

Laikipia Wildlife Forum

CONSERVATION IN ACTION



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



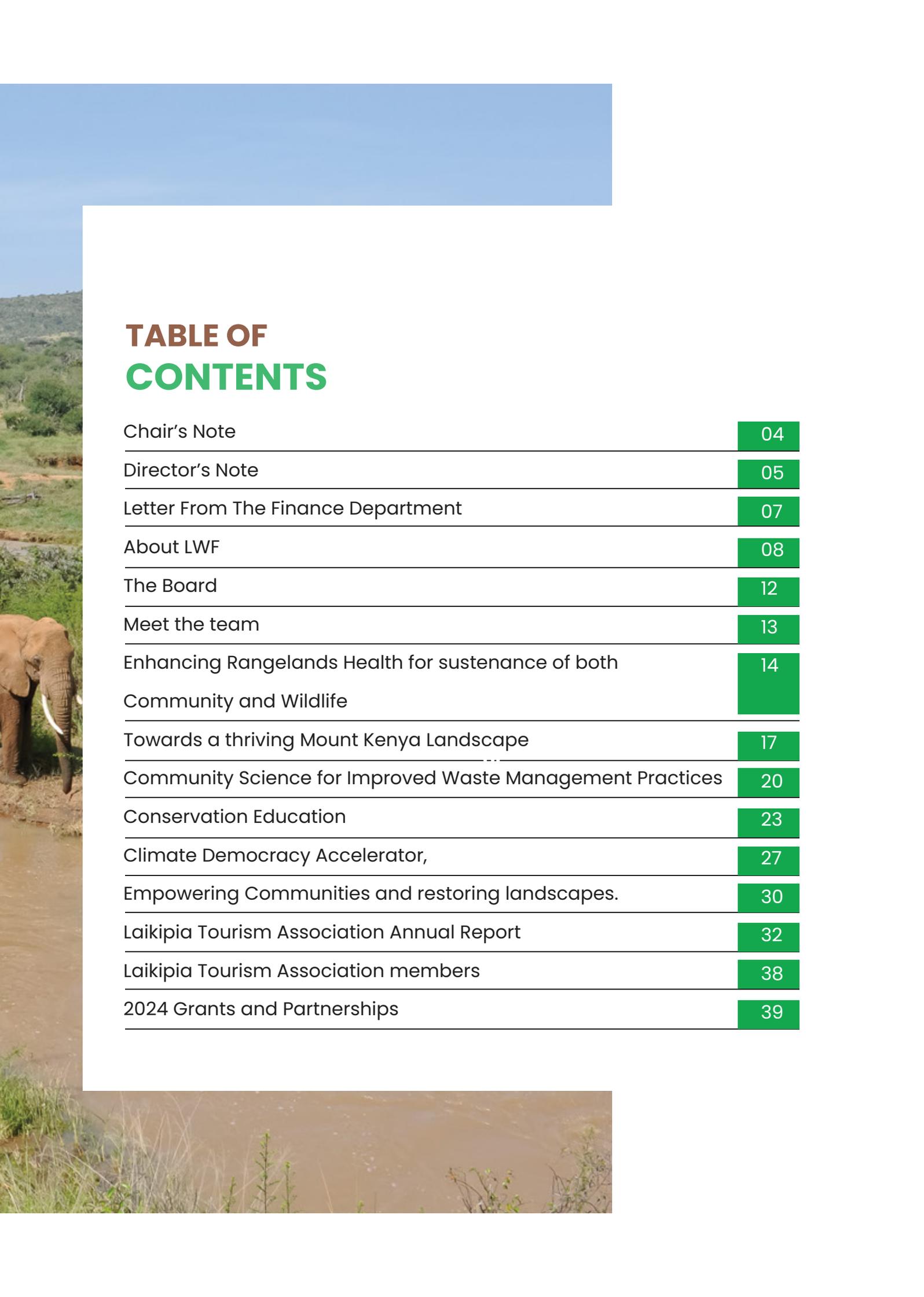


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CHAIR'S NOTE

In 2024, the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) marked significant milestones in its revival and sustainability. Notably, this was the second year of implementing the new Articles of Association, transitioning LWF from a secretariat to an active entity engaged in consultation, advocacy, and project implementation. The achievements of the past year affirm that this transformation was a step in the right direction.



Over the year, LWF reinforced its role as the focal Forum for stakeholders seeking solutions in natural resource management, human-wildlife interactions, climate change, and community development. These themes are reflected in the diverse projects LWF has implemented over the past two years, as detailed in this report.

We also expanded our mandate to align with the new Articles, extending our reach to Laikipia, Nyeri, Nyandarua, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu, and Baringo counties within the Upper Ewaso Ng'iro Basin. This growth has been fueled by strong partnerships with development agencies, government institutions, and private-sector stakeholders—many of whom now fund or collaborate with LWF to drive sustainable development in the region.

Another key indicator of our revival is our thriving membership. I am pleased to report that our paid-up membership has tripled in 2024. To our new members, welcome! To our existing members, thank you for your commitment and continued support. I encourage all members to stay engaged with LWF—through participation and membership renewal—so that together, we can advance conservation efforts.

In closing, 2024 was a year of growth, impact, and strengthened partnerships. LWF is on a clear path to sustainability, and I am confident that we will continue to build on this momentum in the years ahead.

Dr. Romano Kiome (PhD, CBS)
Chairman, Laikipia Wildlife Forum

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



The year 2024 was significant to the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) because it was our second year of reverting to implementation after being a Secretariat for six years.

It took additional effort to re-establish partnerships and networks, form new ones, and mobilise resources for a seamless operation.

This effort bore fruit when we continued to engage with our long-term development partner, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, as we brought new ones on board.

The new development partners who came on board include the World Resources Institute (WRI) with their partner, One Tree Planted, through their long-term TERRAFUND AFR100 initiative; Alliance Bioversity International-CIAT, through their Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding to support smallholder farmers and communities; People Powered through their Climate Democracy Accelerator (CDA) programme; and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) through their Russel E. Train Education for Nature (WWF-EFN) programme. Back home, we engaged with our peer Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs); Community-Based Organisations (CBOs); Ministries, Departments and Lead government Agencies (MDAs); County Governments; the academia and research institutions; and the private sector, to implement components of our projects as well as commemorate World Environmental Days.

This is indeed the year that LWF commemorated most of these days, which left us with an urge to develop a calendar with all these days that need commemoration. We invite you to reach out to us for a copy. Our renowned Conservation Education (CE) programme, which most people identify LWF with, got a boost when we began a school outreach programme that saw us identify and visit both primary and secondary schools for CE engagements that included conservation debates and tree-growing.

We also worked with like-minded partners in the landscape, including Borana Conservancy, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Loisaba Conservancy, and William Holden Wildlife Foundation, for synergies and learning.

Furthermore, we are also thrilled to partner with one of the oldest champions of CE in the landscape, the Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs (NKCC). The revival of LWF's programmes did not stop at CE but continued with the other programmes. For wildlife, we engaged a graduate in wildlife management who has since led the revamping of our wildlife programme, including regularly updating educative information on wildlife on our social media pages.

