

Proceedings of the carnivore conservation workshop at Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy, Samburu.



15th March 2018

Edited by Titus Adhola



Proceedings of the carnivore conservation workshop at Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy, Samburu.

Theme:

“To conserve our carnivores is to conserve our environment and our pasturelands.”

“Kuhifadhi wanyama wetu wa pori ni kuhifadhi mazingira yetu na lishe ya mifugo yetu.”

“Kore paiye kirita ng’wesi oo ngop ang neaku ikirita ng’oji nenyaa suom ang.”

The workshop take home message:

“If ‘we’ the conservation community (government agencies, conservation professionals and NGO’s and the local communities) partner with each other, and fully agree, and commit to work side by side with each other, in conserving and protecting our wildlife, our environment (wildlife habitat) and our pasturelands, then we will have a clear pathway of moving away from conflict towards coexistence.”

Workshop Organizers:

Titus Adhola, University of Nairobi/Aix-Marseille University/ National Museums of Kenya.

Dr. Ogeto Mwebi, National Museums of Kenya (NMK).

Anthony Wandera, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT).

Mary Wykstra, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK).

Date: 15th March 2018

Venue: Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy, Samburu County.



Carnivore conservation workshop in Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy, Samburu on 15th March 2018; sponsored by the National Geographic Society (NGS) and the Rufford Foundation.

© 2018 by University of Nairobi (UoN)
P.O. Box 30197 – 00100, Nairobi, Kenya.

Disclaimer

Any opinions, findings, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors; and do not necessarily reflect the views of the authors' institutions, those of the University of Nairobi and/or the partners of this workshop.

Edited by:

Titus Adhola

*Tutorial Fellow, Wildlife Management and Conservation Section,
Department of Clinical Studies, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS),
University of Nairobi.*

P.O. Box 29053 - 00625, Nairobi, Kenya.

E-mail: tadhola@uonbi.ac.ke / adholatitus@yahoo.com

Resident Research Associate,

Zoology Department,

National Museums of Kenya.

P.O. Box 40658 – 00100, Nairobi, Kenya.

Photo Credits: Titus Adhola.

Table of contents

Acknowledgements	5
Preface by Professor Nicholas Oguge, <i>Director - Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP), Parklands Campus, University of Nairobi</i>	6
Background to the workshop	7
Workshop in summary	8
Preliminaries	9
Workshop start.....	10
Opening speech by <i>mzee Gabriel Lenyakopiro, local area Chief</i>	10
<i>Titus Adhola, PhD student, Aix-Marseille University, France; Tutorial Fellow, University of Nairobi; Resident Research Associate, National Museums of Kenya</i>	11
<i>Dr. Ogeto Mwebi, Senior Research Scientist, National Museums of Kenya (NMK)</i>	13
<i>Anthony Wandera, Senior Research and Monitoring Officer, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)</i>	14
<i>Noreen Mutoro, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK); PhD student, Technical University of Munich</i>	16
<i>Jeneria Lekilelei, Field operations and community manager, Ewaso Lions</i>	17
<i>Mary Wykstra, Director, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)</i>	18
Plenary session	19
<i>mzee Kinyua Lengachar, Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy</i>	19
Key highlights of plenary session.....	21
Appendices.....	22
<i>Rita Kulamo, 4th year, BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation, University of Nairobi</i>	22
<i>Mercy Lolkireri, 4th year, BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation, University of Nairobi</i> ...	23
<i>Margaret Achuka, 4th year, BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation, University of Nairobi.</i>	24
List of participants	25
Workshop’s landscape and portrait banners	26
Bibliography	27

Acknowledgements

The resounding success of this first ever locally held carnivore conservation workshop in northern Kenya was personified by the effusive dedication, vivid enthusiasm and vibrant energy of the workshop organizers, and an indefatigable group of undergraduate students from the University of Nairobi.

Workshop organizers, conservancy managers, village elders, student volunteers and participants all played vital roles to the success of this workshop. Participants from the local community made a good turnout for the workshop, challenges due to heavy rains notwithstanding!

Workshop organizers included: Titus Adhola (UoN), Dr. Ogeto Mwebi (NMK), Mary Wykstra (ACK) and Anthony Wandera (NRT).

Catering service for the workshop was superbly coordinated by the *Sinteti Guest House* based at *Archers Post* in Samburu.

This report has been made possible due the excellent input by the rapporteurs of proceedings of the opening speech by local administration representative, talks by workshop technical team, panel discussions, deliberations and resolutions. *They are the three student volunteers from the University of Nairobi undertaking BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation*, (Margaret Achuka, Mercy Lolkireri and Rita Kulamo).

Preface to this report has been done by Professor Nicholas Ogue of the University of Nairobi.

Sponsors that made the workshop a success include the National Geographic Society (NGS) and the Rufford Foundation.

Preface

It is with great pleasure to write this preface to the inaugural series of locally planned community carnivore conservation workshops for northern Kenya. This workshop brought together key stakeholders in the management and conservation of wildlife in the area, i.e. the communities, University of Nairobi (UoN), National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT), Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK) and Ewaso Lions. The forum aims to discuss critical issues pertinent to the conservation and management of wildlife in the region, such as human-wildlife conflict, with a view to positively influence and improve the community-wildlife co-existence. This would contribute to key policy issues such as wildlife space on community land, sharing of benefits accrued from wildlife resources, and community responsibilities in conservation.

For many generations, Samburu pastoralists have practiced attentive forms of husbandry associated with minimal losses to depredation. However, livestock still constitutes a considerable proportion of wild carnivore diets and hence, livestock loses. Livestock depredation causes serious damage to local economies, and tends to reinforce negative attitudes towards conservation initiatives, and particularly on wild carnivores. Samburu County is unique in that it hosts populations of six large carnivore species found in Eastern Africa, i.e. lions, leopards, spotted hyenas, striped hyenas, African wild dog and cheetah. The region, therefore, constitutes an ideal surrogate for the implementation of community wildlife awareness and conservation strategies, and particularly towards the mitigation of human-carnivore conflicts.

