



Laikipia Wildlife Forum
CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Forum Focus Newsletter



Tui De Roy

Conservation in Action

Q2 Edition 2025

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My Three-Month Journey
with Laikipia Wildlife Forum

BECOME OUR MEMBER TODAY

Join us in making a difference for wildlife conservation and the restoration of our natural resources in the greater Laikipia region. As a friend, philanthropist, and well-wisher, your support is vital to the success of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum.

With your generous donation, we can continue to work towards championing for wildlife conservation and sustainable natural resources management in the greater Laikipia landscape. Your contribution, no matter the size, will help us to ensure a future where the landscapes flora and fauna thrives and flourishes. Please consider making a donation today and together, we can create a better environment for all.

Also, you can access our membership brochure using the provided QR Code and feel free to subscribe to any of the membership categories highlighted.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude that we present the Laikipia Wildlife Forum Quarter 2 Newsletter 2025. This edition captures not only our activities and milestones but also the collective effort of a community dedicated to conservation, education, and environmental resilience.

This publication reflects the dedication of our Programs team, our diligent Finance and Administration teams, and our vibrant support staff. Guided by the committed leadership of our Executive Director, Ms. Celline Achieng', this incredible team has implemented restoration efforts, awareness campaigns, and conservation education programs that are transforming both landscapes and lives in the greater Laikipia landscape.

We sincerely appreciate the support of our development partners whose contributions have been instrumental this quarter. These include the World Resources Institute through the TerraFund for AFR100 initiative, People Powered through the Climate Democracy Accelerator Project, and WWF through the Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program. The achievements of these programs and projects are detailed in this edition.

We also acknowledge and celebrate the collaboration of our private sector allies, civil society partners, and government institutions. Your continued partnership strengthens our work and increases our impact.

Most importantly, we thank our members. The Laikipia Wildlife Forum is, at its core, is a membership-driven organization. Our growing membership is both the foundation and the future of organization. We warmly invite all who are passionate about conservation and community empowerment to join us.

This newsletter is more than a publication. It is a reflection of our values, a celebration of partnerships, and a call to action for all who care about the landscapes people, environment, and wildlife. If our mission resonates with you, we welcome your support. Please reach out to us at communications@laikipia.org.

John Kiongo
Membership and Communications Officer

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



This quarter was one of a kind, with two major events that were quite outstanding. The first was the Laikipia Wildlife Forum's (LWF's) Annual General Meeting (AGM). This was our thirty-third meeting, and it was unique because we held it for the first time in our serene and ambient LWF Compound. The second was the Laikipia Wildlife and Tourism Expo 2025, which was held at the Cedar Mall in Nanyuki town. It was the first ever Expo of its kind and attracted fifty-three exhibitors from the greater Laikipia landscape and other parts of Kenya.

Our Conservation Education (CE) Programme keeps marking milestones, and indeed, for this quarter, we marked many. One was the 17th Community Conservation Day organized by our partner, the Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs (NKCC) and us (LWF), at Ewaso Comprehensive School under the theme 'Conservation is Key to Survival.' We further participated in the annual conservation educators' workshop organized by the NKCC. The third was our usual school activities through our school outreach programme. The activities were done in various schools, and they included participation in our 'Adopt-a-tree initiative', playing conservation games, particularly the Nexus Dicey, and engaging in conservation discussions. This left students both educated and entertained. The fourth are the partnerships we created to amplify our work through synergies. We have always accepted that we cannot do it all by ourselves, nor can we achieve the bigger objective alone.

As such, in this quarter, we managed to start collaborations in different aspects of CE with the Leo Project, Zeitz Foundation, TonyWild Foundation, and EcoPhilia Kenya, and look forward to reaching and impacting more schools.

I emphasized at our AGM in June 2025 that one of LWF's strengths is in building the capacity of the youth and unraveling their potential. In this regard, we held two youth cafes in partnership with the Leo Project. One was dubbed 'maji yetu: ni safi ama chafu?' translated as 'our water: is it clean or dirty?' while the other was dubbed 'Taka ni Pesa' meaning 'trash is money.' Further promotion of youth participation happened when our CE Officer, Brian Otieno, participated in a Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)-organized workshop themed 'From Science to Youth Action for Sustainable Forestry.' Prior to this, Brian had been nominated to represent Laikipia County in the African Youth for Forests (AY4F).

Further youth engagement, coupled with our collaboration with universities, saw us offer a three-month students' attachment to two students (Fatuma and Sickler) from Laikipia University. They both share their experiences herein. We further hosted Skyler White from St. Lawrence University for a one-month internship.

This quarter could not have ended much better than it did when we engaged a new partner who is using modern technology to improve conservation of the environment and natural resources. This is none other than ShoShin Innovation Hub. As we move towards signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), we look forward to applying their innovative approaches in our work for a bigger impact from a 'beginner's mind'; the meaning of ShoShin, which is a Japanese philosophy.

Ms. Celline Achieng'
Executive Director
Laikipia Wildlife Forum

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.

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

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



MARK JONES

LAIKIPIA WILDLIFE AND TOURISM EXPO 2025 CHAMPIONS CONSERVATION, TOURISM, AND COMMERCE

On 31st May 2025, the rooftop of Cedar Mall in Nanyuki transformed into a vibrant showcase of conservation, culture, and commerce as the inaugural Laikipia Wildlife and Tourism Expo took center stage. Organized by the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) in partnership with the Laikipia Tourism Association (LTA), the event brought together 53 exhibitors from across Kenya, including stakeholders from Nairobi, Baringo, Isiolo, Samburu, and beyond.

This wasn't just an exhibition, it was a statement. A bold declaration that Laikipia is ready to lead the way in redefining how tourism and conservation work hand in hand to drive local economies and protect natural heritage.

The Expo featured a rich diversity of participants: from tour operators and hospitality providers to community enterprises, conservancies, cultural groups, and youth innovators. Under the theme "Conservation Meets Commerce," exhibitors shared ideas, pitched products, and built new partnerships showcasing not only what Laikipia has to offer, but also what it stands for.

Gracing the event as Chief Guest was Madam Leah Njeri, Laikipia County's Executive Committee Member for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change. She applauded the initiative as a powerful step in aligning environmental stewardship with economic opportunity. Her remarks were echoed by the Chairman of the Board of LTA, Mr. Gilbert Mutembei, who emphasized the importance of telling Laikipia's story beyond safaris, through culture, innovation, and inclusive tourism experiences.



Ruth Njuguna of Lion Landscapes guides CECM Leah Njeri through their innovative conservation tools and approaches at their exhibition stand

What made the Expo particularly special was its energy. There was music and performance, exchange and engagement, knowledge-sharing and networking. Booths buzzed with activity as visitors interacted with displays, from wildlife tech tools and astrotourism demos to traditional beekeeping and handmade crafts. Community groups showcased the tangible benefits of conservation-linked enterprise, while hospitality players pitched packages that blend luxury with sustainability.