For rangeland management, we pride ourselves in clearing the invasive cactus, *Opuntia stricta*, off 41.37 hectares of land, constructing 17,040 semi-circular bunds/half-moons and reseeding them with grass in three community lands in Laikipia North sub-County; growing hay on 60 acres of community land for both subsistence and commercial uses; and growing over 50,000 trees in different parts of the Upper Ewaso Ng'iro Basin.

Being a membership organisation, we are happy to report that 2024 recorded a higher number of members compared to 2023; thus, we closed the year with forty-six members against thirty-four. Our sister and hosted organisation, the Laikipia Tourism Association (LTA), with which we implement our tourism programme, recorded a total of thirty-seven tourism sector players, a big increase from the previous years. We are continuing our membership drives and hope to bring more members on board for both LWF and LTA in 2025. 2024 would not have ended much better than LWF winning the Eco Warrior Award 2024 as the Lead Non-Profit Organization in Championing Climate Action!

We look forward to a winning 2025!

Ms. Celine Achieng'
Executive Director
Laikipia Wildlife Forum



LETTER FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

In 2024, Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) prioritised effectiveness, accountability, and efficiency in handling donor funds for conservation projects.

Project implementation objectives were achieved in all areas, thus ensuring the organisation achieved its Mission which includes empowering communities.

During the year, there was a positive end to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations' Letter of Agreement (LoA) 3 and the Alliance Bioversity International-CIAT-funded project.

The timely submission of reports paved way for another partnership with FAO for LoA 4 and the successful completion of the CIAT-funded project. In addition, LWF is one of the restoration Champions that were awarded a grant by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and One Tree Planted, through their TerraFund for AFR100 initiative. This engagement requires the LWF to grow 150,000 trees within the Laikipia landscape in the next six (6) years; from 2024 to 2029.

Timely reporting for all the projects was a testament to LWF's renewed commitment to collaborate with donors and ensure project implementation was not interrupted.

The Climate Democracy Accelerator (CDA) funded by People Powered, and the World Wide Fund for Nature- Education for Nature (WWF-EFN) projects were also initiated during the year. These two projects will run into 2025, with adequate financial planning undertaken to ensure their smooth implementation.

LWF will continue dedicating its efforts to helping communities and other stakeholders to achieve conservation goals within its area of jurisdiction and beyond. In 2025, LWF urges its partners, members and other stakeholders to remain committed to supporting the programs as we work to build a more sustainable world for our people and the environment.

Calvin Wekesa
Program Finance Officer

ABOUT LAIKIPIA WILDLIFE FORUM

Laikipia Wildlife Forum also referred to as LWF, is a dynamic membership led conservation organization supporting, coordinating and facilitating conservation and natural resource management initiatives within the greater Laikipia Landscape. We provide a platform for dialogue for a cross section of land owners and land users including local community groups, private ranchers, pastoralists, small-scale farmers and tourism industry players.

Our mantra of “Forumness” calls on us to bring people together to work on matters relevant to natural resource management. LWF provides a platform for people to find solutions to common problems. This is what makes it unique and is the origin of Laikipia Wildlife Forum.





**LWF PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR
PEOPLE TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO
COMMON PROBLEMS**



OUR VISION

To realize a productive and robust Upper Ewaso Ng'iro landscape that supports livelihoods and healthy populations of wildlife

OUR MISSION

To nurture, support, and partner with organizations championing wildlife conservation and sustainable natural resource management within the greater Laikipia region



An aerial photograph of a vast, green landscape. In the foreground, there is a wide, flat expanse of green fields, possibly a meadow or a large farm. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of trees. In the background, there are several layers of mountains, with the closest ones being more detailed and the further ones appearing hazy. The sky is a clear, light blue. The overall scene is bright and natural.

**OUR MANTRA OF “FORUMNESS”
CALLS ON US TO BRING PEOPLE
TOGETHER TO WORK ON
MATTERS RELEVANT TO
NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT.**

THE BOARD

The Laikipia Wildlife Forum's 12-member board is composed of individuals from different organizations, all of whom possess advanced knowledge and expertise in the fields of wildlife conservation, natural resource management, and sustainable development.

The board is chaired by Dr. Romano Kiome, a highly respected figure in the conservation sector, who brings his extensive experience and expertise to guide the organization's strategic direction. The diversity of the board members' backgrounds and experiences ensures that the Laikipia Wildlife Forum is well-equipped to address the complex challenges facing the conservation sector and to develop innovative solutions that promote sustainable development and the preservation of natural resources in the region.



MEET THE TEAM

Our team is comprised of dedicated and talented professionals who work tirelessly to promote the conservation of wildlife and natural resources in the region. Leading the team is Celline Achieng' who serves as the Executive Director. Celline brings advanced knowledge and expertise with more than two decades of work in the environment, natural resource management, and conservation sectors in the Eastern Africa region and beyond.



Celline Achieng'
Executive Director



Peter Mathenge
Program Officer



Calvin Wekesa
Program Finance Officer



John Kiongo
Membership &
Communications Officer



Mary Ndirangu
Finance & Admin Assistant



Brian Otieno
Project Officer,
Conservation Education



James Njihia
Programs Intern



Emmanuel Obuchere
Transport Manager



Rosemary Sanoë
Office Assistant



Gabriel Maina
Grounds Manager

ENHANCING THE RANGELAND'S HEALTH FOR SUSTENANCE OF BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE

In 2024, we were delighted to have continued impacting communities' lives within the Mukogodo landscape by restoring degraded areas. We achieved key milestones as executors, with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), of a project titled Restoration of Degraded Landscapes through Bio-enterprises and Other Incentives, funded under GEF-6 as part of The Restoration Initiative (TRI).

To restore the grazing areas to continue supporting the pastoral economy, the project focused on restoring a section of Maiyanat Community Land by managing the spread of an invasive species called *Opuntia stricta*, which had encroached on grazing areas. Through community engagement, 41.37 hectares of land were cleared of *Opuntia stricta* by physical-removal. Additionally, biological control was implemented on 5 hectares in collaboration with Africa Nature Investors.

To avoid exposing the area, making it more prone to soil erosion, especially in areas where *Opuntia stricta* was removed, we constructed 17,040 semi-circular bunds/halfmoons across Maiyanat, Lekurruki, and IIngwesi community lands. This rangeland restoration practice was crucial for capturing rainwater, reducing surface runoff, and supporting the growth of natural vegetation.

In line with the 3Ps of sustainability—People, Planet, and Profit—the project supported the establishment of hay farms by tilling 60 acres (24.49 hectares) of land in the IIngwesi community. This initiative aimed to ensure a reliable fodder supply during the dry seasons while promoting economic improvements by selling the hay. We sourced high-quality grass seeds including Boma Rhodes grass, whose yields were impressive with the first harvest of 2,275 bales on 5.5 hectares of land. The yields are expected to increase in the subsequent seasons.

The community led the development of business plan that will commercialize hay farming. They are now equipped with the tools and knowledge to effectively manage the hay farming operations. New market linkages were established, cost-benefit analyses conducted, and training sessions on proper hay-cutting and baling techniques were finalized.