This proceeding is therefore themed “*To conserve our carnivores is to conserve our environment and our pasturelands*” and seeks to demonstrate that it is possible to move from conflict to co-existence. Due emphasis, however, must be placed on commitment and partnerships between wildlife authorities, conservation stakeholders and local communities. This workshop was about deliberations between the stakeholders and representatives of the Samburu communities. Two key policy relevant issues emerged: (1) Even though the *Wildlife Conservation and Management (Community Participation) Regulations, 2015* seeks to ensure equitable sharing of benefits from wildlife earnings with local communities, that locally, the revenue streams accrued has low positive socio-economic impacts, while livelihood bases are negatively impacted by wildlife. This further reinforces negative views towards wildlife in general and carnivores specifically. (2) Community goodwill to provide space for wildlife persists.

The two key issues need to be addressed appropriately by policy makers for the benefit of the communities and wildlife. Future workshops will address other pertinent issues such as association between livestock depredation and illegal killings of large carnivores.

March, 2018

Nicholas O. Oguge, Ph.D.

*Professor of Environmental Policy and Director,
Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP),
Parklands Campus, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya.*

Background to the workshop

For many generations, Samburu pastoralists have practiced attentive forms of husbandry associated with minimal losses to depredation (Ogada *et al.*, 2003). However, despite valiant efforts to minimize depredation; livestock still constitutes a considerable proportion to wild carnivore diets. Livestock depredation causes serious damage to local economies, and tends to reinforce negative attitudes towards conservation initiatives and wild carnivores (Romañach *et al.*, 2007; Inskip and Zimmerman, 2009). These perceptions can have strong emotional and political consequences, ultimately resulting in the persecution of carnivores (Kruuk, 2002; Kellert *et al.*, 1996). Several studies have looked into the factors which can reduce livestock depredation by wild carnivores (Ogada *et al.*, 2003; Woodroffe *et al.*, 2007; Kissui, 2008; Frank, 2010; Blackburn *et al.*, 2016; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2016; Cotterill, 2013; Suryawanshi *et al.*, 2013). These studies indicate that, livestock depredation is to some extent preventable, and that key factors characterizing the conflict landscape; such as livestock husbandry practices, human settlement, herding patterns and retaliation to livestock depredation, are directly linked to human behaviours, and therefore have the potential to be managed. Samburu County is unique in the sense that it hosts populations of the six large carnivore species found in eastern Africa, namely; lion *Panthera leo*, leopard *Panthera pardus*, spotted hyaena *Crocuta crocuta*, striped hyaena *Hyaena hyaena*, African wild dog *Lycaon pictus* and cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*; and is therefore an ideal surrogate, for implementation of community wildlife awareness and conservation strategies towards mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, through creation and promotion of wildlife management areas and better husbandry practices to deal with livestock depredation.

As part of seeking mitigation measures towards human-wildlife conflict, the idea for a one-day community wildlife conservation consultative workshop in Samburu was conceived and rolled in motion after receiving simultaneous requests from the Senior Warden, Samburu National Reserve (SNR) – Mr. Moses Lolmodooni, and the Manager for Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy- Mr. Michael Lenaimado to conduct one. To this end Titus Adhola (UoN) teamed up with Dr. Ogeto Mwebi (NMK), Mary Wykstra (ACK) and Anthony Wandera (NRT) to conduct a one day community wildlife conservation consultative workshop, hosted by the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy on the 15th of March 2018. *The theme of the workshop was: “To conserve our carnivores is to conserve our environment and our pasturelands”*. The workshop sought to demonstrate that, it was possible to move from conflict to co-existence, when due emphasis was placed on collaboration, commitment and partnership with local communities in wildlife management and conservation. Each technical team (UoN, NMK, ACK, NRT and Ewaso Lions) sought to demonstrate the nature of their carnivore conservation activities in Samburu County, and engaged, discussed and deliberated with the participants from the local community on which *mid-to-long term* conservation strategies would work best towards mitigation of human-carnivore conflict.

Workshop in Summary

For many generations, Samburu pastoralists have practiced attentive forms of husbandry associated with minimal losses to depredation. However, despite valiant efforts to minimize depredation; livestock still constitutes a considerable proportion to wild carnivore diets. Livestock depredation causes serious damage to local economies, and tends to reinforce negative attitudes towards conservation initiatives and wild carnivores. Samburu County is unique in the sense that it hosts populations of the six large carnivore species found in eastern Africa, namely; lion, leopard, spotted hyaena, striped hyaena, African wild dog and cheetah; and is therefore an ideal surrogate, for implementation of community wildlife awareness and conservation strategies towards mitigation of human-wildlife conflict. As part of seeking mitigation measures towards human-wildlife conflict, the idea for a one-day community wildlife conservation consultative workshop in Samburu was conceived and rolled in motion after receiving simultaneous requests from the Senior Warden, Samburu National Reserve (SNR) – Mr. Moses Lolmodooni, and the Manager for Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy- Mr. Michael Lenaimado to conduct one. To this end, Titus Adhola (UoN) teamed up with Dr. Ogeto Mwebi (NMK), Mary Wykstra (ACK) and Anthony Wandera (NRT) to conduct a one day community wildlife conservation consultative workshop hosted by the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy on the 15th March 2018. *The theme of the workshop was: “To conserve our carnivores is to conserve our environment and our pasturelands”.* The workshop began at 10:30am and ended at 2:30pm with a late lunch and drinks for all workshop participants. The workshop sought to demonstrate that, it was possible to move from conflict to co-existence, when due emphasis was placed on collaboration, commitment and partnership with local communities in wildlife management and conservation. Each technical team (UoN, NMK, ACK, NRT and Ewaso Lions) sought to demonstrate the nature of their carnivore conservation activities in Samburu County, and engaged, discussed and deliberated with the participants from the local community, on which *mid-to-long term* conservation strategies would work best towards mitigation of human-carnivore conflict. Some of the key highlights during a live feedback session included: (1). *At stake is a conservation goodwill that ought to be harnessed well;* members of the Samburu community still have the capability to co-exist peacefully with wildlife, if their minds ‘switched off’ from the financial motivation from government compensation that so far in their view, is just a mere ‘pipe dream’; and, (2). The locals requested creation of a government policy that includes an insurance scheme being put in place for pastoralist communities. The technical team responded to a variety of enquiries from the locals concerning different topics; and focused to direct discussions on ways forward, based on common interests and not positions; and any new knowledge gained, became shared knowledge for everyone. The technical team continually emphasized the workshop take home message to the locals, that without the help and participation of ‘everyone’ (*government agencies, conservation professionals and conservation NGO’s, conservancy managers and members of local communities themselves*); we will never have enough time, money, and talent to address our challenges; but with that help from everyone, we can do almost anything! The technical team informed the locals that a follow-up to their requests to the concerned authorities would be made; and feedback communicated during another planned workshop or meeting in Samburu. A video documentary based on this inaugural locally held workshop in northern Kenya is underway.

