Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA)

Vision

A cultural landscape where communities and partners secure wildlife and sustainable livelihoods for a better future.

Mission

Our mission is to conserve the greater Maasai Mara ecosystem through a network of community protected areas for the prosperity of biodiversity and wildlife, the regional Maasai population, recreation, tourism, and the nation of Kenya. Our core purpose is to enable strong and thriving conservancies across the Greater Mara Ecosystem.

Values

- All of our work in the Mara starts from the foundation of honoring the Maasai people for which the region is named and respecting their culture, which has created an ecosystem which is compatible for wildlife conservation and tourism.

- Our work is based on meaningful and inclusive participation and engagement with the conservancy members, first and foremost; and then with a wide spectrum of stakeholders in this critical landscape. We recognize that in order to create impact we need to build trust and to establish partnerships through open communication and transparency.

- We hold ourselves to high standards, continuously striving for improvement in the way we work and by promoting accountability – to ourselves, our organization and to the conservancies we serve.

- We are disciplined and focused on delivering results for the Maasai Mara conservancies. In all that we do, we aim to be a trusted, respected and impartial leader for catalysing and coordinating action in the Mara.
Letter from the CEO

Dear Partners & Friends,

Greetings from the Mara, where our dedicated team is steadily increasing activities to meet objectives as guided by our 9-point 2017-2020 strategic plan.

Within that, we prioritized MMWCA’s role in leading the implementation of monitoring plans in each Mara Conservancy, to ensure accurate data collection, analysis and reporting. I’m proud to present today the first ever State of Mara Conservancies Report, a culmination of that work to date and a framework for the future.

As you’ll read, this report provides crucial historical information about the Mara landscape, including a timeline, as well as specific founding information for each Conservancy. Each Conservancy has updated and verified their boundaries, size, and number of landowners, tourism partners, and rangers, as well as provided details on unique programs and biodiversity.

Today, the 15 Mara established Conservancies cover 347,011 acres, a partnership between 14,528 landowners including 223 women land owners and 39 tourism partners. The conservancy camps support lease payment amounting to over $4,895,731.09 annually, with an additional $46,200 estimated through employment as rangers in the conservancies. They give hundreds of thousands of international tourists a ‘big 5’ safari experience while maintaining intimacy and a light carbon footprint.

This report also outlines the additional benefits that each conservancy provides, including bursaries, predator-proof bomas, and grazing rights. As we look toward lease renewal in the coming years, continuing to discuss all of the benefits provided by community conservation is critical.

Our program team has also highlighted some of MMWCA’s work to further strengthen Mara Conservancies through governance training, the creation and certification of management plans, mobile-based technology, gender mainstreaming, and sustainable revenue development. I’m proud of these achievements and look forward to continuing to work together with Conservancy management and our dedicated partners to create further positive impact.

Thank you for your efforts to support our work and the future of the Greater Maasai Mara for generations to come.

Daniel Sopia
Acronyms

CJRF – Climate Justice Resilience Fund
CWCC – Community Wildlife Conservation Committee
GME – The Greater Mara Ecosystem
KWS – Kenya Wildlife Service
KWCA – Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
LOC – Landowners Committee
MMNR – Maasai Mara National Reserve
MMWCA – Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association
MNC – Mara North Conservancy
NCG – Narok County Government
OMC – Olare Motorogi Conservancy
PCA – Pardamat Conservation Area
TNC – The Nature Conservancy
WILD APP – Wildlife Information and Landscape Data
WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature
# Table of Contents

Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) ................................................................. 3
Letter from the Ceo .................................................................................................................................... 4
Acronyms .................................................................................................................................................. 5
Conservancies Highlights ........................................................................................................................... 7
Definitions .................................................................................................................................................. 8
MMwca Governance Structure .................................................................................................................. 9
History of MMWCA .................................................................................................................................... 9
MMwca Strategic Plan .............................................................................................................................. 10
History of Wildlife Conservation in the Maasai Mara Ecosystem ................................................................ 12
Maasai Mara Ecosystem Map 2019 ............................................................................................................. 14
Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association ............................................................................................ 16
Evolution of Conservancies in the Maasai Mara Ecosystem ...................................................................... 17
Mara Conservancies Highlights ............................................................................................................... 18
Camps Supporting Conservancies ............................................................................................................. 20
Conservancies’ Benefits ............................................................................................................................ 21
Strengthening Conservancies Governance ............................................................................................... 22
Governance and Leadership Training ....................................................................................................... 23
Conservancy Management Plans ............................................................................................................ 24
Supporting Gender Mainstreaming in Mara Conservancies ....................................................................... 25
The Mara Women Forum .......................................................................................................................... 25
Mara Managers’ Forum .............................................................................................................................. 26
Wildlife Monitoring .................................................................................................................................. 26
Wildlife Information Landscape Database .................................................................................................. 27
Pardamat Conservation Area ..................................................................................................................... 28
Mara Vocational Training Program .......................................................................................................... 29
Challenges Facing the Mara Ecosystem ...................................................................................................... 30
Priorities for the Mara Conservancies ....................................................................................................... 31
Our Partners ............................................................................................................................................... 32
References ................................................................................................................................................. 33
## Conservancies Highlights

### Key Facts
- More than **95** species of mammals
- Over **500** species of birds
- Approx. **25%** of Kenya’s Total Wildlife
- Approximately **1,400KM2** covered by conservancies
- Number of jobs - Approximately **2000** by conservancies alone
- **14528** land owners and over **100,000** beneficiaries

### Conservancy Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Area under Conservancies</td>
<td>347,011 ACRES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Owners</td>
<td>14,528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist Beds</td>
<td>1,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trained at KWS LEA Rangers</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps Supporting Leases</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women in LOC</td>
<td>41(19.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Leasehold Fees</td>
<td>$4,895,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservancies</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Conservancy Highlights**

- More than **95** species of mammals
- Over **500** species of birds
- Approx. **25%** of Kenya’s Total Wildlife
- Approximately **1,400KM2** covered by conservancies
- Number of jobs - Approximately **2000** by conservancies alone
- **14528** land owners and over **100,000** beneficiaries
Definitions

**Conservancy** – a conservancy is a form of land use legally recognized, created through different land ownership structures for purposes of conservation. A conservancy can either be private, group or community.

A conservancy is defined as “land designated by a community or private land owner, groups of owners or corporate body for purposes of wildlife conservation and other compatible land uses” (KWCA, 2016). The term conservancy also refers to an institution that is set up to manage such land.

**Private conservancy** – This is a type of conservancy where a person, a family or corporate body owns the land, for example Olpejeta conservancy in Laikipia.

**Group conservancy** – This is a type of conservancy where a group of land owners consolidate their lands to form a conservancy. An example of group conservancy is Naboisho or majority of other conservancies in the Mara landscape.

**Community conservancy** – This is a type of a conservancy established on a community land for example those in Northern Kenya under NRT.

**Proposed conservancy** – This is an area identified due to its uniqueness and the community or land owners are willing to establish a conservancy.

**Developing conservancy** – This is a conservancy that has been identified, mapped, had a series of meetings with its owners but in process of being registered. The concept has been developed

**Established conservancy** – This is a fully registered conservancy and meets all requirements as per the law.

**Land owner** – An individual who owns piece or whole of the land within the conservancy.
MMWCA Governance Structure

Conservancies Council

Executive Committee
inc. Board Chair

CEO

COO

Pardamat Manager

Regional Coordinator

Lands Officer

Programs Officer

Gender Officer

Senior Finance Officer

Finance Officer

Operations Officer

M&E Assistant

Communications Assistant

Administrator

Community Liaison Officer

3x Drivers

History of MMWCA (Background)

Established as a legal entity in 2013, Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) is a membership organization committed to conserve the greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem, through a network of protected areas (conservancies and conservation areas), for the prosperity of all – (biodiversity and wildlife, the regional Maasai population, recreation and tourism for the nation of Kenya). Being an umbrella organization MMWCA is open to any existing or upcoming wildlife conservancy whose land is part of or integral to the greater Maasai Mara ecosystem. It is a regional association of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA): Through its conservancies’ council, MMWCA is positioned to bring together key parties in the region, including the local communities and landowners, conservancy boards and managers, community institutions, conservation partners, scientific experts, as well as government institutions including the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Narok County Government.
MMWCA Strategic Plan