FAO further boosted the operations by providing a walking reaper/tractor, significantly supporting the operations during harvesting. This hand-operated machine has been a game-changer and has provided an alternative for hay harvesting and baling, especially in areas with flat terrain.



The hay reaper provided by FAO significantly improved the hay harvesting exercise

Regarding institutional development, we trained representatives from all 32 user groups constituting the Dupoto Beekeeping and Marketing Co-operative Society. These training sessions covered sustainable income generation, hive management, business model development, efficient honey extraction, quality compliance, and value addition and marketing of bee products. Tailored to the community's needs, the training was conducted in the Maa language, ensuring active participation and improved understanding.

For Community Water Projects (CWPs), a focus group discussion was held to identify existing gaps, informing training areas for the 11 CWPs across the Mukogodo landscape. In collaboration with the Water Resources Authority (WRA), these sessions emphasized groundwater management regulations and the New Water Rules 2021, empowering communities to manage their water resources more effectively.

As the year ended, we commenced a pilot project to utilize *Opuntia stricta* as an alternative forage source for herders in the Maiyanat Community Land. A detailed experiment layout was developed to guide the process, including a 14-day adaptation period for livestock to transition to the new diet. The experiment will monitor various parameters, such as weight changes and the impact of *Opuntia*-based feeds on meat quality, in collaboration with the County Livestock Department.



Conversion of Opuntia stricta into slurry

Community support for the initiative has been remarkable. Maiyanat community members availed 22 heifers and steers for the experiment and identified an ideal site for the feedlot to facilitate learning.

The implementation of this project provided a platform to address some of the most pressing issues within the Mukogodo landscape. Interventions aimed at improving rangeland health through eradicating *Opuntia stricta* and grass reseeded, formed a core component of the project.



TOWARDS A THRIVING MOUNT KENYA LANDSCAPE

As the TerraFund for AFR100 project, Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Tree Cover in Laikipia, Kenya, marks the conclusion of its first year of active implementation, significant progress has been made toward achieving its goals. The project has employed multiple intervention strategies to restore degraded landscapes, increase forest and tree cover in Laikipia County, and enhance pasture availability to support pastoral economies.

During the first phase of implementation, from January to June 2024, 12,400 seedlings were planted along the riparian zones of the Nanyuki and Likii Rivers. Beyond the project targets, the restoration of the riparian zones accelerated the implementation of the sub-catchment management plans for the Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs). These plans include key strategies for catchment protection and sustainable water resource management. However, financing activities under these plans remains a challenge.

A worrying trend has been the increasing encroachment of riparian zones for irrigated agricultural activities. This has intensified degradation, reduced groundwater and river- recharge, increased surface runoff and soil erosion, and diminished dry-season flows. The increasing soil erosion has led to higher silt levels in the water, which block water abstraction pipes, leading to higher operational costs for community water projects. In response, the project has focused on growing indigenous trees along riparian zones to create strong buffer strips. These buffers act as natural filters, mitigating soil erosion, reducing siltation, and improving water quality.



Communities have also practiced vesting when planting trees along riparians. This technique protects the trees from damage.

In Musul Community Land, efforts to maintain a vibrant pastoral economy centered on grass reseeding through micro-catchment establishment. A total of 2,000 semi-circular bunds were constructed and reseeded, directly benefiting 132 individuals by generating new economic opportunities. These bunds will provide additional pasture for livestock by opening up new grazing blocks, especially during the dry seasons.

In the second phase of implementation (July to December 2024), 62,000 seedlings were planted across four significant sites. Shamanek Forest received 40,000 seedlings, while 10,000 were planted in the Nanyuki sub-catchment near the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) barracks. Additionally, 2,000 seedlings were planted near William Holden in the Nanyuki sub-catchment, 2,000 at Angiri Campsite, and 8,000 in the Likii sub-catchment.



Participants collect tree seedlings during one of the joint tree planting sessions with the Kenya Defence Forces

We leveraged KEFRI's Jaza Miti App to ensure species-site matching aligned with local priorities identified through community engagement. For instance, consultations with the Community Forest Association (CFA) in Shamanek Forest brought out the need for species that act as firebreaks and bee forage to support livelihoods. In response, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* (Mexican Green Ash) was planted due to its suitability as a firebreak, windbreak, and excellent source of bee forage. Sourcing the right species that matched the community preferences, not only enhanced ecological restoration but also led to increased community ownership and support for the project.

Furthermore, the project has established three tree nurseries: one at the Laikipia Wildlife Forum compound, another at the Likii WRUA, and a third at the Ilmamusi CFA offices. These nurseries will contribute seedlings to support Laikipia County's target of growing 372 million trees in Laikipia County, in line with the Presidential Directive to plant 15 billion trees by 2032. The seedlings produced will be used for agroforestry, restoration of riparian areas, and reforestation initiatives.

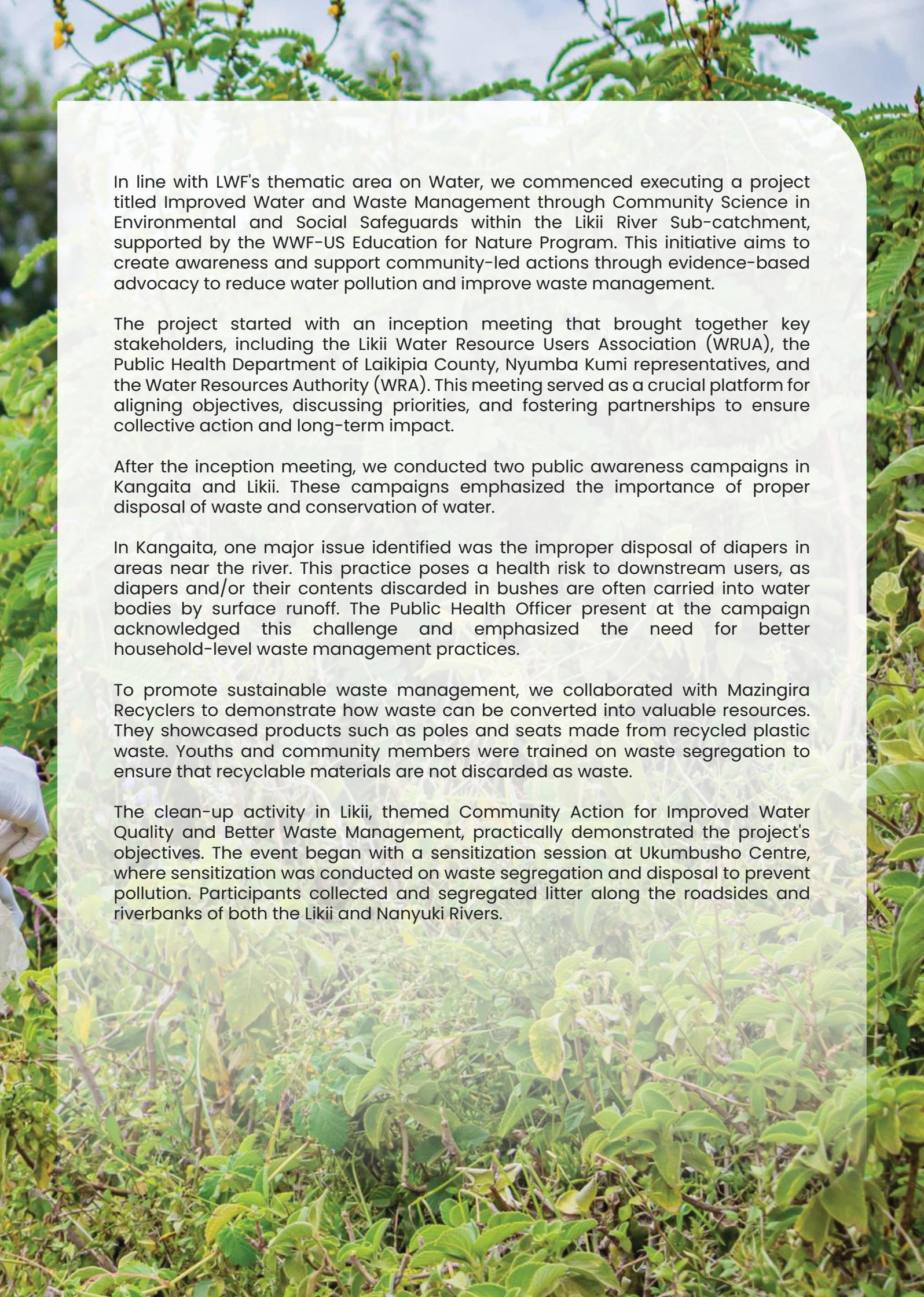
The success of the project's phase one has primarily been attributed to strong partnerships and collaborations across the public, community, academia, and the private sector. Key partners involved during this first phase included the County Government of Laikipia, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), and local organizations such as Nanyuki Green Champions, Ngarisha Mtaa, Kenya Scouts, and the Nanyuki Water and Sanitation Company (NAWASCO). These partnerships are strong indicators of the institutional and community support that has been instrumental in advancing the project's objectives.

