructure development, provision of Human–Elephant Conflict (HEC) mitigation toolkits, support for predator-proof livestock enclosures, and legal assistance to conservancies seeking registration with KWS.

Together, these interventions will contribute to faster incident response, reduced conflict risks, and stronger partnerships between communities and conservation stakeholders.



“Continuous capacity building in data management and monitoring strengthens conservation planning and implementation across conservancies. The aspect of coordinated security systems and centralized command structures within TTWCA improves operational efficiency and real-time decision-making with regards to various challenges facing the landscape.”

Anyang Omaria
Rangelands Security Coordinator, TTWCA

BUILDING DATA CAPACITY FOR EVIDENCE-BASED CONSERVATION

A key milestone in 2025 was the Data Framework and Management Training held in February 2025, facilitated by The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association. The training brought together representatives from 12 conservancies and focused on strengthening practical skills in data analysis, GIS visualization, story map development, and field data collection using EarthRanger. This investment supported conservancies to move beyond basic data collection toward stronger analysis, visualization, and use of information for decision-making and reporting.

Building on this foundation, Maungu Wildlife Conservancy conducted a targeted capacity-building effort in July 2025, where four rangers and the conservancy manager completed an intensive one-week training on the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) system. The training strengthened patrol data collection and reporting standards, leading to improved data quality, consistency, and enhanced ecological monitoring capacity within the conservancy.

Further progress was achieved in November 2025 when TTWCA facilitated a data standardization and reporting training using EarthRanger for TECA and Choke Conservancies. The training supported alignment following the formation of their partnership and built on momentum from their first Joint Operations Command Centre meeting earlier in the year. This intervention improved consistency in data capture and reporting, supporting more coordinated monitoring and comparable conservation reporting across the partnership.

These capacity-building efforts in data systems are already creating a stronger foundation for evidence-based conservation decisions across the landscape. Improved data quality, standardized reporting, and stronger analytical skills enable conservancy teams to identify threat hotspots, prioritize patrol deployment in snaring and trespassing zones, guide community outreach in high-risk offender-origin areas, and strengthen rapid response to human-wildlife conflict incidents.

As conservancies continue to apply EarthRanger, SMART, GIS, and story map tools, managers are better positioned to translate field observations into timely decisions on law enforcement, ecological monitoring, wildlife health follow-up, and conflict mitigation. This shift from data collection to data use supports more adaptive, coordinated, and accountable conservation management across TTWCA's member conservancies.





GENERATING CONSERVATION REVENUE THROUGH TOURISM

Tourism continued to provide an important source of conservation revenue across the Tsavo landscape, supporting the operational sustainability of conservancies while generating economic benefits for local communities. Revenue was generated through gate fees, accommodation (bed nights), and other tourism services offered within the conservancies and community-owned tourism enterprises, demonstrating the value of nature-based tourism in financing conservation.

During the reporting period, eight conservancies: Lumo Conservancy, Kamungi Conservancy, Mbulia Community Land, Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Lualenyi Conservancy, Teita Estate Conservaiton Area, Marungu Hills Wildlife Conservancy Association, and Taita Conservancy, together with Kiteghe Bandas, a community-owned tourism enterprise, generated a combined revenue of **KES 1.55 Billion**.

The revenues supported conservancy operations, wildlife protection, infrastructure maintenance, community development initiatives, and local employment, while reinforcing the role of tourism as a sustainable financing mechanism for conservation. Continued investment in tourism facilities and visitor experiences remains critical to enhancing the resilience and long-term sustainability of community conservation areas.



KES 1.55 B

Generated through sustainable tourism across eight conservancies and one community-owned tourism enterprise, supporting conservation and community livelihoods in the Tsavo landscape.

Rangeland Management



ADVANCING HABITAT RESTORATION THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED ACTION

Habitat restoration at Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary continued to deliver significant ecological gains through the rehabilitation of degraded areas and the enhancement of critical wildlife habitat. By the end of 2025, 37,000 indigenous trees, including Yellow Bark Acacia, Acacia nilotica, Elatior, and Mearnsii, were planted across restoration sites within the sanctuary. In total, 288,262 square metres of degraded land are under restoration, contributing to improved vegetation cover, enhanced ecosystem resilience, and the long-term recovery of rangelands within the greater Tsavo landscape.