MMWCA is guided by its strategic plan (2017-2020) with the following goals:

1. Operationalize a robust ecological and social monitoring system.
2. Support conservancies to secure land for conservation use.
3. Catalyze and support conservancies to optimize and diversify sustainable revenue.
4. Strengthen conservancy governance, management and benefits to motivate landowners to renew their conservation leases.
5. Foster land use planning that prioritizes conservation land use.
6. Facilitate the establishment and management of conservation areas in critical wildlife corridors adjacent to existing conservancies.
7. Improve public and government support for the Mara conservancies and wildlife conservation as a land use.
8. Catalyze and coordinate technical expertise and funding to pilot projects to address critical environmental and social challenges.
9. Establish MMWCA as a high functioning organization in order to effectively execute MMWCA’s 2017-2020 strategy.
A History of Wildlife Conservation in the Maasai Mara Ecosystem

The Maasai Mara Ecosystem lies between 0°45’ and 2°00’ S and 34°45’ and 36°00’ E at an altitude of 1,617 meters above sea level in southwestern Kenya. The Mara comprises the northern part of the greater Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem, which covers 30,000 km², extending across Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania encompassing the seasonal movements of the migratory wildebeest and zebras and includes the Serengeti National Park, Maswa, Grumeti and Ikorongo.

The Kenyan section of this ecosystem covers 6,650 km² and includes the 1,510 km² Maasai Mara National Reserve (MMNR). Historically, the greater Mara Ecosystem covered 11 group ranches; Koiyaki, Lemek, Ol Kinyei, Majimoto, Siana, Naikarra, Olderkessi, Kimintet, Oloirien, Keringani as well as private land which made up the Olochoro Oiroua Wildlife Association area, and were generally recognized to encompass the entire area used by the Mara’s wildlife and whose members were to benefit from 19% of the revenue generated from the MMNR. These group ranches acted as wildlife dispersal areas, supporting higher wildlife densities than the MMNR at certain times of the year and were largely defined by the dispersal areas used by the Serengeti and the Loita wildebeest.

Following land subdivision in the Mara, the conservancy movement emerged as a way of securing land for wildlife whilst improving local livelihoods through lease payments, employment opportunities and associated socio-economic benefits. There are currently 15 registered conservancies in the Mara covering a total area of 1,405 km², almost the size of the gazetted reserve (see figure 1 below). These conservancies together with the national reserve provide an open and wildlife rich landscape and contain approximately 25% of Kenya’s total wildlife.

The Mara hosts more than 95 species of mammals with the greatest densities of both wild and domestic herbivores in the country. It is famous for its concentration of migratory herbivores, providing dry season range for approximately 1.5 million wildebeest, zebras and large numbers of other grazers, browsers and the resulting predators feeding on the migration. It is the only region in Kenya that supports an ecologically viable lion population and with over 550 species of birds has been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International (Ref.)

1904 & 1911: Treaties signed by colonial government, Maasai leaders and communities in the Southern Reserve (Narok and Kajiado) agreed to leave the area unmolested “for as long as the Maasai shall exist as a race.”
1948: Maasai Mara established as a wildlife sanctuary within the Royal National Parks of Kenya. It was smaller in area than the present reserve and included the Mara Triangle, a 520 km² area between the Siria Escarpment, the Tanzanian border and the Mara River. Hunting was regulated in this area (Government hunting block 61) with the Maasai pastoralists allowed only limited entry and use of the reserve.

Late 1950s: With independence approaching, opposition from Maasai, the Game Department and the government’s wildlife adviser on the decision to turn the reserve into a full-blown national park.