With the continuation of the interventions, the project aims to restore lost biodiversity and create a thriving Mount Kenya landscape. The ripple effects of these efforts will address water quantity and quality challenges, which are among the most pressing issues in the landscape.

COMMUNITY SCIENCE FOR IMPROVED WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



LWF's Brian Otieno participates in a clean-up before the Kangaita awareness campaign session



In line with LWF's thematic area on Water, we commenced executing a project titled Improved Water and Waste Management through Community Science in Environmental and Social Safeguards within the Likii River Sub-catchment, supported by the WWF-US Education for Nature Program. This initiative aims to create awareness and support community-led actions through evidence-based advocacy to reduce water pollution and improve waste management.

The project started with an inception meeting that brought together key stakeholders, including the Likii Water Resource Users Association (WRUA), the Public Health Department of Laikipia County, Nyumba Kumi representatives, and the Water Resources Authority (WRA). This meeting served as a crucial platform for aligning objectives, discussing priorities, and fostering partnerships to ensure collective action and long-term impact.

After the inception meeting, we conducted two public awareness campaigns in Kangaita and Likii. These campaigns emphasized the importance of proper disposal of waste and conservation of water.

In Kangaita, one major issue identified was the improper disposal of diapers in areas near the river. This practice poses a health risk to downstream users, as diapers and/or their contents discarded in bushes are often carried into water bodies by surface runoff. The Public Health Officer present at the campaign acknowledged this challenge and emphasized the need for better household-level waste management practices.

To promote sustainable waste management, we collaborated with Mazingira Recyclers to demonstrate how waste can be converted into valuable resources. They showcased products such as poles and seats made from recycled plastic waste. Youths and community members were trained on waste segregation to ensure that recyclable materials are not discarded as waste.

The clean-up activity in Likii, themed Community Action for Improved Water Quality and Better Waste Management, practically demonstrated the project's objectives. The event began with a sensitization session at Ukumbusho Centre, where sensitization was conducted on waste segregation and disposal to prevent pollution. Participants collected and segregated litter along the roadsides and riverbanks of both the Likii and Nanyuki Rivers.



Participants during the cleanup activity at Likii

During the activity, observations highlighted significant challenges, including the prevalence of improperly disposed plastic and liquor bottles. This called for the urgent need for sustained public education campaigns and the installation of waste segregation bins to promote proper disposal practices.

The clean-up concluded with a debriefing of stakeholders and the presentation of certificates to recognize participants' contributions.

In 2025, LWF will conduct river health assessments through citizen science to determine water quality. This will consequently inform our interventions and media campaigns to create more awareness on waste management .

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) continued its legacy of championing conservation education in the greater Laikipia landscape. We engage communities and schools in environmental stewardship by fostering awareness and behavioral change. In 2024, we revitalized our programs, building on past successes such as the Bus Program, Resource Centers, Radio Programs, Conservation Short Films, and training of teachers. Our target remains to inspire conservation-minded individuals who are actively involved in protecting Laikipia's biodiversity. We are therefore happy to share with you our achievements, partnerships, and future aspirations.

Conservation Education Debates

The FAO GEF6-funded project on the management of invasive species led to the innovative Conservation Education (CE) debates, a platform addressing *Opuntia stricta* challenges. The inaugural CE Forum, held on February 16th, brought together seven secondary schools in Laikipia North Sub-County. Two subsequent debate phases in March, engaged students in analyzing *Opuntia*'s ecological impact and exploring control measures including mechanical, biological, and chemical alongside economic uses such as production of fodder, biogas and juice. The debates culminated in St. Francis Girls' High School emerging as the winner. The Borana Conservancy and MpalaLive supported the initiative.



Students actively contributed during the Invasive species debates, which enhanced the learning process

Our partnership with Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs (NKCC)

In collaboration with NKCC, LWF extended CE to 16 schools in Northern Kenya. Weekly club meetings fostered awareness of climate change, wildlife conservation, and sustainable land use. Tree planting campaigns, integrated with learning, enhanced conservation of biodiversity. Students and teachers participated in game drives and workshops, including a session at the William Holden Foundation. We also joined NKCC in their Community Conservation Day, an annual event where students showcased their environmental knowledge through art, drama, and projects such as waste recycling. The integration of traditional ecological knowledge complemented modern conservation methods, emphasizing sustainability.

Partnerships with Lewa and Borana Conservancies

LWF's collaboration with Lewa and Borana Conservancies has the potential to extend our CE outreach to 32 schools across Laikipia, Meru, and Isiolo Counties. We joined a workshop for teachers to align CE with the Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). Modules covered included water conservation, waste management, and how to leverage technological tools such as PACE and ChatGPT. The Green Schools Initiative encouraged ecological curricula and sustainable resource use, promoting environmental responsibility among students and educators.



Breakout sessions during the teacher's conference organized by Borana and Lewa Conservancies ensured the participants grasped the concepts

Three Rivers Academy and Daraja Academy Outreach

LWF's partnership with Three Rivers Academy emphasized hands-on CE. Through the Nexus Dicey game and nature-based activities, students explored the interconnectedness of ecosystems and sustainable practices. Classroom sessions deepened their commitment to environmental conservation. This collaboration highlighted the importance of empowering youth as proactive conservation leaders.