The success of these restoration efforts was underpinned by strong community participation. To strengthen local capacity and ownership of restoration initiatives, 13 community groups comprising women and youth from across the landscape were trained on sustainable tree nursery establishment and management. Equipped with these skills, the groups established and managed small-scale tree nurseries, producing indigenous seedlings that supplied restoration activities at Sanctuary while creating opportunities for community enterprise development.

To further support these community-led restoration efforts, TTWCA leveraged the commemoration of globally significant environmental events, including the International Day of Forests 2025, World Environment Day 2025, and the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2025, as platforms for awareness creation, collective action, and resource mobilization.

These engagements attracted support from a range of partners, resulting in KES 250,800 being raised for the purchase of tree seedlings through contributions from ABSA Bank, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and Amara Conservation Organization. In addition, WWF-Kenya donated 12 rolls of shade nets valued at KES 240,000, strengthening the capacity of community groups to expand seedling production and support ongoing restoration efforts.

As a result, restoration activities generated benefits that extended beyond environmental conservation. Seven of the trained tree nursery groups successfully produced seedlings for sale, earning a combined revenue of KES 1,222,000. The income directly improved household livelihoods, enabling members to pay school fees, purchase food, and meet other essential family needs.

Many groups reinvested part of the proceeds to expand their nursery enterprises, while others diversified into vegetable production for both household consumption and commercial sale, enhancing food security and creating additional income streams.



FROM RANGELAND STEWARDSHIP TO ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

The adoption of structured grazing plans across ranches and conservancies is promoting the rehabilitation of degraded landscapes, improving pasture recovery, and strengthening sustainable livestock management practices. Formal grazing agreements with tenants in ranches and conservancies have further enhanced accountability and coordinated grazing management, ensuring more efficient utilization of available rangeland resources. These efforts are contributing to improved livestock health, productivity, and resilience, thereby strengthening the economic viability of livestock enterprises across the landscape.

Reflecting these gains, seven member conservancies and ranches (Lualenyi Ranch, Kutima Ranch, Bura Conservancy, Izera Ranch, Mgeno Conservancy, Kambanga Ranch, and Mbale Transfrontier Conservancy) generated a combined **KES 131.9 million** from livestock sales during the reporting period. The revenue highlights the value of sustainable rangeland and livestock management practices in supporting livelihoods, enhancing conservancy sustainability, and demonstrating the compatibility of conservation and productive land use within the Tsavo landscape.



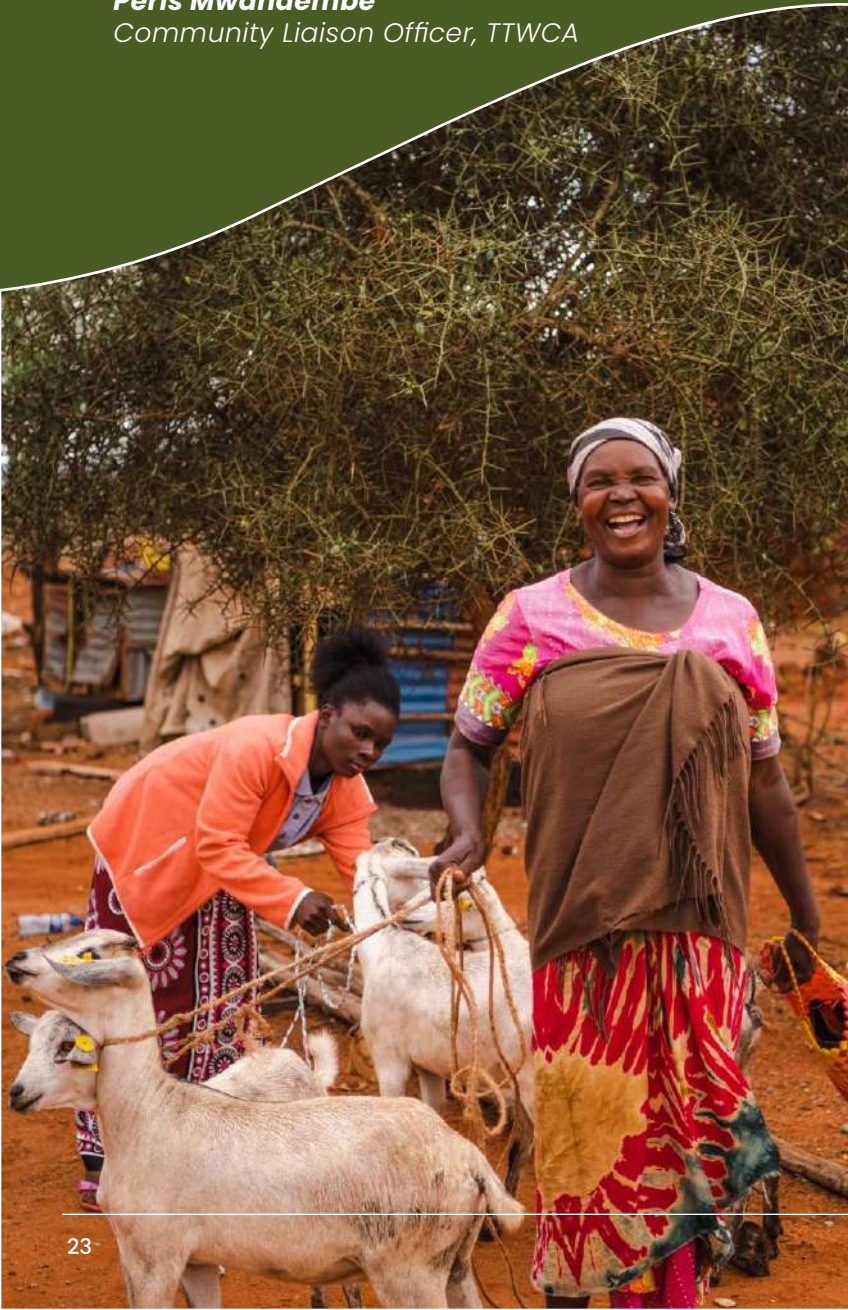
Structured grazing management and sustainable livestock production generated KES 131.9 Million in revenue across seven ranches and conservancies while strengthening landscape health and community livelihoods.



