

1st CONFERENCE OF CONSERVATION NGO's IN KENYA



**Held at Enashipai
Lodge and Spa,
Naivasha. KENYA**

January 26th – 28th 2015

CONFERENCE REPORT

**Promoting collaboration to secure the future of
Kenya's wildlife**

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF CONSERVATION NGO'S IN KENYA: **Promoting collaboration to secure the future of Kenya's wildlife**

Enashipai Lodge and Spa, Naivasha

26-28 JANUARY 2015

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

The First Conference of Conservation NGOs in Kenya aimed at promoting collaboration between wildlife conservation NGOs in Kenya. It was held at the Enashipai Lodge and Spa, Naivasha from 26-28 January 2015. One hundred and three participants from NGOs, civil society, the government, including Kenya Wildlife Service and the donor community were in attendance. The meeting was organized by the interim committee of conservation NGOs constituted during a breakfast meeting convened by the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on 27th November 2014. During this meeting, participants discussed the formation, registration and institutionalization of an independent national NGO umbrella body for wildlife conservation and management in Kenya. The theme of the conference was *"Together for Kenya's Wildlife"*.

The Conference was opened on Tuesday 26th January, ran through the day and continued on Wednesday 27th morning. On Tuesday, participants were introduced to the conservation NGO forum concept and listened to speeches from government and diplomatic representatives. They also participated in five thematic group discussions on: (a) research and data sharing; (b) advocacy and lobbying; (c) community and livelihoods; (d) conservation and development; and (e) wildlife crime. Each group discussed the priority areas under their respective theme and proposed structure, scope and mandate of the proposed conservation NGO organization. During the afternoon plenary, participants presented a variety of views and built consensus on the name and mandates of the body whose proposed name the 'Kenya Conservation Alliance (KCA)', was unanimously adopted.

On Wednesday, participants met in plenary to discuss the composition of the Interim Committee of KCA and agree on its priorities. They also received advice from representatives of embassies and development agencies on possible areas of collaboration including financial support for KCA activities. Immediately after the closure of the formal meeting, the NGOs met separately without representation from the government and endorsed the NGOs organising taskforce to continue with the process of registering KCA.

BRIEF HISTORY AND CONTEXT

Wildlife conservation and management in Kenya is faced with many challenges leading to a decline of wildlife numbers, including changes in land use and tenure resulting in shrinking wildlife habitats, and increased poaching for trophies and bush meat trade. In the past, national and county governments and conservation NGOs have worked in various collaborations, individually or with communities to mitigate some of these challenges. However the lack of coordination of activities has led to disjointed, weak and short-term projects or programs, making it difficult to address these challenges in the long term and realize desired goals. Landowners and communities in 2013 formed the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) in order to have a unified voice, share experiences, and participate actively in protecting wildlife while benefiting from it. Similarly, conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have realized the need for coordination of their activities in the wildlife conservation sector and begun, since 2013, to seek means of establishing a common voice to contribute to county, national and regional conservation of wildlife.

This meeting, organized by KWS and various conservation NGOs was held at Serena Hotel, Nairobi, on 27 November 2013. Its aim was to discuss ways in which NGOs and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) can build partnerships with clear mandates on wildlife conservation and management in Kenya, in order to enhance governance of the wildlife industry. At this meeting the Cabinet Secretary highlighted the roles NGO could play in supporting government such as: Policy and legal input; infrastructure development planning; park management and review of plans; EIAs; building conservation awareness; preparation of national conservation strategies and reports on status and trends of wildlife; winning space for wildlife; and uplifting local livelihoods.

The participants emphasized the need to establish a conservation NGO umbrella body to develop a framework for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach to wildlife conservation by: identifying and addressing gaps in wildlife conservation and management; sharing information and data; and collaborating in addressing other wildlife conservation and management concerns including creating space outside protected areas and combating poaching. At this meeting a taskforce, also acting as the interim committee of conservation NGOs, was formed to create the PPP framework and was tasked with convening and coordinating NGOs discussions on the formalization of the forum.

MEETING REPORT

OPENING SESSION

His Excellency, Ambassador Martin Kimani, the Kenya Permanent Representative and Head of Mission to the United Nations, chaired and moderated discussions in the two-day conference. Mr. William Kiprono, the acting Director-General, KWS, highlighted challenges and successes of his institution in wildlife conservation and management in Kenya and appealed for further support in acquiring surveillance equipment, enhancing community engagement, fund raising, capacity building and engagement with the international community. He recognized the need to work together and have common direction, expressing the support of KWS to the vision of a national NGO conservation body that unites all partners to achieve common goals in the wildlife sector.

Ambassador Christian Turner, the British High Commissioner to Kenya, discussed the High Commission's involvement in supporting the Kenya Wildlife Act. He emphasized the need to build on existing initiatives within the wildlife sector through enhanced partnerships and collaboration to address current pressing issues such as input to the Wildlife act, supporting the fight against wildlife crime, law and enforcement, setting up of the wildlife endowment fund and the development of reports on the status of wildlife and a National Strategy for Wildlife Conservation. He further strongly welcomed the conservation NGO collaboration and reiterated the strong support of the British government.

