

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Laikipia Wildlife Forum

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

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2017 ANNUAL REPORT PREAMBLE

As many of you know, the majority of our donor funding for the last 10 years came from USAID-Kenya and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This support came to an end in 2016.

Our 2017 efforts have been spent on learning more about what our membership wants and needs, how to support them through finance and capacity building, working more closely with new County governments, addressing issues of conflict and peace during a stressful year of politics and drought, and developing new partnerships.

Our efforts have started to yield success. Our new partners include water development partners explained at greater length in this report. Our most significant partner for the Water sector is the Water Resources Group 2030, a public-private partnership hosted by the International Finance Corporation in Kenya.

Our other efforts are small in comparison. But we are confident that the new path LWF has chosen by returning to its FORUM roots will yield dividends through greater representation in our organization, and more opportunities for collective action. Our partnerships with Mpala Research Center, Northern Rangelands Trust, and Laikipia groups of farmers, conservancies, small holders, pastoralists, WRUAs, and CFAs are core to the success of community-based natural resources management and sound land use.

Thank you for your support in 2017. We are confident will grow in strength and ability between us in 2018 and beyond.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In a major review and reflection on the performance and history of LWF, the organization made four important decisions in 2017.

We constructed a new strategic plan that will guide this 20,000 strong membership organization over the next 10+ years. The new strategy focuses more on nurturing and enabling LWF partners to develop, fund and implement conservation programs and projects in the greater Laikipia landscape.

We changed our governance structure to be more representative of the growing number of voices and participants in the conservation of natural resources in the greater Laikipia Landscape.

We changed our name to the Laikipia Forum since wildlife conservation is only a small part of what the Forum's membership does, and the wider assortment of natural resource conservation themes requires our collective efforts. Many people already shorten the name to the "FOURM".

The FORUM's secretariat will become increasingly important as a convener, bridge, and networker, and advocate in service to the directions dictated by the new Board membership.

Please see a copy of the FORUM's new Strategic Plan [here](#).

MOUNT KENYA EWASO WATER PARTNERSHIP

MKEWP is a public private partnership that provides a platform for coordinated stakeholder engagement to address the challenges of managing water as a resource within Upper Ewaso Ng'iro North Catchment Area.



It is hosted by the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF). The Forum is the appointed secretariat responsible for administration of MKEWP's key functions. It is run by two dedicated staff: the MKEWP Coordinator and a Water Resources Specialist, with technical support from LWF Executive Director.

Highlights of 2017

1. 4 MKEWP Council meetings and 1 AGM were conducted. Council meetings are forums to engage MKEWP members in key decisions of the Partnership.
2. MKEWP developed a simplified guide to the Water Act 2016 to help its membership gain a better understanding of the new Act and its implications for water conservation and management.
3. 300 water users were sensitized to the Water Act 2016 and obtained copies of the guide.
4. A 5-year Strategic plan illustrating the MKEWP priority investments for the period 2018-2022 was developed with the assistance of Council members.

5. 20 WRUAs supported to carry out emergency water management, monitoring and incident reporting to ensure environmental water flows established by law during periods of water stress/drought were observed.

6. The Mount Kenya Growers Group (an informal collection of private sector, commercial growers) undertook the first formal benchmarking of water conservation and management with the assistance of the MKEWP, and also begin to benchmark their contributions to a rural economy.

7. MKEWP supported development of the water elements in the County Integrated Development Plans for Laikipia, Meru and Nyeri Counties.

8. MKEWP provided oversight and support in implementation of 4 programs funded by Wetlands International, SNV, Flora and Fauna International, and the Nordic Climate Facility.

9. MKEWP is supported financially by the World Bank-2030 Water Resources Group, SNV, Wetlands International, and Fauna and Flora International.

Donors/Supporters



#MajiYetuJukumuLetu



L TO R: Joy Busolo of 2030 WRG, James Mwangi of MKEWP, Vimal Shah, Co-Chair of 2030 WRG, and Minister of Water and Sanitation Mr Eugene Wamalwa and MKEWP Coordinator Mr Stanley Kirimi display the Simplified Guide to Water Act 2016



MKEWP Coordinator Mr Stanley Kirimi speaks to Nyeri Governor Mr Mutahi Kahiga during the CIDP process.



WRUA members from the basin receive cheques for Water Rationing during the dry season of 2017.

