Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy



ANNUAL REPORT

November 2025 – July 2026



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Forward: Chairman's Opening Remarks

Members of the Conservancy, Community Leaders, Board Members, Management, Staff, Development Partners, Government Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure and honour, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy, to welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting. I sincerely thank our community members, partners, government representatives, management and staff for their continued commitment and support towards the conservation and development of our conservancy.

Today provides us with an important opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made, examine the challenges we have encountered, and collectively agree on the priorities that will guide us into the next period.

1. Overview of Our Performance

The conservancy made encouraging progress in governance, conservation, rangeland management, tourism development, community development and institutional strengthening.

Our Board and various subcommittees continued to meet and provide oversight into conservancy programmes. Governance systems were strengthened through policy development and validation, leadership training, management effectiveness assessments and increased community participation in decision-making.

The conservancy also participated in management effectiveness processes, helping to identify areas of strength and areas requiring improvement. The capacity of the Board, management and staff was further strengthened through leadership and management training.

I recognize the commitment of our rangers and staff who continue to support conservation and security activities despite the difficult operating environment.

2. Community Carbon Fund and Community Development

The Community Carbon Fund remains an important mechanism through which conservation benefits are translated into tangible community development initiatives.

During the reporting period, the community participated in consultations to agree on the carbon revenue-sharing framework and prioritize projects under the Community Carbon Fund. Morupusi, Munishoi and Ilpolei community lands were given an opportunity to identify projects responding to their respective priorities.

Among the priorities approved were conservancy operations, education bursaries, tourism development, teachers' quarters, community land office repairs and other community operations.

As a Board, we remain committed to ensuring that carbon revenues are managed transparently, equitably and in accordance with decisions made by the community.

3. Tourism Development

Tourism remains one of our key opportunities for diversifying conservancy income and creating employment and livelihood opportunities for our community.

The Board and Tourism Committee continued to support the development of the Wakumbe Tented Camp, which has made significant progress since its inception. The committee also undertook benchmarking activities to learn from neighbouring tourism facilities and identify practical approaches to improving tourism infrastructure, marketing, management and sustainability.

The conservancy is also pursuing the development of the Enkusiusiu/Ilpolei tourism project, which has the potential to become an important source of income for the participating communities and the conservancy.

4. Challenges Affecting the Enkusiusiu Project

Members, I would like to specifically highlight the challenges that have affected implementation of the Enkusiusiu project.

The project underwent the procurement process and important preparatory steps were undertaken. However, implementation was subsequently put on hold following internal differences among community members.

These differences made it difficult to proceed smoothly with construction and related project activities. As a community-owned institution, we believe that projects of this nature must have broad community support and ownership. The outstanding issues should therefore be resolved through consultation and consensus rather than proceeding in a manner that could create further disagreements.

The Board and management will continue to facilitate dialogue among community lands members with the objective of reaching a mutually acceptable position on the development and management of the project.

We should view this challenge not as the end of the project, but as an opportunity to strengthen community ownership, clarify roles and responsibilities, and establish a governance arrangement that will support the project's long-term sustainability.

5. Operational and Financial Challenges

At some point, delayed operational funding contributed to delays in staff salaries and statutory obligations. The mismatch between donor financial cycles and the conservancy's operational requirements also created budget gaps.

These challenges demonstrate the importance of strengthening resource mobilization, improving financial planning and aligning donor funding cycles with the conservancy's operational calendar.

6. Security and Conservation Challenges

Security remains an important concern for the conservancy. Incidents of banditry and livestock-related insecurity affected community stability

and, in some instances, disrupted conservation and rangeland activities.

The Board has continued to emphasize intelligence gathering, information sharing, ranger motivation and strengthened patrols, particularly in vulnerable areas.

Rangeland management also remains a priority. Livestock movements from neighbouring areas have increased pressure on available pasture and, in some cases, resulted in livestock entering core conservation areas. The conservancy is therefore continuing to support vegetation monitoring, restoration activities and control of invasive Opuntia.

7. Way Forward

As we look ahead, our priorities will include strengthening governance and accountability, improving financial sustainability, advancing tourism development, strengthening conservation and security, and ensuring that community benefits from conservation are delivered fairly and transparently.

We will prioritize resolution of outstanding issues affecting the Enkusiusiu project. The Board will encourage the participating communities to continue dialogue and reach a consensus that protects community interests while allowing the project to move forward.

We shall also continue strengthening participation of women and youth in governance and decision-making, while ensuring that our policies and systems are fully operationalized.

8. Acknowledgement

I sincerely acknowledge our development and conservation partners for their continued support in governance, conservation, rangeland management, tourism and community development.

I also appreciate our Board members, committee members, management, rangers and staff for their dedication and sacrifice.

Most importantly, I thank the members of Morupusi, Munishoi and Ilpolei community lands for their continued support and participation in the work of the conservancy.