We were also happy to extend our CE outreach to Daraja Academy. Their innovative educational approaches integrate environmental conservation into their school culture. Their projects, such as the Daraja Wildlife Project and organic gardening, have earned them the Green Kids Award.

Our partnership with these institutions is geared towards nurturing conservation-minded leaders, emphasizing sustainability through education.



Our team met the team from Daraja Academy to explore areas of collaboration

Schools Engaged



27 (16 with the Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs (NKCC), 7 in debates) St. Francis Girls, Kurum Secondary School, Dol Dol Boys High School, Il Polei Secondary School, Chumvi Secondary

School, Lokusero Secondary School, Dol Dol Mixed Secondary School, 3 (Three rivers Academy, Daraja Academy, Mukima Primary and Muramati Primary)

Tree Planting

10,000 indigenous and fruit trees planted with schools .



Outreach and Workshops Held

four major events (Teachers' Workshop, Community Conservation Day, Invasive Species debates, and NKCC workshop).



Partners

Leo Project, The Laikipian, Borana Conservancy, Mpala Live, FAO, NKCC, Lewa Conservancy



CLIMATE DEMOCRACY ACCELERATOR



The Climate Democracy Accelerator (CDA) project is designed to empower communities in Laikipia County to actively participate in climate governance and implement sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by climate change. This initiative primarily targeted residents of all the 15 wards in Laikipia County. We are implementing this project in collaboration with the County Government of Laikipia Climate Change Unit to establish inclusive structures, build institutional capacity, and advocate for policy changes to enhance climate resilience.

One key component of this project was facilitating citizen assemblies in all these 15 wards, where community members were provided with a platform to voice their concerns and actively engage in climate governance. These assemblies enabled participants to propose practical solutions, such as rainwater harvesting systems and sustainable land management practices, addressing pressing local needs.

To support the effective implementation of climate initiatives, the project focused on building the capacity of the Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs).

Training sessions emphasized climate policy advocacy, project management, monitoring and evaluation, and proposal writing. These efforts strengthened the committees' ability to implement and manage climate projects independently, including those under the World Bank's Financing Locally-led Climate Change (FLLoCA) program.



Participatory planning sessions were conducted in Ngobit, Mukogodo East, and Nanyuki Wards, emphasizing the importance of aligning community needs with climate resilience strategies. These training sessions also equipped participants with the skills necessary for effective project planning, monitoring, and evaluation, ensuring sustainable and impactful initiatives.

Further, the project prioritized the development of a rainwater harvesting policy brief, which was informed by comprehensive data collected from all the wards. This policy brief is designed to address acute water scarcity in Laikipia County and outlines actionable recommendations for establishing sustainable water harvesting systems countywide. Adopting this policy by the County Assembly of Laikipia will mark a significant step in addressing water security and resilience in the region.

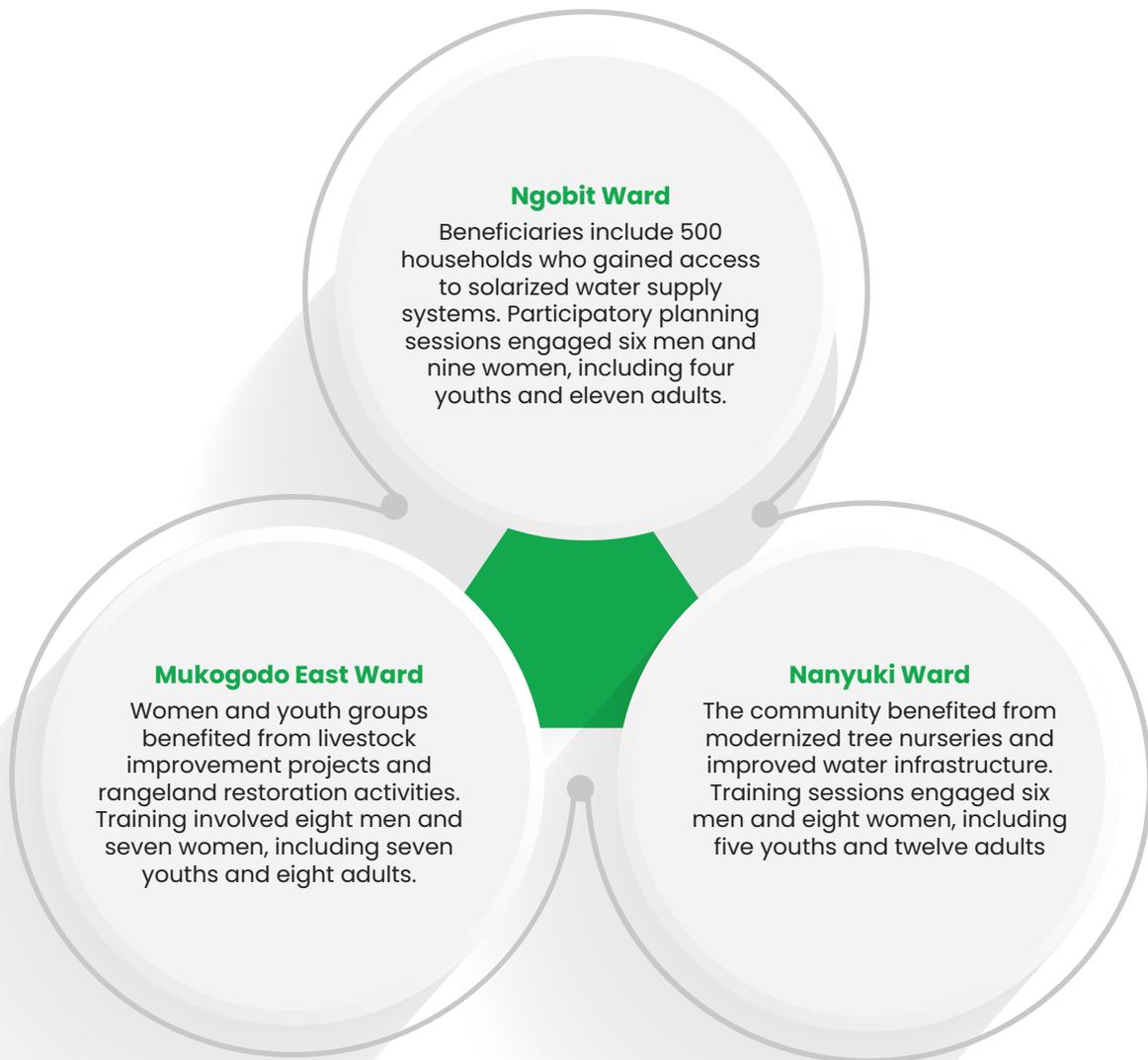
Advocacy and community empowerment were integral to the project's success. Marginalized groups, including women and youth, gained the knowledge and tools to advocate for climate-resilient initiatives, transitioning from passive observers to active climate ambassadors. This shift in community engagement fosters climate resilience and creates economic opportunities, further enhancing residents' livelihoods.

The project's sustainability was ensured through institutional capacity building, the development of actionable policy frameworks, and strategic collaborations. By training WCCPCs to secure funding and manage projects independently, the project reduced reliance on government resources. The rainwater harvesting policy brief also advises on governance in addressing water challenges. At the same time, ongoing alignment with the County Government will ensure the integration of these policies into development plans, fostering long-term impact.

