

# MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST



IMPACT  
REPORT

20  
20





# FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friend,

Reporting on 2020 is a challenge.

I feel it is inappropriate to talk about our conservation, education and health efforts in the Tsavo Amboseli ecosystem, without first mentioning the tragedy which has hit the World, and the USA in particular.

My family has lost very close members to Covid-19 (Antonella's dad and aunt). The United States had more deaths by Covid in 2020 than during the whole World War II. So my first words are for the ones of you who have lost friends, family members, colleagues to this crazy pandemic. We mourn with you.

Kuku Group Ranch has lost members to Covid and we are super alert to avoid further loss of lives. Hopefully a vaccine will also be available for us Kenyans.

Meanwhile we keep doing what we love: protecting Nature and the people living in it. It is harder, with less funds; it is more challenging, as we cannot have the community meetings we are used to having.

Unemployment and the related impoverishment of so many Kenyans, paired with less patrols by our rangers, have led to an increase of wildlife crimes, but overall MWCT has been able to do its job well. You will see in the report that our statistics are surprisingly good, given the circumstances.

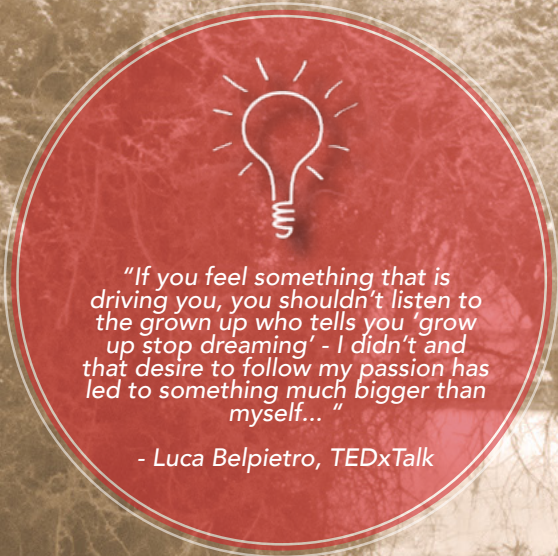
Let's hope 2021 will bring to all of the World a vaccine and that tourism will be re-opening, so that MWCT programs could be re-established to their full strength.

It is in moments like this that one appreciates the true meaning of the support and help received. We are so immensely thankful for what our funders and supporters have been able to do in these dire circumstances. And proud of what we have been able to deliver with those funds.

We thank all our employees, for having worked harder than before, for much less than their usual salary.

Let's sail through this storm together. Sunshine will return.  
Till then, let's be safe and stay healthy. That is what matters most.

My very best,  
Luca Belpietro



"If you feel something that is driving you, you shouldn't listen to the grown up who tells you 'grow up stop dreaming' - I didn't and that desire to follow my passion has led to something much bigger than myself..."

- Luca Belpietro, TEDxTalk

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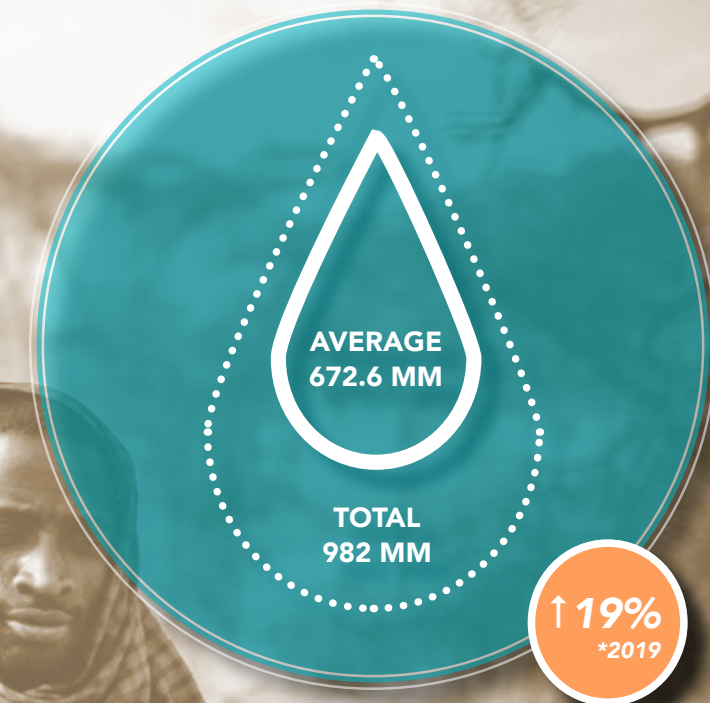
### LIVELIHOODS

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### RAINFALL

**PASSIONATELY WORKING TO  
PROVE THAT NURTURING WILDLIFE  
AND THEIR ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS  
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY  
AS A WHOLE**

**MWCT NATURE  
WORKS**



## WILDLIFE & HABITAT PROTECTION

### RANGER PATROL



**179**  
Rangers



**SMART & Cybertracker**  
Data Collection Trained



**14**  
Sectors



**6-8**  
Rangers per sector



**104**  
Dedicated Rangers  
to Kuku Group Ranch



**33,272**  
Total kilometers on foot  
↓ 16%  
\*2019



**283K**  
Acres Protected



**2,148**  
Anti-Poaching patrols  
↓ 56%  
\*2019

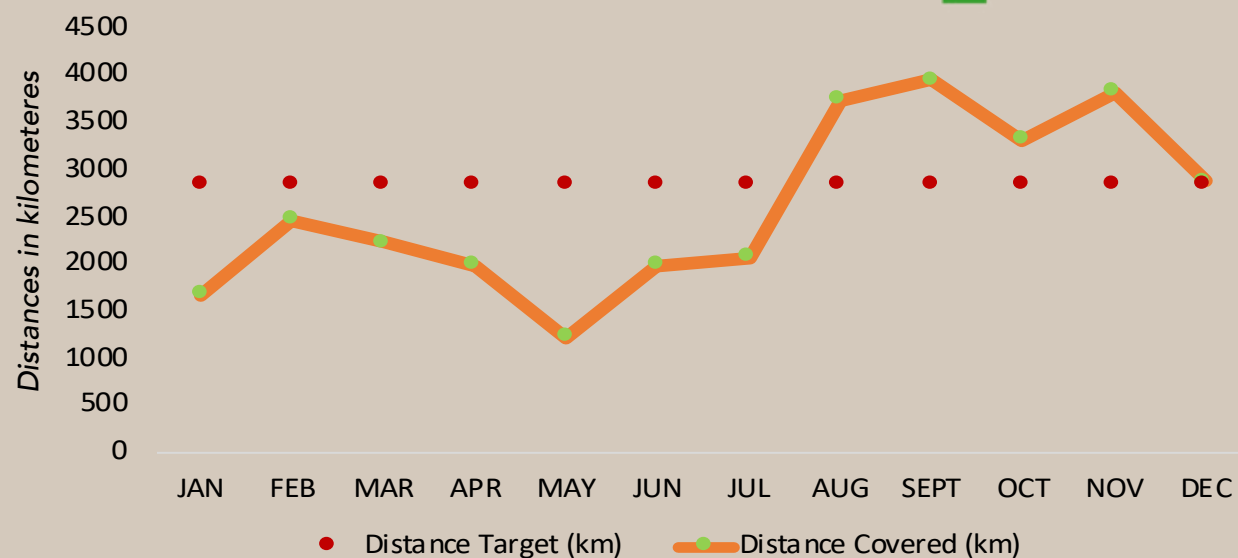
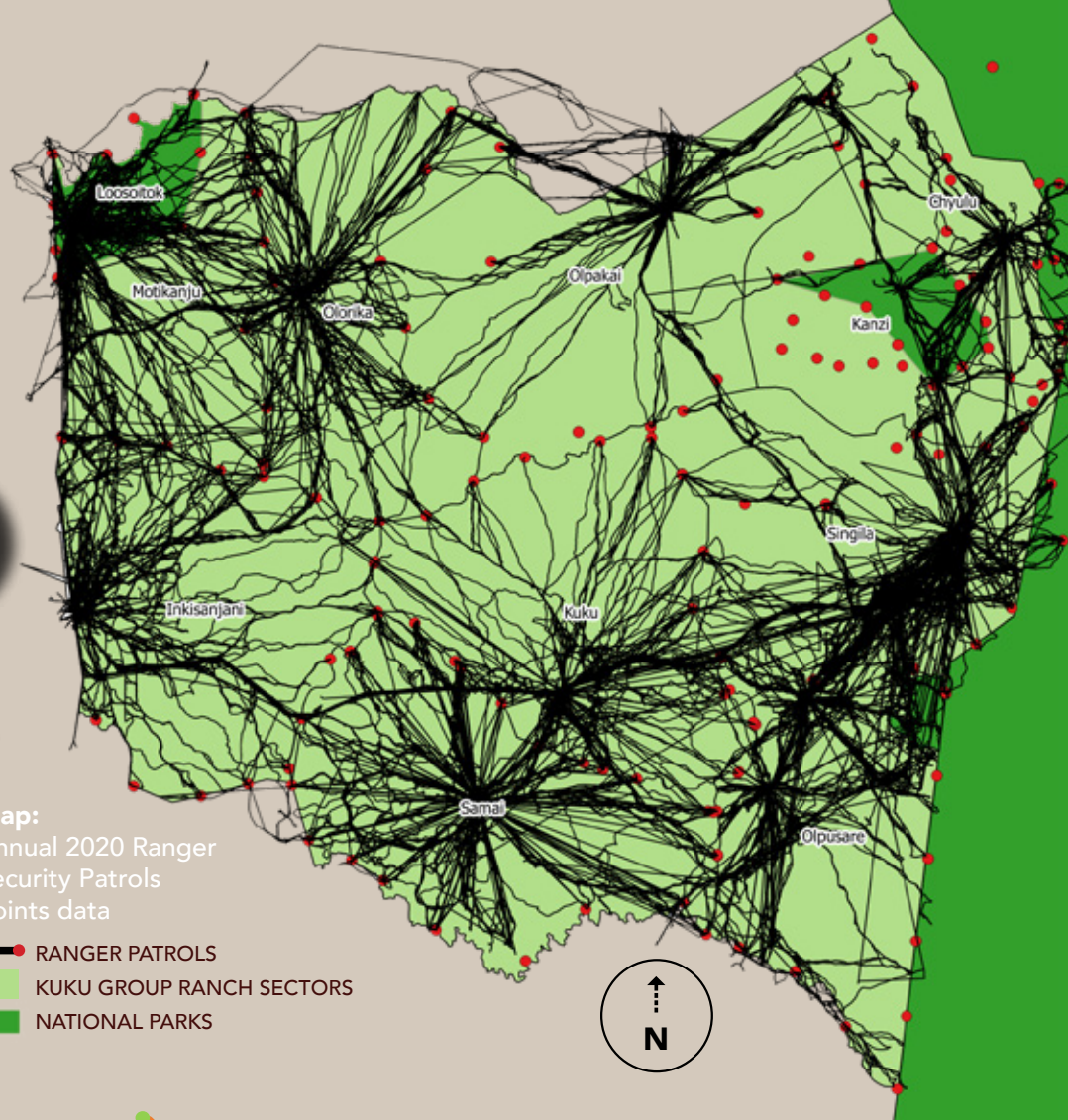


**48**  
Rangers trained in bush  
craft in-house & KWS  
(Kenya Wildlife Service)  
Manyani Law Enforcement  
Academy

Map:

Annual 2020 Ranger  
Security Patrols  
points data

● RANGER PATROLS  
■ KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS  
■ NATIONAL PARKS



Graph:

Annual 2020 Sector Ranger Patrols distances vs targets.  
Targets differ depending on sector size.

2020 has been a hard year for MWCT rangers and for data collection. Covid-19 forced our team to initially reduce operations as we all re-imagined a new "normal" and the implementation of stringent social distancing measures. This resulted in a decreased number of patrol coverage for the first half of the year. Furthermore the introduction of a new SMART update and unfortunate technological failures caused a significant data loss.