Let us use this AGM as an opportunity to strengthen unity, accountability and shared ownership of our conservancy. Our success will depend on our ability to work together, resolve our differences constructively and maintain a common vision for conservation and community development.

With these remarks, I welcome you to the presentation and consideration of the Annual Report.

Thank you, and God bless Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy and its people.

Josphat Ole Nompoyo

Conservancy Chairperson
Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy

Governance Progress Report

Executive Summary

The Conservancy continued to strengthen its governance systems, institutional capacity, and community participation in line with its strategic objective of promoting sustainable conservation and improving community livelihoods.

Significant progress was achieved in governance policies validation, tourism planning, carbon revenue governance, land use planning, and financial oversight. Community members actively participated in decision-making through zonal meetings, Annual General Meetings (AGM), and stakeholder consultations, ensuring that development priorities reflected local needs. Despite challenges including delayed funding, budget constraints and insecurity, the Conservancy remained committed to strengthening institutional performance and laying a solid foundation for long-term conservation and socio-economic development.

1.1 Governance and Institutional Strengthening



The Conservancy continued to strengthen its governance structures through regular Board meetings and active participation of Board sub-committees responsible for Finance, Tourism and Grazing. These committees met periodically to review organizational performance, monitor project implementation, and provide strategic direction.

Seven governance policies were finalized:

1. Finance
2. Procurement
3. Fleet management
4. Anti bribery policy
5. HR policy
6. Gender diversity policy
7. Inventory and asset management

1.2 Community Participation and Decision Making





The Community participation remained central to governance throughout the reporting period. The Community members participated through zonal meetings, stakeholder forums and the AGMs. Key decisions covered prioritization of CCF projects, endorsement of PIA and resolution on the establishment of SPV for the carbon project.

1.3 Leadership Development and Capacity Building

Recognizing that effective governance depends on strong leadership, the Conservancy invested significantly in leadership and institutional capacity building. Major achievements included:

Leadership Training

The Conservancy Manager successfully completed the Leadership and Management Programme (LAMP), improving strategic planning and organizational leadership.

Board Capacity Enhancement



Board members participated in governance refresher training focusing on:

- Roles and responsibilities of directors
- Good governance principles
- Gender inclusion
- Leadership ethics
- Strategic oversight
- Institutional accountability

Staff Development

The Conservancy organized staff team-building activities aimed at improving:

- Communication
- Staff motivation
- Teamwork
- Operational efficiency
- Collaboration

These initiatives strengthened institutional cohesion and enhanced overall organizational performance.

1.4 Governance Assessments

METT and SAGE assessments benchmarked institutional performance, identifying strengths in governance and accountability while highlighting areas for improvement in policy implementation, resource mobilization and monitoring.



Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)

The METT assessment benchmarked Conservancy's management effectiveness against OECMs standards.

The findings identified several institutional strengths, including:

- Strong leadership commitment.
- Active community participation.
- Improved financial accountability.
- Better planning processes.

The assessments also identified areas requiring further improvement, particularly:

- Policy implementation.
- Resource mobilization.
- Monitoring systems.
- Institutional sustainability.
- Stakeholder engagement.

These assessments provide a roadmap for continuous organizational improvement and improved conservation outcomes.

1.5 Key Achievements

Major achievements included stronger governance systems, validated policies, enhanced community participation, tourism planning, carbon governance, land use planning, leadership development and improved institutional communication.

1.6 Challenges

Challenges included delayed operational funding, budget shortfalls, insecurity, delayed salaries during funding gaps and limited resources.

Wildlife Protection, Peace and Security



Figure 1 community engagement with KWS on the increased HWC within the community

2.1 Overview

Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy continued to enhanced peace, security, and human-wildlife coexistence through strategic partnerships with government security agencies, partner organizations, and communities. Despite experiencing periods of increased insecurity, livestock theft, and rising human-wildlife conflict, the conservancy successfully implemented coordinated interventions that enhanced wildlife protection, improved ranger capacity, strengthened regional security collaboration, and ultimately contributed to a significant reduction in banditry by the end of the reporting period.

The chapter highlights strides made in strengthening security coordination, improving wildlife monitoring systems, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, supporting conservation education, and enhancing operational capacity for conservancy rangers.

2.2 Human-Wildlife Coexistence

Human-wildlife coexistence remained one of the conservancy's highest priorities throughout the reporting period. Investments in ranger capacity, wildlife monitoring technology, community awareness, and strategic partnerships significantly improved wildlife protection while reducing conflict between wildlife and communities.

SMART Monitoring System

The conservancy in partnership with LCA enhanced capacity building on SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) wildlife monitoring system to strengthen patrol planning, wildlife monitoring, and reporting.