1961: Borders of the reserve extended east of the river to encompass an area of 1,831 km², converted to a Game Reserve and brought under the direct control of Narok County Council (NCC). The central portion of the game reserve was set aside solely for wildlife-viewing tourism. The dispersal area surrounding the reserve, measuring more than twice the reserve’s size, was divided into hunting and photographic concession areas. Revenue from visitor entry fees, camping, trophy hunting and game drives was to be used for the upkeep of the reserve and to benefit communities living in the reserve’s dispersal area who were members of the communally owned group ranches.

1974: An area of 1,672 km² of the Game Reserve was given status of National Reserve under Legal Notice 271. The remaining area of 159 km² not gazetted as a national reserve was returned to the local communities.

1976: Discussions between the Kenyan Government and NCC to further reduce the area by 162 km².

1984: Sections in the northeast, southeast and the mid-north excised through formal notice, reducing the area of MMNR to its present size of 1,510 km².

1992: The Olchoro Oiroua Wildlife association, formed by a group of private landowning families owning a total of 22,000 acres, successfully sued the NCC for rights to collect fees from developments on their land.

1995: Establishment of Koiyaki – Lemek Wildlife Trust and agreement reached allowing it to collect wildlife revenue from tourist lodges on Koiyaki and Lemek.

1995: Control of MMNR was divided between NCC and TransMara County Council (TMCC) when the latter was formed out of the western part of the reserve.

2001: the Mara Triangle was put under the management of Mara Conservancy, a not-for-profit organization. In Mid to late 2000, community conservancies started to emerge (individual conservancies and their respective years of establishment will be highlighted later in the report. The establishment of MMWCA also followed in 2013 with some conservancies being established earlier than the regional umbrella body.
Wildlife conservation and management Act 2013 envisage community conservancies as the instruments for protecting and managing wildlife outside designated protected areas. Through this recognition a national outfit was established to structure the management of conservancies in the country. Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association was established in 2012 and regional associations then followed.

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association is a national umbrella organization for both private and community conservancies in Kenya. In collaboration with the established regional bodies, KWCA support conservancies through policy influence at the national level and also support capacities of both individual conservancies and the regional bodies.

### CONSERVACIES IN KENYA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count/Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tourism facilities hosted by conservancies</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism beds in conservancies</td>
<td>2,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries across the country</td>
<td>838,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservancy rangers engaged</td>
<td>2,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual salaries for conservancy rangers</td>
<td>$4.25M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Coverage (Ha)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,381,235 Conservancies</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,775,500 Protected areas</td>
<td>8.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,900,000 Forests</td>
<td>3.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44,979,965 Other lands</td>
<td>77.50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Evolution of Conservancies in the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservancy</th>
<th>Year of est</th>
<th>Background Notes</th>
<th>Uniqueness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olchoro Oiroua</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Formed from Olchoro Oiroua Wildlife association, formed by a group of private landowning families owning a total of 22,000 acres.</td>
<td>Rhino conservation- intensive surveillance unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol Kinyei</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Formed from Ol Kinyei Group Ranch by one tourism investor (Porini).</td>
<td>Unique for cheetahs and provide habitat for loita migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olare Orok</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>It was formed by land owners supported by ron Beaton, Kicheche, Great plains and Porini</td>
<td>Critical wildlife area known for high lion densities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorogi</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>The conservancy was formed by land owners supported by Virgin</td>
<td>Critical for high lion density as well. Borders the national reserve to the North East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mara North</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Creation of Conservancy including an extension to cover the Lemek hills from the amalgamation of 12 associations managing the Koiyaki section of the Koiyaki-Lemek wildlife Trust.</td>
<td>Unique for the population of herbivores, established livestock enterprise and grazing plans. Has an established Consolation scheme, Conservancy herd, grazing plan for its members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naboisho</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Created from an amalgamation of 4 main associations managing the Lemek of the Koiyaki-Lemek wildlife trust.</td>
<td>successful grazing plan, upgraded road network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemek</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Created after the amalgamation of 4 main associations managing the Lemek section of the koiyaki-lemek wildlife trust.</td>
<td>Unique for its wildlife numbers Mara Marathon, Mara marathon bursaries, Namunyak girls- uplifted girls education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol Derkesi</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Created as a partnership between local community and Cottars.</td>
<td>Highest number of landowners, critical location between the MMNR and the Serengeti national park. Lies in a critical corridor connecting the Mara and the forest of the lost child (Naimina enkiyio).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enonkishu</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Formed as a partnership between Olerai Mara Farm Management and surrounding landowning families.</td>
<td>Mara beef, Mara Training center and range management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olarro</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Expanded in 2016 to form North and South Olarro.</td>
<td>Intensive management including security surveillance, ecological monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashulai</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Formed as a partnership between local community member and 45 land owners in the area adjacent to the National Reserve.</td>
<td>Important corridor and secured a vulnerable area with high demand for land buying. successful fundraising -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pardamat Conservation Area</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Formed from former Block 3 section of the Koiyaki Group Ranch.</td>
<td>Corridor, unique conservation model (mixed model – settlement and wildlife).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaaten</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Forms part of the greater Siana. Established by bushtop in collaboration with the land owners.</td>
<td>Extends to Siana hills and critical corridor connecting Naboisho and Siana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**State of Mara Conservancies Report**