Expo participants join in the rhythm and color of Maa traditional dance, celebrating Laikipia's rich cultural heritage and community spirit

The event also attracted significant media coverage, with KTN, KBC, Kameme TV, and other stations highlighting the Expo's impact. Local-language segments helped carry the message deep into the communities, while digital platforms extended the event's reach, nationally. On social media, hashtags like #LaikipiaWildlifeandTourismExpo2025 captured the excitement in real time.

The Expo's success was not only in numbers, though the turnout was strong, with hundreds of attendees flowing through the venue all day, it was in the quality of connections made. Local artisans met potential buyers. Lodges discovered community-led products that align with their sustainability goals. Students engaged researchers on wildlife coexistence technologies.



Team Laikipia Wildlife Forum shares a proud moment with Chief Guest Leah Njeri, CECM for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, during the inaugural Wildlife and Tourism Expo 2025

Looking ahead, LWF and LTA plan to make the Expo an annual fixture, and one that spans multiple days. The goal is to allow even deeper engagement, more storytelling, and expanded participation. We express deep gratitude to all exhibitors, guests, and partners who contributed to the success of this inaugural edition.

The Expo's success was not only in numbers, though the turnout was strong, with hundreds of attendees flowing through the venue all day, it was in the quality of connections made.

LWF'S 33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)



LWF Chair Dr. Romano Kiome addresses members during the first ever AGM held at the LWF compound, with Executive Director Celline Achieng' on the right

The long-awaited Friday, 27th June 2025 was finally here with us! Why long-awaited? Because it was the first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) of LWF to be held within the LWF compound. The beautiful morning sunrise and the chirping of the diverse species of birds ushered in the day under the well-manicured lawns, and the beautiful canopy created by the well-maintained hedges and individual trees.

As members trickled into the compound, they were welcomed by the ambience and serenity created by this natural environment. To cap it off, they did not have to struggle to know the names of the trees that contributed to this beauty because all the tree species in the compound are now well labelled and described. The learning of species' names made them busy as they took tea while moving around the compound. Many were so excited to learn the names of trees that they interact with almost daily, yet were unaware of their names.

There was a lot of happiness and anticipation as all LWF staff worked together to ensure everything was in place. The well-erected tents hosting decorated tables and chairs exuded pomp and colour. The accurately positioned banners and registration table gave a feeling of a well-organized celebration. The Disc Jockey (DJ) made sure not to water down all this beauty and effort and crowned it all with heartwarming, themed and very entertaining music.

The meeting began as soon as the Chairman and Board members arrived. As is tradition, we started with a word of prayer followed by self-introductions. The meeting then followed the usual AGM procedure. However, we cannot write home about this unique AGM without giving the key highlights of the day. We, including the Chairman, were happy to welcome one of our former Executive Directors, Dr. Mordecai Ogada. Mordecai, as he is popularly referred to, is credited for enabling LWF to settle in this compound, having moved from the Nanyuki Airstrip. He was also impressed by the ambience!



Former Executive Director Dr. Mordecai Ogada shares his remarks during the historic AGM, reflecting on LWF's journey and growth over the years

Another key highlight was by the Chair of the Board on the progress the Forum has made over the past three years. He said that when he and the Executive Director took up leadership, LWF had declared redundancy, with staff at 50% salary reduction, had no reserve funds and was generally a coordinating body/secretariat. This changed in late 2022 when we decided to revert to implementation, and now, we are making an impact, he said. The third highlight was the diversity of members. We had multi-stakeholders, including the County Government, the National Government, Peer NGOs, local CBOs, including Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs), Community Forest Associations (CFAs), youth and women groups, other conservation groups, tourism sector players, research institutions, community and private conservancies, among others.

As the meeting ended, a relaxed and happy atmosphere could be felt as members mingled and ate their delicious lunch, also served within the compound. It was indeed a first and memorable venue-change for LWF's AGM!



TUI DE ROY

SHAPING LAIKIPIA'S RAINWATER HARVESTING POLICY

In the Arid and semi-arid lands of Laikipia, where seasons are often marked by thirst rather than rainfall, a silent revolution has been brewing, one that is changing how communities understand, engage with, and act on climate challenges.

The just concluded Climate Democracy Accelerator (CDA) project, funded by People Powered, has not only equipped communities with the tools of participatory governance but has also ignited a shared vision: water security for all.

But this is not just a story about training workshops and Ward Committee meetings. It is a story of transformation from silence to voice, from exclusion to inclusion, and from passive governance to people-powered advocacy.

The Power of Process: Crafting the Rainwater Harvesting Advocacy Brief

In April 2025, we reached a significant milestone with the final validation of Laikipia's Rainwater Harvesting Advocacy Brief. The true distinction of this brief lies not only in its technical recommendations or policy objectives, but in the inclusive and collaborative process through which it was developed.

The brief was developed with the community, by the community, through the tireless efforts of the 15 Ward Climate Change Planning Committees (WCCPCs), supported by LWF, the Laikipia Climate Change Unit, and partners such as Pathways Policy Institute, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), and the Water Resources Authority (WRA).



The Rainwater Harvesting Advocacy Brief, developed through a people-powered process with Laikipia communities, highlights local solutions to tackle water scarcity in the County

From Mukogodo to Marmanet, Salama to Sosian, WCCPC members: men, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, came together to identify the pressing issue of water scarcity and propose tangible, localized solutions. “This is the first time our voices are shaping county policy, not just receiving it,” said Madam Alice, Chairperson of WCCPC from Ngobit Ward, during the final validation session.


The process wasn’t without its challenges. At the start of CDA, most WCCPCs lacked training on climate change or their roles in the FLLoCA (Financing Locally-Led Climate Action) program. The journey ahead seemed unclear. But through intensive capacity building, participatory planning, and advocacy training, WCCPCs grew into confident leaders and advocates. They led citizen assemblies, gathered data, and co-developed action plans that would eventually feed into the advocacy brief.

From tree nurseries in Nanyuki to solarized boreholes in Githiga, and beekeeping in Mukogodo West to household water pans in Umande, every Ward told its story of innovation and resilience. These local actions formed the backbone of the policy brief, proving that community knowledge is not only valid, it is vital.

As we celebrate this milestone, LWF recognizes that building policy is only half the battle. What we need now is implementation.

We envision a second phase of this project, one that brings the advocacy brief to life through implementation of this structure and having the proper structure at the right place to be able to harvest water for the community. With your partnership, we can turn grassroots advocacy into government-backed action. We can make rainwater harvesting not just an idea, but a way of life for Laikipia.

Rain may be seasonal, but community resilience does not have to be. Let’s build a Laikipia where every drop counts, and every voice matters.