Community Livelihoods

“Community-based financial systems such as VSLAs and climate resilient ventures such as sisal farming within community groups are effective in building household resilience and improving community livelihoods.”

Peris Mwandembe
Community Liaison Officer, TTWCA



BOOSTING HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY SAVINGS

Our community livelihood initiatives focused on enhancing household financial resilience, particularly among women-led groups, as a pathway to improved wellbeing and reduced reliance on environmentally harmful coping strategies. Central to this effort was ongoing support for Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) as locally driven mechanisms for savings, financial inclusion, and economic empowerment.

Eight community groups; Mngama Pentecostal, Irumirio Women SHG, Kanjando women SHG, Uvoga SHG, Msorongo group, Kishoe women group, Lukundo women group & Jora Safina, received coaching and monitoring support throughout the year. Collectively, these groups saved over KES 1,025,520, demonstrating strong participation, discipline, and growing confidence in group-based savings models.

During this period, share-out sessions were conducted for Kanjando Women Group, Irumirio Women Group, and Msorongo Group, with total share-outs of KES 463,785 collectively. These payouts enabled members to access and reinvest their savings, reinforcing trust in the VSLA approach. Kishoe Women Group recorded an approximate 182% increase in savings between 2024 and 2025, demonstrating the growing impact of community-led savings and financial inclusion initiatives.

To further strengthen financial capacity, seed capital of KES 50,000 per group was provided in collaboration with the African Wildlife Foundation to Kanjando Women Group, Uvoga Women Group, Mngama Pentecostal Group, and Irumirio Women Group. Financial literacy training complemented this support, equipping members with skills in budgeting, saving, and basic financial management.

Together, these interventions increased savings, strengthened household economic stability, and improved women’s participation in local economic systems, highlighting the role of community-led financial mechanisms in building resilience while supporting conservation-compatible livelihoods.

KES. 1,025,520

Savings realised by 8 VSLAs living adjacent to conservancies.

DRIVING COMMUNITY ADOPTION OF CLIMATE-SMART LIVELIHOODS

Livelihood interventions promoted sisal farming as a drought-tolerant and climate-resilient income option for communities in the lowland areas of Taita Taveta County. Four field demonstrations at the Kajire sisal demonstration farm introduced women-led basket weaving groups and community members to sisal cultivation, highlighting its suitability for dryland conditions and its potential to support sustainable livelihoods.