Figure 2 Elephant calf ready to be airlifted for a specialized treatment after being born with health complications

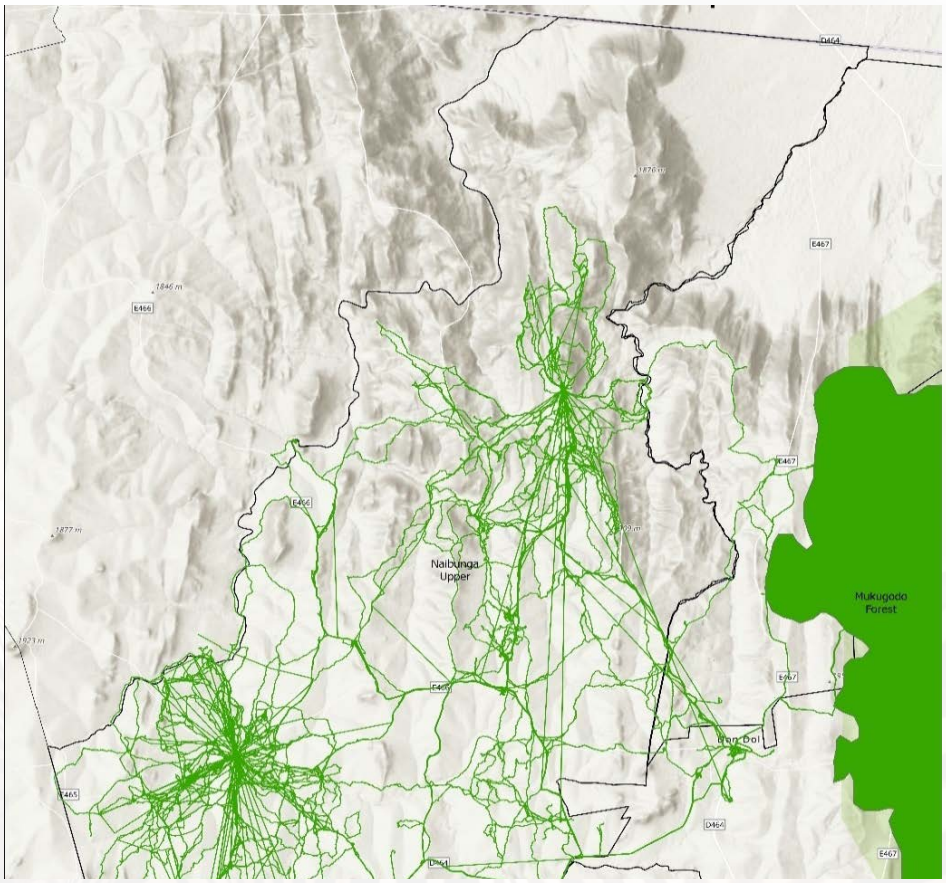


Figure 3 Map showing rangers patrol effort across the conservancy

Increased Lion Activity



Figure 4 Collaring of lion at Naibunga Upper Conservancy

The conservancy experienced increased lion movement from neighbouring conservancies, particularly Lolldaiga and Ol Jogi Conservancies.