**12,450 ACRES**  
**HIGH VALUE**  
**CONSERVANCIES**  
**PROTECTED:**

**MOTIKANJU + KANZI + OLPUSARE**  
FOREST, GRASSLAND & CRITICAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

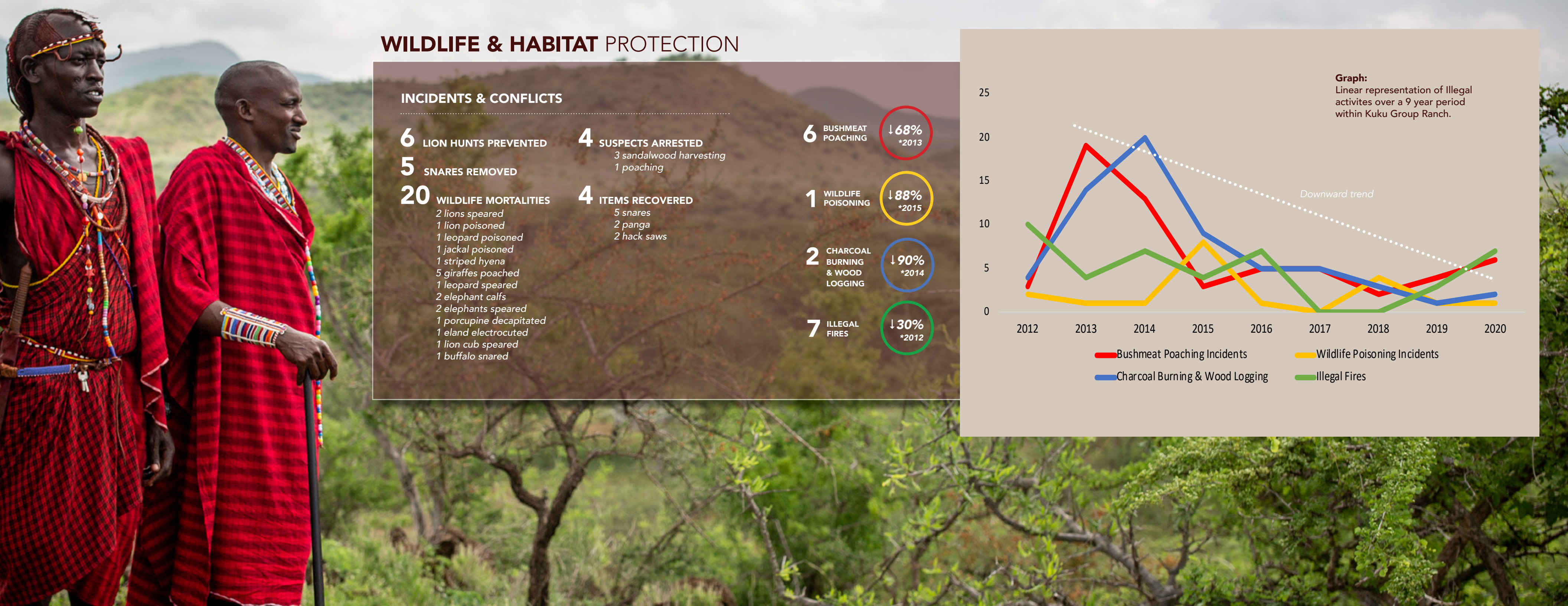
NO GRAZING  
NO POACHING  
HIGH LAW ENFORCEMENT  
PROTECTED BY **37 RANGERS**

**13,299**  
TOTAL KM FOOT  
PATROL OF ALL  
CONSERVANCIES

↑ 84%  
\*2019







# WILDLIFE & HABITAT PROTECTION

## INCIDENTS & CONFLICTS

**6** LION HUNTS PREVENTED

**5** SNARES REMOVED

**20** WILDLIFE MORTALITIES  
2 lions speared  
1 lion poisoned  
1 leopard poisoned  
1 jackal poisoned  
1 striped hyena  
5 giraffes poached  
1 leopard speared  
2 elephant calves  
2 elephants speared  
1 porcupine decapitated  
1 eland electrocuted  
1 lion cub speared  
1 buffalo snared

**4** SUSPECTS ARRESTED  
3 sandalwood harvesting  
1 poaching

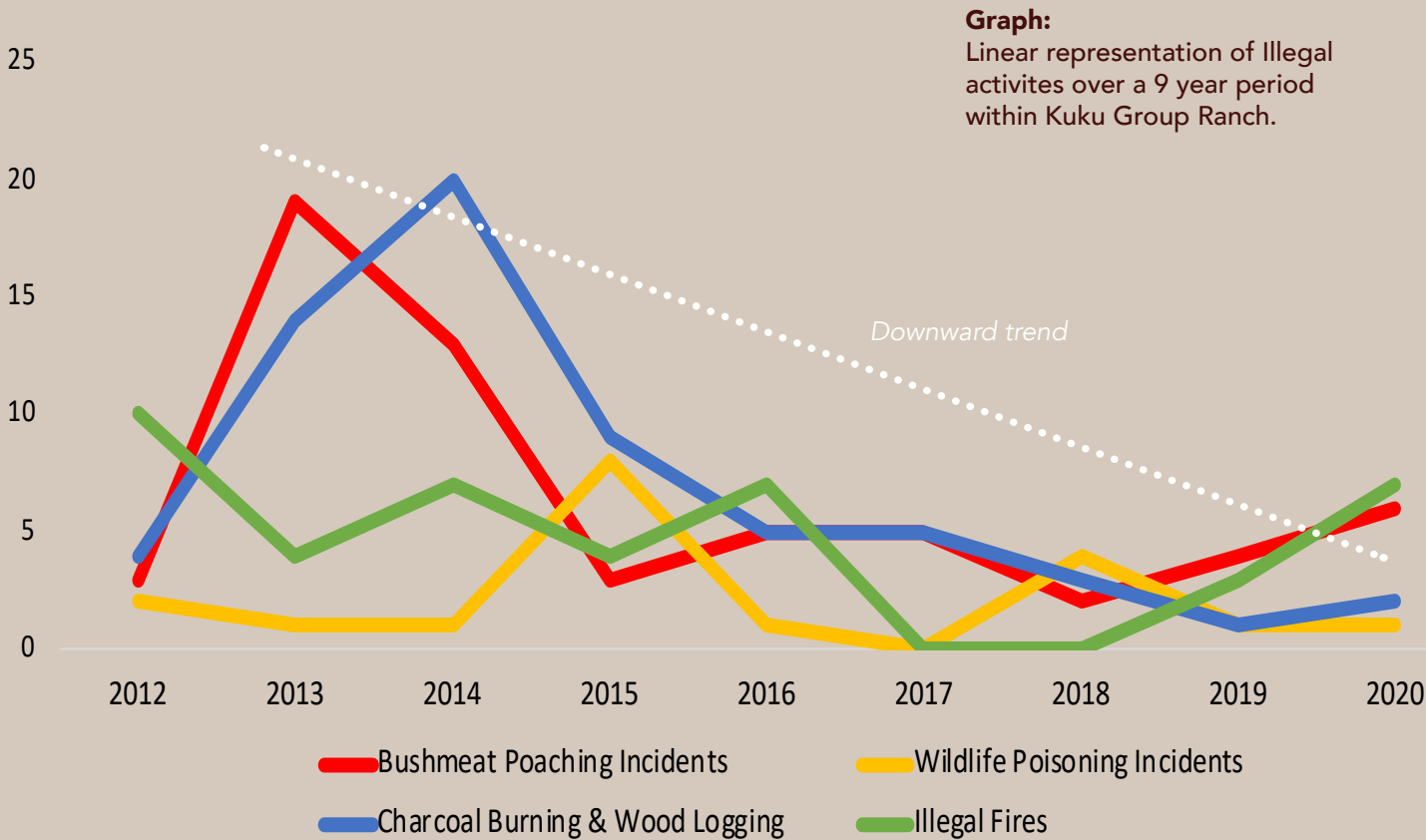
**4** ITEMS RECOVERED  
5 snares  
2 panga  
2 hack saws

**6** BUSHMEAT POACHING  
↓ **68%**  
\*2013

**1** WILDLIFE POISONING  
↓ **88%**  
\*2015

**2** CHARCOAL BURNING & WOOD LOGGING  
↓ **90%**  
\*2014

**7** ILLEGAL FIRES  
↓ **30%**  
\*2012





# INCIDENTS & CONFLICTS

## KEY NOTES

<b>JAN 5th</b> <i>Oltiasika</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Lion speared Incident was classified as self defense	<b>JUN 12th</b> <i>Centre</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Striped Hyena Drowned / Found by rangers	<b>JUL 27th</b> <i>Langata</i> <i>Lion Hunt prevented</i>	<b>AUG 19th</b> <i>Samai</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Porcupine decapitated Found by rangers / Suspected for local traditional witchcraft rituals	<b>AUG 24th</b> <i>Olpusare</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Eland electrocuted Found entangled within live fence	<b>SEPT 17th</b> <i>Oltiasika</i> <i>Elephant Conflict</i> 1 Elephant broke water project MWCT redirected the elephant and fixed the damaged to the community water project	<b>OCT 25 - 29th</b> <i>Western Kuku</i> <i>Rapid Unit Operation</i> A herd of elephants were safely redirected away from farms	<b>NOV 26th</b> <i>Olorika</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> <b>1 Giraffe poached</b> Investigation ongoing
<b>JAN 27th</b> <i>Ittilal</i> <i>Lion Hunt prevented</i>	<b>JUN 17th</b> <i>Enkaroni</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> <b>1 Giraffe poached</b> Investigation ongoing	<b>AUG 8th</b> <i>Chyulu National Park</i> <i>Wildfire</i> MWCT Rangers deployed	<b>AUG 20th</b> <i>Enkaroni</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> <b>1 Giraffe poached</b> 3 Poachers identified 2 Motorbikes recovered Investigation ongoing	<b>AUG 26th</b> <i>Matura, Mbirikani</i> <i>Injured Wildlife</i> 1 Elephant wounded by spear on flank Found by Rangers / Kenya Willdife Service informed / ongoing operation	<b>SEPT 17th</b> <i>Samai</i> <i>Giraffe Conflict</i> A young boy from the community sustained minor injuries from a giraffe / MWCT assisted his family	<b>NOV 7th</b> <i>Samai</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> <b>1 Giraffe poached</b> 1 snare recovered / Investigation ongoing	<b>DEC 14 - 31st</b> <i>Enkii, Enkusero &amp; Olpusare</i> <i>Rapid Unit Operation</i> <b>40 Charcoal kilns destroyed</b> MWCT Rangers redirected elephantsaway from farms
<b>FEB 15th</b> <i>Chyulu National Park</i> <i>Illegal Logging</i> <i>Sandalwood Harvesting</i> 3 suspects arrested Fined 300,000 ksh each	<b>JUN 21st</b> <i>Inkisanjani</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Leopard speared 1 herder arrested and released for being underage	<b>AUG 10th</b> <i>Olorika</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Elephant speared Retaliatory spearing for crop-raiding 2 Tusks recovered (approx. 9kg each)	<b>AUG 20th</b> <i>Langata</i> <i>Lion Hunt prevented</i>	<b>AUG 30th</b> <i>Kanzi Conservancy</i> <i>Wildfire</i> 100 Rangers + 100 community members assisted in suppressing the fires	<b>SEPT 19th</b> <i>Eastern Chyulu</i> <i>Wildfire</i> 8 MWCT Rangers deployed to help suppress the fire	<b>NOV 12th</b> <i>Samai</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Elephant speared Due to crop-raiding / Investigation ongoing / 2 Tusks recovered (approx. 9kg each)	
<b>MAR 19th and 21st</b> <i>Kuku Plains</i> <i>Lion Hunt prevented</i>	<b>JUN 25th</b> <i>Naga D</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Elephant calf Found carcass in a well by community members	<b>AUG 13th</b> <i>Samai</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Elephant calf Cause of death unknown due to decay 2 Tusks recovered (approx. 1kg each)	<b>AUG 21st</b> <i>Samai</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> <b>1 Giraffe poached</b> Suspects identified and shared with Kenya Wildlife Service / Investigation ongoing	<b>SEPT 5th</b> <i>Chyulu National Park</i> <i>Wildfire</i> 20 MWCT Rangers deployed to help suppress the fire	<b>SEPT 22nd</b> <i>Mkao</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Lion cub speared Incident was classified as self defense by Kenya Wildlife Service	<b>NOV 12th</b> <i>Kuku</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Elephant speared Due to crop-raiding / Investigation ongoing / 2 Tusks recovered (approx. 3kg each)	
<b>APR 24th</b> <i>Olorika</i> <i>Wildlife Poisoning</i> 1 Lion 1 Leopard 1 Jackal Sheep carcass was laced with poison	<b>JUL 27th</b> <i>Ittilal</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> 1 Lion speared Culprits arrested but releasedon bond	<b>AUG 18th</b> <i>Chyulu National Park</i> 1 Poacher Arrest Items recovered: 3 Snares 2 Pangas 2 Hack saws MWCT Rangers conducted ambushes, investigation ongoing	<b>AUG 21st</b> <i>Kuku</i> <i>Elephant Conflict</i> 7 Elephants crop-raided farm Water tank and fence broken / MWCT redirected the elephant herd and fixed the damages	<b>SEPT 7th</b> <i>Eastern Chyulu</i> <i>Wildfire</i> 8 MWCT Rangers deployed to help suppress the fire	<b>OCT 14 - 15th</b> <i>Southern Chyulu</i> <i>Wildfire</i> 9 MWCT Rangers deployed to help suppress the fire	<b>NOV 14 - 20th</b> <i>Inkisanjani &amp; Enkutoto</i> <i>Rapid Unit Operation</i> MWCT Rangers redirected elephants away from farms, held community meetings to address poaching incidents within the area	
<b>MAY 26th and 29th</b> <i>Singila and Loolarami</i> <b>2 Lion Hunts prevented</b>				<b>SEPT 15th</b> <i>Chyulu National Park &amp; Mbirikani</i> <i>Wildfire</i> 10 MWCT Rangers deployed to help Big Life Foundation and Kenya Wildlife Service suppress the fires	<b>OCT 17 - 18th</b> <i>Olpackaai</i> <i>Search and Rescue operation</i> 1 Community member (woman) MWCT successfully assisted in recovering the whereabouts of the lost indiviual to her family	<b>NOV 22nd</b> <i>Kanzi Conservancy</i> <i>Wildlife Mortality</i> <b>1 Buffalo snared from Chyulu</b> 1 snare recovered / Investigation ongoing	





Photos depict several fires that occurred throughout Kuku Group Ranch in the 3rd quarter.