Looking ahead, the project aims to extend participatory planning sessions to additional wards, advocate for human-wildlife co-existence, and promote sustainable land use practices. Plans are also underway to integrate renewable energy solutions and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) into ongoing community projects.

The CDA initiative has demonstrated that participatory planning empowers communities to address climate challenges effectively. Capacity building for local committees fosters sustainable and independent climate action, while growing community interest in such initiatives reflects a strong commitment to long-term resilience.

Ward-Level Participation and Outcomes:



These achievements highlight the transformative impact of the CDA project, underscoring the importance of inclusive and participatory approaches to climate governance.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND RESTORING LANDSCAPES

In 2024, we wrapped up a project dubbed (GEF)–Restoration Challenge Grant Platform for Smallholders and Communities, with Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding supported by Alliance Bioversity International and CIAT.

We implemented this project in August 2023 and completed implementation in June 2024.

The overall project objective was to facilitate, support, and mobilize investment in smallholder and community-led restoration of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and enhanced resilient economic development and livelihoods in support of the Bonn Challenge, AFR100, the Trillion Tree Campaign, and other international and national restoration initiatives.

During the project's first phase, we conducted a thorough stakeholder mapping to identify beneficiaries and collaborators. We later conducted an inception meeting and co-creation workshop, which were meant to sensitize the community on the project. The inception meeting also allowed the community to guide their project as they provided their input on selecting the 10 suitable species to be grown on the project site. Indigenous trees were prioritized for their adaptability to local conditions. During the inception meeting and co-creation workshop, Miti Alliance conducted hands-on training on the best tree-growing techniques and practices for a dry area to ensure the best chance of survival.



Waiyaki Wa Ng'ang'a and Joan Kinyanjui from Miti Alliance carry out a practical session on the ideal tree growing techniques

For this project, we engaged 10 community groups, seven women groups and five schools, and distributed 25,000 trees.

Some of the tree species grown included Croton megalocarpus, African olea , Red Cedar, Acacia xanthophloea, Acacia tortilis, White bottle brush, and fruit trees including Loquats, White Sapote, Guava and Avocado.



Our project involved 10 groups. Seven of these groups were Women groups

The unique aspect of this project was its incentivization component. For every tree successfully grown, community members will receive two dollars annually, disbursed as a dollar every six months.

The onboarding of community members and tree-growing was done through a mobile application called My Geo Farm. Up to 1000 community members have been onboarded and are eligible for reimbursement.

Despite the winding up of this project, we have remained in communication with the groups we worked with to ensure a smooth incentivization process and a high survival rate of their trees.

We are grateful to have worked with Alliance Bioversity International, Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Miti Alliance, and other partners. We look forward to engaging in similar restoration efforts in the near future.

LAIKIPIA TOURISM ASSOCIATION

As the curtains open for 2025, LTA reflects on the transformative journey that has enabled us to soar to greater heights. Our commitment to championing sustainable tourism in the Greater Laikipia Landscape remains solid as we endeavor to progress. 2024 was remarkable to our members and partners, who motivated us to soldier forward through membership subscription and frequent collaboration. We want to highlight some key achievements, activities, membership trends and aspirations for 2025.

To build enduring relationships and mutually beneficial partnerships with stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality industry, the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) and LTA conducted a five-day familiarization trip to nineteen facilities in Laikipia County. The trip aimed to establish connections, forge relationships and gather insights from the stakeholders on various aspects of the tourism sector, including the challenges experienced.

The deliberations aimed at identifying the current trends in tourism performance, informing decisions on marketing strategies, and forging long-lasting resolutions to challenges faced. Additionally, the facilities exchanged ideas and recommended key issues to enhance their operational services. The facilities appealed to KTB to synchronize licenses in one platform to hasten the compliance requirements.

Our partnership with the KTB continues to thrive, improving the relationship between member facilities and development stakeholders in the tourism sector.

Mt. Kenya Region Hotel Suppliers Expo at the Sportsman Arms Hotel

Apart from mobilizing members to participate in the annual Expo on behalf of the event organizer, Insight Hospitality East Africa, LTA highlighted the role and impact of hospitality in driving economic value in the Greater Laikipia Landscape. The Expo brought together hotel owners, managers, heads of departments and supervisors from hotels, camps, lodges and resorts within the region. Attendees gained impactful insights into transforming tourism and hospitality in Laikipia while exploring various products from other exhibitors.

Tourism and hospitality entities interacted with different service providers. These included those who supplied cutlery and laundry services, interior designs and other consumables in the tourism and hospitality sector. Most of the products on display were subsidized, allowing visitors to purchase a wide variety of products.



Additionally, the visits to the different booths provided a platform to learn, exchange ideas and grow in all aspects of hospitality. For LTA, it was an opportunity to meet with members while exploring opportunities for developing partnerships with players in the hospitality market. We remain committed to championing tourism and hospitality by providing and connecting entities with tools and technologies that support sustainable tourism.

We sincerely thank Insight Hospitality East Africa for organizing and collaborating with LTA in the annual Mt. Kenya Region Hotel Suppliers Expo. Stay tuned for upcoming expos and shows aimed at improving tourism and hospitality.

The Realtors Expo 2024

In conjunction with LWF, LTA participated in a three-day exhibition from 27th to 29th September at the Cedar Mall, Nanyuki. Visitors acquainted themselves with LWF and LTA, significantly benefiting the organizations through membership recruitment. A live interview with a local television station, GTN, also amplified our voice to a broad audience. The Expo brought together entities in the hospitality sector, education institutions such as schools and TVETs, fashion designers and other entrepreneurs. In addition to explaining our work, we exchanged ideas with visitors who stopped by our booth, gaining invaluable information on the current trends in tourism and factors affecting the industry.

Additionally, we displayed the Laikipia Coffee Table Books, a product of LWF that mirrors the culture and wildlife, showcasing the untamed, serene Laikipia landscape.

Our shared endeavor with Realtors Expo expresses a joint commitment to marketing tourism and hospitality industries in the Greater Laikipia Landscape.

Membership

As we dive into 2025, we carry forward the achievements and acknowledge our members' resolute collaboration and support. In the past three years, our membership trend has been 30 members compared to the previous of up to 40 members. The fluctuation has been attributed to the post-COVID-19 effects and unfavorable economic value chain that saw facilities close their doors. As facilities gradually revive their work, we are keen to ensure the association delivers the benefits set out for members by consolidating markets while revamping our membership through the ongoing membership drive to different facilities.



**WHETHER IT IS A BUSH DINNER,
LAIKIPIA OFFERS AN AUTHENTIC
EXPERIENCE IN THE WILD**

Our partnership with the KTB, Tourism Regulatory Authority and Tourism Fund reinstates our shared commitment to championing tourism and hospitality while identifying areas for improvement in the sector. Additionally, we are on the lookout for like-minded partners and stakeholders to come on board and support our mission.

To all members and development partners, we express our heartfelt gratitude for your steadfast support and look forward to building on the same momentum.

Merchandise

Are you a bibliophile, or would you like guests to explore the Greater Laikipia Landscape with every flip of the page? The Laikipia Coffee Table Book awaits you.