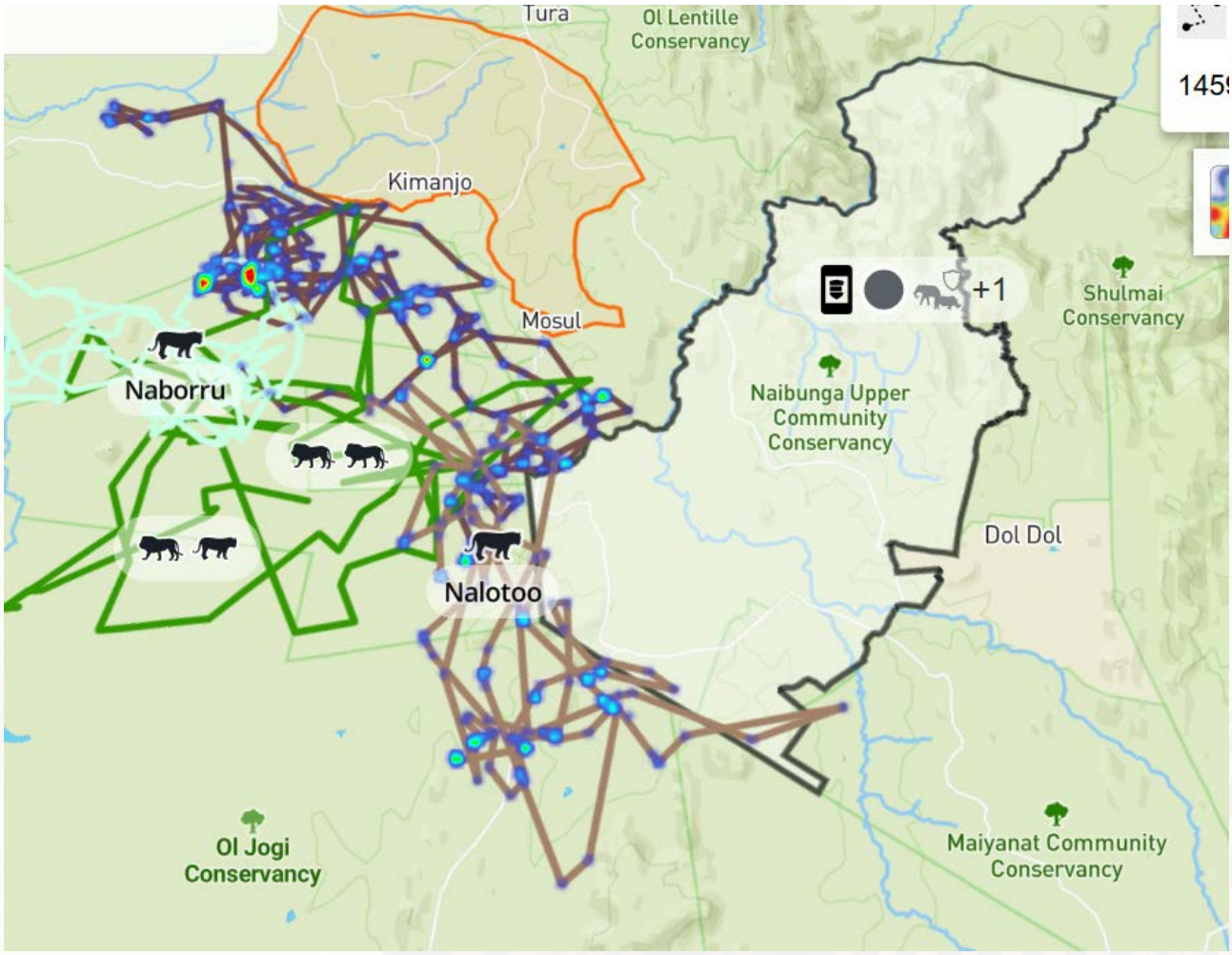


Figure 5 Heat map demonstrating lions tracks

- » **24** Number of lions sighted in the conservancy
- » **05** Number of prides in the conservancy
- » **01** Number of the collared pride

2.3 Peace and Security

Strengthening Security Partnerships



Figure 6 Security coordination meeting

The conservancy maintained strong collaboration with local security agencies to improve peace and security within the conservancy and across landscapes.

Major collaborations included:

- National Police Service (NPS)
- Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
- Laikipia North Sub County Security Committee
- Community leaders

2.4 Security Incidents



Figure 7 Livestock recovered from banditry in November 2025

Despite continuous peace initiatives, insecurity remained a challenge during the reporting year.

Banditry incidents	7
Suspected bandits involved	183
Cattle stolen	197
Camels stolen	4
Shoats stolen	1315
Total livestock stolen	**1516**

Number of livestock recovered

Cattle recovered	98
Camels recovered	3
Shoats recovered	14
Total recoveries	115

2.5 High-Level Government Engagement



Figure 8 Cabinet secretary Hon. Murkomen, IG Kanja and other top brass NPS officres arriving at the conservancy for high level discussion in restoring peace within the landscape

The conservancy hosted the Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Coordination together with senior national security officials.

The visit focused on:

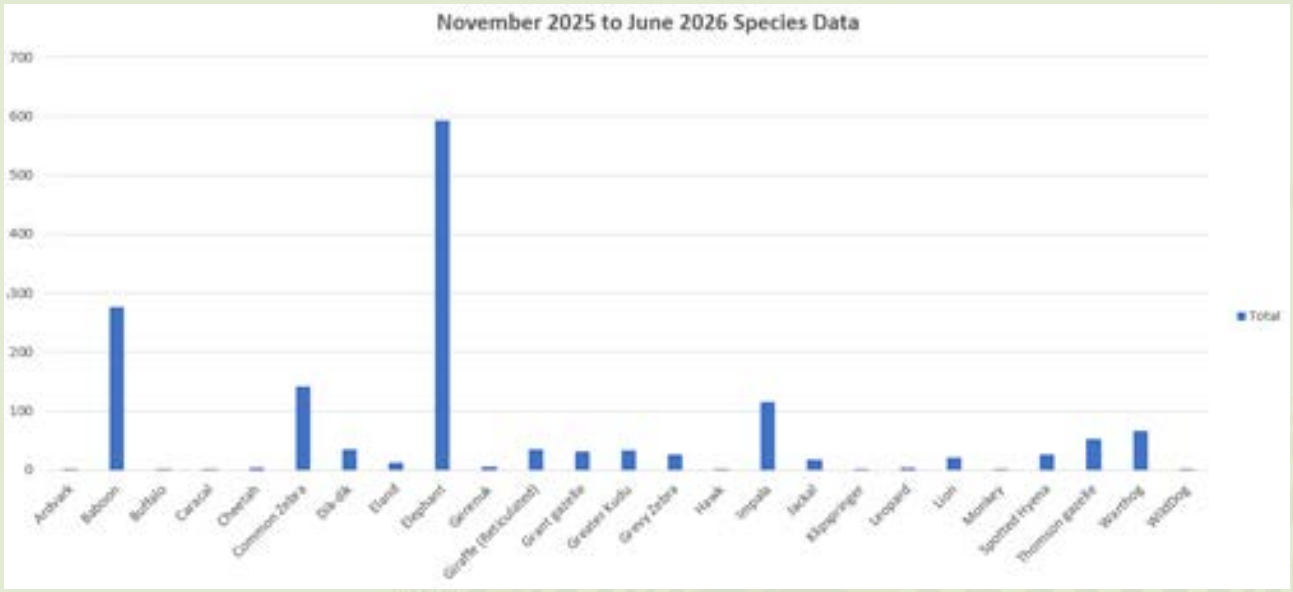
- evaluating emerging security threats;
- strengthening collaboration between communities and government;
- identifying sustainable interventions to restore peace.