TOURISM

Formation of Laikipia Tourism Association



The Laikipia tourism industry received a boost when the private sector joined together to form the Laikipia Tourism Association, with the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) offering secretariat services.

A natural outgrowth of the 15 year old ecotourism sector, the LTA is now designed to represent all services and destinations of the tourism sector in Laikipia.

Members have joined hands to help the destination regain its brand and competitiveness through greater sustainable tourism practices.

The Association aims to represent the collective interests of approximately 100 members.

Membership is drawn from hoteliers, tour operators and travel agents, fast food outlets, coffee shops and restaurants, souvenir and gift shops, homestays and Airbnb operators, lodges, campsites, wildlife conservancies and associated services.

An Executive Committee of 9 members is drawn from tourism subsectors in the County. The Committee is appointed to provide guidance and govern the activities of the Association.



A past Stakeholders' Engagement Forum to discuss the formation of a Laikipia Tourism Board. The board acts as a link between the public and private sector and oversees tourism development opportunities in the county

Establishing a Public-Private-Partnership

The success of the private sector's efforts called for working relations with the county department of tourism on a public-private-partnership.

To strengthen this bond, the office of the Governor through the Tourism CEC promised passage of the Laikipia Tourism Bill in the 2018/2019 financial year.

Profiling of Laikipia Destinations



The first effort from the partnership was to develop a library of photography, video, and blogs to be used in branding, marketing and communicating Laikipia's diverse tourism products.



John Kingori and Paul Ole Kimiri representing the LTA and County Government respectively, led a team of photographers and content developers throughout Laikipia. This effort is designed to complement the County-run website, Destination Laikipia, where the LTA is a prominent partner with Laikipia County Government.



WILDLIFE

Laikipia hosts the largest population of rhinos in East and Central Africa with 5 private rhino sanctuaries: **Solio, Ol Jogi, Ol Pejeta, Borana, and Il Ngwesi.**

Together they host 50% of the Kenya's black rhino population and 70% of the white rhino population in the country.

LWF was able to assist three of these conservancies through the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries.

With funding support from the US Department of Interior and USAID-Kenya, recipients included Borana, Ol Jogi and Ol Pejeta Conservancies.

The Grant included support for ranger training and anti-poaching information gathering, ranger equipment, and security dogs training, and additional supporting equipment.



A total of 50 rangers were trained with the technical training support of 51 Degrees and additional training was provided through Space for Giants on criminal investigation techniques.

More than 70 rangers received assistance with equipment, including uniforms and rations, and 5 dogs and their 8 handlers were received support as part of the assistance to OPC.

The one year grant was completed in 9 months.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION- STAND UP FOR NATURE



The LWF team and two British filmmakers made several short films focusing on local voices talking about the pride, benefits, and responsibilities associated with wildlife, rangelands, and youth in the Laikipia landscape.

Using bicycle powered cinema, the final films were featured in a series of public showings throughout the landscape.

The films include the voices of Il Ngwesi Conservancy and their efforts and pride at rhino conservation.

The second film focused on the need for rangelands management and restoration through the eyes of a Makuiran Group ranch member.

The third film features a young student voice illustrating her passion for

wildlife through her art, even if opportunities to view wildlife are few. This film's backdrop highlights Laikipia's primary schools and pupils passion for conservation through drama and song.

We are grateful to the generosity of our conservancy members who helped with the film team's logistics and to all the teachers and pupils, community leaders, and partners who gave of their time.

Copies of this film on DVD are available for free from the LWF office, or can be downloaded from our website.

LAIKIPIA RABIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN 2017



The LRVC 2017 campaign took on serious new proportions in its efforts to extend vaccinations to 10,000 domestic dogs in the landscape.

Led by LWF partners, the Mpala Research Centre and the efforts of Adam Ferguson and Dedan Ngatia, the Campaign succeeded in vaccinating 9,313 dogs over 6 long weekends in late 2017.

The LRVC effort was jointly funded by the National and County governments, MRC and LWF well-wishers, and donations in kind were given by conservancies and communities. All the vets in this initiative donated their time.

A huge part of any immunization campaign lies in education and awareness about rabies and its prevention.