Preliminaries

The workshop organizing team began the event with a brief meeting with the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy Manager- Mr. Michael Lenaimado, at his office to chart the planned course of the workshop, and to make any necessary adjustments in the workshop programme in part due to heavy rains, and how this would possibly contribute to delays in arrivals by teams from far flung community wildlife conservancies like Sera and Meibae. The team subsequently made note of the following apologies: the Samburu National Reserve Senior Warden who could not make it with his team for the workshop due to prior engagements for the day; a representative from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) headquarters could not make it to the workshop due to prior engagements in Nairobi. The team from Sera Community Wildlife Conservancy eventually sent their apologies after being unable to negotiate tricky, muddy and impassable stretches of the road network within Sera conservancy due to flooding caused by heavy rain in the previous night.



Workshop start

The workshop began at 10:30 am. The Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy Manager anchored the first part of the workshop programme. After a brief opening prayer by a member of the audience, each participant was given a chance to introduce himself/herself and to inform the audience from which institution and/or conservancy he/she came from and/or represented. The local area chief, *mzee* (elder) Gabriel Lenyakopiro was then given an opportunity to welcome everyone, and to officially kick off the workshop as the representative of the Samburu County administration. Subsequent speakers were then invited according to the planned workshop programme for the day.

Opening speech by *mzee* Gabriel Lenyakopiro, local area Chief.



mzee Gabriel welcomed everyone to the workshop and gave a brief narrative on how man has been given a God-given role to protect all forms of life. He emphasized that for many generations, the Samburu pastoralist community has always had a strong sense of ownership of wildlife, and regarded them as second cattle. He noted that even though things may seem a little different now in the contemporary Samburu landscape, all was not lost; there is still hope if the old traditional management systems and norms that once governed the community are re-looked at and followed once again.

Titus Adhola, PhD student, Aix-Marseille University, France; Tutorial Fellow, University of Nairobi; Resident Research Associate, National Museums of Kenya.



Titus gave the background to the workshop including its main objectives. He noted that as part of seeking mitigation measures towards human-wildlife conflict, the idea for the one-day community wildlife conservation consultative workshop in Samburu was conceived and rolled in motion after receiving simultaneous requests from the Senior Warden, Samburu National Reserve (SNR) - Mr. Moses Lolmodooni, and the Manager for Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy- Mr. Michael Lenaimado to conduct one. To this end Titus teamed up with Dr. Ogeto Mwebi (NMK), Mary Wykstra (ACK), and Anthony Wandera (NRT) to conduct the one day community wildlife conservation consultative workshop graciously hosted by Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy.

He informed the gathering on the reasons why the following workshop theme was chosen; *“To conserve our carnivores is to conserve our environment and our pasturelands”*. He elaborated that the workshop sought to demonstrate that, it was possible to move from conflict to co-existence, when due emphasis was placed on collaboration, commitment and partnership with local communities in wildlife management and conservation. He emphasized on the following workshop take home message; *“If ‘we’ the conservation community (government agencies, conservation professionals and NGO’s and the local communities) partner with each other, and fully agree, and commit to work side by side with each other, in conserving and protecting our wildlife, our environment (wildlife habitat) and our pasturelands, then we will have a clear pathway of moving away from conflict towards coexistence”*.

He then informed the gathering that each technical team (UoN, NMK, ACK, NRT and Ewaso Lions) would demonstrate the nature of their carnivore conservation activities in Samburu County; and to engage, discuss and deliberate with the participants on which *mid-to-long term* conservation strategies would work best towards mitigation of human-carnivore conflict during a live feedback plenary session.

He also took the opportunity to enlighten the audience about his on-going PhD field conservation project in Samburu entitled: *“Key ecological determinants of depredation by large carnivores in relation to community practices and perceptions in Samburu, northern Kenya”*. He informed the audience that his PhD field conservation project was made possible courtesy of sponsorship from the National Geographic Society (NGS) and the Rufford Foundation as the major sponsors. *He further elaborated on his study objectives that include: (1). To assess large carnivore diet through analyses of carnivore scat and prey remains at carnivore kill sites. (2). To investigate the impacts of variation in local habitat (proximity to protected area, vegetation cover, terrain, denning sites, stocking densities, wild prey availability and abundance) on perceived and actual rates of livestock depredation by large carnivores. (3). To assess the factors that need to be considered to enhance tolerance (social carrying capacity) of large carnivore presence in a pastoralist dominated landscape.*