**18350 Acres**
- 480 Land Owners
- 5 Tourist Camps
- 80 Beds
- 18 Rangers

**23000 Acres**
- 109 Land Owners
- 1 Tourist Camps
- 14 Beds
- 16 Rangers

**64567 Acres**
- 696 Land Owners
- 13 Tourist Camps
- 219 Beds
- 42 Rangers

**33366 Acres**
- 292 Land Owners
- 5 Tourist Camps
- 94 Beds
- 31 Rangers

**15993 Acres**
- 177 Land Owners
- 4 Tourist Camps
- 136 Beds
- 15 Rangers

**4320 Acres**
- 63 Land Owners
- 1 Tourist Camps
- 28 Beds
- 14 Rangers
ENONKISHU
- 4224 Acres
- 32 Land Owners
- 2 Tourist Camps
- 24 Beds
- 7 Rangers

PARDAMAT
- 64420 Acres
- 850 Land Owners
- 0 Tourist Camps
- 0 Beds
- 21 Rangers

OLKINYEI
- 18641 Acres
- 240 Land Owners
- 4 Tourist Camps
- 24 Beds
- 15 Rangers

NABOISHO
- 53446 Acres
- 609 Land Owners
- 8 Tourist Camps
- 150 Beds
- 46 Rangers

ISAAKEN
- 6422 Acres
- 318 Land Owners
- 1 Tourist Camps
- 28 Beds
- 13 Rangers

SIANA
- 11000 Acres
- 1484 Land Owners
- 5 Tourist Camps
- 56 Beds
- 16 Rangers
Proposed conservancies
- Olpua
- Naishi

Developing conservancies
- Mt. Suswa
- Nyekweri Kimintent
- Maasai Moran
- Olerai

Established Conservancies
- Enoonkishu
- Olchorro oiruwa
- Lemek
- Mara North
- Oloisukut
- Olare - orok
- Motorogi
- Naboisho
- Pardamat
- Olkinyei
- Siana
- Nashulai
- Olderkesi
- Olarro
- Isaaten

CAMPS SUPPORTING CONSERVANCIES

TOTAL CAMPS AND SUPPORTING CAMPS

- Total Camps
- Supporting Camps
Conservancies’ Benefits

- **Guaranteed Revenue**
  - Monthly Lease payment

- **Grass Banks**
  - Land owners access grazing in the conservancy

- **Development Projects**
  - Health centers, water, classrooms, dams, roads

- **Bursaries**
  - Students scholarship

- **Land Protection**
  - Land protected from fraudulent accusation

- **Livestock Enterprise**
  - Fattening herd

- **Employment**
  - Access jobs in the tourism industry and conservancies

- **Consolation Schemes**
  - Compensation for livestock lost

- **Business Enterprises**
  - Bead work and cultural villages

- **Conservation**
  - Land and resources conserved
Strengthening Conservancies’ Governance

The Maasai Mara Wildlife conservancy Association is implementing a program to create stronger and sustainable institutions through strengthening individual conservancy governance. Establishing strong governance structures and building capacity of these entities is vital in solidifying their foundation leading to effective and operational community protected areas. As most of the conservancies in the Mara grew up from a quick need to put land under conservation, many of them have ineffective structures, have not operationalized them and or not legitimate as majority are not properly constituted and registered.