From tree nurseries in Nanyuki to solarized boreholes in Githiga, and beekeeping in Mukogodo West to household water pans in Umande, every Ward told its story of innovation and resilience.

A SEASON OF COMMUNITY-LED RESTORATION

The past quarter, we continued to implement our TerraFund for the AFR100 project. The project's story has been one of growth. Growth of partnerships, of seedlings, and community resolve to restore Laikipia's landscapes.

In April, the “Shika Adabu” area in Nanyuki (part of Nanyuki's riparian) saw over 10,000 tree seedlings planted through a joint effort by the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF), the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), local administrators, and community members. Working through the Plantation Establishment and Livelihoods Improvement Scheme (PELIS), LWF has been fostering a shared sense of ownership among community members and institutional partners. The result is not just trees in the ground, but a growing local movement committed to stewarding Laikipia's forest ecosystems.



Team LWF and members of the Kenya Defence Forces plant a seedling at the Shika Adabu site in Nanyuki

Also along the Nanyuki River, LWF partnered with the Nanyuki Green Champions and Ng'arisha Mtaa for a series of restoration activities. These included planting 3,000 indigenous seedlings and 800 bamboo seedlings over four weeks. Bamboo, particularly Giant Bamboo, plays a vital role in water purification and bank stabilisation, critical to the health of the river and its downstream users.

At the Likii River riparian area, another 10,000 seedlings were planted in April. This activity, carried out in collaboration with KDF, Kariki Farm, County government, and community groups, builds on previous restoration efforts at the site. Notably, 200 avocado seedlings were also planted as part of a broader effort to integrate livelihoods into restoration.



James Njihia, Program Assistant at LWF, during a tree planting activity at the Likii Riparian site, part of ongoing efforts to restore river ecosystems with community-led stewardship

This quarter, the majority of seedlings planted across all sites came from community-run nurseries supported by LWF. The availability of high-quality seedlings, timed with the March–April rains, was a quiet but crucial success that underpinned the season’s tree growing efforts.

Beyond the numbers, this marks a shift: restoration is increasingly being powered by the community, for the community. Groups including Nanyuki Green Champions have taken ownership using simple innovations such as “vesting” to protect young trees from livestock. The result is higher survival rates and stronger local buy-in.

In June, LWF hosted a team from the World Resources Institute (WRI) as part of a project monitoring visit. The visit focused on validating implementation progress, engaging directly with community members, and gathering insights to inform future restoration efforts. Their feedback reaffirmed the importance of LWF’s community-driven approach

Looking forward, LWF plans to complete the planting in the upcoming rainy season. Work is also underway to register our tree nurseries with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), ensuring institutional support for long-term impact.

Whether through planting, monitoring, or training, this quarter has demonstrated that restoration in Laikipia is not the work of any one actor. It’s a collective effort, built on partnerships and driven by local champions.

LWF plans to complete the planting in the upcoming rainy season

YOUTH AT THE HELM - INNOVATING FOR CLEAN WATER AND WASTE SOLUTIONS IN LAIKIPIA

LWF continues to support local community-based organizations (CBOs) and youth in raising awareness on environmental issues. With support from WWF through their Russell E. Train Education for Nature Program, LWF has inspired young people to speak out boldly for nature. Their voices, passionate, informed, and solution-oriented, have been captured and shared across social media platforms, sparking vital conversations on environmental conservation. The project also supports the Likii Water Resource Users Association (WRUA) Scouts and communities in the informal settlements of Likii and Kangaita villages in the water quality assessment using citizen science.

One of the most energizing conversations has been the “Taka Ni Pesa” (Waste is Wealth) Youth Café. This platform challenged young minds to reimagine waste not as a problem, but as an opportunity. In the informal settlements where waste management is often neglected, the Youth Café sparked innovative thinking. Ideas flowed: transforming plastic into fencing posts, converting organic waste into biogas, using glass for eco-construction, and turning discarded clothes into fashion seats and other products.



John Maigua, Coordinator of Ngarisha Mtaa, engages participants during the “Taka Ni Pesa” Youth Café, sparking conversations on turning waste into wealth. Photo Credit- Bamba Radio

Participants explored how waste can fuel livelihoods, restore dignity, and create green jobs. The message was simple yet powerful: every bottle, wrapper, or banana peel has value. Young people were not just learning about recycling; they were being empowered to lead the green economy. The event lit a fire of possibility: a movement where youth become eco-entrepreneurs, leading sustainable innovations in their communities.

Building on this energy, a second Youth Café focused on the question: “Maji Yetu: Ni Safi ama Ni Chafu?” (Is our water clean or dirty?). This gathering encouraged youth to dive deep into the state of their rivers. They explored how the flow of the river mirrors the choices made upstream, from farming practices to sanitation, from industrial waste to household dumping.



Brian Otieno, Project Officer for Conservation Education at LWF, leads the “Maji Yetu: Ni Safi ama Ni Chafu?” Youth Café, guiding youth in exploring water quality and conservation solutions.

The community shared their experiences, recognizing that while water may appear clean at the source, pollution increases downstream. Through engaging demonstrations and citizen science tools, youth learned how to assess water quality using simple but effective methods, from pH tests to biological monitoring with macroinvertebrates.

The exercise was not just technical. It was emotional. It revealed how closely people’s health and dignity are tied to water. In the informal areas, many have no access to piped water and rely on streams whose quality is rarely questioned. But here, youth took charge collecting data, sharing findings, and beginning to ask: how can we protect what gives us life?

Throughout the project, Likii WRUA scouts continued to monitor river health across seasons. Despite facing challenges such as limited equipment and support, their commitment has never wavered. Their findings, showing clear water during dry spells and spikes in contamination during rains, have helped communities understand the direct link between behavior and river health.

This story is not just about rivers and waste. It is about awakening. It is about giving young people a voice in decisions that shape their environment. It is about shifting from complaint to creativity, from pollution to purpose.

In Laikipia, the river is no longer voiceless. Youth have taken the microphone and their message is clear: Maji Yetu Jukumu letu (Our water our responsibility).

PLANTING CONSERVATION IN THE MINDS OF LAIKIPIA'S LEARNERS

When you picture the Laikipia landscape, with its roaming wildlife and rivers weaving through forested hills, it's easy to see what makes it unique. But beyond the soil and scenery, something even more powerful is quietly taking root in the minds of young learners.

This past quarter, the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) has been on a mission: not just to teach, but to inspire a generation of conservation champions. The spirit to learn more is unmistakable. From dusty playgrounds to shaded tree groves, from classrooms filled with chalkboards to games played under acacia trees, the message is spreading, conservation is no longer just science, it is a way of life.