The demonstrations engaged 17 basket weaving groups from Maktau, Kasigau, Mwatate, Bura, Mwachabo, and Kajire, reaching 138 women and other interested community members. These sessions strengthened awareness of sisal as a viable livelihood option and linked basket weaving groups with fibre suppliers, improving access to raw materials for local enterprises.

The initiative quickly led to adoption, with several farmers establishing sisal plots ranging from 1 to 12 acres. A final outreach demonstration attracted 65 farmers from Kajire, Mngama, Maktau, Mwachabo, and Mwatate, who collectively committed 168 acres for sisal cultivation.

To support establishment, 23,000 sisal seedlings were distributed to four community groups; Jora Women Basket Weavers, Bungule Women Basket Weavers, Kajire Greenspark CBO, and Vogha Women Group in Maktau. The demonstration farm also recorded its first harvest, producing 250 kg of sisal fibre which could be sold at KES 80 per kilogram, confirming the crop’s income-generating potential.

Together, these efforts created a pathway from awareness to production and early income generation, strengthening livelihood resilience, supporting women-led enterprises, and promoting climate-resilient livelihoods.

23,000

Sisal seedlings distributed to community groups adopting drought-tolerant farming



“Our final field day at the sisal demonstration farm attracted 65 farmers from Kajire, Mngama, Maktau, Mwachabo, and Mwatate, who collectively committed 168 acres for sisal cultivation.”

Betrand Nyage
Rangeland Officer, TTWCA



TRANSFORMING HIDES INTO LIVELIHOODS

Support to the leather value chain focused on strengthening enterprise skills, improving product quality, and promoting environmentally responsible leather tanning. Two community groups, Mwachabo Leather Tanners and Neema Leather and Savings Group, were supported, bringing complementary skills in leather tanning and the production of leather goods such as footballs and footwear.

Enterprise development training reached 22 participants and was delivered with support from county social services and livestock officers. The training strengthened skills in enterprise management, group organization, and value addition.

Exchange visits between the two groups further promoted peer learning and improved production practices along the value chain.

Targeted support to Neema Leather and Savings Group included provision of leather production supplies, assistance with formal registration, and support in developing a business plan to strengthen the group's operations. A five-day training on modern leather tanning techniques also improved technical capacity, with emphasis on environmentally responsible practices and improved product quality.

These efforts led to early income generation. The group sold 4 leather footballs at KES 2,800 each and 15 pairs of Swahili shoes at KES 500 per pair, while saving over KES 9,500 through group savings.

A stakeholder meeting was also convened to explore the establishment of a one-stop shop linking the leather, basketry, and beadwork value chains. The initiative aims to improve product quality, coordinate supply, and expand market access for locally crafted products.





642

School learners engaged

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS IN CONSERVATION

Communities living near wildlife habitats often face limited access to information on conservation practices, wildlife laws, and sustainable livelihood options. This gap can contribute to human-wildlife conflict, wildlife crime, and limited participation in conservation efforts. At the same time, many young people have few opportunities to learn about wildlife and environmental stewardship despite living close to important conservation landscapes.

A total of 1,023 community members were reached through sensitization and outreach activities aimed at strengthening awareness of conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and human-wildlife coexistence. Held in Msorongu, Kamtonga, Njukini, and Maktau, the engagements promoted nature-based enterprises, climate-smart agriculture, and practical approaches to mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

These sessions through the Equitable Responses to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya project, increased awareness of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013), highlighting wildlife crimes, legal penalties, and the importance of responsible wildlife stewardship.

Conservation education was also strengthened through a school outreach program implemented with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. The program supported 13 primary and junior secondary schools, reaching 642 learners and 46 teachers. Learners participated in educational visits to Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks, while environmental and wildlife club patrons reinforced learning through weekly conservation activities and peer-to-peer engagement using GCF workbooks.

These efforts improved community understanding of conservation practices, wildlife laws, and sustainable livelihood opportunities while strengthening collaboration between communities and conservation institutions. For learners, direct exposure to wildlife and continued school-based activities fostered early environmental stewardship. Together, the outreach and education initiatives contributed to stronger community engagement in conservation and greater awareness of the importance of protecting wildlife and natural ecosystems.



1023

Community members engaged

KES 500,000

Revenue earned from the sales of baskets by Kiteghe community.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TOURISM AND MARKET LINKAGES

Community-led tourism enterprises often face limited accommodation capacity, low destination visibility, and weak market linkages. These constraints reduce their ability to attract visitors and generate sustainable income for local communities, despite the presence of unique landscapes, cultural experiences, and locally produced crafts.