## WILDFIRES

In the 3rd quarter, several wildfires were reported in the north-eastern end of Kuku Group Ranch and in the surrounding areas of Chyulu Hills National Park. These fires were a significant threat to the Chyulu Hills REDD+ Carbon project as they catalyse the destruction and degradation of the landscape.

Within Kuku Group Ranch alone, the fires burned approximately 20,000 acres of land. Unfortunately, most of the fires were caused by arson, and a few by accident (all arson related incidents in Kuku Group Ranch were reported to Loitokitok Police Station). The most destructive of the fires occurred in August, which extended to most of Kanzi Conservancy. Campi ya Kanzi was saved by the joint efforts of 200 people from Iltilal village, MWCT, and Campi ya Kanzi staff. Nonetheless, the fire burned a significant amount of land around the lodge and carried on, creating a significant drawback for MWCT, as it burned down all of the infrastructure on the repeater hill, which enables our radio communication and ranger data collection.

The fires burnt extensive areas of grasslands that would have otherwise provided beneficial grazing opportunities for wildlife and livestock. Countless trees, shrubs, and saplings were destroyed, and critical wildlife was strongly affected in the days following the fires as well. Many animals became separated from their herds and prides. The day after the fire at Campi ya Kanzi, abandoned lion cubs were found by the airstrip. Fortunately, our team reported that the mother had successfully reunited with them.

Several fires were reported in neighbouring areas of Mbirikani Group Ranch, Chyulu, and Tsavo West National Park. Many members of our community ranger team were deployed to these fires in order to provide support and critical assistance in suppressing the fires.

MWCT along with the Chyulu hills REDD+ Carbon Project partners have put a new strategic fire management plan into motion to avoid such devastating loss in the future and to elevate our capabilities in managing these fires with new equipment, such as water backpack sprayers, fire beaters, and water tanks.

We believe Climate Change has played a significant role in making these fires so fierce: unusual heavy rains out of season in the early part of the year made grassy vegetation grow thick and high. Months of extremely unusual dryness and high temperatures not recorded before (May, June, July) dried up the grasslands and shrubs, which consequently provided massive fuel to the fires.



Damaged hangar at Campi ya Kanzi (CYK).



Aerial shot of burnt area surrounding CYK.



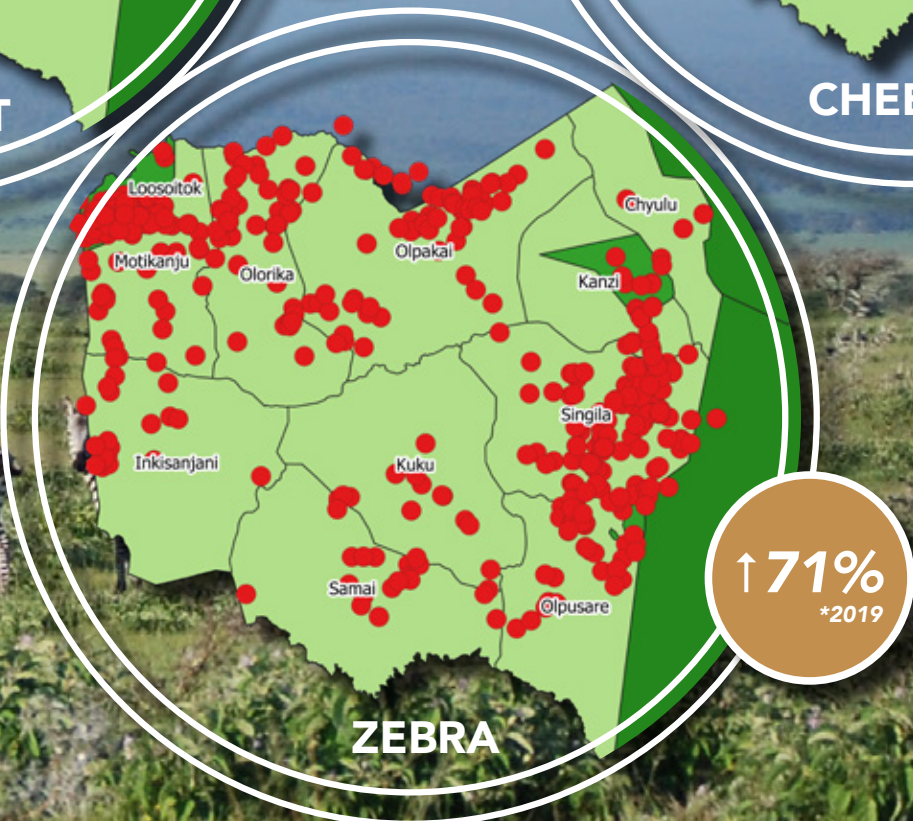
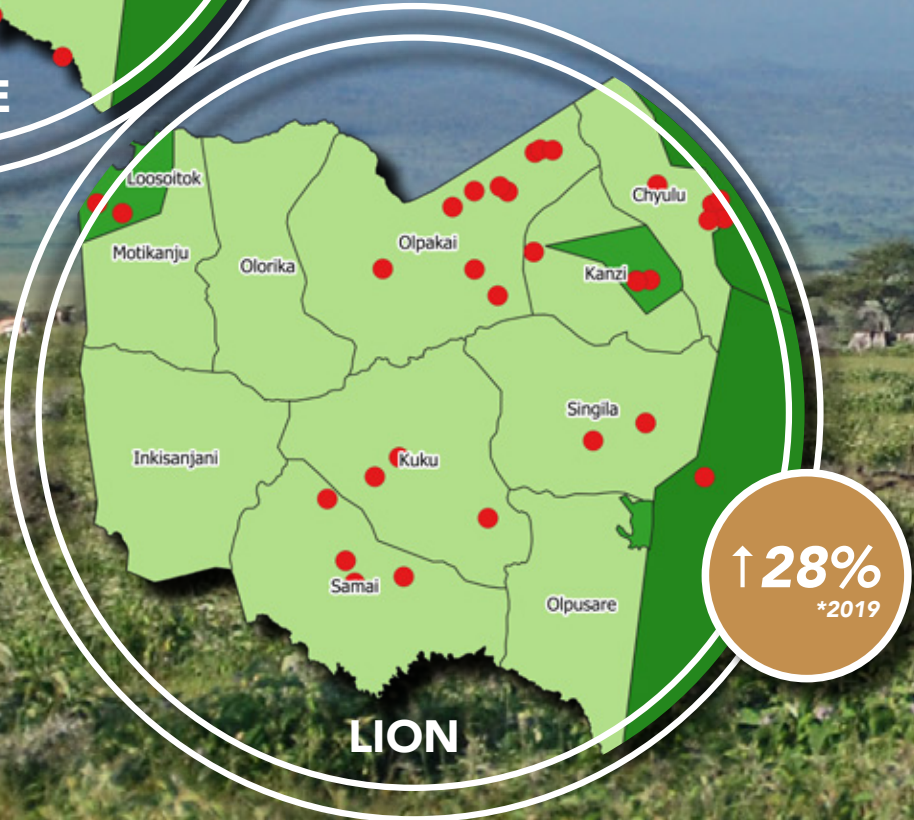
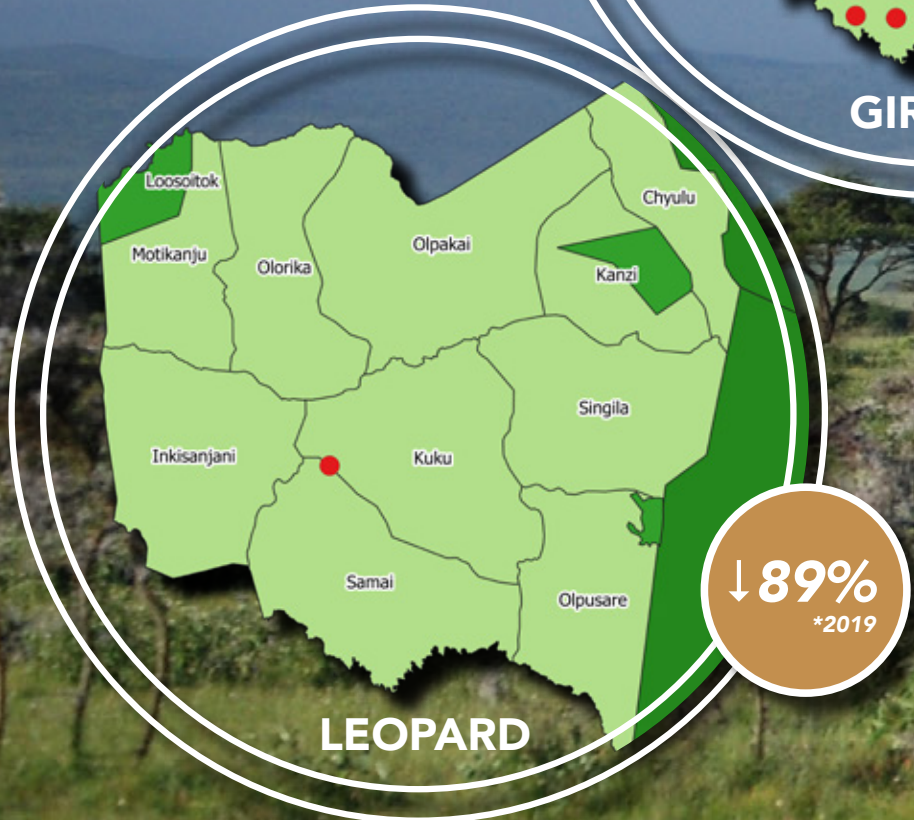
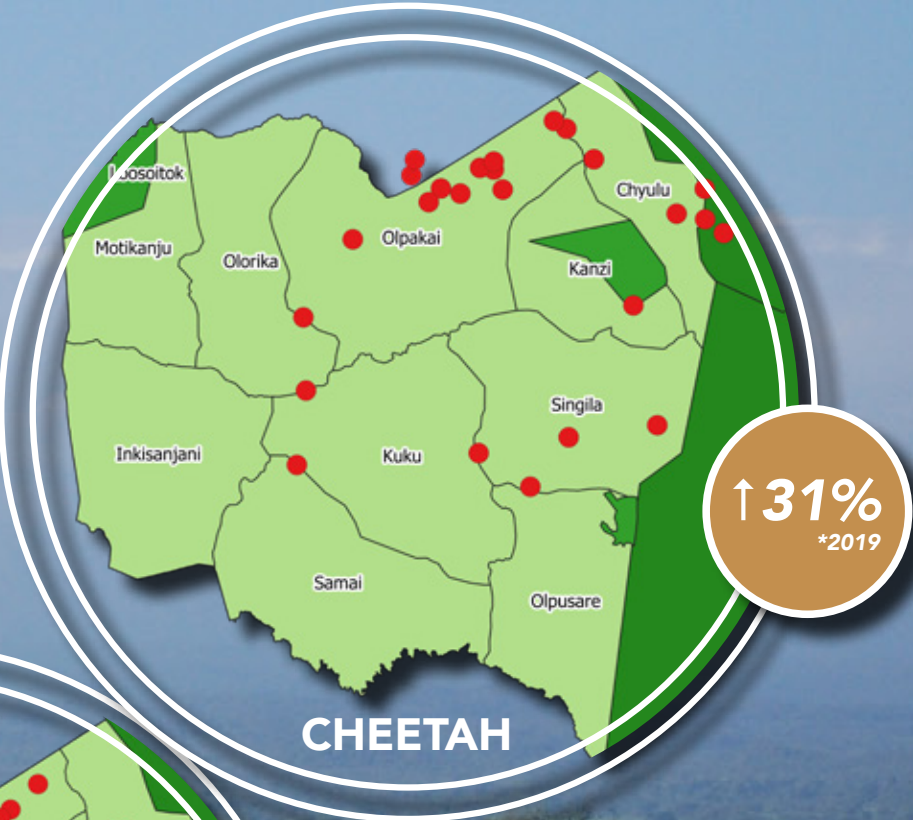
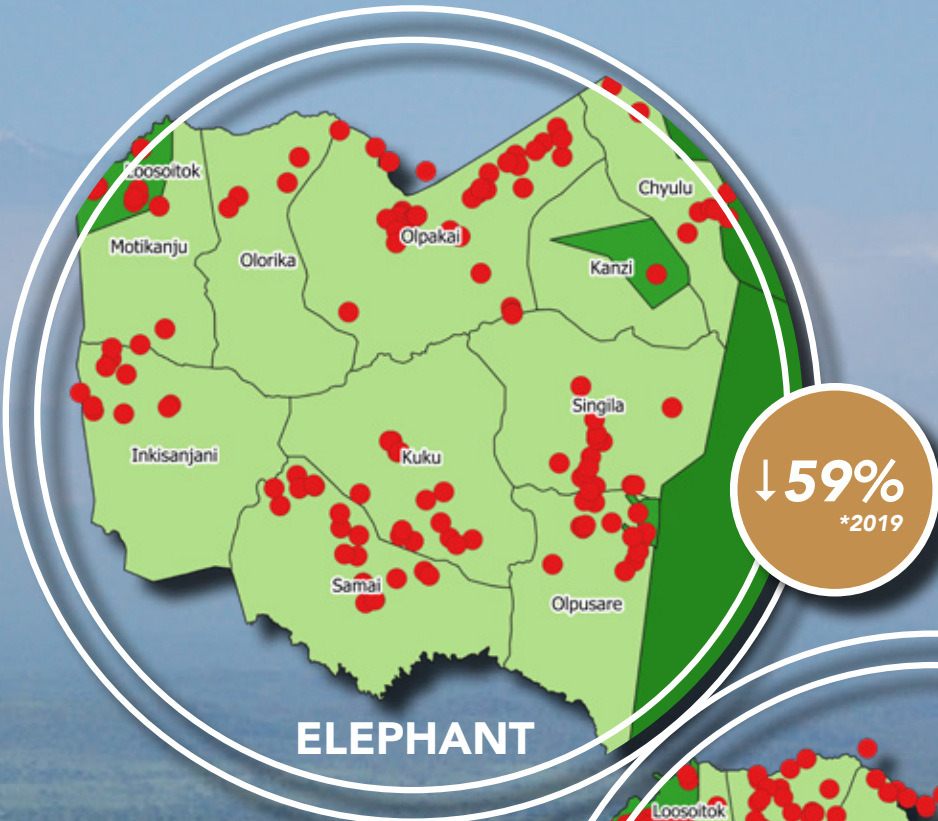
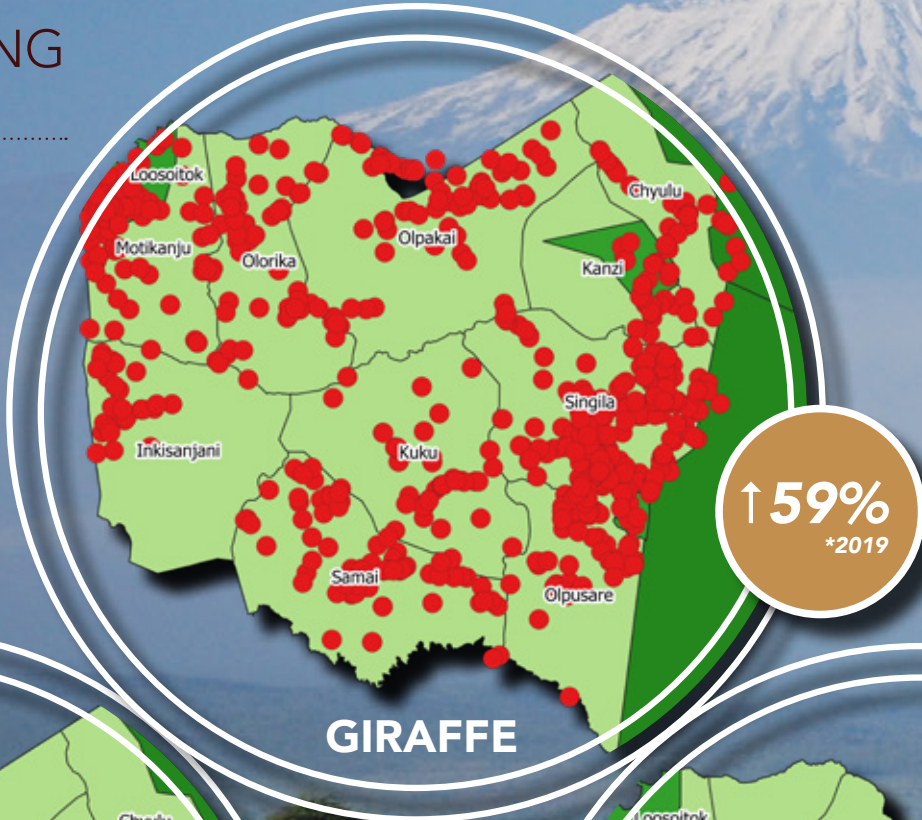