To provide this support MMWCA has:

- Strengthened capacity through training LOC members on Governance and leadership.
- Supported an in depth analysis to determine the best legal entities that suite individual conservancies. Through this, the conservancies are familiarized with the available choices, their advantages and disadvantages and also guided on selecting the appropriate entities for their structure.
- Support registration of conservancies legal entities.
Governance and Leadership Training

This training targeted the main organ of the conservancy structure, LOC, and mainly focused on:

- Legitimacy (registration of conservancies entities)
- Fairness and rights (recognition of rights, conflict resolution and fair sharing of benefits among all actors)
- Accountability (transparency and responsibility of different actors)
- Performance (effective and fair enforcement of laws and achieving conservation and other objectives)
- Direction (effective coordination and collaboration including partnerships).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservancy</th>
<th>Leadership Governance</th>
<th>Legal entity review</th>
<th>Type of entity</th>
<th>Entity registration status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nashulai</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mara North</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Trust &amp; Co. Ltd</td>
<td>In process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siana</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Trust &amp; Co. Ltd</td>
<td>In process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olare Orok</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Trust &amp; Co. Ltd</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorogi</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Trust and Co. Ltd</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oloisukut</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enoonkishu</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Cooperative society</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pardamat</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Trust &amp; Co. Ltd</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olkinyei</td>
<td>LOC not existing</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olderkesi</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olarro</td>
<td>LOC not existing</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naboisho</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Co. Ltd by Guarantee</td>
<td>Completed and functional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemek</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Done</td>
<td>Trust &amp; Co. Ltd</td>
<td>In progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olchorro Oirowua</td>
<td>Training completed</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaaten</td>
<td>Not trained</td>
<td>Not done</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 44 and the Fifth Schedule of Kenya’s Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013), state that protected areas, including wildlife conservancies, are required to develop a management plan to assist in their effective running.

The Mara conservancies are in processes of developing their management plans and are at different levels of development as shown in the below as shown below in Table x.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservancy</th>
<th>Management Plan Status</th>
<th>Expected Completion Time</th>
<th>Plan Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ol Derkesi</td>
<td>Referred back for review by KWS.</td>
<td>Awaiting further review</td>
<td>2014 - 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siana</td>
<td>Referred back by KWS for further review</td>
<td>Awaiting further review</td>
<td>2015 - 2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashulai</td>
<td>Not developed</td>
<td>To be developed</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCA</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Awaiting gazettement</td>
<td>2018 - 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enonkishu</td>
<td>Plan development ongoing</td>
<td>To be completed</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olarro</td>
<td>Referred back for further review by KWS</td>
<td>Awaiting further review</td>
<td>2016 - 2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naboisho</td>
<td>Nabosho conservancy recalled the plan for review</td>
<td>Awaiting conservancy review</td>
<td>2018 -2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oloisukut</td>
<td>Endorsed by CCC but referred back by KWS for further review</td>
<td>Awaiting KWS review</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemek</td>
<td>Approved by KWS</td>
<td>Awaiting gazettement</td>
<td>2018 - 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mara North</td>
<td>Approved by KWS</td>
<td>Awaiting gazettement</td>
<td>2018 - 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMC</td>
<td>Approved by KWS</td>
<td>Awaiting gazettement</td>
<td>2018 - 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ol Kinyei</td>
<td>Approved by KWS</td>
<td>Awaiting gazettement</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olchoro Oiroua</td>
<td>Approved by KWS</td>
<td>Awaiting gazettement</td>
<td>2018 - 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaaten</td>
<td>Not developed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supporting Gender Mainstreaming in the Mara Conservancies

The Mara Women’s forum

The Maasai Mara conservancies’ women forum was established in 2015, and consists of representatives of women leaders from across all 15 member conservancies. The role of the forum is to harness the potential of women across the Mara in order to enhance their capacities in economic as well as leadership roles.