There is lots more that needs to be done in this regard. For Laikipia, the issue of rabies and vaccination are perhaps more complex because of the vast number of dogs in the agro-pastoral system of the greater Laikipia landscape and our important dedication to wildlife conservation.

By example, last year, canine distemper ran through the wild dog population at an alarming rate.

#LRVC2017



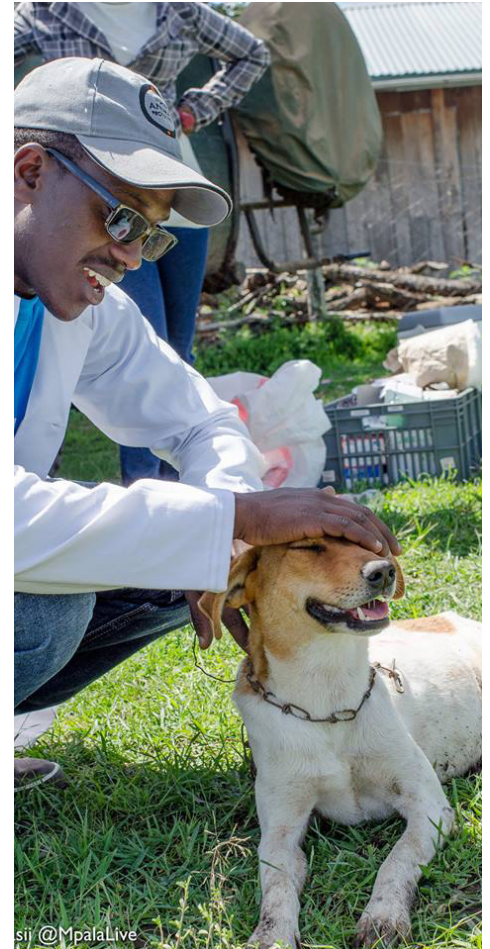
Several important scientific questions lie ahead for the next campaign.

The vaccine uptake rate, the prevalence of rabies in wildlife populations, and the rate of transfer between wildlife and domestic animals are all unknown in the Laikipia context.

Additionally, the critical question of how many dogs are in the county - and, thus, how many we must vaccinate to reach the 70% target - remains to be determined by ongoing research.

A rough estimate of the number of dogs in the County is more than 25,000, and an effective campaign must address neutering and spaying of domestic dogs in the long run.

2018 will see Vets International join the Campaign team.



INTEGRATING COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DECISION-MAKING INTO THE COUNTY INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLANS (CIDPS)

Six organizations collaborated to improve the representation of community based natural resources management and planning from communities and non-state actors in the County Integrated Development Plans for 5 Counties: **Samburu, Baringo, Laikipia, Marsabit and Isiolo**, between September 2017 and the end of the year.

Each County is tasked by law with the development of plans that guide development, social service delivery, and expenditure every five years. This is the second generation of County Integrated Development Plans and cover the period of 2018-2022.

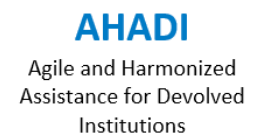
The effort was led by the Laipia Wildlife Forum with support from the Northern Rangelands Trust and the Mpala Research Centre.

Assisting organizations included the ASAL Stakeholders Forum/NDMA, the FAO Community Land Project, and the AHADI Project, with support from USAID.

An intensive period of consultant support, CIDP secretariat support, lobbying, and citizen engagement characterized the development of the 5 Draft CIDPs.

The sector areas of focus included rangelands/livestock, wildlife conservation, land use, conservancy development, and water management and development.

Final CIDPs will be completed in March of 2018, and all need to be submitted for public review ,and then approval in the County Assembly. CIDPs should be found on the websites for each County supported by this effort.



RANGELANDS – GRASS SEED DISTRIBUTION

With the help of Lengetia Farm, we were able to distribute almost 10 tons of grass seed/legume seeds that result from their wheat cleaning.