Support to community tourism enterprises focused on expanding infrastructure, strengthening destination marketing, and improving market access. Two safari tents were distributed to community-led tourism initiatives at Kiteghe Community Banda and the Marungu Hills Conservancies Association to increase accommodation capacity and support locally owned tourism enterprises. The two tents have a bed capacity of 10.

At Kiteghe Community Banda, the additional tent increased bed capacity from four to ten, enabling the facility to host more visitors and improve revenue potential. Destination marketing was also strengthened through the development of a digital tourism circuit map, promotional videos, and brochures showcasing key attractions across the landscape. These materials were designed to improve visitor navigation, enhance the tourism experience, and increase the visibility of community destinations across digital and print platforms.

Market exposure was further strengthened by facilitating the participation of the Kiteghe Community Chairperson at the Magical Kenya Tourism Expo 2024, providing opportunities to connect with tourism stakeholders and potential buyers.

The engagement at the tourism expo led to the establishment of a market linkage with a basketry buyer, who has since paid over KES. 500,000 to community basket weavers in Kasigau through continued purchases. This outcome highlights how improved market exposure and tourism promotion can translate into sustained income opportunities for community enterprises, particularly women-led artisan groups, while strengthening the role of community tourism in supporting local livelihoods.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES WITH PRACTICAL LIVELIHOOD TRAINING

Many households in rural communities face limited livelihood options and gaps in technical knowledge needed to manage productive assets effectively. Without targeted skills and training, opportunities for livelihood diversification and improved income generation remain constrained.

A livelihood assessment conducted in Maktau, Mwachabo, and Njukini engaged 92 participants to understand household aspirations and identify key capacity gaps. The findings informed the design of a four-day practical livelihoods training delivered to the same participants, ensuring that the support responded directly to community-identified needs.

The training combined theory and hands-on practice, covering livestock management, disease control, quality breeding, feeding practices, marketing, and record keeping. Practical sessions included deworming, spraying, notching, and hoof trimming, helping participants build confidence and technical skills in managing livestock-based livelihoods.

Participants were drawn from Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), linking the training to broader livelihood support mechanisms and strengthening their preparedness for productive investments.

With improved skills and knowledge, participating households are better positioned to manage livestock enterprises and diversify their livelihoods. The training also prepared participants to receive productive assets such as goats and poultry, linking capacity building with tangible livelihood inputs and strengthening the potential for sustainable income generation and household resilience.





“

Being part of the VSLA has transformed how we save, invest, and support one another. Our group's savings grew from **KES 46,000** in 2024 to **KES 129,735** in 2025, giving us greater financial security and confidence. The experience has shown us that when women come together with a shared purpose, even small contributions can create lasting change for our households and communities.

Janet,
Kishoe Women Group, Kasigau.

Looking Ahead: In 2026, TTWCA will build on the success of the VSLAs by supporting members to diversify their livelihood options through goat, sheep, and poultry farming, complemented by targeted training, mentorship, and enterprise development support to strengthen household incomes and long-term economic resilience.

Financial Performance and Impact Overview

Our financial resources in the reporting period were strategically deployed to advance both institutional capacity and long-term sustainability outcomes across environmental, social, and governance dimensions. Investments in governance and policy strengthened organizational accountability, supported the development of key frameworks, and improved coordination with stakeholders, thereby reinforcing transparent, effective, and sustainable resource management systems.