WILDLIFE MONITORING  
RANGER WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

**LEGEND**

- SIGHTINGS
- NATIONAL PARKS
- KUKU CONSERVANCIES
- RANGER SECTORS

N





# WILDLIFE MONITORING

## LION MONITORING

**Collaring lions** is a critically important step towards mitigating human-wildlife conflict. **SEVEN** individual Lions on the Kuku Group Ranch have been collared with GPS/VHF tracking collars and their movement during 2020 is illustrated in the descriptive maps. The monitoring enables our team to collect data on population growth rates and habitat utilisation on Kuku Group Ranch.

LEGEND

SAT3422 NASHA

SAT3424 MAWOI

SAT3421 MARTI

KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS

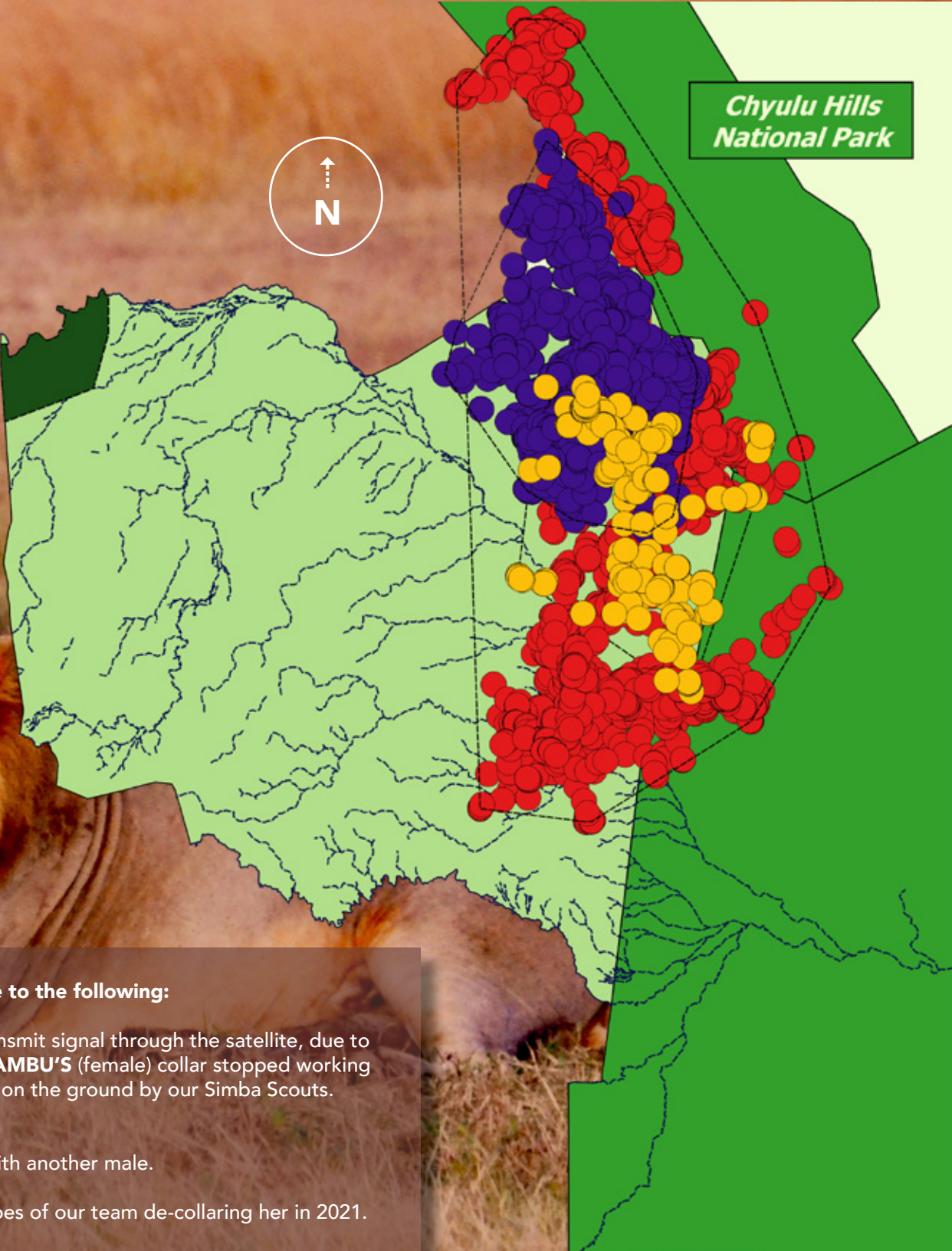
NATIONAL PARKS

**Map:**  
Annual movements of 3 Lions that have transmitted signal during most of 2020.

Data for certain prides will not reflect all of 2020 movement due to the following:

**ORKIRIKO'S** (male) and **NAMUNYAK'S** (female) collars did not transmit signal through the satellite, due to depleted battery life on their individual collars for all of 2020. **NESAMBU'S** (female) collar stopped working early April 2019. However, they were monitored through telemetry on the ground by our Simba Scouts. De-collaring and re-collaring of these prides are planned for 2021.

**MARTI'S** (male) collar came off in early March 2020, from a fight with another male.  
**MAWOI** (female) was re-collared October 26, 2019.  
**NAMUNYAK** continues to be tracked via her sister, **NASHA**, in hopes of our team de-collaring her in 2021.



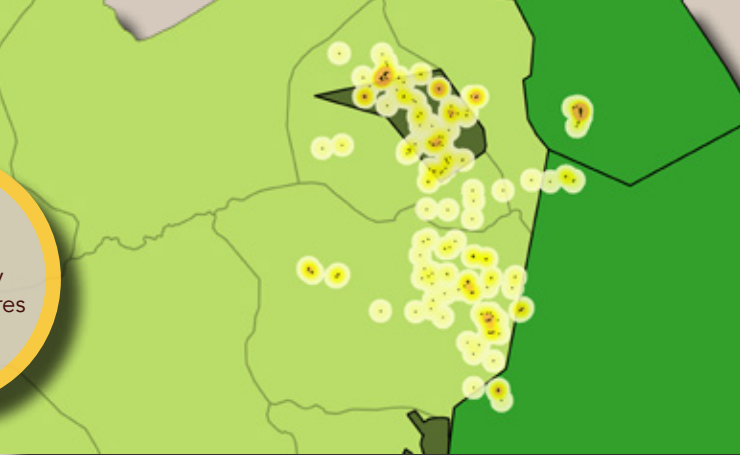
**MARTI (male)**  
He is part of a pride of 11 members and is being tracked via the CCRC and Kanzi cameratraps. Our team plans on re-collaring him in 2021.