A gender analysis was undertaken and gender strategy developed. The strategy aims at consolidating the gains made so far on gender mainstreaming in the Mara.

90 women from across the conservancies have so far been trained on leadership governance and entrepreneurship skills. The Women are expected to pass on the knowledge and skills to other women in their respective conservancies. They are also expected to utilise the knowledge to influence decision making in conservancy boards. In order to further entrench aspects of gender mainstreaming in the Mara, MMWCA organised gender awareness training sessions for conservancy LOC members and the provincial administration. This was in order for male counterparts to discuss the important role played by women in society, and why they need to be given more prominent roles.

As a result of the efforts, women are represented in nine out of the 15 conservancies. They now constitute 17% of all LOCs membership in the Mara. With the ongoing reforms in conservancy boards, this percentage is expected to increase in the coming years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Women LOC</th>
<th>Men LOC</th>
<th>Female Rangers</th>
<th>Male Rangers</th>
<th>No. of Women in Management Level</th>
<th>No. of Men in Management Level</th>
<th>Men Land Owners</th>
<th>Women Land Owners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>13081</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>14305</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mara Managers Forum

In order to effectively manage the conservancies at a landscape level, MMWCA is coordinating conservancy activities by ensuring there is communication between conservancies. In early 2018, the first Mara conservancies’ managers’ forum was held in an attempt to bring together all conservancy managers to share lessons and challenges. MMWCA continue to support this meeting/forum at on a quarterly basis. The managers have established communication channels for example whatsapp group.

Wildlife Monitoring

Conservancies serve to protect wildlife habitats and support a contiguous landscape suitable for free roaming species. In order to conserve species in a given area, it’s important to understand the dynamics of that particular habitat including the basic ecology of species present in it. Conservancy manager employ different techniques and tools to manage their conservancies. MMWCA supported 12 conservancies with a technology based approach which entails using an application to collect real time data that helps in generating reports about different aspects of the ecosystem. WILD APP (Wildlife Information and Landscape Database) is an application installed in a smart phone that helps to collect data about different variables which enable conservancy managers develop trends useful in making management decisions.
Through the support of USAID PREPEARED project, 12 conservancies have benefited from both trainings and smart phones to enable them collect information within their respective conservancies.

MMWCA supported a rapid assessment for two conservancies (Siana and Pardamat) and below are quick highlights from the assessment.

Conservancies are therefore able to generate their reports by use SMART software. With the help of a super administrator, managing the back end of the application, overall reports are generated for example sittings, human wildlife conflict and other issues collected by rangers on a daily basis.

MMWCA also support quick rapid ecological assessment to the conservancies and in 2016, in partnership with University of Eldoret department of Wildlife, MMWCA supported a rapid ecological assessment for two conservancies (Mara Siana and Pardamat). This is in order to develop baselines for future reference. In 2018, in collaboration with the same department, MMWCA supported a rapid assessment for Olderkesi conservancy.

### WILDLIFE INFORMATION LANDSCAPE DATABASE

- **Wildapp Training Sessions**: 7
- **Conservancy Managers Trained in WildApp Administration**: 12
- **Smart Phones Purchased for Data Collection**: 59
- **Conservancy Rangers Trained**: 200
Pardamat Conservation Area

Pardamat conservation area (PCA) is a mixed model conservancy aimed at promoting the coexistence of wildlife and humans with their livestock for mutual benefit. It sits in the north of Naboisho Conservancy and covers an area of 64000 acres with a total of 850 landowners.