The engagement reinforced government commitment to supporting security operations within the landscape, curb the growing banditry incidents and restore peace within communities

2.6 Human-Wildlife Conflict Management

Human-Wildlife Conflict Trends

SMART monitoring data showed that:



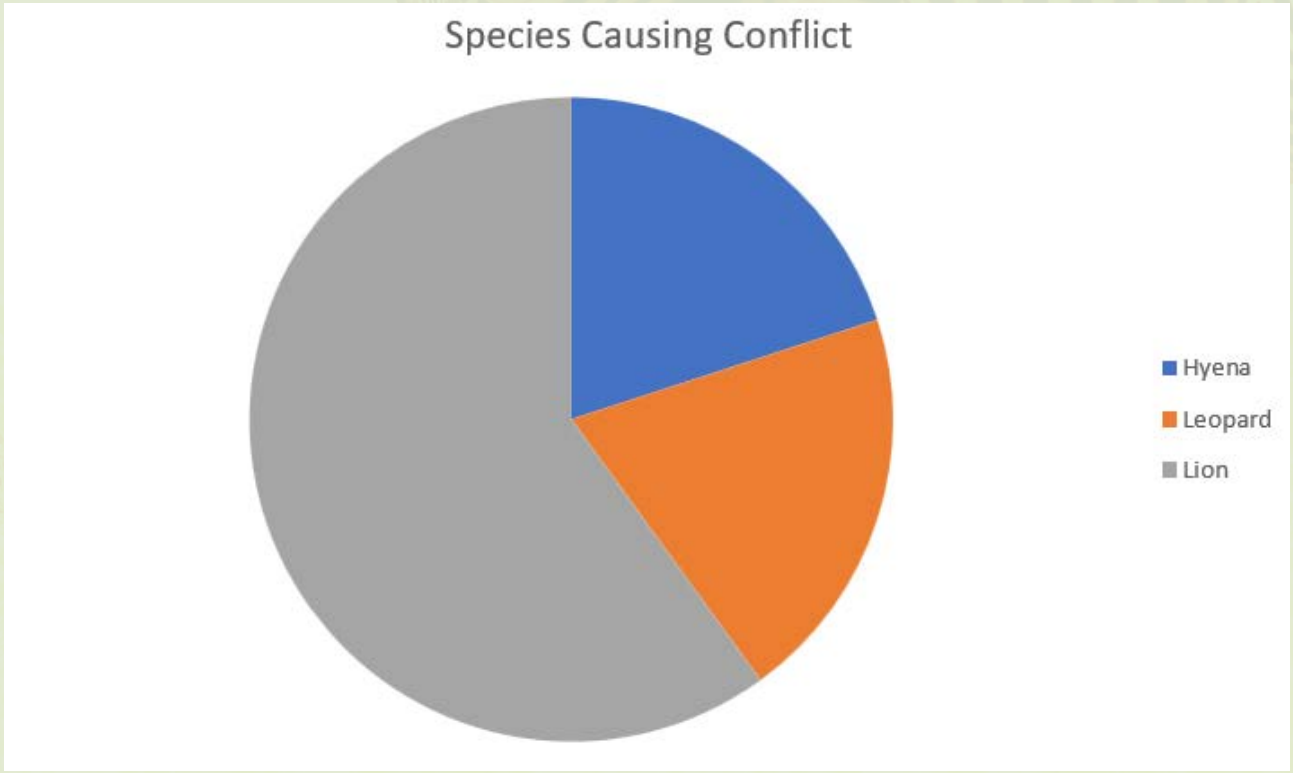


Figure 9.Reported Cases of predation in the conservancy

2.7 School Conservation Clubs



Figure 10. Students view a black rhino at Ol Pejeta conservancy during an exposure trip

Forty students drawn from Ilpolei, Soit oudo, Kurum and Saramba Comprehensive Schools conservation clubs participated in an educational exposure visit to Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

The visit enhanced:

- wildlife conservation awareness;
- appreciation of biodiversity;
- environmental stewardship among young people.