- LION POINT EVERY 3 HRS
- 10% CORE TERRITORY
- 50% TERRITORY
- 95% TERRITORY
- KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS
- NATIONAL PARKS



MARTI

2020 Territory  
15,171 hectares

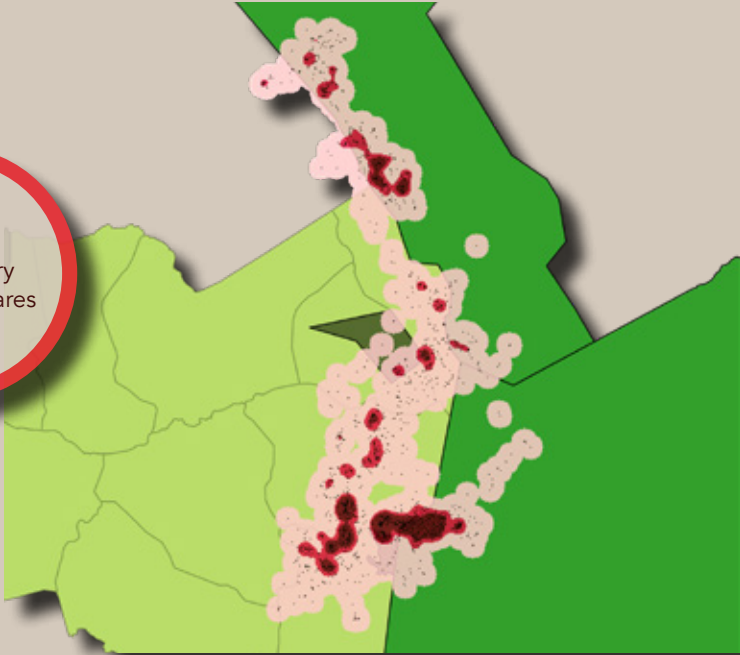


**MAWOI (female)**  
is part of a pride of 7 members. She spent most of her time in Chyulu Hills National Park, Moilo and Kanzi Conservancy.

- LION POINT EVERY 3 HRS
- 10% CORE TERRITORY
- 50% TERRITORY
- 95% TERRITORY
- KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS
- NATIONAL PARKS

MAWOI

2020 Territory  
65,039 hectares



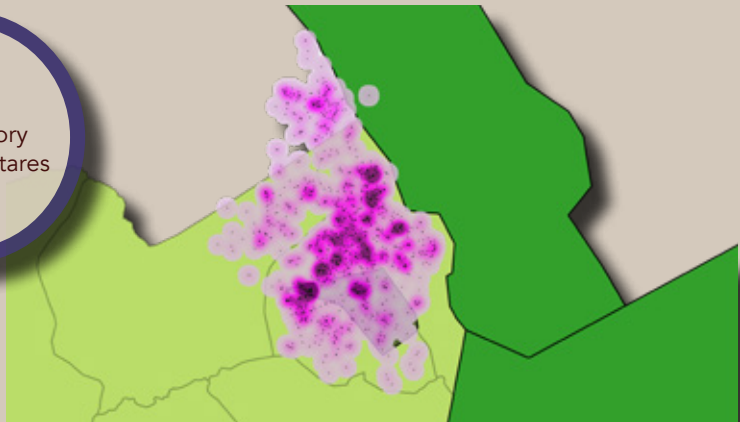
**NASHA (female)**  
is part of a pride of 2 females. She was last seen pregnant and moving through Kanzi Conservancy, Loonkitok, Loonkisugin, Mkao and Oltiasika.

- LION POINT EVERY 3 HRS
- 10% CORE TERRITORY
- 50% TERRITORY
- 95% TERRITORY
- KUKU GROUP RANCH SECTORS
- NATIONAL PARKS



NASHA

2020 Territory  
19,410 hectares





## LION COLLARS

1st Quarter - 1 Lioness  
Nasha (female)  
collar activation



**Photos:**  
Simba Scout team tracking Nasha  
by using her sister, Namunyak's collar  
via VHF telemetry.

## WILDLIFE MONITORING SIMBA SCOUTS

This is a **dedicated team of 18 Maasai warriors** (Moran), who day in and day out monitor GPS collared lions and other wildlife species. 17 Moran gather data & the 18th, Peter Sompol (Chief of Kuku Moran) educates the community on lions within the area and is key in helping persuade against lion hunts. Data collected is analysed and used to gauge various aspects of different wildlife species such as their eating habits. The monitoring is also a very significant measure to mitigating human-wildlife conflict within the local Maasai communities.

↑2%  
\*2019

**22,758**  
Total kilometers  
covered on foot

↓51%  
\*2019

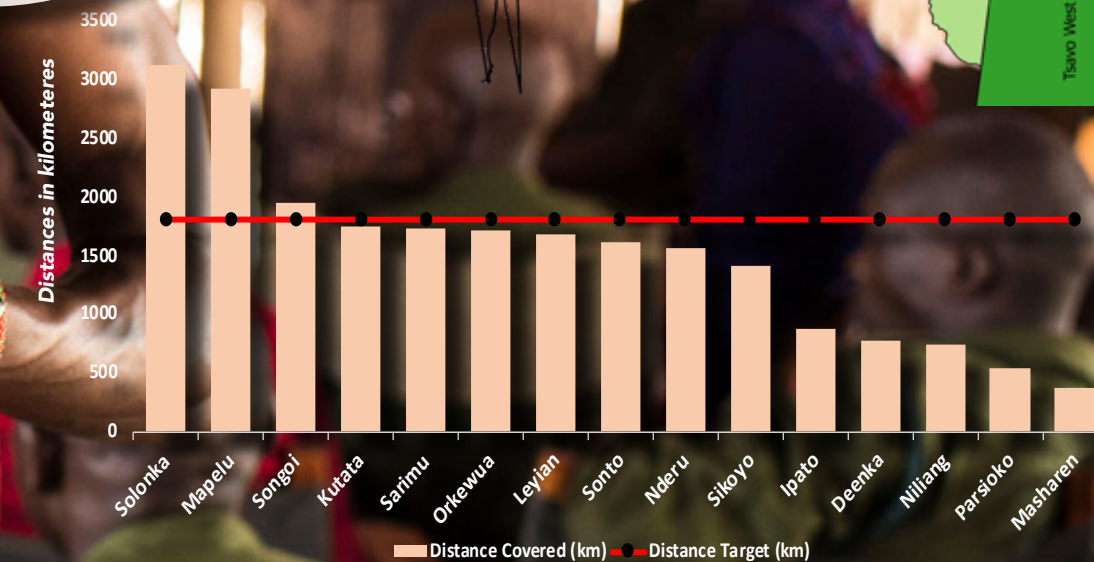
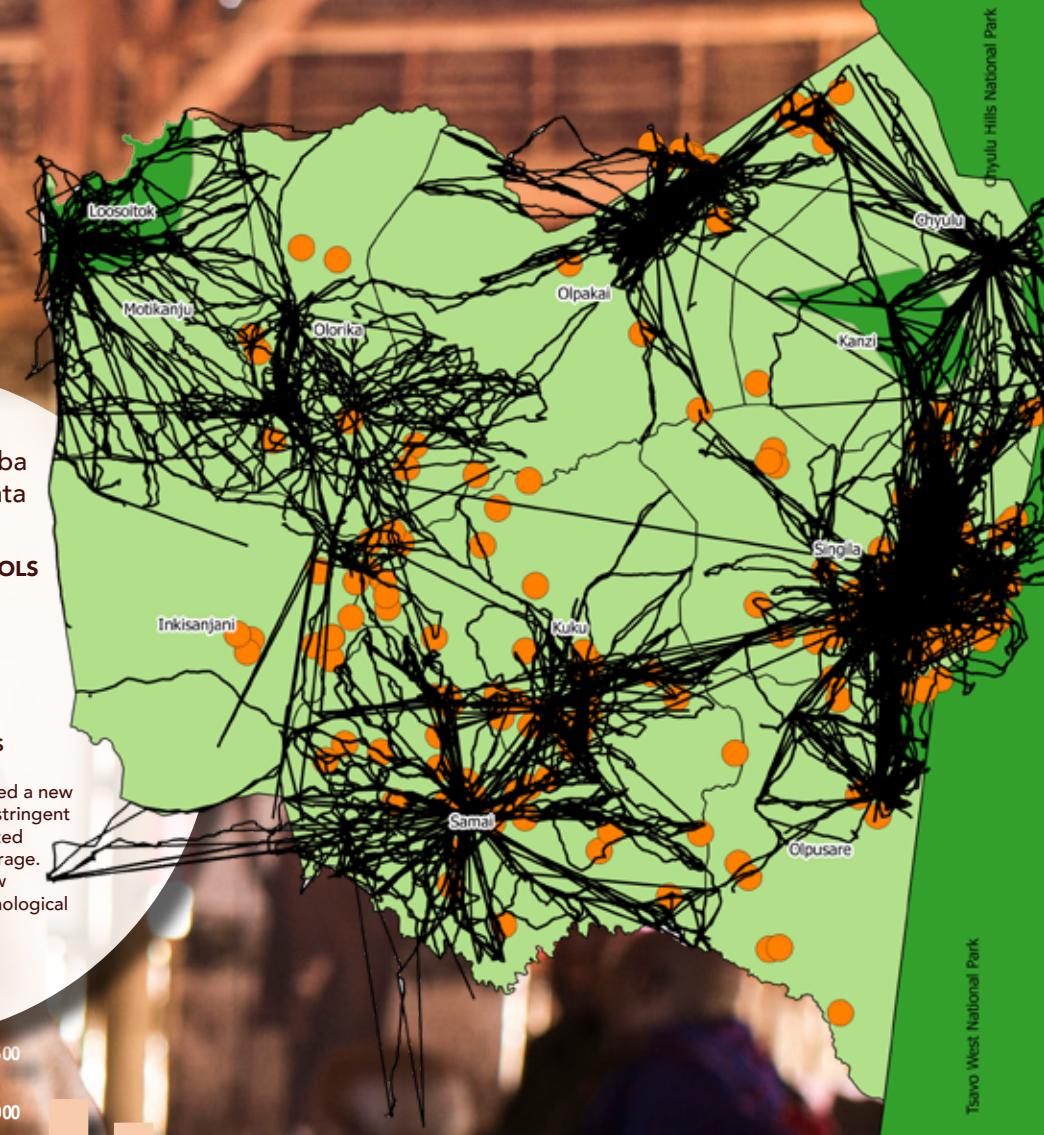
**2,884**  
Total patrols

**Map:** Annual 2020 Simba  
Scout Patrols points data

● LION INCIDENTS  
— SIMBA SCOUT PATROLS  
■ KUKU SECTORS  
■ NATIONAL PARKS

**Graph:**  
Annual 2020 Simba Scout  
Patrols distances & targets

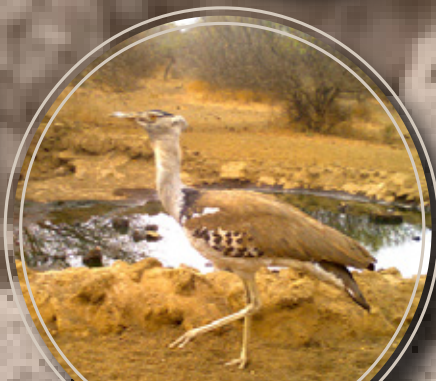
\*Covid-19 forced our team to initially  
reduce operations as we all re-imagined a new  
"normal" and the implementation of stringent  
social distancing measures. This resulted in  
a decreased number of patrol coverage.  
Furthermore the introduction of a new  
SMART update and unfortunate technological  
failures caused a significant data loss.