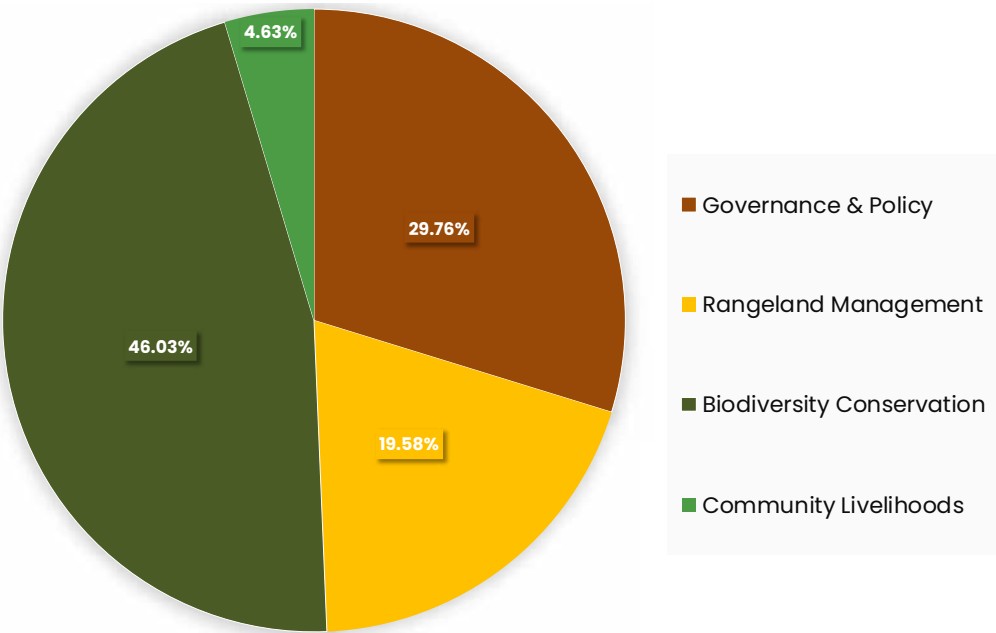
Funding directed toward biodiversity conservation contributed to habitat protection, wildlife monitoring, and mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, while also safeguarding ecosystem integrity and enhancing nature-based solutions that support long-term ecological resilience. In rangeland management, resources supported sustainable land-use practices, restoration efforts, and improved ecosystem resilience, strengthening the ability of landscapes and communities to adapt to climate and environmental change.

Additionally, targeted investments in community livelihoods empowered local communities through capacity building, income-generating activities, and inclusive conservation approaches. These initiatives promoted sustainable and diversified livelihood pathways, strengthened community stewardship of natural resources, and ensured equitable sharing of conservation benefits.

Together, these investments reflect a commitment to sustainable finance principles, ensuring that financial resources are deployed in ways that generate lasting ecological integrity, social wellbeing, and institutional resilience while delivering measurable and intergenerational conservation outcomes.



EXPENDITURE DISAGGREGATION PER PROGRAM



ALIGNMENT WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

The interventions implemented during the reporting period directly contribute to the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 15 (Life on Land) through biodiversity conservation, habitat protection, and ecosystem restoration; SDG 13 (Climate Action) through strengthening ecosystem resilience and climate adaptation in rangelands; SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and income-generating opportunities for local communities; and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through strengthened governance, accountability, and stakeholder coordination.

Collectively, these contributions demonstrate the organization’s alignment with global sustainability priorities and its commitment to delivering integrated environmental, social, and institutional impact.

ED CERTIFIED

In 2025, we proudly achieved #EDCertified status through NGOsource, unlocking new funding opportunities for our organization. With our Equivalency Determination (ED) now on file in the NGOsource repository, we are well-positioned to expand and strengthen our impact. We look forward to continuing our work in advancing community-led conservation and driving sustainable change where it matters most.



Sustaining community-led conservation requires long-term partnerships, shared commitment, and continued investment in local solutions. Across the Tsavo landscape, communities remain at the forefront of protecting wildlife, strengthening coexistence, and safeguarding critical ecosystems that support both people and nature.

TTWCA works alongside conservancies, local communities, government agencies, and partners to advance sustainable conservation approaches that build resilience, reduce human-wildlife conflict, and support livelihoods. Continued support enables the expansion of locally grounded programmes, strengthens community stewardship, and ensures lasting impact across the landscape.

We welcome partnerships, collaborations, and contributions from donors, institutions, and individuals who share our vision for a sustainable and thriving Tsavo landscape.

How to Support

For donations, partnerships, and collaboration opportunities, please contact:

partners@ttwcakenya.com

Together, we can strengthen sustainable conservation efforts and secure a future where communities and wildlife thrive side by side.