A total of 285 bags of grass seeds were distributed to different properties within Laikipia. These seeds are the first step in helping to rehabilitate degraded lands and help stabilize the soil

Number	Organization	No. of bags
1	Olentile	25
2	Sosian	2
3	Tumaren Ranch	50
4	Olomotii	5
5	Ngare Ndare Forest	20
6	Sutton Hoo Farm	14
7	Mpala Ranch	2
8	Loisaba	6
9	Naibunga	43
10	Namunyak Conservancy	20
11	Private Farm	2
12	Sitara G Millers	25
13	Westgate Conservancy	20
14	Nurapa	40
15	Nakuprat	7
16	Kimanju	2
17	II Mamusi CFA	1
18	Private	1



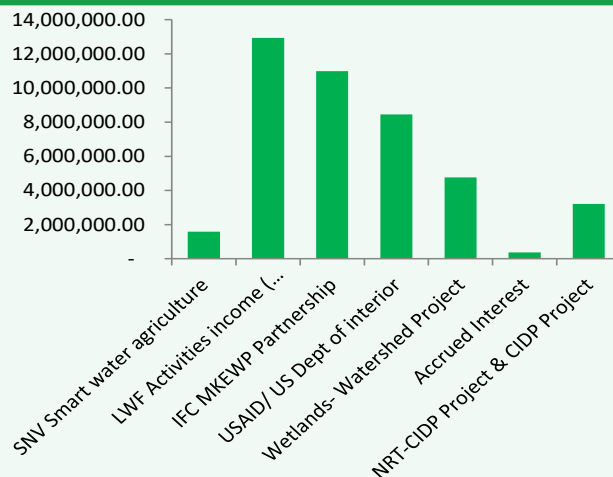
FINANCES

SUMMARY OF 2017 ACCOUNTS

INCOME

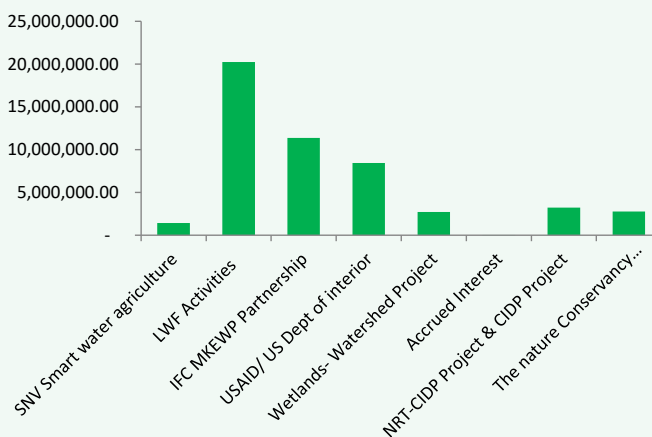
Year 2017

SNV Smart water agriculture	1,581,590.00	3.7%
FORUM Activities income (Subs,merchandise etc)	12,938,904.00	30.58%
IFC MKEWP Partnership	10,983,508.00	25.96%
USAID/ US Dept of interior	8,455,533.00	19.99%
Wetlands- Watershed Project	4,762,657.00	11.26%
Accrued Interest	373,313.00	0.88%
NRT-CIDP Project & CIDP Project	3,211,911.00	7.59%
	42,307,416.00	100.00%



EXPENDITURE

SNV Smart water agriculture	1,407,600.00	2.81%
FORUM Activities	20,242,542.00	40.37%
IFC MKEWP Partnership	11,361,463.00	22.66%
USAID/ US Dept of interior	8,445,370.00	16.84%
Wetlands- Watershed Project	2,713,273.00	5.41%
Accrued Interest	8,774.00	0.02%
NRT-CIDP Project & CIDP Project	3,211,911.00	6.41%
The nature Conservancy Assistance	2,752,005.00	5.49%
	50,142,938.00	100.00%



STAFF 2017

Stanley Kirimi
MKEWP Coordinator



John King'ori
Intern -Tourism



Margarate Wambua
Monitoring & Evaluation



Grace Wangari
Admin Assistant



Rosemary Oyugi
Finance and Admin



John Gitonga
Intern-Rangelands



Marvin Githuku
Intern-MKEWP



Peter Hetz
Executive Director



James Mwangi
Water Resources Specialist



Joan Nthiga
Communications Specialist



Moses Kipchirchir
Driver



Gabriel Maina
Groundskeeper



Eunice Wangari
Accounts



Rosemary Sanoe
Hospitality



PARTNERSHIPS AND REPRESENTATION



The Water Resource User Associations of the Upper Ewaso Ng'iro Catchment

Il Ngwesi Conservancy

Lions Court Hotel

Lengatia Farm

Laikipia Wilderness

Sosian Conservancy

Makurian Group Ranch



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