World Wildlife Day



Figure 11 World wildlife day commemorated at Kurum senior school

World Wildlife Day was commemorated at Kurum Secondary School under the theme:

"Protecting Nature, Preserving Life."

The event achieved:

» **05** Number of schools in the conservancy that participated

» **112** students took part during world wildlife day

» **25** Number of trees planted during the event

Water tanks

» **02** Number of water tanks supplied to Ilpolei comprehensive and senior secondary schools conservation clubs for rain water harvesting





Figure 12 students of Ilpolei Primary & secondary schools pose for photos after receiving rainwater harvesting tanks

Livelihood And Business Report

3.1 Wakumbe Hills Tented Camp Development



Figure 1 Wakumbe tented camp aerial view

The conservancy made strides towards upgrading Wakumbe Bush Campsite into a tented camp designed for sustainable tourism revenue while creating employment opportunities.

3.2 Employment Creation

The conservancy continued creating employment opportunities for locals.

- **25 permanent staff** remained in employment, directly supporting approximately **150 household members**.
- **622 casual workers** engaged during restoration implementation.

3.3 Community Education Support

Education remained one of the priority livelihood investments financed through the Community Carbon Fund.

- **KES 3.3 Million** was disbursed under the Student Bursary Programme.
- **553 students** from senior secondary schools, colleges and universities benefited from bursary support

3.4 Road Improvement

To improve accessibility to the tourism facility, the conservancy completed grading of the access road leading to Wakumbe Hills Tented Camp.



Figure 2 Grading Wakumbe hills tented camp road

Rangelands Overview

Introduction

The 2025/2026 financial year marked significant progress in the implementation of community-led rangeland restoration and sustainable grazing management across Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy. Through strong collaboration between the Conservancy Board, Grazing Committee, community members, partners, and the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project (NKRCP), the Conservancy implemented interventions aimed at restoring degraded landscapes, strengthening community governance, improving livestock production, and enhancing ecosystem resilience.

The following is a summary of the key activities undertaken and their respective achievements during the reporting period.

4.1 Grazing Committee Meetings



Community participation remained central to sustainable rangeland management throughout the year. The Conservancy successfully convened Grazing Committee meetings, Grazing Sub-Committee meetings, and seasonal grazing planning meetings to review rangeland conditions, discuss vegetation monitoring results, coordinate livestock movements, and make collective decisions on grazing management.

These meetings provided an important platform for engaging community representatives from all grazing zones and ensuring that grazing decisions reflected local priorities and ecological conditions.

Key Achievements

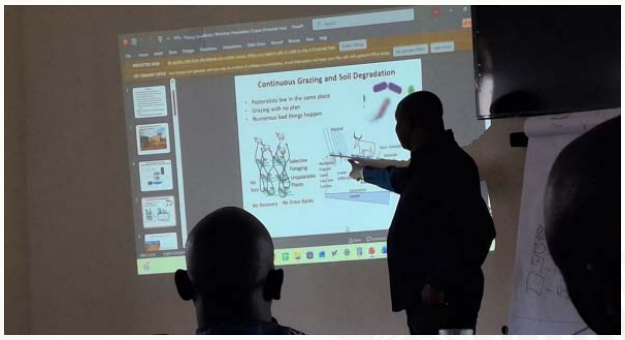
- Conducted 3 quarterly Grazing Committee meetings.
- Conducted 3 wet and dry season grazing planning meetings.
- Strengthened community participation in decision-making.
- Improved coordination between grazing zones.
- Promoted compliance with agreed grazing plans.

Impact

The meetings strengthened local governance, improved coordination of livestock movements, reduced grazing conflicts, and enhanced community ownership of rangeland restoration initiatives.

4.2 Grazing Committee Exposure Visit to Ol gulului Conservancy

The Conservancy organized an exposure visit for members of the Grazing Committee to Ol gulului Conservancy in Kajiado County. The visit enabled committee members to learn from successful community-led conservation and grazing management initiatives implemented within the Amboseli landscape.





Key Lessons Learnt

- Rotational grazing systems.
- Development and enforcement of grazing by-laws.
- Community governance structures.
- Carbon project implementation and benefit sharing.
- Eco-tourism opportunities.
- Sustainable livestock management practices.

Impact

- The exposure visit broadened the committee's knowledge, strengthened leadership capacity, and inspired the adoption of improved grazing management approaches within Naibunga Upper Conservancy.

4.3 Wet and Dry Season Grazing Management

Seasonal grazing management continued to be one of the Conservancy's core interventions. Wet and dry season grazing plans were developed and implemented across all conservancy zones using vegetation monitoring data and community consultations.