He then went on to define the large carnivores, namely; lion, leopard, spotted hyaena, striped hyaena, African wild dog and cheetah as shapers of terrestrial ecosystems, and whose roles are crucial for the wellbeing of the landscape ecosystem. Removing carnivores from the landscape, he cautioned, would mean unchecked populations of elephants *Loxodonta africana* also referred to as *‘landscape ecosystem engineers’*, owing to their capability to transform a forest or bushland into grasslands due to their tendency to knock down trees, thereby leading to the disappearance of species like kudu *Tragelaphus sp.*, Giraffe *Giraffa camelopardalis* and the gerenuk *Litocranius walleri* that prefer a habitat mosaic that includes trees in the landscape. In addition, removal of carnivores from the landscape, he warned, also results to unregulated populations of baboons *Papio sp.* that would not only wreak havoc in the farmlands by destroying crops, but also predate on the young of our livestock; thereby bringing about even greater economic losses. *Simply put, he stated that having carnivores in the local landscape ecosystem meant having problems; but removing them from that very landscape would result in even bigger problems!* He advised that since it was virtually impossible to live without carnivores, then it serves us better to keep on seeking the best ways of living with them in our midst as a human society. *He concluded by stating that the workshop was made possible courtesy of sponsorship from the National Geographic Society (NGS) and the Rufford Foundation.*



This Beisa oryx *Oryx beisa* paid a courtesy call to the workshop venue and did a thorough inspection right before commencement of workshop.

Dr. Ogeto Mwebi, Senior Research Scientist, National Museums of Kenya (NMK).



He began by commending the community members for the good turnout for the workshop, challenges due to heavy rains notwithstanding. He also informed the audience that he did part of his PhD fieldwork in Samburu while studying livestock depredation by hyaenas. He enlightened the audience that through study of bone remains of carnivore prey (domestic or wild animals) it was possible to identify the *'culprit'* because each carnivore species leaves unique tooth marks on bone remains of prey, that are diagnostic to that carnivore species *i.e.* it was possible by just looking at a carnivore kill site, to identify which carnivore species *'did the deed'*, and it was also possible to tell how long the animal had lived before it was killed by the carnivore or died due to natural causes.

He emphasized that the main objective of the workshop was to hear from the community representatives themselves on their views on human-carnivore conflict. He also challenged that during the live feedback plenary session, the community members should inform and dialogue with the technical team, and amongst themselves, on which mitigation steps should be taken moving forward to address human-carnivore conflict, in order to help find a solution towards an agreeable minimum for co-existence.

Anthony Wandera, Senior Research and Monitoring Officer, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT).



He began by informing the gathering that the Northern Rangelands Trust is a community led, non-governmental organization that was set up in 2004 in northern Kenya by a coalition of local leaders, politicians and conservation interests. Its mission being to develop resilient community conservancies, which transform people’s lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources. He stated that NRT is a community conservancy membership organization. The 35 member conservancies work across 4.5 million hectares of northern and coastal Kenya.

He further stated that NRT is supporting and empowering communities to develop locally-led governance structures, run peace and security programmes, take the lead in natural resource management, and manage sustainable businesses linked to conservation. The community conservancies, he observed, are starting to have a significant impact on building peace, improving lives and managing the rangelands.

He noted that NRT is now widely seen as a model of how to support community conservancies. Its success, he stated, has helped shape new government regulations on establishing, registering and managing community conservancies in Kenya.

He talked about NRT being involved in a programme of monitoring the cluster distribution of carnivore populations in northern Kenya. He elaborated on the critical role of involving conservancy rangers and community scouts in human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and in the collection of information on carnivore livestock depredation conflicts across northern Kenya.

He also informed the audience that NRT partners with government agencies, conservation NGOs and conservation professionals to help address human-wildlife conflict. Examples of government agencies include; KWS, NMK, Samburu County Government and the Samburu National Reserve (SNR) management. Examples of conservation NGOs include; ACK, Ewaso Lions, Save The Elephants (STE) and Grevy's Zebra Trust. He also informed the gathering that NRT is ever ready, willing and able to work with independent conservation professionals conducting research on carnivores in Samburu including PhD and Masters students (both local and international).

He concluded by emphasizing on the workshop take home message; *“If ‘we’ the conservation community (government agencies, conservation professionals and NGO’s and the local communities) partner with each other, and fully agree, and commit to work side by side with each other, in conserving and protecting our wildlife, our environment (wildlife habitat) and our pasturelands, then we will have a clear pathway of moving away from conflict towards coexistence”.*



Noreen Mutoro, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK); PhD student, Technical University of Munich.