At Brookwell Harmony School, the air buzzed with curiosity as LWF educators introduced students to the 'Adopt a Tree' initiative. Guided by Project Officer, Brian Otieno, each child was not just given a sapling; they were asked to choose it, name it, and understand it. "The right tree, at the right place, at the right time," became more than a slogan; it became a personal pledge. Discussions on indigenous, fruit, ornamental, and exotic trees turned into dreams of shaded schoolyards and cleaner air. As hands dug into the earth, trees found their new home, planted lovingly by eager young conservationists, each one a seed of hope.



Brian Otieno, Project Officer for Conservation Education at Laikipia Wildlife Forum, guides students of Brookwell Harmony Academy during a hands-on tree planting session as part of the "Adopt a Tree" initiative.

Meanwhile, the Nexus Dicey game, an innovative tool that blends fun with ecological literacy, brought to life the delicate balance between human choices and ecosystem health. Students giggled, strategized, and gasped as they realized how one bad decision could ripple across entire habitats. The game, led energetically by James Njihia, our Program Assistant, was not just a diversion; it was a revelation.



James Njihia, Program Assistant at Laikipia Wildlife Forum, engages students at Daraja Girls' Academy using the Nexus Dicey game to teach the interconnectedness of human actions and ecosystem health.

Nkandone Primary took a different route into nature's storybook. There, the wonder of wildlife took center stage. Giraffes, monkeys, fish, and lions, some drawn with crayons, others recited from A to Z, filled the classroom as students learned to classify the animal kingdom. The session, tailored to usher in World Giraffe Day, not only boosted their ecological vocabulary but stirred a deep fascination for the creatures they share their home with.

At Daraja Academy, the conversation shifted to something visible yet often ignored...plastic. Partnering with NKCC, LWF's facilitators opened the eyes of the students to the daily impact of plastic waste, unpacking the "4Rs": Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Refuse. The discussion turned global, touching on the World Environment Day and even the quirky World Monkey Day, painting a vivid picture of interconnectedness. Once again, Nexus Dicey made an appearance, played in teams this time, as students debated and acted out real-world decisions, learning the environmental cost of inaction.

With bold new partnerships in place, LWF is scaling its Conservation Education Program. In collaboration with the Zeitz Foundation, LWF will launch monthly outreach events, art and essay competitions, teacher training sessions, and mentorship programs across eight schools. It's a fusion of creativity and curriculum, of storytelling and science, aimed at turning ordinary schooldays into unforgettable conservation journeys.

Alongside TonyWild Foundation, the vision expands further, including eco-storytelling, youth-led photo and video campaigns, and on-campus reforestation projects. These efforts are designed not only to inform, but to empower. To give students tools, platforms, and the voice to advocate for the planet in their way.

And through it all, our longtime ally The Laikipian, with the ever-supportive James Ndung'u, continues to bring colour and joy to classrooms through Art 4 Conservation games, reminding us that learning about nature should never be boring; it should be beautiful.

So, as the sun sets behind the hills of Laikipia, we look forward to a new dawn, a future where children do not just learn about conservation, they live it. Every tree planted, every animal drawn, every plastic bottle reused, these are the quiet beginnings of a louder, greener



TUI DE ROY

EMPOWERING TEACHERS AT THE FOREFRONT OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation Education forms one of our key thematic areas in championing sustainability. Our commitment to nurturing and creating resilience in the students has been at the heart of our work across the Greater Laikipia Landscape.

During the August holiday, LWF participated in the annual conservation educators' workshop organized by our partners, the Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs (NKCC). The workshop brought together representatives from Laikipia North Sub-County, Ministry of Education, Conservation Educators from Loisaba Conservancy and The Peregrine Fund and teachers from 21 schools (both primary and secondary) from Laikipia East and North Constituencies. The three-day training aimed at equipping teachers with skills and practical models of integrating conservation education into the curriculum.

Despite the County being an arid and semi-arid region, schools, with the guidance of environmental club teachers, had made milestones in conserving their environment. In their respective schools, teachers briefly explained their successful models and challenges experienced in their schools.

However, amidst the challenges, the teachers had built a lasting connection between the students and the environment. Through the establishment of kitchen gardens to beekeeping, the teachers, with the help of conservation educators and well-wishers, had moulded environmentally resilient students. It was time to refresh and assess the progress of their initiatives at schools and evaluate the importance of conservation education at schools.



Ayub from Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs engages a teacher in the “Which Animal Am I?” game

Through the interactions, teachers and conservation educators were informed about the gaps from different perspectives. From the shared experiences, teachers could borrow ideas from each other to improve their environmental clubs. Key outcomes from the training included the integration of experiential learning as an ideal practical model for conservation education. The teachers highlighted that experiential learning keeps the students motivated and enhances active participation, unlike confined classroom lecturing. The founder of NKCC, Professor Dan Rubenstein, applauded the teachers' initiatives, emphasizing the connection between the environment and people and wildlife through conservation games such as The Web of Life.



Teachers participate in a group discussion to identify key topics using the NKCC curriculum

To put experiential learning into practice, teachers visited OI Pejeta Conservancy. During the trip, various aspects were used to create a deeper understanding such as safari bingo, bird watching and wildlife species identification. From this perspective, teachers identified the importance of wildlife conservation and maintaining a healthy ecosystem. To most of the teachers, this was a great experience and created a sense of ownership towards their continued efforts in spreading the conservation message.



James from the Laikipia Wildlife Forum receives a certificate for completing the training

In addition, the teachers were introduced to basic tools that are readily available to support and keep the environmental clubs vibrant at school. James from the Laikipia Wildlife Forum explained about Merlin App, a free bird identification app built for experiential learning such as a bird watching session with students. Faith Achieng' from The Peregrine Fund highlighted the role of birds of prey in the ecosystem, emphasizing the role of citizen science in Conservation Education.

Further, Loisaba Conservancy presented how art and videography can create a deeper understanding of environmental conservation in schools while building courage in the students through showcasing their talents. Mr. Noordin from the Ministry of Education, Laikipia North Sub-County, commended the role of the Conservation Education outreach program through games and competitions, urging stakeholders to collaborate.



Teachers, conservation educators, and partners pose for a photo after a successful training session

Despite the County being an arid and semi-arid region, schools, with the guidance of environmental club teachers, had made milestones in conserving their environment.

NORTHERN KENYA CONSERVATION CLUBS AND LAIKIPIA WILDLIFE FORUM LEAD VIBRANT CONSERVATION CELEBRATION



Learners perform a vibrant traditional dance celebrating culture and conservation at the 17th Community Conservation Day

Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs (NKCC) hosted the 17th Community Conservation Day in Partnership with Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) at Ewaso Comprehensive School under the theme “Conservation is Key to Survival.” The day brought together learners, teachers, conservation partners, and local community members in a vibrant celebration of environmental stewardship and youth engagement.

The event opened with a colorful and reflective Art Walk, where attendees explored classrooms transformed into galleries of student artwork. Each piece vividly portrayed the learners’ understanding of conservation, biodiversity, and sustainability, thereby proving that the voice of the youth is both creative and powerful in advocating for nature.