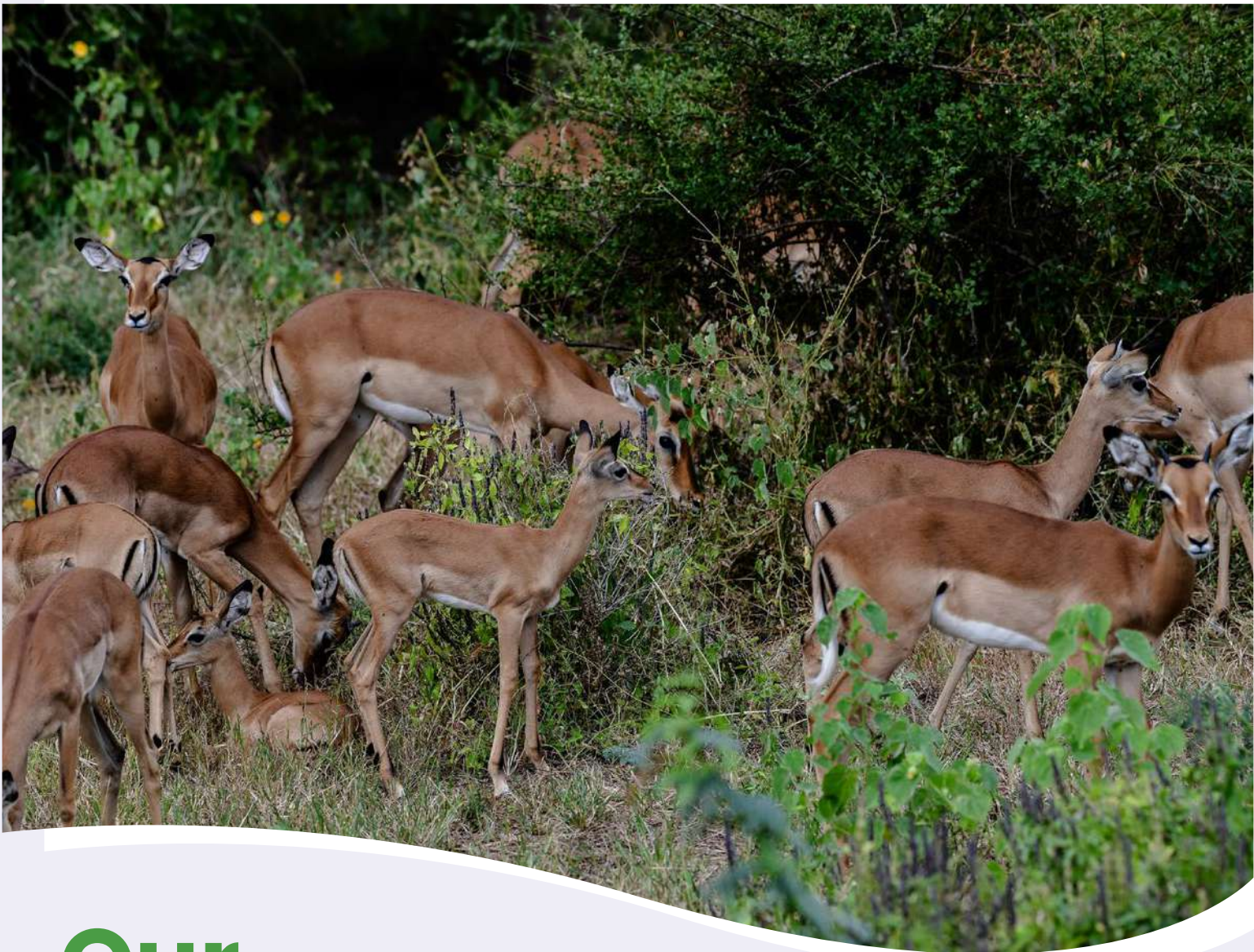


Growing Trees, Empowering Communities, Enriching Tourism. *(Click to watch)*



Tourism Destinations and Investment Opportunities in Taita Taveta County *(Click to watch)*





Our Partners



Our progress in 2025 reflects the strength of the partnerships that stand behind our work. We are deeply grateful to our donors and collaborators whose financial support has sustained our efforts, and whose strategic guidance and technical expertise have continued to shape and improve our approach.

Together, these contributions have enhanced our ability to support and grow resilient conservancies across Kenya. We especially value the long-term partnerships that provide the stability needed to plan with intention and achieve enduring impact.



Funding Partners

The Nature Conservancy
 GEF/UNDP
 WWF
 Maliāsili
 AWF
 IFAW
 ZSL
 GCF
 KWCA
 Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation

Implementing Partners

National Government of Kenya
 County Government of Taita Taveta
 Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife
 Kenya Wildlife Service
 Wildlife Research and Training Institute
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