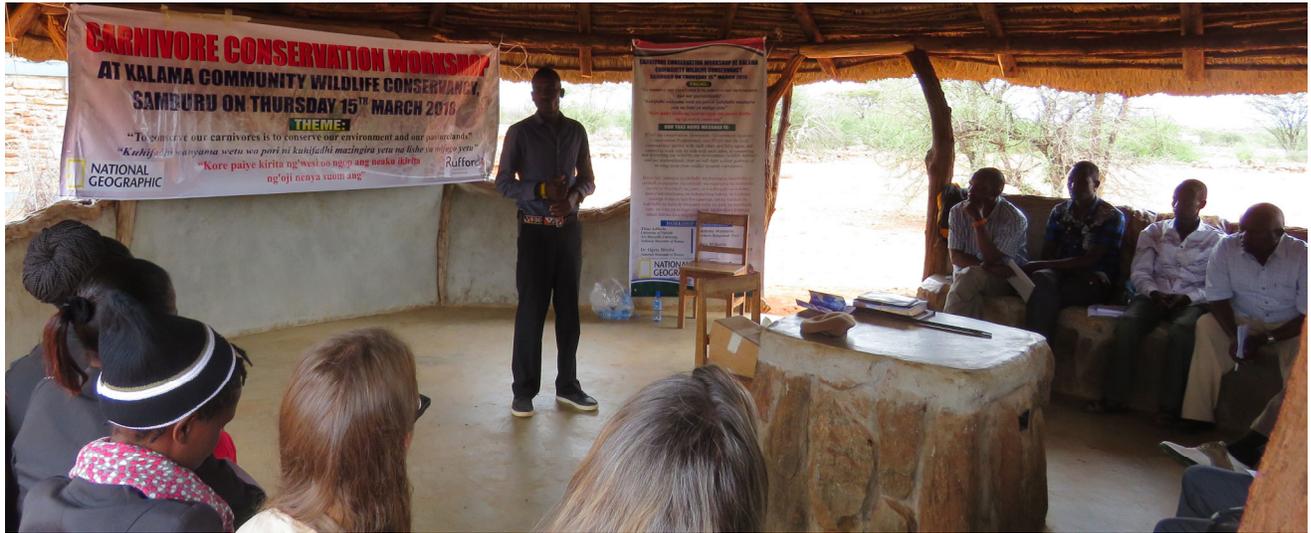


She began her talk by informing the audience that Kenya has a population of approximately 1400 cheetahs with about 200 of them occurring in Samburu. She stated that ACK chose Samburu as a study site location for cheetah conservation work due to its high favourability to cheetah conservation. She noted that wildlife corridors are vital for cheetah survival – their movement across areas can be as much as 3000 km² with greater overlap between female ranges.

She enlightened the audience that previous occupancy surveys showed that monitoring for sightings and tracks was not adequate for achieving information about distribution or density of a cryptic species such as the cheetah. To this end, she emphasized, “Interviews provide important information that transects miss, as well as interactions to develop awareness materials”. She then stated that scat samples allowed ACK to monitor health, diet and genetic flow in cheetah populations across landscapes. She explained that ACK uses specially trained dogs to find cheetah scat. “It is estimated that the dog can smell as much as 2 km away!” she noted. She further explained that ACK trained dogs lead them to fresh cheetah scat, enabling them to collect and analyze it, and that samples are stored in ethanol and/or frozen for studies on diet, genetics and health. She noted that currently ACK has a field base camp in Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy, but is keen to extend its cheetah conservation work in as many community conservancies within Samburu County as possible that host cheetah populations.

She then concluded her talk by informing the audience about her proposed PhD field research in Samburu entitled, “Conservation of cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* in a human dominated landscape-combining ecological and social sciences”. *Her study objectives include: (1). To determine historical and current distribution of cheetah populations. (2). To identify habitat variables that influence cheetah resource use. (3). To identify specific landscape structures which act as barriers or corridors; and, (4). To assess the perceptions of the Samburu pastoralist community towards cheetahs and how it may influence cheetah conservation efforts.*

Jeneria Lekilelei, *Field operations and community manager, Ewaso Lions.*



He informed the audience that the core aim of Ewaso Lions is to conduct conservation related activities that are geared towards co-existence of the local community with lions and other carnivores. He further noted that Ewaso Lions' community-based conservation work targets different demographics in the local area and they include: *Warrior watch* (Samburu morans); *Wazee watch* (community elders); *Mama simba* (women); *Lion kids watch* (children); *Lion watch* (safari guides); and, *an education programme* that works closely with local schools.

He stated that in the year 2010, Ewaso Lions began involving Samburu morans in lion conservation by being trained on research techniques that involve use of GPS. He also noted that Ewaso Lions has collared a number of lions to help track their movements across the Isiolo-Samburu landscape.

Mary Wykstra, *Director, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK).*



Mary began her talk by enlightening the audience that ACK has been based in Kenya since 2001. She stated that ACK has employed over 20 people and has had more than 50 students and volunteers attached to ACK conservation work. She informed the audience that two Kenyans previously received Masters degrees from their work with ACK and that currently, there are three Masters students, one undergraduate, and a PhD student (Noreen Mutoro) working with ACK. She added that Titus has also partnered with ACK as a PhD student affiliate. She noted that three Kenyan undergraduate students have also been attached to ACK in the recent past. She went on to elaborate that ACK has been based in Meibae since 2012 monitoring cheetah and their prey. She explained that wildlife trends help ACK to understand the co-existence between communities and wild animals, and to understand the drivers of conflict. “Four field officers conduct patrols by walking transects, to collect data for distribution and density of wildlife, and livestock. Conflict mitigation requires proper investigation and data collection in order to prevent future loss. Each species uses a different hunting and killing method, thus ACK works with the conservancy managers and their rangers to investigate and mitigate conflicts” she stated.

She explained that ACK education and awareness programs began in 2016, and that ACK is developing student workbooks that teach children about co-existence with wildlife. She also noted that sports are a part of ACK work as well, and that ACK has donated footballs with cheetah pictures on them. She added that ACK also works with other partners in supporting goal posts and uniforms. “Sports teaches teamwork” she opined! “ACK launched the first rabies campaign in Samburu in 2017. Posters raised awareness and ACK together with the county veterinary department vaccinated 711 dogs and 74 cats. ACK are a part of the rabies eradication working group, and we hope that in the next few years more vaccination campaigns will be launched with additional partners” she noted. She then concluded her talk by stating that the main focus of ACK’s research in Kenya is the evaluation of grassland ecosystems for the long-term sustainability of viable landscape ecosystems for cheetah conservation.

Plenary session

During the plenary session, one particular talk by a community elder (*mzee*) stood out and was documented in this report due to its vividness in imagery and relevance to the workshop.

mzee Kinyua Lengachar, *Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy*.



mzee Kinyua resoundly captured the human-carnivore conflict dimension with the following vivid analogy; “We as the Samburu pastoralist community had our traditional resource management systems that worked in the days of yore, before colonial and government systems came to be. Wild animals were associated with various clans among members of our community who viewed them as sacred, thereby being protectors of the said wild animals. In essence we viewed the wild animals as our second cattle, and killing any of them was considered a taboo. If our livestock had several young, then we not only looked at the resource in terms of catering for our day to day use; but we also accepted as normal, uncertainties in life, *for example*; theft of the said livestock, or depredation by carnivores, or death of livestock in the unfortunate encounter with elephants or buffalos; we also reserved a few for the occasional visitor. *Otherwise livestock are so much treasured in our community...they are our lifeblood...our second heart... if you take away our livestock, then you will also need to kill us; for without our livestock... life loses its essence...it becomes devoid of its very meaning.* Retaliations due to livestock depredations by carnivores were minimal to very rare. We always viewed the lion as more than just a majestic king of the jungle, but also a very selfless animal. After making any kill, domestic or wild, the lion feeds on it but also makes sure to leave remains for other animals including man. If the lions killed a buffalo or elephant, they would feed for one or two days, then leave the remains for a while, as they rest due to their heavy meal. Our people would then get a piece of that meat and carry it to their homesteads; hyenas, jackals and birds of prey would also have a chance to scavenge on that carcass. Besides, a lion does not kill all the time, and whenever he does, he shares his kill with other animals. We associate the lion with selfless leadership”.