Following this, the program came alive with performances from various schools. Among the most memorable was a skit on waste management presented by Dol Dol Boys High School, showcasing practical conservation solutions through storytelling and humor. Other presentations included traditional songs, poems, and oral stories, all creatively woven with environmental themes and cultural pride.

A thrilling jeopardy competition between Ewaso Secondary School and Kimanjo Secondary School kept the crowd engaged, as students tackled complex questions across four categories: Habitat, Wildlife, Conservation, and other World Environmental Issues. Their thoughtful answers and clear preparation reflected the growing impact of conservation education across Laikipia schools.



Students huddle during the exciting conservation-themed Jeopardy competition

The highlight of the day was the awarding of educators, with special recognition going to Madam Agnes Santa, a dedicated teacher from Reteti Primary School. Her tireless efforts in weaving conservation into classroom learning have inspired both her students and fellow educators. Madam Santa's award was presented by Dr. Nina Wambiji of the Mpala Research Centre, accompanied by a heartfelt message from Prof. Daniel and Nancy Rubenstein, who commended her as “a beacon of environmental inspiration in rural education.”



Madam Agnes Santa of Reteti Primary School receives a special award for her outstanding dedication to integrating conservation into classroom learning during the 17th Community Conservation Day.

The program also featured remarks from the Northern Kenya Conservation Clubs (NKCC), reinforcing the importance of grassroots involvement in fostering a conservation ethic. Key partners, including Zeitz Foundation, Mpala Research Centre, Lion Landscapes, Ol Lentille, Loisaba Conservancy and other neighbouring conservancies, were acknowledged for their continued collaboration and support in safeguarding Laikipia's unique biodiversity. A total of 21 schools and clubs took part in this year's Community Conservation Day, making it one of the most inclusive and vibrant to date. These included: - Ewaso Secondary, Kimanjo Secondary, Dol Dol Boys High, Daraja Girls, Ewaso Primary, Naiperere Comprehensive, Ilmojok Secondary, Nkiorit Conservation Club, Lekiji Junior Secondary, Kutuma Mixed Secondary, Nabolo Primary, Kurum Secondary, Ilmotiok Primary, Shilor Naibor Primary School, Ol-Jogi Comprehensive, Ol-Girgir Comprehensive, Reteti Primary, Ilpolei Primary, Sherton Musul Primary, Kimanjo Comprehensive, Nkiloriti Primary.

The event concluded with closing remarks from the chief guest, who extended gratitude to all contributors, partners, and participants for their support and involvement in making the day a success.

The 17th Community Conservation Day at Ewaso Primary was not just a celebration; it was a milestone moment. Through youth-led creativity, institutional recognition, and community partnership, the event reaffirmed Laikipia's bold commitment to conservation. It proved that by equipping the next generation with knowledge, voice, and vision, we are shaping a future where both people and nature thrive. Indeed, Laikipia is raising "Guardians of Tomorrow."



The highlight of the day was the awarding of educators, with special recognition going to Madam Agnes Santa, a dedicated teacher from Reteti Primary School.

LWF JOINS NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON TREE SEED SYSTEMS



Participants at the National Learning Exchange Policy Platform pause for a group photo at Lake Naivasha Resort

From June 11th–13th, 2025, Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) was honoured to participate in the National Learning Exchange Policy Platform held at Lake Naivasha Resort. The event was convened by CIFOR-ICRAF, with the final two days co-organised in collaboration with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) as part of the Right Tree, Right Place – Seed Project (RTRP-Seed). This initiative is anchored within the Quality Tree Seed for Africa Project, under the TerraFund for AFR100.

The three-day policy dialogue brought together a wide range of restoration stakeholders from across the country, including restoration champions, civil society organisations (CSOs), and representatives from county and national government agencies. Among the key institutions present were KEFRI, KFS, KWS, FAO, KEPHIS, and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The platform offered a space to examine Kenya's evolving seed and seedling systems, surface key policy gaps, and strengthen collaborations that support inclusive and science-informed restoration.

The sessions were dynamic and engaging, comprising panel discussions, value chain mapping exercises, gallery walks, table dialogues, and a participatory “3 Whys” analysis. Central to the conversations were issues of seed quality, certification barriers, limited access to diverse indigenous species, and the need for policy harmonisation across relevant agencies.



LWF Executive Director Celline Achieng' makes a contribution during the policy dialogue session, seated alongside Amos Kingori, Secretary of Shamanek CFA, and John Kiongo of LWF

“There should be more effort to reduce the cost of certification and harmonise procedures, too many agencies and requirements make the process unnecessarily expensive.”

— Celline Achieng', Executive Director, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, quoted in Forests News

LWF was among a select group of restoration champions invited to join follow-up sessions with practitioners from policy-implementing institutions on June 12 and 13, where we had the opportunity to engage more deeply on actionable policy recommendations. During the World Café session, we also had the chance to showcase our ongoing restoration efforts, highlighting our commitment to promoting native tree species through community-based nurseries in Laikipia. These nurseries not only increase access to indigenous seedlings but also empower local communities to participate meaningfully in restoration economies.



Celline Achieng', John Kiongo and Amos Kingori present LWF's grassroots restoration efforts during the World Café session, spotlighting the role of community-based nurseries in advancing native tree species adoption.

Throughout the exchange, LWF emphasised the need for locally adapted, high-quality planting material and the importance of aligning grassroots restoration efforts with national policy frameworks. Our participation reinforced our belief that long-term success in restoration depends not only on sound science and community engagement, but also on policies that enable access, equity, and scale.

As restoration actors look ahead, LWF will continue to work alongside partners and government agencies to ensure that restoration interventions are both impactful on the ground and well-anchored in policy. We thank CIFOR-ICRAF, BGCI, and all participants for fostering a collaborative space for meaningful dialogue and joint action.

MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS TOWARDS CONSERVATION OF A GREATER SYMBOL OF THE RANGELANDS

Laikipia is endowed with key wildlife species that mainly occur outside protected areas. Most of these species are critical to the ecosystem, and their conservation through species action plans is crucial for enhancing and maintaining viable populations. Reticulated / Somali giraffe is one of the endangered species that occurs east of the Rift Valley across southern Ethiopia, northern and north-eastern Kenya, as well as the adjacent areas of southern Somalia. While the reticulated giraffes are the most abundant giraffe species in Kenya, with a population of 19,740 as per the National Wildlife Census Report 2021, their population has faced numerous challenges.