WILDLIFE MONITORING  
CAMERA TRAP SIGHTINGS

- ✓ GIRAFFE
- ✓ ELEPHANT
- ✓ HYENA
  - ✓ Spotted
  - ✓ Striped
- ✓ WARTHOG
- ✓ LION
  - ✓ Female
  - ✓ Male
  - ✓ Cubs
- ✓ LEOPARD
- ✓ CHEETAH
- ✓ GAZELLE
  - ✓ Grant's
  - ✓ Thomson's
- ✓ BABOON
- ✓ IMPALA
- ✓ ELAND
- ✓ HARTEBEEST
- ✓ WILDEBEEST
- ✓ ZEBRA
- ✓ BUFFALO
- ✓ MONGOOSE
- ✓ JACKAL
- ✓ KUDU
- ✓ PORCUPINE
- ✓ SECRETARY BIRD





**\$67,307**  
TOTAL PAY OUT  
OF CLAIMS FOR  
2020

**1,220**  
INCIDENTS

**3**  
AVERAGE NUMBER  
OF INCIDENTS  
PER DAY IN 2020

**16,200**  
YEARLY KMS  
TRAVELLED PER  
VERIFICATION  
OFFICER

## PREDATOR PROTECTION WILDLIFE PAYS COMPENSATION PROGRAMME

### PES (PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES)

Protecting the major predators of our ecosystem in Kuku Group Ranch

### THE PROCESS

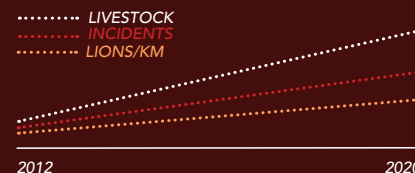
- Multi-layer system of Verification and 4 dedicated Officers
- Detects and prevents fraud that might undermine the programme
- Payments are made quarterly to the community
- Compensation is based on 4 types of livestock losses
- Ensures Maasai pastoralists utilize good husbandry practices
- Prevent greater or further losses

### COMMUNITY OUTREACHES

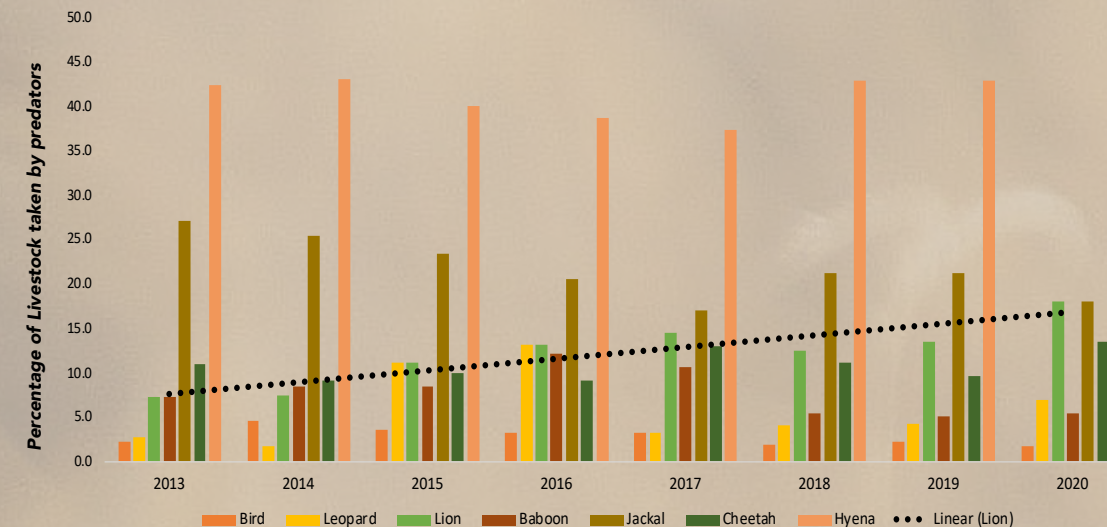
Rangers, prominent community figures and MWCT staff, conduct meetings with communities that are feeling increased pressure of predation, as well as with the young Maasai warriors (Morans), to prevent the groups from any lion killing in retaliation to livestock losses.

During 2020, we observed a decrease in the number of Wildlife Pays incidents recorded and approved for compensation since 2019. During the earlier stages of the coronavirus pandemic, more people were available for herding. Similar to last year, there were significant increases in livestock depredations most evident in the last two quarters of the year, and can be attributed to drought conditions and an influx of livestock from areas outside of Kuku GR. This, coupled with the increasing wildlife and livestock population in KGR, can lead to raised levels of depredation caused by various predators. Even more positive to note is the number of "no negligence" claims, (implying good husbandry).

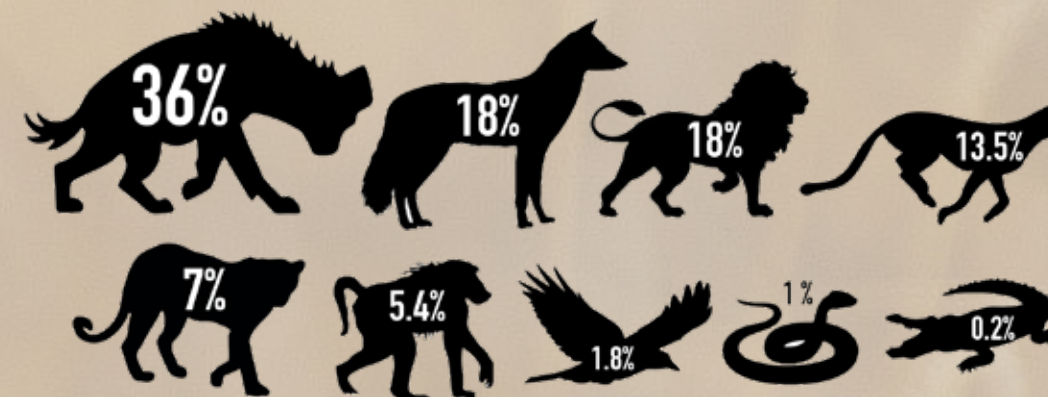
Overall perceived trends are depicted in the graph on the right over a 9 year period.



## PREDATORS



The most livestock taken in relation to predators were due to Hyena. Over the course of 8 years there has also been an overall increase in incidents by lions, this could be due to the recovering lion population in the area. Specific percentages for the amount of incidents accounted for in 2020 from each predator species are depicted in the infographic below.



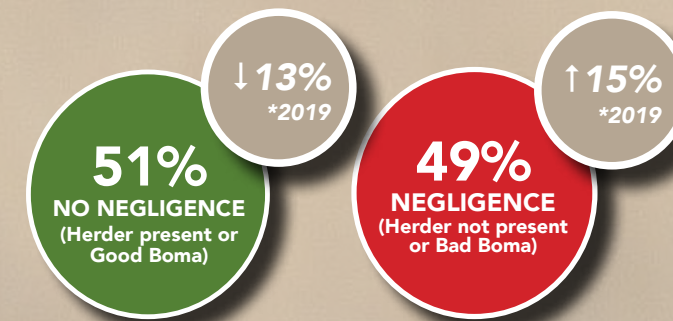
## HEADS OF LIVESTOCK

A total of 1,688 heads of livestock were killed this year. The majority of livestock killed by predators were sheep followed by the other livestock species seen in the info graphic below.

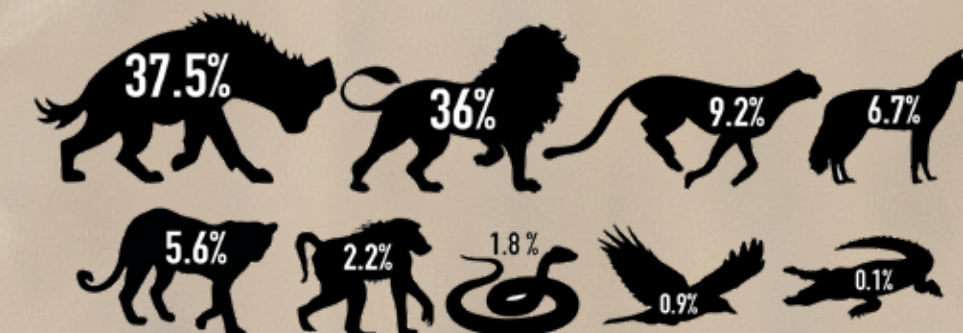


## CLAIMS

The total pay-out of claims was **7,407,200 Ksh** (67,307 USD), a decrease to the amount paid in 2019 (8,508,100 Ksh / 84,784 USD).



## PREDATOR PAY-OUT VALUE PERCENTAGES





# KUKU AERIAL CENSUS

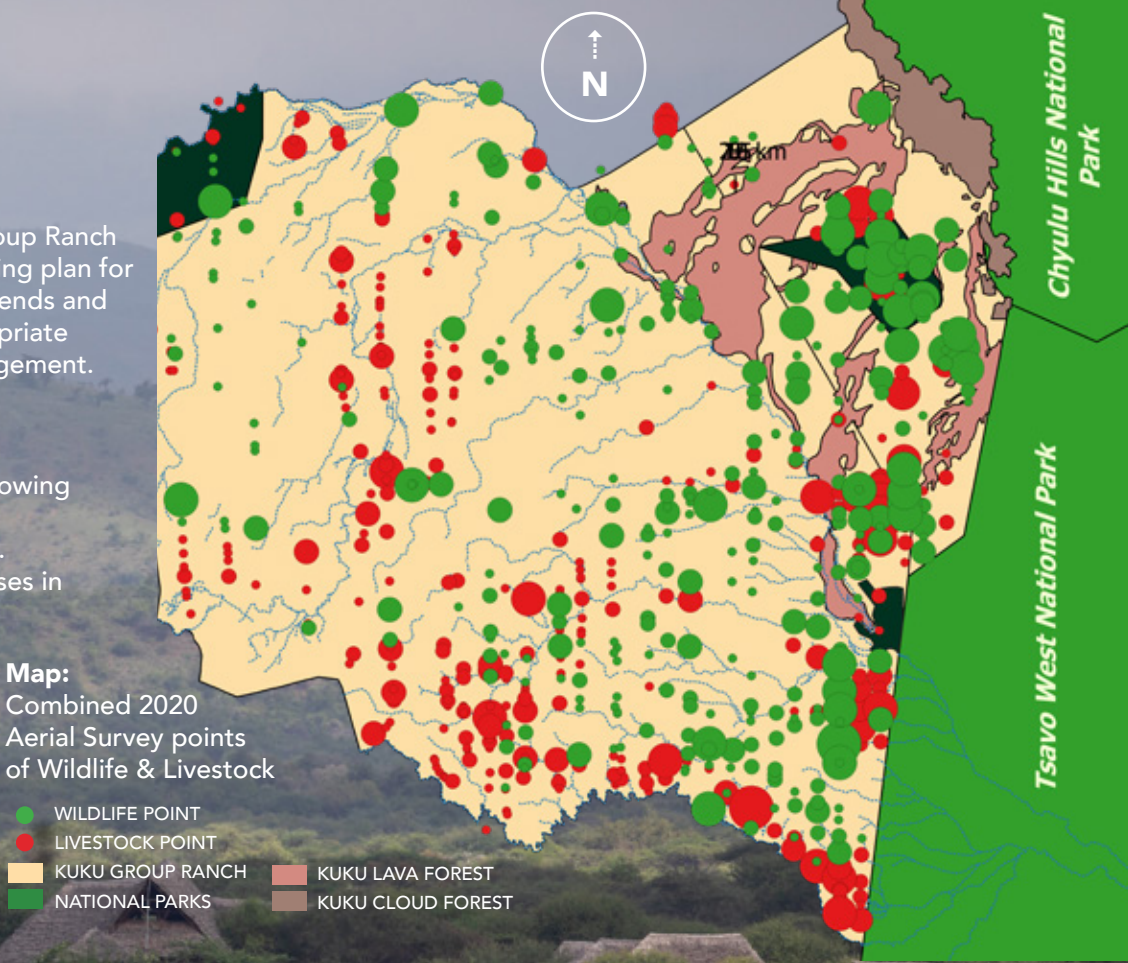
## WILDLIFE / LIVESTOCK COUNT

AIM: To understand wildlife and livestock distribution/abundance on Kuku Group Ranch MWCT began aerial surveys in 2010 as part of a long-term ecological monitoring plan for the group ranch, and to inform decision making going forward. We monitor trends and changes over time, which is an important part of being able to develop appropriate conservation management strategies to effectively implement adaptive management.

### 2020 - JAN 22 (Wet Season)

A total of 1,122 km transects were flown systematically between 2 planes, following a north to south bearing at a height of approximately 500 ft and at a speed of approximately 110 mph with an approximate cumulative 6 hours of flight time. Overall the wildlife population remains stable with both reductions and increases in various species population sizes.

*\*Please note the team completed only one aerial count instead of the usual two in 2020, which will account for the reduced wildlife numbers compared to previous counts.*



**Map:**  
Combined 2020  
Aerial Survey points  
of Wildlife & Livestock

- WILDLIFE POINT
- LIVESTOCK POINT
- KUKU GROUP RANCH
- NATIONAL PARKS
- KUKU LAVA FOREST
- KUKU CLOUD FOREST

**3,860**  
TOTAL WILDLIFE

**44,180**  
TOTAL LIVESTOCK

↑51%  
\*2019

↑44%  
\*2019



**Photos:**  
**January Aerial Count:** Preparation of GPS and wildlife recording sheets.  
**Team:** (L-R David Okul, Muterian Ntanin, Timothy Lenayia, Samuel Kayior, Emmanuel Silato, Tricia Cruz, Luca Belpietro, Sospeter Kiambi, David Kanai, Musa Ntiirai, and Darryl van Dyk.