“The leopard on the other hand” he continued, “split our opinion right in the middle... when a leopard growls, snarls, attacks, and kills your goats and sheep; expect an increase in the numbers of goats and sheep in your pen! Even though it was a good omen to receive that occasional visit from the leopard in your pen, we also associate the leopard with greed. Unlike the lion who shares his kill, the leopard hides his kill very high up in the trees where it is virtually inaccessible to other animals, except for the birds of prey. The leopard finishes his meal all by himself unless it gets stolen by some bird of prey up in the tree”. He said this amid rounds of laughter from the audience, who also nodded in affirmation.

“Then out the blues, KWS came to tell us that we will be compensated in case we lose our livestock to wild animals. This I believe is one of the root causes of our problems, because in any human society, there will always be those bad apples... greed came in... some dishonest people would then begin to falsely make claims for compensation, even when livestock depredation incidences took place due to human negligence, or when the cattle had died due to natural causes. This mentality brought about the notion that the animals were no longer ours, but the government’s. That is where the rain began beating us as a country, and as you seek ways of finding lasting solutions, my view is that you should try and stop treating the symptoms, by trying compensate for every loss of livestock to wildlife... it was not possible in the old days, it is not possible today, and neither will it be possible in the future! If you call it a ‘*malaria*’ then stop trying to cure its symptoms, go for the root cause and address it head on!” he advised. “*The love for money is the root of many evils!*” he opined amid rounds of laughter from the audience. He then concluded by stating that compensation is not a wholesome solution to solving human-wildlife conflict, and that ways and means ought to be sought to go back to the traditional knowledge and ways that worked in fostering the co-existence of humans with wildlife.



Even this pair of Beisa oryx was seemingly captivated by *mzee* Kinyua’s vivid analogies rich in imagery, metaphors and similes!

Key highlights of plenary session:

- 1) Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy has developed a ‘*Consolation programme*’ to help mitigate human-elephant conflict within the boundaries of Namunyak. The amount of consolation varies depending on injury to man, loss of human life and/or loss of livestock. They intend at some point to expand the programme to include human-carnivore conflict. If one is found to have retaliated in any way due to the attack by the elephant other than protecting their life, then the consolation amount is withheld.
- 2) Other members of audience voiced their opinion that it would work best if government compensation schemes for human-wildlife conflict be solely handled by the county governments and not KWS for easy implementation, instead of having to be subjected to the current eternal wait for compensations that are a mere ‘*pipe dream*’.
- 3) The participants from the local community also noted that members of the Samburu community still have the capability to co-exist peacefully with wildlife; if their minds ‘*switched off*’ from the financial motivation from government compensation.
- 4) The locals reiterated that they are fully committed to co-existing peacefully with wildlife, but they feel somewhat ‘*shortchanged*’ by the National government because each year, wildlife attracts millions, if not billions of dollars to Kenya’s economy through tourism, but these very revenues hardly ever reaches them and/or improves their socio-economic livelihoods, yet they bear the cost of living alongside these very wildlife. This in their view reinforces negative views towards wildlife conservation.
- 5) The locals also lamented that there is a developing sentiment that even though community wildlife conservancies are in place to help conserve wildlife, they are also beginning to realize that the inception of the said community wildlife conservancies, have brought these very wildlife uncomfortably closer to their very homes! They now seem to be caught up between a rock and a very hard place, in regards to wildlife conservation.
- 6) *The locals also requested creation of government policy that includes an insurance scheme being put in place for pastoralist communities; where they can pay some forms of premium to insure their livestock against predation, and some form of consolation payments for livestock losses incurred due to encounters with wildlife.*
- 7) The locals were grateful on being enlightened and cautioned about the possibility of certain cultural practices being catalysts to livestock depredation by large carnivores. They promised to enlighten other members of their community to properly dispose of bones after festivities instead of the habitual throwing of carcasses of domestic animals close to their areas of habitation that could lead to habituation of carnivores.
- 8) The technical team responded to a variety of enquiries from the locals concerning disparate/different topics; and focused to direct discussions on ways forward based on common interests and not positions; and any new knowledge gained became shared knowledge for everyone.
- 9) The technical team emphasized the workshop take home message to the locals, that without the help and participation of ‘*everyone*’ (*government agencies, conservation professionals and conservation NGO’s, conservancy managers and members of local communities themselves*); we will never have enough time, money, and talent to address our challenges; *but with that help from everyone, we can do almost anything!*
- 10) A video documentary based on this inaugural locally held workshop in northern Kenya is underway.

Appendices:

Thoughts on carnivore workshop experience by three final year students undertaking the BSc Wildlife Management and Conservation degree course at the Department of Clinical Studies, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS), University of Nairobi.



Rita Kulamo, 4th year, BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation, University of Nairobi.