- The current governance structure is a Trust with a Company limited by shares registration ongoing. It has a board of trustees of 13 members. Four of them are women.
- Number of acres under lease 11,510
- Number registered leases is 84
- Number of landowning families receiving rent 130
- Wildlife counts in partnership with the African Impact is ongoing
- Poaching maintained 0% since 2016
- Management plan endorsed by KWS pending gazettment
- Total amount paid to landowners in form of lease fees per annum in KES 7,074,359
- Number of jobs created 30
- Funding to develop WTC and education tourism camp available
- Funding to purchase 500 steers for the conservancy available
- 8 landowners with fences on their parcel have signed up lease agreement therefore ready to have the fences pulled down this will free 550 acres of land

Mid-term plans

- Lease an additional 5,000 acres in PCA; sign and register 100 leases
- Pull down fences to open 500 acres of critical corridors
- Set up infrastructure for cattle enterprise; purchase steers for fattening
- Registration of PCA legal entity
- Initiate bursary scheme endorsed by landowners

Challenges

- Prolonged drought in the Mara affecting the water and pasture situation for our wildlife and livestock. This will continue to delay the start of the commercial cattle enterprise
- Malignant Catarrh Fever affected the fattening herd as a result all the steers under the program were sold
- Escalation in Human Wildlife conflict cases due to shrinking wildlife space as a result of fencing
- Lack of essential facilities in the rangers’ posts i.e. kitchen, food storage and toilets, affects ranger force efficiency.
- The portion of PCA that is currently secured (8%) has provided for an open rangeland within which wildlife can safely coexist. It has been noted that the number of wildlife on these limited spaces has risen beyond optimal levels, resulting in pressure and degradation on the land. This further exacerbates the need to secure more land for wildlife dispersal.
- Lease fees rates for PCA are very low compared to the existing conservancies where PCA is at 3k per ha per year and OMC is at 8300 per ha per year. This makes landowners to push for more
Mara Vocational Training Program

One of the main benefits of conservancies in the Mara regional is provision of employment to the local Maasai population. However, currently there are many young people in the Mara who desire paid employment, but are unable to attain it. While many employers wish to hire local Maasai employees, they find that they often lack the required skills and training for available jobs.

Paid employment is not only a new economic opportunity for many Maasai youth, but also provides a means for a more secured livelihood making it a desirable endeavor. Combined with the current population growth in the area (8% natural and 10.5% including migration) and high unemployment, there is an urgent need to assist Maasai youth in building skills to attain employment. MMWCA, in collaboration with Basecamp Explorer Foundation, secured a grant ($1M) from the Norwegian government to train over 1800 Maasai youth, where 800 are women.

The training focuses on equipping the youth with skills to enable access jobs within and outside the landscape. In delivering this training, MMWCA is working with local institutions specializing in different set of courses relevant for the landscape.

These institutions include:

- The Maa Trust
- Narok West Technical Training Institute
- Mara Discovery Centre
- Mara Training Centre
- Kareb Blixen Hospitality School
- Maasai Mara University
- Koyiaki Guiding School
Challenges facing the Mara Ecosystem

Due to growing pressure on land and lack of sufficient benefits, significant portions of the greater Mara ecosystem have been sold, fenced or converted to other land uses rendering them inaccessible to wildlife.

MMWCA envisions a greater Mara ecosystem where various land uses are zoned and planned to serve the growing needs of the community and the conservation of wildlife, thereby minimizing conflict while optimizing conservation and ecosystem integrity.

The ability of the GME to provide its vital ecosystem services is currently under threat from:

- Increased agriculture
- Fencing and associated impact
- Exponential human population growth
- Increasing livestock numbers
- Declining rainfall and increased infrastructure
- Unplanned settlements and their impact
- Tourism and infrastructural developments
- Incompatible land uses

These threats all lead to:

- Land use changes
- Human wildlife conflict
- Reduction in wildlife numbers
- Change in the pastoralist way of life
Priorities in the Mara Conservancies

- Working with conservancies and land owners to renew the leases.
- Improve infrastructure (roads and conservancy structures).
- Securing and protecting more land that is critical for wildlife conservation (secure more land).
- Establishing enabling policies through working with the government and other relevant stakeholders.
- Working closely with women and youth in conservation.
- Exploring other revenue sources to the conservancies for example Carbon credit.
- Strengthening conservancies through capacity building and governance training.
Our Partners
References