# LAND RESTORATION

## OLPUSARE CONSERVANCY

*Olpusare Conservancy is a 450 acre wetland which has suffered from unsustainable farming techniques for many years. Our land restoration project aims to restore the wetland, its soil and its spring, with sustainable farming and reforestation activities. This year, the following activities were achieved:*

### FOREST / TREE NURSERY

The year started with a visit from Professor Walubengo from Forest Action Network who delivered 1,000 Acacia Xanthophloea seedlings and taught the team how to properly build suitable and efficient seed beds. With his instruction and generous support, we planted over 1,000 acacias in the fenced area, which we are planning to turn into a potential forest. Furthermore, we prepared over 10 seedbeds where we planted hundreds of various types of tree seeds. Throughout the year, we experienced some issues with wildlife eating the seeds, so we started building a shade net, covering the tree nursery, where we prepared seedbeds for both tree seeds and vegetable seeds for the organic farm. We continuously planted hundreds of tree seeds (including Balanites, Juniperus, Acacia Xanthophloea, Acacia senegal, Acacia nilotica, and more.) Simultaneously, as trees germinated, we transplanted them into pots, and continued to maintain these seedlings. Once they reached optimal growth, we transplanted 263 of them into the forest area. Over 150 trees were also transplanted to the Chyulu Wilderness Camp for restoration purposes, along with grass seeds from our livelihoods grass seed bank initiative, run by local Maasai women.

### ORGANIC FARM

In the 3rd quarter, we started to work on the organic farm by hiring casuals to prepare the land and planted the vegetable seeds in the seedbeds. The 1-acre land was prepared, its soil was tested, the water structure was put in place (including a solar pump and water tanks), and the drip irrigation system was installed. Furthermore, we hired a coordinator and a farmer, and the team received training from KOAN on organic farming best practices. We invited professionals to help us identify organic and natural pest control and fertilising products. Hundreds of vegetable seeds were planted (both in the seedbeds and within the farm), as well as edible cooking herbs and citrus trees. The vegetable seeds are growing fast, and we are hoping to harvest our first batch of vegetables very soon!



# BEE-KEEPING & HIVE CHECKS

This year our team was visited by the co-founder & managing director of L.E.A.F and the founder & executive director of Happy Community Organisation for advice and recommendations on our beehives in Moilo, Enkii and Inkisanjani.

Recommendation taken from these visits include:

1. More frequent visits
2. Planting bee-friendly flowering plants
3. Plant additional forage plants
4. Adapt harvests to the weather conditions
5. Monitor, maintain and record more frequently

Save the Elephants (STE) has been incredibly supportive this year and has agreed to donate the necessary funds for us to build honey badger cages in Enkii to protect the hives. We also developed a new data collection system to make it easier to compile information and reports.

### HIVE CHECKS

#### SAVE THE ELEPHANTS HIVES

**Enkii** - 6/15 hives colonized  
**Inkisanjani (Women's Group)** - 15/15 hives colonized  
**Inkisanjani (Farmer)** - 15/15 hives colonized, harvest in Jan 2021  
**Moilo** - 0/15 hives colonized, to be reconstructed

#### MWCT HIVES

**Campi ya Kanzi** - 3/4 hives colonized  
**CCRC** - 19/19 hives colonized; harvest in Jan 2021  
**Chyulu** - 4/4 hives colonized  
**Naga D & B** - 3/4 hives colonized, harvest in Jan 2021

#### INDIVIDUALLY OWNED HIVES

**Enkii** - 3/3 hives colonized  
**Inkaramatak** - 8/10 hives colonized

#### REDD+ HIVES

**Northern & Southern Kibwezi**  
- 39/60 hives colonized  
**Rombo**  
- 150 new hives delivered  
**Mangaleta**  
- 100 new hives delivered





# CHYULU HILLS CONSERVATION TRUST

## REDD+ CARBON PROJECT

### WHAT IS REDD+?

The main drivers of forest destruction are economics and poverty. **REDD+** is a mechanism that has been developed through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide economic incentives to protect forest rather than destroy it.

By protecting forests, greenhouse gas emissions are avoided. The international carbon markets recognise that carbon emissions result in real costs and risks to the planet as a result of the damage caused by climate change – droughts, extreme weather, sea level rise, loss of glaciers, ocean acidification, etc.

Payments to REDD+ projects enable individuals, companies and institutions to reduce their net emissions and receive “**carbon credits**” that offset their carbon footprint.

### CHYULU HILLS - a critical corridor:

The Chyulu Hills sit close to Kenya’s southern border with Tanzania nestled in front of Mount Kilimanjaro, which towers over this iconic African landscape. The hills themselves, like the great mountain, are the result of the violent volcanic history of this region. They gently rise nearly 4000 ft above the surrounding dry plains and savannah, just high enough to capture the clouds and provide conditions for the growth of a lush tropical montane cloud forest along its ridge tops. The landscape (nearly 4000 sq. km) forms a **critical “bridge”**, linking together two of Kenya’s most important wildlife areas, the greater Tsavo Ecosystem and Amboseli Ecosystem.

This area is home to Kenya’s largest surviving population of elephants and one of its foremost large-scale wildlife and wilderness areas. The **Chyulu Hills REDD+ Project** aims to protect the Chyulu Hills landscape, its forests, woodlands, savannahs, wetlands and springs, and its wild populations of Africa’s best known animals - lions, cheetahs, wild dogs, rhinos, elephants, and various antelopes.

### CREDIT STANDARDS

- VCS (VERIFIED CARBON STANDARD)
- CCBS (CLIMATE COMMUNITY & BIODIVERSITY STANDARDS)
- HIGHEST **GOLD RATING** DUE TO EXCEPTIONAL BENEFITS TO CLIMATE, COMMUNITY & BIODIVERSITY
- **MARKIT** REGISTRY

### 9 STAKEHOLDERS

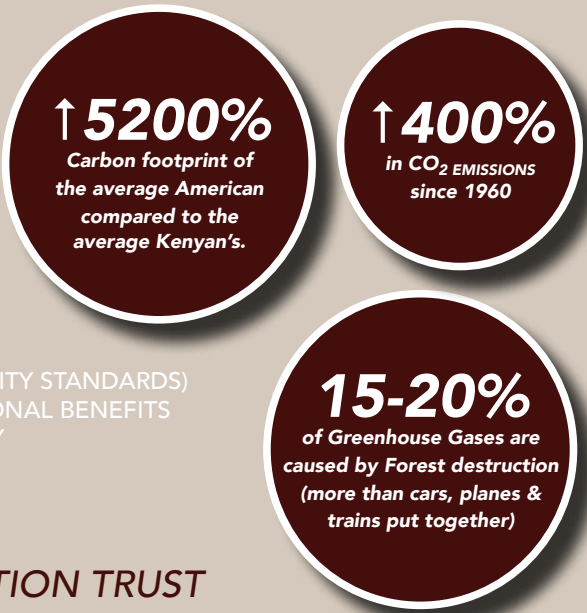
CHYULU HILLS CONSERVATION TRUST

- MBIRIKANI
- KUKU A
- KUKU B
- ROMBO
- KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICES
- KENYA FOREST SERVICES
- MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST
- BIG LIFE FOUNDATION
- DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST

### HOW IT WORKS



**100% OWNED AND MANAGED BY LOCAL INSTITUTIONS**




### QUICK FACTS

**1million** ACRES OF LAND PRESERVED

**2million** REGISTERED CREDITS

**3** NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVED & A VITAL DISPERSAL AREA FOR AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

**70,000** MAASAI PEOPLE HELPED

 PRESERVING A CRITICAL WATERSHED, FEEDING WATER TO MOMBASA (2ND LARGEST CITY IN KENYA)

 PROTECTING ICONIC & ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

**“The Chyulu Hills REDD+ Project represents a model partnership between government, local communities, and the private NGO sector to build a much needed sustainable funding model for conservation.”**

- JUDI WAKHUNGU (Former Cabinet Secretary for Ministry of Environment, Water & Natural Resources of Kenya)

### 2020 IMPACTS

**+100** Rangers across the project area had their salaries paid and employment maintained

**5** Teachers maintained their employment

**12** New Rangers were employed

**4** New Simba Scouts were employed

**1** New Secondary Teacher was employed

**1** New Community Health Worker was employed

**6** New water tanks with water catchment systems were purchased for local schools

**350** New bee hives purchased to mitigate human elephant conflict and a source of alternative income through honey production

**5** Schools received new infrastructure (1 staff quarter building, 2 latrines, elephant proof fencing)

**90** Students received school bursaries

**1** New Ranger post in Northern Chyulu, with 1 new vehicle, 2 prefab houses and new equipment for 10 rangers on patrol

**9** New computers and 1 new office for Group Ranch Board Members, with computer training, enhancing local governance and management

- New Fire fighting equipment was purchased

- Several outreaches were held throughout the project area to educate the community on the REDD+ projects

**22km** Road in Chyulu National Park completed to assist in anti-poaching patrols and act as a firebreak during dry season





## HEALTH Programme

To ensure that the community benefits from our Health Programme, MWCT employs health staff, runs and supports several dispensaries and supplies medical equipment and essential drugs to the community.



**19**

Outreaches\*



**14,377**

Medical Patients



**10,180**

Consultations



**3,891**

Lab tests



**1,469**

Family planning



**222**

Hospital births



**2,009**

Immunized\*



**11**

Ambulance Evacs



**2**

Schools reached



**1,214**

Ante Natal Clinic

**506 women**

Received contraceptives for the first time.

**68 girls**

Received new sanitary pads and underwear.

**14 community**

Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights campaign forums were held.

**5 community**

health worker (CHW) training seminars were held and attended by 56 CHWs.

**247 women & 186 men**

Attended a workshop on sexual & reproductive health/rights.

\*there were reductions in numbers due to mobility and access difficulties.

**23,688**  
PATIENTS SEEN



**5,000**  
Total kilometers  
covered in all of 2020

*"The year 2020 saw us make strides in our SRHR (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights) project, building up on the foundation laid in the previous year.*

*This was made possible largely through The Leila & Mickey Straus Family Foundation grant. The major impacts of this project in 2020 are the increased accessibility of SRHR services and the involvement of males in the community as it pursues solutions for the socio-medical barriers to equal rights and good health.*

*The success is evidenced by a higher number of new contraceptive users (+12%), the number of hospital deliveries (+23%) and adult males integrated in our SRHR awareness and advocacy campaign (186).*

*The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected the project pace and timelines. Many restrictions and guidelines that were imposed affected our indicators negatively e.g. the limit on the number of people in any public meeting and the closure of schools.*

*Those, coupled with the widespread fear of interactions especially in health facilities thought to be hotspots of infections, resulted in lower outcomes when compared to 2019. Despite that, the reception of the project by the community is positive and there is still much work to be done. Through the support of the Leila and Mickey Straus Family Foundation, MWCT Health Program continues to address and support the health needs of the Maasai people in Kuku Group Ranch. We are thankful for the support."*

**Dr. M. W. Kisika**  
MWCT Doctor



# LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME

## Self-Sustaining Employment Among Maasai Women

MWCT supports the Maasai to explore other income generating activities. While widespread illiteracy poses a challenge, MWCT pursues creative ways to build financial understanding and grow the capacity of the Maasai – especially women – to run profitable enterprises.



### GRASS SEED BANKS

**Moilo, Enkii, Inkisanjani, Langata**  
Areas

**10**  
Local Women in Charge for each area

**10 hectares**  
Project area

**1.5 high electric fence**  
Protection

**1,300 kgs**  
Grass Seeds Harvested

**900 kgs**  
Grass seeds sold (at 500 Ksh/Kg)

**150**  
Hay bales sold

**300 Kshs (4 USD)**  
Per Hay bale sold

### BEADING

**40**  
Items sold

**FGM** (Female Genital Mutilation Outreach)

**26**  
Trained Anti-FGM Influencers

**3**  
Anti-FGM Outreaches

### HIPPO ROLLERS

**Marshall Family**  
Donor

The purpose of a hippo roller is to reduce the burden of carrying water back and forth for multiple trips. It is a rolling water device that carries 4x the amount of water normally carried on the backs of Maasai women and children. This device not only saves the women time but also relieves the load on their bodies throughout the day.

Hippo Rollers Distributed:

**1** Iltilal Women's Group  
**6** Kuku Women's Group  
**5** Langata Grass Seed Bank  
**1** Langata Beading Group  
**1** Enkutoto Women's Group  
**7** Moilo Women's Group  
**1** Inchalai Women's Group  
**8** Inkisanjani Women's Group  
**7** Enkii Women's Group  
**4** Oltiasika Women's Group  
**3** Oyarata Women's Group  
**10** Nolasiti Women's Group  
**1** Ekusero Women's Group

**Supat Ene Kahlenja**  
Enkii Village (53 yrs old):

"I wish all women in Kuku group ranch can get a hippo roller, this will help improve the families and the community at large."