Adorned with spectacular photographs that flaunt the dazzling wildlife, untamed ecosystems and embedded culture of the Laikipians and beyond, the Laikipia Coffee Table Book weaves stories featuring aspects of tourism, wildlife and people. To the zealous bookworms or explorers anxious about exploring Laikipia before planning a visit, this book guides your next adventure.

In 2024, the demand for the coffee table book soared, with learners, tourists and guests visiting facilities enquiring about a copy. Due to the demand, we kicked off a campaign to stock the books at different member facilities including Ol Pejeta Conservancy. The book is also available at Juttsons Bookshop in Nanyuki Town.



Ol Pejeta Conservancy's, Juliet Guantai and James from Laikipia Tourism Association, pose for a photo when collecting the coffee table books.

Currently, our aim is to broaden its availability, especially in facilities. Our goal is to make the books available to everyone by stocking them at different outlets and entities. If you would like us to stock the Laikipia Coffee Table Books, please do not hesitate to contact us.

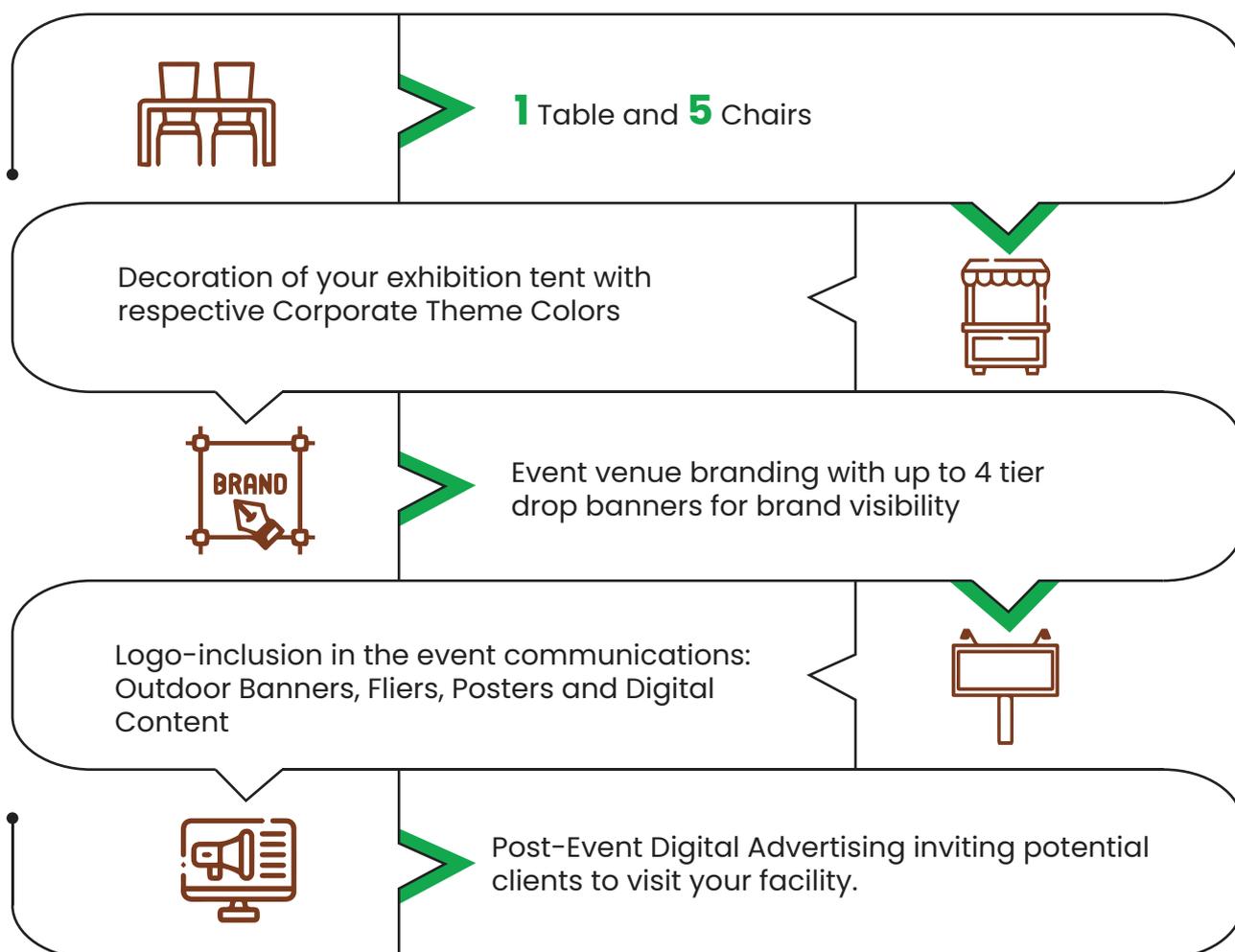
The Laikipia Wildlife and Tourism Expo 2025

Laikipia boasts a diverse range of wildlife that holds global significance, including the only remaining population of the Northern White Rhino and the Melanistic Leopard. The landscape plays a vital role in providing ecosystem services to both wildlife and people. This diverse range of wildlife has led to the establishment of conservancies, private ranches, lodges and hotels, making it a tourist hotspot.

Scheduled for March at the Nanyuki Sports Club, the Expo aims to address the networking gap among tourism, hospitality, and wildlife stakeholders. It targets to bring together members from LTA and LWF, such as tour operators, conservancies, ranches, hospitality enterprises, hotel suppliers, business entities, and government and non-governmental agencies in the tourism and wildlife sectors.

Additionally, the Expo is open to non-members, creating a pathway to join or support tourism and conservation activities. The focus of integrating non-members is to bring entrepreneurs and corporate entities on board to participate in tourism and conservation activities in collaboration with LTA and LWF.

What the Expo will provide:



The Expo is free to the public but a small fee for members and non-members who would like to exhibit.

Members: Ksh 5,000

Non-members: Ksh 10,000

We call upon all stakeholders and development partners to support and participate in the Expo, which will shape the direction of tourism in the Country.

For more information and how to book a space, kindly email us tourism@laikipia.org

Membership subscription

LTA membership is open to all tourism providers who possess a permit. The membership fee allows us to advocate for sustainable tourism practices and ensures all benefits are accrued.

LTA members pay a one-time registration fee of **Ksh 5,000** and an annual fee of **Ksh 10,000**.