In April, we participated in a two-day workshop for the Reticulated Giraffe Range Committee. The workshop, which Kenya Wildlife Service organized in partnership with Giraffe Conservation Foundation and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, aimed to consolidate the successes achieved and build on the foundation of the 2nd edition of the National Recovery and Action Plan for Giraffe 2023- 2027. The workshop brought conservation players within the range of the reticulated giraffes in the various counties, including Laikipia, Wajir, Marsabit, Mandera, Garissa, Isiolo, Samburu and Meru in the Mountain, Eastern and Northern Conservation Areas.

Officially opening the workshop was Senior Assistant Director Madam Lucy Mwita, who called for alignment of strategies towards the conservation of giraffes through research and a multi-stakeholder approach. To achieve the goal of mitigating threats and maintaining a self-sustaining giraffe population with a multi-stakeholder approach to achieve a net-positive population growth by 2027, stakeholders called for collaboration with local communities through Community-based anti-poaching programs.



Stakeholders pose for a group photo during the Reticulated Giraffe Range Committee meeting

The stakeholders from the conservation areas gave an overview of the current conservation activities, initiatives and challenges experienced in giraffe conservation. In the Northern Conservation Area, stakeholders noted that poaching was a significant issue and a cross-border challenge, urging the KWS and County Governments to collaborate in monitoring and patrols between Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.


In addition, habitat degradation in the rangelands remains a key challenge towards conservation, as presented in the meeting. The KWS called for resilience in addressing the effects of climate change, including drought and flooding. Invasive species such as *Opuntia stricta* and *Prosopis juliflora* were key challenges highlighted in the North and Eastern part of the Reticulated Giraffe range. Key interventions from the LWF, Loisaba Conservancy, and Northern Rangelands Trust included proposed management strategies and efforts to minimize the colonization of giraffe habitats.

Dr. Aminga, KWS veterinary, highlighted the current wildlife diseases affecting reticulated giraffe, including Mange, which mostly occurs during the dry season. The disease causes sores on the giraffes' mouths and skin. Veterinarians are currently carrying out research to determine whether the disease is endemic to Wajir County. He reinstated the role of veterinarians in responding to wildlife injuries and rescue, calling for adequate support from the stakeholders.

In his presentation, Dr. Muneza from Giraffe Conservation Foundation emphasized Kenya's unique giraffe taxonomy and heritage, highlighting the milestones made towards their conservation that have led to a 20% increase from 2025. However, stakeholders were urged to harmonize the data on giraffe population and mortality, preferably through a giraffe mortality database, to enhance data recording and track the population of giraffes. Capacity building the rangers and local community scouts through tools and technology, such as Earth Ranger, was a key step towards monitoring and evaluation.

Key outcomes for the workshop were the development of key activities and highlighting challenges that need intervention within each strategic objective outlined in the National Recovery and Action Plan for 2023-2027. Additionally, the stakeholders developed a threat matrix analysis proposing priority activities. Stakeholders agreed to conduct more outreach through conservation education programs and to observe World Giraffe Day, commemorated annually on 21st June.

LWF is proud to have participated and given recommendations to the committee towards enhancing a viable population of giraffes through habitat restoration and conservation education awareness campaigns at schools and communities.



Most of these species are critical to the ecosystem, and their conservation through species action plans is crucial for enhancing and maintaining viable populations

FROM LAIKIPIA TO KITUI: A JOURNEY OF YOUTH, FORESTS AND FUTURE

When I received the news that I had been nominated to represent Laikipia County in a national youth workshop on sustainable forestry, I felt a surge of excitement and responsibility. As the Project Officer for Conservation Education at Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF), I have always believed in the power of young people to shape the future of our environment. Now, I had the opportunity to walk the talk on a national stage.

The workshop, themed “From Science to Youth Action for Sustainable Forestry,” took place from April 28th to 30th at the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) Regional Centre in Kitui. It brought together 20 passionate youth, one from each County, under the African Youth 4 Forests (AY4F) initiative, a powerful collaboration led by the African Forest Forum, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), and KEFRI.



Brian Otieno joins a fellow participant in planting a tree during the National Youth Workshop on Sustainable Forestry at KEFRI's Regional Centre in Kitui

From the moment we arrived, the atmosphere was electric with ideas, passion, and shared purpose. We were welcomed with opening remarks from key institutions, setting the stage for what would become a transformative experience. We began with sketch mapping exercises, identifying forest threats and opportunities across Kenya. It was humbling to hear from peers about the challenges they faced and the innovations they were leading in their regions.

The days that followed were a whirlwind of learning and inspiration. We visited KEFRI nurseries, where we learned about sustainable propagation and entrepreneurship. We walked through *Melia volkensii* plantations, discussing dryland forestry and tree improvement trials. We explored seed production units and agroforestry systems, talking about grafting techniques, bamboo, aloe, and neem as future-ready options. Every site visit sparked new questions and ignited new ideas.

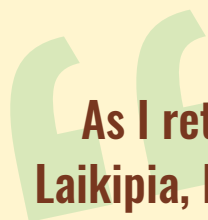
The innovation labs were particularly energizing. In small teams, we brainstormed business models rooted in sustainability. Ideas like the Taka Pay App for waste collection, the Adopt-a-Tree initiative, and using recycled carwash water for nurseries were not just theoretical; they were practical solutions we could take home and start piloting.

What stood out most for me was the sense of shared vision. On the final day, we engaged in policy simulations and advocacy training, building up to the presentation of the Kenya Youth Declaration on Sustainable Forestry. This declaration, co-created by us, will eventually be merged with others from across Africa and presented at COP30 in Brazil. Knowing that our voices will echo in such a global space gave me hope and a renewed sense of duty.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of LWF. This experience reaffirmed that our organization does not just talk about empowering youth, it actively creates space for us to grow, lead, and represent. Whether it is through mentorship, opportunities for field learning, or platforms like this, LWF continues to nurture a new generation of conservation leaders.

As I returned home to Laikipia, I brought with me more than just notes and contacts, I carried a vision, refined and inspired by peers from across the Country. I am more determined than ever to turn science into action, ideas into solutions, and dreams into greener, more resilient landscapes.

The future of our forests is in our hands. And thanks to spaces such as the AY4F workshop and institutions such as LWF, which have always given these opportunities to youth.



As I returned home to Laikipia, I brought with me more than just notes and contacts, I carried a vision, refined and inspired by peers from across the Country

UPCOMING TECH PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LWF AND SHOSHIN INNOVATION HUB



Celline Achieng', Executive Director of Laikipia Wildlife Forum, with Ms. Juliana Baraka, Head of Programs at Shoshin Innovation Hub, during a partnership meeting in Nairobi on 30th June 2025

In LWF's continued effort to establish partnerships and create synergies, Celline visited Shoshin Innovation Hub in Nairobi on 30th June 2025 and held fruitful discussions with Ms. Juliana Baraka, the Head of Programs. Shoshin is a Japanese word translated in English as 'a beginner's mind.' It is about innovations that start small and eventually become significant and impactful. It is indeed an Impact Hub.