**Justdigg** representatives came in July for a training to discuss project progress, grass seed harvesting, hay making, proper storage management and quality testing. In August, 4 community members were employed and **5,800** bunds were dug. In September, **33** community members were employed and **4,350** bunds were dug.

# EDUCATION PROGRAMME

## Investing in the Next Generation



**25**

Schools supported



**61**

Teachers employed



**13**

Support staff



**207**

Bursaries



**64**

Scholarships

**19**

Active



**9,467**

Students enrolled

**53%**

Boys

**47%**

Girls

### ACHIEVEMENTS

Iltilal Kanzi primary school continues to have the highest enrolment of pupils, which stands at **1,272** with Inkisanjani and Elangata Enkima following closely with enrolments of **910** and **864** respectively.

We continue to meet all the operational costs of Iltilal Kanzi Primary School, which includes but not limited to employment of **13** teachers, supply of school stationery, provision of tapped water, provision of solar power etc.

### CHALLENGES

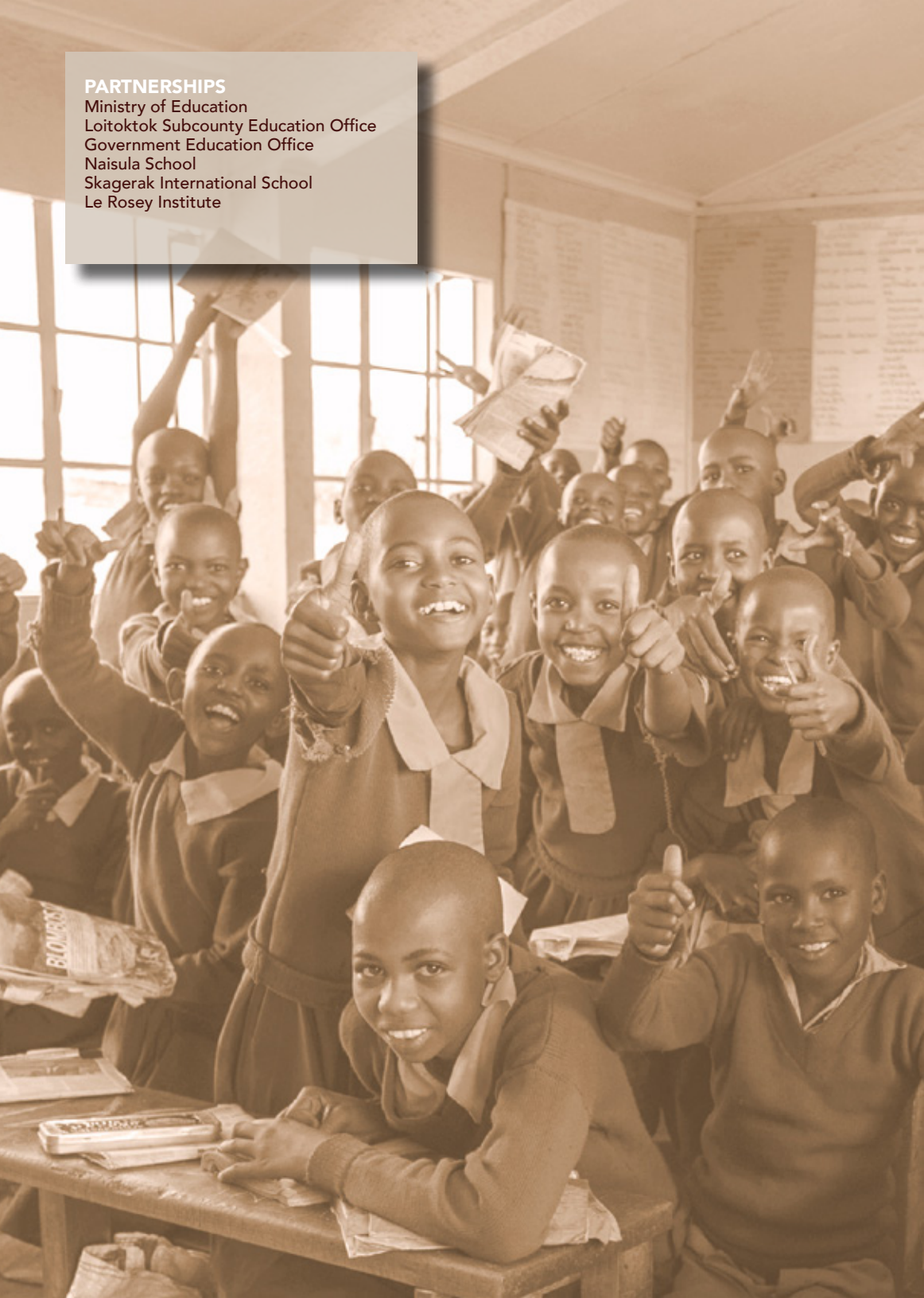
Some schools in Kuku Group Ranch such as Inkisanjani, Iltilal and Elangata do not have adequate classrooms to cater for their high enrolments. They are also experiencing shortage of teachers.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, schools closed down in early March. After the closure, schools have been attempting to continue their teaching through online platforms. However, Naisula school - where MWCT supports 6 students - experienced internet connection issues in their homes, so while learning is happening, WiFi challenges are proving difficult for completion.

Teachers remain ready to return until the Kenyan government requires them to resume. While bursaries and scholarships remain active (online applications ongoing), their processing is linked to the lifting of the school closures.

### PARTNERSHIPS

Ministry of Education  
Loitokitok Subcounty Education Office  
Government Education Office  
Naisula School  
Skagerak International School  
Le Rosey Institute





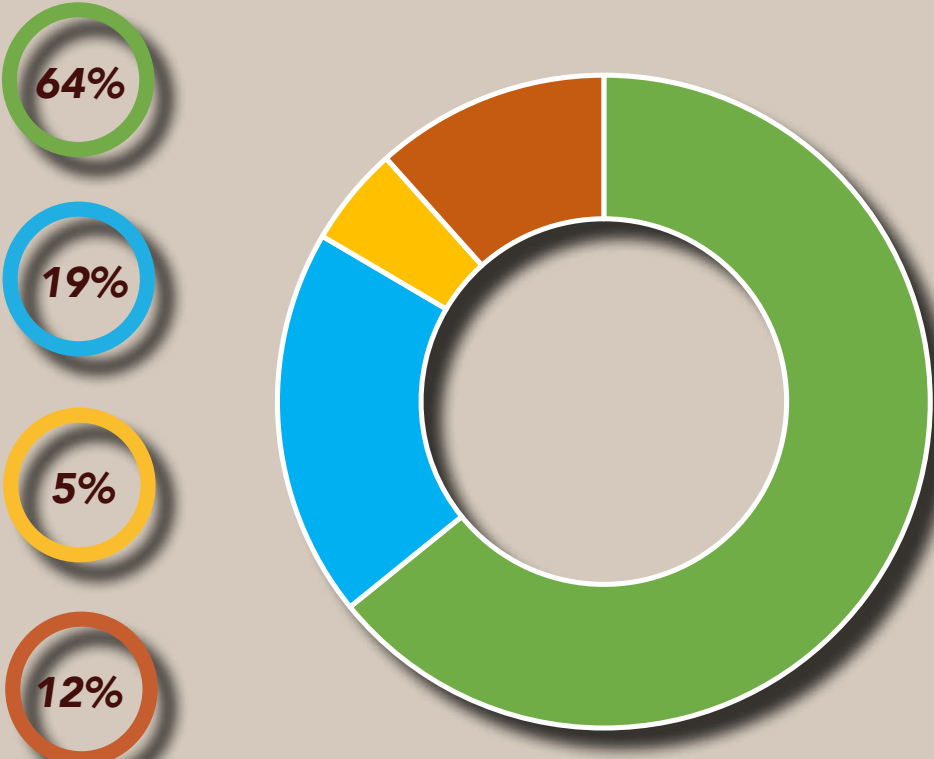
MWCT FINANCIALS  
PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

GRANTS

MWCT is extremely grateful for all of the generous grants we have received throughout the year. A special thank you to MWCT's U.S arm, The Maasai Wilderness Conservation Fund, for continuing to help sustain the varying MWCT programmes for 2020.

ANNUAL BUDGET

CONSERVATION	\$1,398,859
EDUCATION	\$420,289
HEALTH	\$107,411
CHARITABLE SERVICES DELIVERY COSTS	\$253,231
TOTAL	\$2,179,789



PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS  
THANK YOU - ASANTE SANA

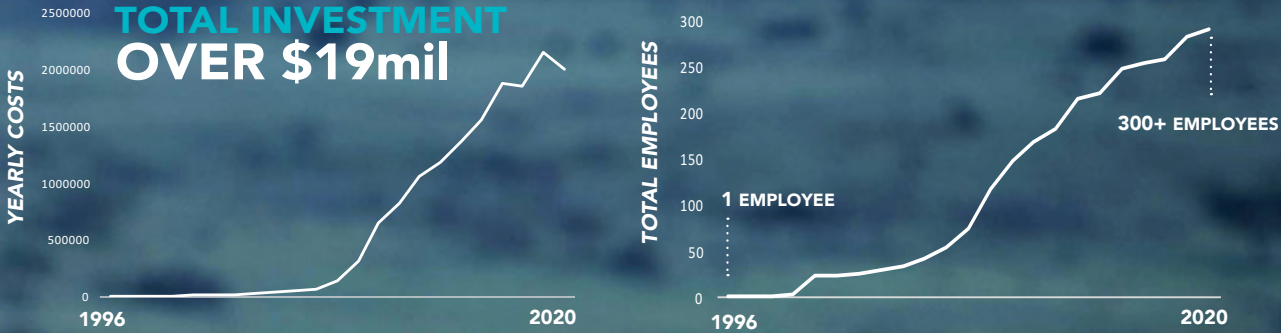


We are grateful for the continuous support that we receive from our donors and partnered organizations that aid us in achieving the goals and work expressed above. Including: **Lacy Rice, Andrew Wolf** and **Sam Britton**.





MWCT HISTORY  
1996 - 2020



<b>1996</b> START OF CAMPI YA KANZI CONSTRUCTION	<b>1997</b> SOFT OPENING OF CAMPI YA KANZI DECEMBER	<b>1998</b> CAMPI YA KANZI SUPPORTS TWO RANGERS	<b>1999</b> EDWARD NORTON VISITS CAMPI YA KANZI	<b>2000</b> MAASAI WILDERNESS CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDED	<b>2001</b> FIRST MWCT SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED
<b>2002</b> MWCT OFFICIAL REGISTRATION APPROVED	<b>2003</b> MWCT FULLY SUPPORTED BY LUCA & ANTONELLA	<b>2004</b> MWCT FULLY SUPPORTED BY LUCA & ANTONELLA	<b>2005</b> MWCT FULLY SUPPORTED BY LUCA & ANTONELLA	<b>2006</b> OFFICIAL START OF SUPPORT FROM EDWARD NORTON	<b>2007</b> EDWARD NORTON BECOMES MWCF PRESIDENT
<b>2008</b> CARTIER 'LOVE' CAMPAIGN & WILDLIFE PAYS ESTABLISHED	<b>2009</b> NEW YORK CITY MARATHON WITH EDWARD NORTON	<b>2010</b> CONSERVANCIES OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED	<b>2011</b> CHYULU HILLS REDD+CARBON PROJECT INCEPTION	<b>2012</b> UNEP EQUATOR PRIZE, UNDP CHAMPION OF THE EARTH AWARDED	
<b>2013</b> SAMSON PARASHINA OFFICIAL CHARIMAN OF THE BOARD	<b>2014</b> INCREASE IN RANGERS TO MITIGATE HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT	<b>2015</b> MWCT STUDIES FOR WATER PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICE	<b>2016</b> STUDIES FOR SOLAR PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICE	<b>2017</b> MWCT SECURES GEF FUNDS FOR PROGRAMMES	
<b>2018</b> DISCUSSION FOR LAND-USE & GRAZING MANAGEMENT PLANS	<b>2019</b> LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLAN DOCUMENT SIGNED BY COMMUNITY	<b>2020</b> DRIEST YEAR TO DATE WITH NEARLY 30 WILDFIRES WITHIN THE AREA			



WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, THRIVING WILDLIFE AND A VITAL ECOSYSTEM.

PASSIONATELY WORKING SINCE 1996

[MAASAIWILDERNESS.ORG](http://MAASAIWILDERNESS.ORG)