



*Conservancy Leaders from Amboseli region at the 2019 National Conservancies Leaders Conference, Nairobi.
Photo credit: KWCA*

KENYA

COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY POLICY SUPPORT

Kenya's globally significant eco-regions are facing direct threats. The drivers of these threats are insecure land and resource rights, poor land-use planning, weak governance systems, human-wildlife conflicts, lack of conservation incentives, limited inclusion of women and youth, and vulnerability to climate change and other shocks.

The program works with communities and landowners across 12 landscape-based wildlife conservancies associations, which include 166 private and community conservancies in 28 counties in Kenya. The program's target is to benefit 3,200 community wildlife scouts and 930,000 conservancy households.

Conservation of Kenya's eco-systems relies on government-managed protected areas and community conservation of private lands. Community and private wildlife conservancies in Kenya represent an opportunity. In the last thirty years, Kenya has seen a remarkable growth in the number and types of conservancies using innovative conservation and livelihood strategies. Although private and community conservation movement is in its early stages, more than 6.4 million hectares of land has been conserved, providing important connectivity for biodiversity across entire eco-regions and between parks and community lands. Better land management, improved security and social cohesion, access to education and health are tangible benefits of community conservancies. These conservancies face policy and institutional barriers to effectively carry out their biodiversity conservation and sustainable-development mandates.

The Community Policy Support and Implementation Program (CCSP) implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) helps communities and landowners participate in policy review and access policy information and incentives. The program seeks to address policy barriers by promoting a supportive legal environment that encourages sustainable and beneficial conservation. Analyzing, standardizing, and facilitating policy change will create an environment in which conservancies can deliver long-term sustainable social, economic, and ecological outcomes, including improved structures for governance and management of community land, secure land ownership rights, better living standards, gender and youth inclusiveness, and resilience to climate change.

The programs goals are to:

- 1) improve land and resource policy
- 2) improve community governance systems
- 3) increase conservation incentives
- 4) increase inclusion of women and youths
- 5) increase resilience to shocks such as climate change

ACHIEVEMENTS

The program has made tremendous achievements in the following areas:

- Six conservancy management plans were made official in line with the Protected and Conserved Areas management planning framework, attaining a higher level of legal recognition.
- Conservancies have participated in the policy reforms processes through petitions such as the Statutes Law (Miscellaneous Amendment) Act 2018.
- Submitted 41 recommendations to the taskforce on Community Land Regulations out of which 51% of the 41 were adopted in the Community Land Regulations 2018.
- Improved coordination of conservancies at the grassroot level to national wildlife governance by initiating the building of organizational capacity for five ecosystem based conservancy associations in Baringo, Amboseli, Tsavo and Laikipia to effectively coordinate and support conservancies address their local issues and build strong networks.
- Established the National Conservancies Women Forum as a safe space for women in conservancies to increase their access and awareness to the dynamics within conservancies committees and boards.

BUDGET: \$2,750,336

DURATION:

September 2015 – September 2020

Implementing Partners:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)

USAID CONTACT:

Ben Wandago
Biodiversity and NRM Specialist
Tel: +254-713-601-431
Email: bwandago@usaid.gov

TNC CONTACT:

Munira Bashir
Kenya Program Director
Tel: +254 738-350-350
Email: munira@tnc.org

KWCA CONTACT:

Dickson Kaelo
Chief Executive Director
Tel: +254 722467344
Email: dkaelo@kwcakenya.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidkea@usaid.gov
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Twitter: @USAIDKenya