Shoshin's key pillars are: Agri Tech, Climate Tech, and Blue Tech, while the technologies they use include IoT and robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and Web3. For LWF, our interest was in Climate Tech as much as we appreciate the nexus among the three 'Techs.' To this end, we discussed the three components of Climate Tech, which include Carbon Credits, Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Mitigation, and AFR100.

As much as LWF relates to all three, our discussion revolved around our previous and ongoing work, which includes HWC Mitigation and the AFR100 & REDD+ Technology support. We both identified strong alignment in these two spheres. We agreed to explore using HWC mitigation technology to: scout and assess target areas, mobilize local communities, and support capacity building initiatives. It was further agreed that elephant sensors (used in HWC mitigation) will help identify suitable reforestation areas. Ultimately, we both agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and co-develop a concept note focusing on HWC Mitigation, AFR100, and community education around carbon credits.



**Shoshin is a Japanese word translated in
English as 'a beginner's mind'**

BUILDING A BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH LAIKIPIA TOURISM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

As the Laikipia Tourism Association (LTA), we believe in creating a lasting impact on our members by enhancing their operations. Tourism and hospitality industries are among the key drivers of the Greater Laikipia landscape's economy. Among the key benefits to our members is to enhance their operations and position them on a global scale.

Over the years, we have enhanced our members' work through marketing and providing them with skilled labour personnel for the industry. As we stride forward towards championing sustainable tourism, we are keen to align our work with our members' objectives. We are committed to maximizing the potential of our members as either a key tourist attraction, a reliable tour operator/travel agency, and curating the best hospitality experiences.

In June, we carried out courtesy visits to some of the members in parts of Laikipia, Nyeri, and Meru Counties. We visited some of the newly subscribed members to understand their work and highlight our significance as an association of tourism and hospitality providers. We aimed to determine their operational progress and highlight challenges that required our intervention.



From left: Emmanuel Obuchere of Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Edward Wangechi of Olepangi Farm, and James Njihia of the Laikipia Tourism Association

We noted key challenges including delay in license renewal, which, through our partnership with Tourism Regulatory Authority (TRA), we were able to present to them and provide solutions to our members. This not only safeguards the integrity of our members but also enhances their operational management by fulfilling the legal requirements.

In addition, we awarded certificates of appreciation to the members for their support during the Laikipia Wildlife and Tourism Expo 2025. We also gathered their feedback towards enhancing their visibility through events and linking them with key players in the tourism and hospitality market. Stakeholders called for more collaboration and for access to key tools and technologies to enhance efficiency across various aspects of their work.



James Njihia of the Laikipia Tourism Association presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. John Njiru, General Manager of Tha Nickolee Hotel, in recognition of the hotel's participation in the Laikipia Wildlife and Tourism Expo 2025

James Njihia of the Laikipia Tourism Association presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. John Njiru, General Manager of Tha Nickolee Hotel



James Njihia presents the Laikipia Coffee Table Book to Esiankiki Resort and Spa

Keen on determining how LTA can walk together in your journey of tourism and hospitality? Feel free to reach out to us via email: tourism@laikipia.org or call us directly via Telephone: 0726500260.



TUI DE ROY

“PLASTIC POLLUTION ENDS WITH ME”: LAIKIPIA MARKS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2025

Laikipia County hosted the County celebration for the World Environment Day on June 5th, 2025, at Likii Mixed Secondary in Nanyuki, Laikipia East sub-county. This year's event, themed “Ending Plastic Pollution,” highlighted the importance of Environmental Conservation and Waste Management and the dire need to reduce plastic waste pollution.

The event was vibrant and graced by notable dignitaries, including Honourable Governor Joshua Irungu and County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Madam Leah Njeri, NEMA County Director of Environment, Madam Sarah Waruo and Chief Officer for Environment, Mr. Stephen Lapian, among others.



Madam Leah Njeri, CECM for Water, Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, and Marima Lilau of the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) collect waste during the World Environment Day clean-up in Nanyuki.

Other Stakeholders present included representatives from the LWF, Three Rivers Academy, Equity Bank, Mazingira recyclers, KENWRUA, SIRIMA Tree Planting CBO, Laikipia Skills and Talent Institute, Pioneer Child Development Program, IMPACT Kenya, Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA), NAWASCO, Likii Secondary School, KDF, KWS, IPSIA, Red Cross, KFS, Dedan Kimathi Foundation, among others.



Laikipia County Governor Joshua Irungu addresses participants during the World Environment Day celebrations at Likii Mixed Secondary School.

Participants engaged in hands-on activities like collecting waste from the Petrol Station near the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Nanyuki, to Likii Secondary School. The event featured speeches and presentations highlighting the impacts of plastic pollution and the importance of reducing our reliance on single-use plastics. Mazingira recyclers shared their local initiatives and innovations in recycling by making poles using melted plastic. Speeches from Madam Sarah and Madam Leah called on everyone to adopt sustainable practices anchored on the powerful theme “Plastic Pollution Ends with Me.”

This event aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of plastic waste. The governor emphasized the importance of individual and community action in tackling plastic pollution. In a nutshell, LWF joined the community in celebrating the World Environment Day, which resonated deeply with our mission to protect Laikipia’s unique ecosystem. As we move forward, LWF remains committed to reducing plastic waste and ensuring a healthy environment for both wildlife and people in Laikipia.



Fatuma Rashid of Laikipia Wildlife Forum works alongside a KWS ranger during the waste collection drive to mark the World Environment Day.

In conclusion, as we reflect on World Environment Day, let's remember that the fight against plastic pollution is an ongoing effort. Every small action counts, whether it is from reducing our plastic use to supporting initiatives like those by Mazingira Recyclers and others. Together, we can protect Laikipia's precious Environment and ensure a cleaner, healthier future for all.

In a nutshell, LWF joined the community in celebrating the World Environment Day, which resonated deeply with our mission to protect Laikipia's unique ecosystem

A TRANSFORMATIVE ATTACHMENT AT LWF – FATUMA RASHID

My industrial attachment at Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) was a life-shaping experience that deepened my understanding of the intricate relationship between conservation and community development. As a Bachelor of Science student in Community Development at Laikipia University, I was privileged to be part of an organization that not only protects natural ecosystems but also empowers the communities that depend on them.

Throughout the attachment period, I was actively involved in conservation education, a core component of LWF's outreach efforts. This role allowed me to visit several primary schools, where we engaged learners in interactive sessions on environmental awareness through conservation education. We covered essential topics such as wildlife conservation, waste management, and also engaged in tree planting activities. We also visited several school such as Doldol Boys, in collaboration with Dedan Kimathi Foundation. The curiosity and enthusiasm of the learners we interacted with was incredibly inspiring, affirming that early education plays a powerful role in nurturing responsible and environmentally conscious generations.