Livestock movements were coordinated to ensure sustainable pasture utilization while protecting grazing reserves for periods of scarcity.



Impact

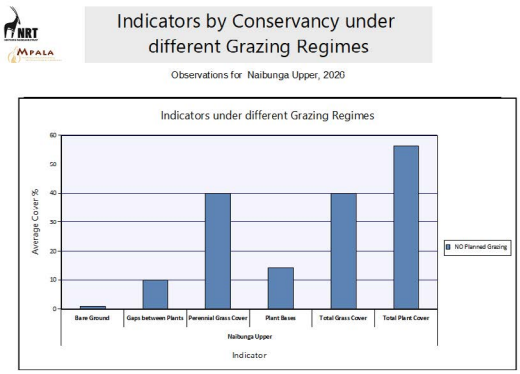
- Reduced grazing pressure on vulnerable areas.
- Improved pasture recovery.
- Enhanced livestock productivity.
- Reduced grazing conflicts.
- Increased resilience during prolonged dry periods.

4.4 Vegetation Monitoring

Vegetation monitoring remained an essential component of adaptive rangeland management and a key requirement under the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project. Regular monitoring was undertaken across permanent monitoring sites to assess changes in vegetation condition and guide restoration planning.

Over the past three years, monitoring results have demonstrated a positive ecological trend, with gradual improvements in perennial grass cover and overall vegetation condition. The information generated has continued to inform grazing management decisions, identify priority restoration sites, and support reporting to conservation partners and donors.





Impact

- Improved evidence-based decision-making.
- Increased perennial grass cover.
- Better prioritization of restoration interventions.
- Enhanced monitoring and reporting capacity.

4.5 Biological Control of Opuntia stricta

The Conservancy continued implementing biological control of *Opuntia stricta* using cochineal insects. Significant impacts have been observed in Munishoi Community Land and parts of Il Polei and Murupusi, where the biological control agent has successfully suppressed the invasive cactus.

Community members and boda-bodas were engaged during distribution and monitoring activities, creating local employment while supporting restoration efforts.





Impact

- Reduced spread of Opuntia stricta.
- Increased community participation.
- Improved regeneration of native vegetation.
- Lower long-term invasive species management costs.

4.6 Manual Removal of Opuntia stricta

With support from NRT, FFI,LCA and Wyss Academy for Nature the Conservancy successfully rehabilitated approximately 50 hectares of land heavily invaded by Opuntia stricta. Manual clearing targeted areas where biological control alone was insufficient. The cleared sites were subsequently prepared for ecological restoration through reseeding with indigenous grass species.



Impact

- Restored approximately 50 hectares of grazing land.
- Improved livestock access to pasture.
- Created suitable conditions for vegetation recovery.

4.7 Reseeding of Restored Areas

Following the removal of *Opuntia stricta*, restoration sites were reseeded using indigenous grass species including **Eragrostis superba** and **Cenchrus ciliaris** to accelerate ecosystem recovery.

The reseeding programme was designed to stabilize soils, improve forage availability, and support long-term restoration of degraded grazing areas.



Impact

- Increased grass establishment.
- Reduced soil erosion.
- Improved livestock forage.
- Enhanced wildlife habitat restoration.

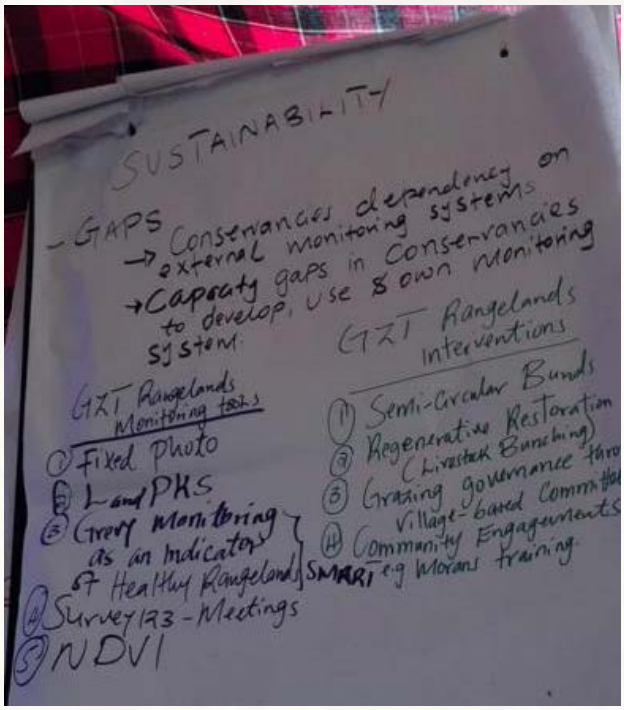
4.8 Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Capacity development remained a priority throughout the reporting period. The Rangelands Coordinator participated in several technical trainings and knowledge-sharing forums organized under the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project & TNC through LCA.