“I had such an unforgettable experience attending this carnivore conservation workshop alongside my two classmates (Mercy and Margaret) in our home area of Samburu! The timing of this workshop couldn't have been more perfect... not only did we find it exciting, informative and educative; we also got the chance to meet with *and/or* re-connect with a good number of our community *wazees* (elders), and gained new traditional knowledge and folklore, regarding our community's interactions and co-existence with wildlife! *We also got the opportunity to listen to, learn from, and interact with renowned conservation professionals, and wildlife practitioners from the National Museums of Kenya, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK), and Ewaso Lions. These networks availed courtesy of the workshop proved to be such a godsend; we were given the chance to prove ourselves worthy as upcoming conservation professionals, through two internship opportunities from NRT (Sera Community Wildlife Conservancy), and one internship opportunity from ACK (Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy). The knowledge we gained from the workshop will greatly help us in our career goals and pursuits, as young and upcoming female conservationists working hard to make a difference in the lives of our people - the Samburu pastoralist community; in terms of conservation of wildlife in Samburu County, and improvement of their rural livelihoods.* I would like to take this chance to thank the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi, for granting us the permission to participate in this highly educative carnivore conservation workshop, very relevant to our BSc degree programme in Wildlife Management and Conservation. We also appreciate the efforts of our course unit lecturer in Community Wildlife Management and Conservation, Mr. Titus Adhola from the University of Nairobi, for giving us the rare opportunity and privilege, to take part in the said workshop. *Finally, we are very grateful to the sponsors of this workshop - the National Geographic (NGS) and the Rufford Foundation, for making this workshop a reality*”.

Mercy Lolkireri, 4th year, BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation, University of Nairobi.



“I was beyond myself with utter joy when I got informed by my course unit lecturer in Community Wildlife Management and Conservation, that the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi, had granted me and my two classmates hailing from Samburu County, the permission, and thereby the rare privilege and opportunity, to participate in the Carnivore Conservation Workshop, at the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy in Samburu! What made this event even more memorable for the three of us, is the fact that we come from the same neighbourhood/locality in Samburu, we attended the same nursery, primary and secondary schools; same degree course in Wildlife Management and Conservation at the University of Nairobi; and now attending the same community wildlife conservation consultative workshop, that sought to guide our community members, in seeking common interests, in the pursuit of pragmatic *mid-to-long term* conservation strategies that would work best towards mitigation of human-carnivore conflict! *We were also given the privilege to begin realizing our conservation dreams through internship opportunities from NRT (Sera Community Wildlife Conservancy) and ACK (Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy). It is a great opportunity and rare privilege for me to work with Mary Wykstra, the Director of ACK, to fulfill my student attachment and senior year project requirements for my BSc degree course in Wildlife Management and Conservation, at the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi. Courtesy of this very workshop, we truly felt inspired and challenged, to work together as three young upcoming female conservationists, to be part of the much needed solution in the conservation challenges facing our people- the Samburu pastoralist community, in co-existing peacefully with wildlife. On behalf of myself and my two classmates (Rita and Margaret), we appreciate the kind gesture of the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi, for granting us the permission to participate in this highly informative and educative carnivore conservation workshop, relevant to our BSc degree programme in Wildlife Management and Conservation; our course lecturer Mr. Titus Adhola, for inviting us to the workshop; and finally, to the National Geographic Society (NGS) and the Rufford Foundation, for making this workshop come to pass”.*

Margaret Achuka, 4th year, BSc in Wildlife Management and Conservation, University of Nairobi.



“I felt a rush of such indescribable joy in my very being, when I was notified by the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi, through my course lecturer, Mr. Titus Adhola, that the three of us (myself, Rita and Mercy), had the green-light, to participate in the Carnivore Conservation Workshop at the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy in Samburu! *At first, it just seemed to me as a mere touch of serendipity, before reality quickly dawned upon me with utmost clarity, that this was not an act of charity, but a golden opportunity for the three of us to participate in, and learn as a team from the workshop, on the best ways of seeking possible solutions towards the conservation challenges facing our very people- the Samburu pastoralist community; who since time immemorial, have been co-existing peacefully with wildlife in general, and the large carnivores in particular.* In this very workshop, two community elders, *mzee Gabriel Lenyakopiro (a local area chief) and mzee Kinyua Lengachar, (Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy)* both vividly captured everyone’s attention with talks, and deliberations full of advice, and rich folklore, on the audacity of hope, if we dared to believe, that all was not lost! They stated that if appropriate ways and means were sought to go back to the very rich traditional knowledge, and ways that worked for the Samburu pastoralist society in co-existing with wildlife, then the contemporary Samburu society still has the capability to continue co-existing peacefully with wildlife; if their minds ‘switched off’ from the financial motivation from government compensation. *Courtesy of conservation networks availed through this very workshop, and being greatly inspired to help find solutions towards the conservation challenges faced by the Samburu pastoralist society in living alongside wildlife, while at the same time improving their rural livelihoods; each of us was given a chance to begin that conservation journey, through internship opportunities from NRT (Sera Community Wildlife Conservancy), and ACK (Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy).* A big thank you to the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Nairobi, for granting us the permission to participate in this highly informative, and educative carnivore conservation workshop, relevant to our BSc degree programme in Wildlife Management and Conservation; a big thank you to our course lecturer Mr. Titus Adhola, for inviting us to the workshop; and last but not least, a very big thank you to the National Geographic Society (NGS) and the Rufford Foundation for making this workshop possible, and making us truly believe, that as young upcoming female conservationists from the Samburu pastoralist community, our conservation dreams are valid!”