Fatuma Rashid, an attachée at Laikipia Wildlife Forum, joins Daraja Academy students during a conservation education session on environmental awareness

I participated in water quality assessment, which helped monitor and evaluate the health of local water sources crucial for drinking, farming and livestock. This taught me how human practices such as poor waste disposal contribute to pollution, impacting not only ecosystems but also community well-being and livelihoods. This experience highlighted the urgent need for improved water governance, community sensitization and practical interventions to protect our shared resource.

Additionally, my involvement in World Environment Day and the 17th Community Conservation Day connected me to a broader global environmental change movement, reinforcing that local actions contribute to global change. During my attachment, I witnessed conservation challenges including climate pressures and habitat loss, but also the hope and resilience of communities ready to protect their environment with empowerment and support. This experience enhanced my skills in teamwork and environmental education, solidifying my belief that actual change begins at the grassroots level. I am now committed to a career where community empowerment and conservation are integrated, understanding that one cannot thrive without the other.

MY THREE-MONTH JOURNEY WITH LAIKIPIA WILDLIFE FORUM – SICKLER AKAKA

I undertook a three-month educational attachment at Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) from 12th May to 31st July 2025 as part of my Community Development course at Laikipia University. During this period, I gained hands-on experience through various activities such as field excursions, tree planting initiatives, conservation education programs, and report writing. Some of the notable activities I participated in at LWF include:

Tree Planting at Doldol

We had tree planting sessions hosted by Dedan Kimathi Foundation in partnership with LWF on 21st May 2025 around Doldol. We planted over 800 trees. We also had different stakeholders, including the Chief Officer of Environment, Tourism, and Natural Resources, Mr. Stephen Lapian, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), a team from Ng'arisha Mtaa and the area chief.

The schools that we coordinated with during the session included: Dol Dol Primary School, One More Day Rescue Centre, St Francis Girls' High School and Dol Dol Boys High School. Our collaboration with these schools and the area Catholic Church for community involvement has left a lasting impact on the Dol Dol community.

I am incredibly grateful to the LWF for the chance to join the Doldol field trip in Partnership with Dedan Kimathi Foundation. It was a truly eye-opening experience that not only helped me grow but also inspired me to continue contributing to such initiatives. Planting trees at various schools and the church brought home the importance of teamwork and getting involved with the community, aligning with my course.



Tree planting activity at Dol Dol Boys High School

Conservation Education

As part of our Conservation Education program, we visited several schools, including Nkandone Primary School, Daraja Academy, Mukima Primary School, Shilo Naibor Primary School, Lairagwan Primary School, Muramati Primary School, and Brookwell Harmony Academy, to teach students the importance of conserving our environment for its sustainability.

At Nkandone Primary School and Daraja Academy, we used the interactive Nexus Dicey game to teach students about the interconnectedness of ecosystems. The students loved it, and it sparked great discussions about how their actions can have both positive and negative effects on the environment. At Brookwell Harmony Academy, we also used the Nexus Dicey game and planted trees with the students and teachers.

We also partnered with the Leo Project at Shilo Naibor, Lairagwan, Mukima and Muramati schools. Together, we used the Nexus Dicey game to explore the positive and negative impacts of different actions on the environment. In all the schools, we had interactive sessions using charts and the Nexus Dicey game. The students rolled the dice to play the game, hence understanding the positive and negative actions affecting the environment. We are proud of the students' enthusiasm and commitment to making a difference to the environment.

In conclusion, conservation education is vital for our future. By engaging young minds through innovative tools like the Nexus Dicey game and hands-on experiences like tree growing, we can inspire a generation of environmental stewards. Let's work together to make a lasting impact on our planet.



Conservation Education session at Muramati Comprehensive School



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



4TH EDITION
4.10.2025
MUKOGODO FOREST

**ONE STEP
ONE TREE
ONE LANDSCAPE**

- 10 Km Walk through the majestic Mukogodo Forest
- Raise funds to protect one of East Africa's remaining dryland forests.
- A fun day to interact, spend time with family and network while enjoying nature

Meeting Point: Sieku Primary School
Time: 8:30am



Ksh. 2000
Per Person

Comes with a t-shirt, water during the walk and snacks after the walk.

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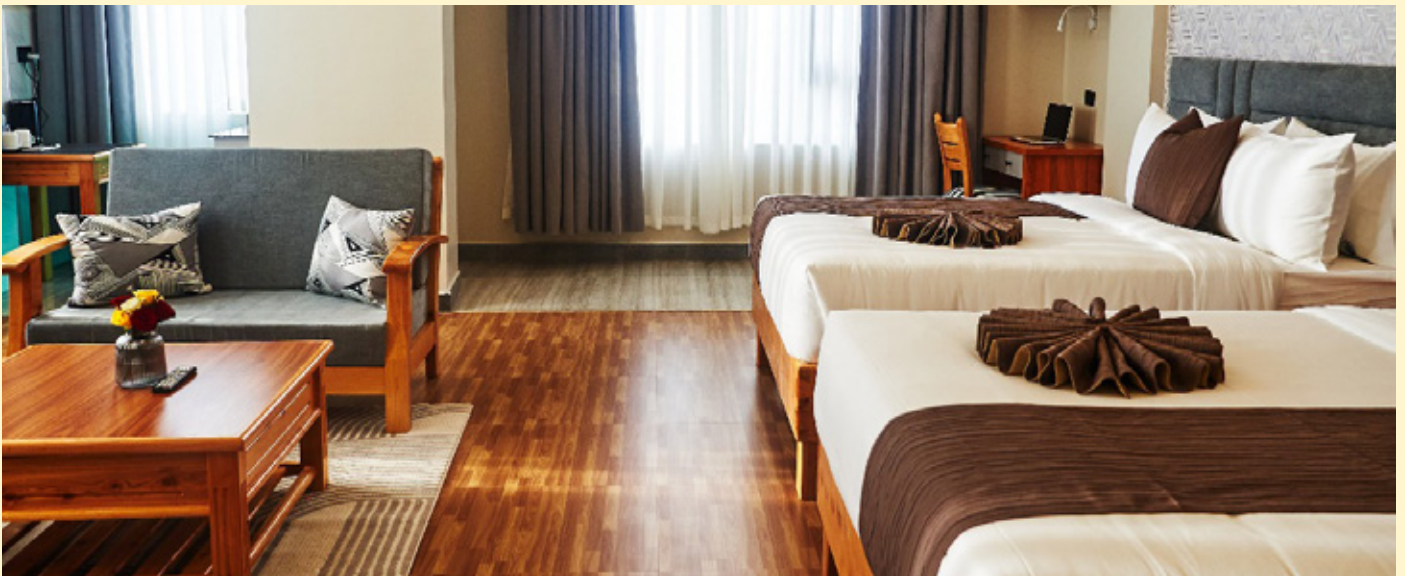


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