Training areas included vegetation monitoring, GPS and GIS applications, adaptive grazing management, governance, conflict resolution, and community engagement.

Knowledge acquired during these trainings has been shared with conservancy committees, community rangers, and local stakeholders to strengthen implementation of restoration activities.





Impact

- Improved technical capacity.
- Strengthened grazing governance.
- Enhanced vegetation monitoring and reporting.
- Increased knowledge sharing within the conservancy.

4.9 Semi-Circular Bund (SCB) Rehabilitation

The Conservancy repaired Semi-Circular Bunds (SCBs) at Lorubae, Nombitiyo, and Oloruko in Morupusi, Ol Munishoi and Il Polei Community Lands respectively. The rehabilitation aimed to restore the functionality of these water-harvesting structures and improve ecological recovery in degraded landscapes.

Impact

- Reduced surface runoff and improved rainwater infiltration.
- Increased grass regeneration.
- Enhanced climate resilience.
- Improved restoration of degraded sites.

4.10 Restoration Sites Monitoring

Monitoring of restoration sites is undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions including reseeding, invasive species control, grazing management, and SCB rehabilitation. Monitoring focused on vegetation recovery, establishment of perennial grasses, soil stability, invasive species regrowth, and grazing pressure.

The findings provide valuable information for adaptive management and help the Conservancy determine where additional restoration efforts are required.

Impact

The monitoring programme has demonstrated encouraging ecological recovery across restoration sites and continues to strengthen evidence-based decision-making. It has improved accountability to community members and partners while ensuring restoration investments achieve long-term environmental and livelihood benefits.

Conclusion

The achievements recorded during the reporting period demonstrate the Conservancy's continued commitment to restoring degraded rangelands through community participation, sound governance, scientific monitoring, and strategic partnerships. While significant progress has been made in improving vegetation condition, invasive species management, and sustainable grazing, continued investment in restoration, monitoring, and community capacity building remains essential to sustain these gains.

The Conservancy expresses its sincere appreciation to community members, the Conservancy Board, the Grazing Committee, the Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project, FFI, WYSS Academy for Nature, LCA and all partners whose support has contributed to these achievements.

2025 CCF Projects Status Report

5.1 Bursary

Status: **Completed**

The Carbon Funds Bursary Programme was successfully implemented across the three community lands of Murupusi, Ilpolei, and Munishoi, providing financial support to deserving students to promote access to education. A total of KShs 3,300,000 was disbursed under the programme, benefiting 553 students from the three community lands.

Beneficiaries Of 2025 Carbon Bursary Per Community Land

Community Lands	High School	Universities	Colleges	Grade 10	Total Number
Morupusi Cl	243	43	59	0	345
Munishoi Cl	44	8	13	21	86
Ilpolei Cl	58	17	22	25	122
Total	**345**	**68**	**94**	**46**	**553**

5.2 Wakumbe Tented Camp

Status: **Completed**

This report presents the implementation and completion of the Wakumbe Tented Camp project core funded through the 2025 Community Carbon Fund and donor support from LCA/TNC. The project delivered four guest tents, a ranger unit, a pit latrine and bathroom, two bonfire points, a 10,000-litre water tank and a reinforced tank base following an FPIC process. The project delivered key tourism infrastructure, laying a strong foundation for sustainable income generation through tourism and conservation.



Figure 1. Installed camp Wakumbe tented camp



Figure 2. Installed tents at Wakumbe hills tented camp

5.3 Kurum Secondary School Staff Houses

Status: Completed

Construction of two self-contained staff house units at Kurum Secondary School was completed through the 2025 Community Carbon Fund. The project has improved teacher welfare, accommodation, retention and learner support.



Figure 3. Kurum Teachers house during construction stage



Figure 4. Complete teachers house units at Kurum Secondary School

5.4 Twala Borehole Water Tank

Status: Completed

A 10,000-litre water tank was installed at Twala Borehole to improve water storage and supply reliability. The project has reduced waiting time and improved access to water.



Figure 5. Munishoi water tank installed at Twala borehole



Figure 6. Munishoi community land leaders and Conservancy Chairman inspect the procured water tank for Munishoi community land.

5.5 Morupusi Community Land Office Renovation

Status: 65% Complete

Renovation of the office and construction of a two-door pit latrine is 65% complete with major structural work done. The office faces challenges with lack of solar power, office furniture and equipment.



Figure 7. Ongoing renovation at Morupusi community land office



Figure 8. CLMC Members inspect ongoing construction of pit latrine at Morupusi community land office

5.6 Enkuisiusiu Lodge Project

Status: On Hold

The procurement process was completed, and the project was ready for implementation. Implementation is temporarily suspended due to internal differences within Ilpolei Community pending resolution.

Our Partners























Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy

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