List of participants for the carnivore conservation workshop, Samburu

N°	Name	Institution/Conservancy
1.	Michael Lenaimado	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
2.	Benedict Lesimir	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
3.	John Leparporit	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
4.	Jonathan Leparatingat	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
5.	Rose Eteng'an	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
6.	Ltamulen Loshede	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
7.	Josephine Lenaiyasa	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
8.	Gabriel Lenyakopiro	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
9.	Sakana Lenene	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
10.	Apaiyi Lekinah	Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy
11.	Tom Letiwa	Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy
12.	Kinyua Lengachar	Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy
13.	Kipkasa Lerooto	Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy
14.	Reuben Lesangurukuri	Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy
15.	Ltarane Lerukupa	Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy
16.	Isaya Lepuyapui	Namunyak Community Wildlife Conservancy
17.	Samuel Lentaam	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
18.	Bulari Loloolki	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
19.	Alison Lolkinyat	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
20.	David Lesantainguny'	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
21.	Chris Lentaam	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)
22.	Moses Lekerumui	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)
23.	Learkeri Lbitiri	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)
24.	Kivoi Letongoine	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)
25.	Daudi Saruni	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
26.	Lkaduma Lepirkine	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
27.	Francis Leshingia	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
28.	Lekuiye Uriano	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
29.	Ltungoris Lenasulaa	Meibae Community Wildlife Conservancy
30.	Jeneria Lekilelei	West Gate Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Ewaso Lions
31.	Ben Lejale	West Gate Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Ewaso Lions
32.	Reit Lentiyo	West Gate Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Ewaso Lions
33.	Lparari Leleale	West Gate Community Wildlife Conservancy/ Ewaso Lions
34.	Dr. Ogeto Mwebi	National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
35.	Anthony Wandera	Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)
36.	Lolngojine Dorcas	Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)
37.	Isse Yawane	Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)
38.	Stephen Lesowapir	Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)
39.	Mary Wykstra	Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)
40.	Noreen Mutoro	Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)
41.	Sara Blake	Action for Cheetahs in Kenya (ACK)
42.	Rita Kulamo	University of Nairobi (UoN)
43.	Mercy Lolkireri	University of Nairobi (UoN)
44.	Margaret Achuka	University of Nairobi (UoN)
45.	Titus Adhola	University of Nairobi (UoN)
46.	Dr. Bradley Cain	Manchester Metropolitan University

Workshop's landscape and portrait banners

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP
AT KALAMA COMMUNITY WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY,
SAMBURU ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2018

THEME:
“To conserve our carnivores is to conserve our environment and our pasturelands”
“Kuhifadhi wanyama wetu wa pori ni kuhifadhi mazingira yetu na lishe ya mifugo yetu”

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC “Kore paiye kirita ng'wesi oo ngop ang neaku ikirita ng'oji nanya suom ang” **The Rufford Foundation**

CARNIVORE CONSERVATION WORKSHOP AT KALAMA COMMUNITY WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY, SAMBURU ON THURSDAY 15TH MARCH 2018

THEME:
“To conserve our carnivores is to conserve our environment and our pasturelands”
“Kuhifadhi wanyama wetu wa pori ni kuhifadhi mazingira yetu na lishe ya mifugo yetu”
“Kore paiye kirita ng'wesi oo ngop ang neaku ikirita ng'oji nanya suom ang”

OUR TAKE HOME MESSAGE IS:
If 'we' the conservation community (Government Agencies, Conservation Professionals and NGO's and the local communities) partner with each other, and fully agree, and commit to work side by side with each other, in conserving and protecting our wildlife, our environment (wildlife habitat) and our pasturelands, then we will have a clear pathway of moving away from conflict towards coexistence.

Ikiwa 'sisi' jumuiya ya uhifadhi wa mazingira (mashirika ya serikali, wataalamu wa uhifadhi wa mazingira na mashirika yasiyo ya kiserikali, na jamii za wachungaji wa kuhama hama) tukishirikiana, na kukubaliana kabisa, na kujitolea mhanga kufanya kazi kwa pamoja, katika harakati za kuhifadhi na kulinda wanyama wetu wa pori, na mazingira yetu na lishe ya mifugo yetu, basi tutafanikiwa kusonga mbali kutoka kwa migogoro na kuelekea mshikamano.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS:

Titus Adhola, University of Nairobi Aix-Marseille University National Museums of Kenya	Anthony Wandera, Northern Rangelands Trust – NRT
Dr. Ogeto Mwebi, National Museums of Kenya	Mary Wykstra, Action for Cheetahs in Kenya – ACK

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC **The Rufford Foundation**

Bibliography

- Blackburn, S., Hopcraft, C. G. J., Ogutu, O. J., Matthiopoulos, J., and Frank, L. (2016). Human–wildlife conflict, benefit sharing and the survival of lions in pastoralist community-based conservancies. *Journal of Applied Ecology*.
- Cotterill, A. (2013). Behavioural Adjustments of Lion (*Panthera leo*) in Response to a Conflict Landscape. *PhD Thesis*. University of Oxford.
- Frank, L. (2010). Living with lions: lessons from Laikipia. *Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology*, **632**, 73-83.
- Ghoddousi, A., Soofi, M., Hamidi, Kh. A, Lumetsberger, T., Egli, L., Khorozyan, I., Kiabi, B. H., Waltert, M. (2016). Assessing the role of livestock in big cat prey choice using spatiotemporal availability patterns. *PLoS ONE* **11**(4).
- Inskip, C., and Zimmermann, A. (2009). Human–felid conflict: a review of patterns and priorities worldwide. *Oryx*, **43**(1): 18–34.
- Kellert, S. R., Black, M., Rush, C.R., and Bath, A. J. (1996). Human culture and large carnivore conservation in North America. *Conservation Biology*, **10**, 977–990.
- Kissui, B. M. (2008). Demography, population dynamics, and the human-lion conflicts: lions in the Ngorongoro Crater and the Maasai steppe, Tanzania. *PhD Thesis*, University of Minnesota.
- Ogada, M. O., Woodroffe, R., Oguge, N. O., and Frank, L. G. (2003). Limiting Depredation by African Carnivores: the Role of Livestock Husbandry. *Conservation Biology*, **17**, 1 – 10.
- Romañach, S., Lindsey, P.A., and Woodroffe, R. (2007). Determinants of attitudes towards predators in central Kenya and suggestions for increasing tolerance in livestock dominated landscapes. *Oryx*, **41**(2), 185–195.
- Suryawanshi, K. R., Bhatnagar, Y. V., Redpath, S., and Mishra, C. (2013). People, predators and perceptions: patterns of livestock depredation by snow leopards and wolves. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, **50**, 550–560.
- Woodroffe, R., Frank, L., Lindsey, P. A., Ole Ranah, S. M. K., Romañach, S. (2007). Livestock husbandry as a tool for carnivore conservation in Africa’s community rangelands: a case–control study. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, **16**(4), 1245–1260.