Mode of payment

- 1. MPESA:** Pay Bill No 898370 Account Information: LTA (followed by your Business Name).
- 2. Bank transfer/ Deposit Account Name:** Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Account Number: 0100004071926, Bank: Stanbic Bank, Nanyuki Branch and cheques payable directly to Laikipia Wildlife Forum.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

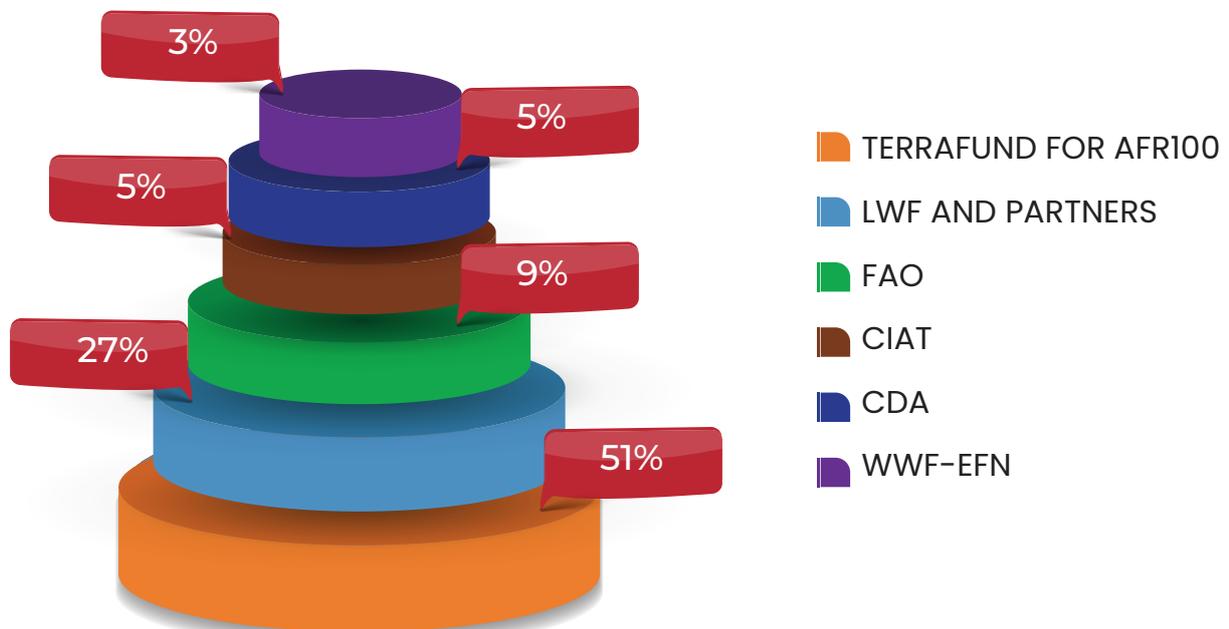
Laikipia Wildlife Forum Members

1. Sirikoi Ltd
2. Mutara Camp
3. Stephano Cheli
4. Rupert William Milvain
5. James Mwangi
6. Maryanne Kuria
7. James Njihia Gikonyo
8. Ann Powys
9. Ngusishi Water Resource Users Association
10. The Laikipian Ltd
11. Lets Go Travel
12. Dr. Romano Kiome
13. Abdi Sora
14. Charles Kiara
15. Rose Malenya
16. Wilfred Mejoli
17. Gilbert Mutembe
18. Ochen Maiyani
19. Josh Perett
20. Dr. Boniface Kiteme
21. Stanley Kirimi
22. Paul Kimiri
23. Rose Malenya
24. Anthony Ananga
25. Ilmamusi Community Forest Association
26. James Ngechu
27. Samuel Njoroge
28. Vegpro (K Ltd) - Kitawi Farm
29. Mordecai Ogada
30. Jane Njoki Kariuki
31. Fridah Karimi Gatari
32. Ruth Maingi
33. Nanyuki Green Champions
34. Kibunja James
35. Three Rivers Academy
36. Nick Day
37. Anjuan Limited
38. Martin Kimiri
39. Faith Mwaniki
40. Porini Camps
41. James Njihia
42. Andrew Njeru
43. Friedrich Loldapash
44. Christine Kolal
45. Richard and Gillian Fairburn

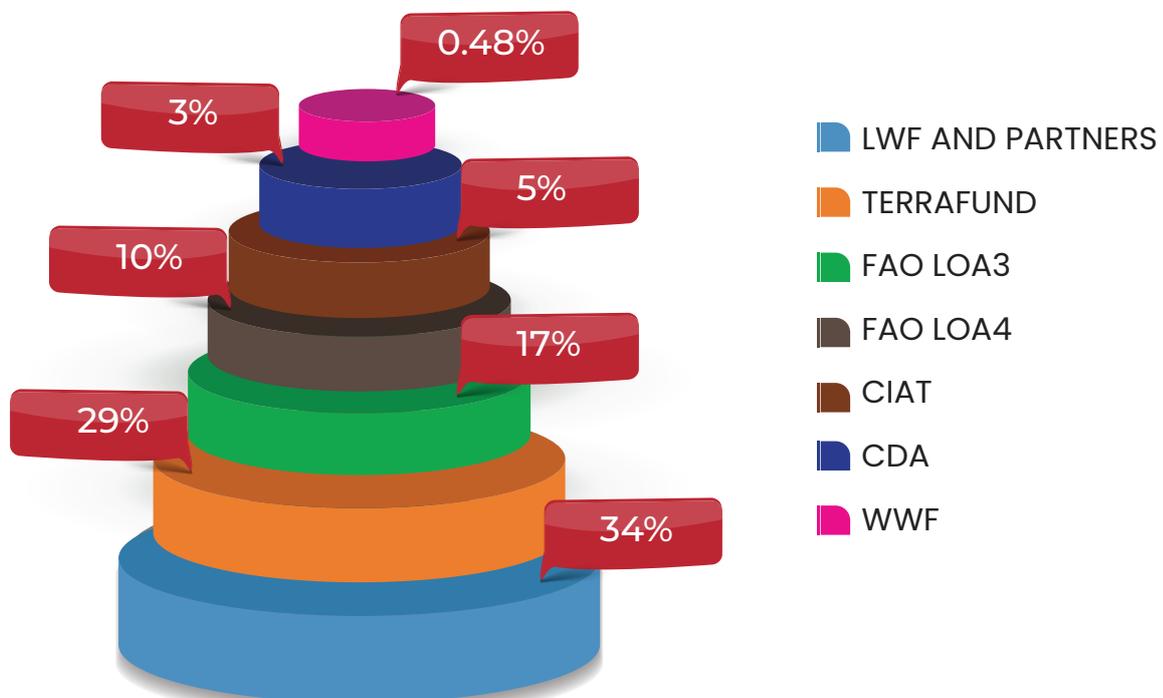
Laikipia Tourism Association Members

1. Mutara Camp
2. Sosian Lodge
3. Ol Pejeta Safari Cottages
4. Savage Wilderness
5. Kenya Treks
6. Kicheche Camp
7. El Karama Lodge
8. Sweetwaters Serena Camp
9. Rift Valley Adventures
10. Ol Bobongi House
11. Let's Go travel
12. Mukutan Conservancy
13. Soames Hotel
14. Ekorian Mugie Camp
15. Ol Pejeta Conservancy
16. Tropic Air
17. Peaks Hotel
18. Moran Lounge Nanyuki
19. Laikipia Wilderness Camp
20. Enasoit Camp
21. Olepangi Farm
22. Ol Lentille
23. Kampur Travel Diaries
24. Sangare Conservancy
25. Beisa Hotel
26. Peaks Hotel
27. Rasvine Tours & Travel
28. Sophia Rose Travel
29. Sosian Lodge
30. Cheli & Peacock Safaris
31. Karisia Walking Safaris
32. African Ascents
33. Il Ngwesi Lodge

2024 GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



EXPENDITURE





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