Professor Judi Wakhungu, the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, highlighted key challenges facing the conservation sector in Kenya. She identified sectors important to the ministry including: protected area management plans; environmental impact assessments; conservation awareness in pertinent issues such as rhino and elephant conservation; natural resource conservation strategies including the National Wildlife Strategy; mapping wildlife corridors and creating space outside protected areas; reducing human-wildlife conflicts; eradicating wildlife poaching; and the creation of sustainable funding through a proposed conservation fund.

SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM PRIVATE SECTOR AND JUDICIARY

Judicial Experience in the Wildlife Sector

On Tuesday, Nzioki Wa Makau, Judge and chair of the rules committee of the Industrial Court of Kenya, reported on judicial experiences and challenges in the wildlife sector. He said that the reforms brought about by the 2010 Constitution of Kenya have improved the judiciary system, creating an opportunity also for the wildlife sector. He highlighted the National Commission on the Administration of Justice (NCAJ), established under the Judicial Service Act, and mandated to ensure a consultative approach in the administration of justice and reform of the justice system. He added that new policies, such as the Wildlife Act, have assisted in better administration of the law, noting that laxity and management challenges within the judiciary impede judicial processes in wildlife crimes. He expressed the hope that through the NGO forum, KWS would have a platform to address these challenges.

KEPSA experience on engagement with Government

On Wednesday, the renowned industrialist Dr Manu Chandaria, the Founding Chairman of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), highlighted the challenges and successes that KEPSA has faced during its formative stages and in subsequent years. He noted the parallels between the challenges the proposed NGO body is facing at present and those of KEPSA during its formation in 2003, including: the lack of coordination of public-private-partnerships (PPPs). He referred to other umbrella bodies operating as successful interfaces between the private and public sector including the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and the East African Business Council. He noted that despite the doubts expressed initially, the formation, progress and achievements of KEPSA to date demonstrate how a collaborative partnership of like-minded organizations can lead to common and shared benefits. Dr Chandaria emphasized the role that conservation NGOs play in representing people and wildlife and fully encouraged the formation of the NGO conservation body offering support and advice for its operationalization and activities to achieve its mandate.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

During panel discussions, participants discussed their expectations and views on the establishment of a national conservation NGO body. They proposed that the body be anchored in existing wildlife related legal frameworks, particularly the Wildlife Act, which would enable effective lobbying with government. They expressed the need for a collective database in order to avoid duplication and misrepresentation of wildlife statistics in Kenya. Some participants proposed the establishment of a central database of this collective data and sharing of information to enhance a more coordinated and effective response to emerging challenges.

Participants also proposed that the NGO body: act as an advisory body to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and other relevant ministries; be involved in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), major development planning and country strategies; aggregate efforts in hot spots and thematic areas aligned to the mandates of KWS; and assist in the harmonization of conservation activities of county governments and local communities including lobbying for policy to incorporate local communities as wildlife conservation partners.

Several participants noted the need for learning lessons from similar organizations such as the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA). Others called for the application of a multipronged approach to wildlife conservation issues, while advocating for demand reduction in consumer countries for wildlife trophies.

THEMATIC GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Participants on Tuesday morning, went into group discussions to discuss the institutionalization, operationalization and scope of the NGO body in five thematic groups: research and data sharing; advocacy; community and livelihoods; conservation and development; and wildlife crime. They addressed the following issues:

- priorities of the NGO body in the wildlife sector;
- level of engagement and agencies to engage with at national and regional platforms;

- opportunities and benefits that will emerge from the NGO body;
- potential advantages and disadvantages of the body for individual organizations; and
- the operational structure of the body and its membership.

In the afternoon, the groups made presentations in the plenary, followed by discussions to build consensus on the name, membership, mandate, scope, priorities and operational structure of the NGO body.

Summary of the discussions are tabulated below:

KENYA CONSERVATION ALLIANCE – FIRST CONFERENCE - JANUARY 2015:

SUMMARY OF THEMATIC GROUP DISCUSSION

Priorities	Opportunities and Benefits	Potential Impacts: Advantages & Disadvantages for Individual Organizations	Suggested Structure & Role	Target Membership
THEME 1: RESEARCH AND DATA SHARING				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There need to be thorough protocols in place for data sharing; • There need to be regular monitoring and annual reports produced on wildlife censuses, status and trends; • Protocols need to be shared and peer reviewed to reflect high standards; • Protocols need to be harmonized and standardized so as to be adopted as good practice guiding principles; • Increase data accessibility for enhanced collaboration and harmonization of data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Common database- where and what platform? How can we establish this? 		<p>Mainly advantageous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased data sharing; • Direct method of involving the ministry as currently there is no way to engage them; • Enhanced collaboration will increase credibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCA should be a conservation NGO alliance: it should not just focus on large mammals but incorporate all conservation sectors and associations e.g. WRUAs; • It should not include government agencies; • Representatives need to be elected with a secretariat and national alliance will collaborate with other partners. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National conference to share information, data etc.; • Funding of the body through sharing personnel and resources; • A coordinator of the forum will be 	

Priorities	Opportunities and Benefits	Potential Impacts: Advantages & Disadvantages for Individual Organizations	Suggested Structure & Role	Target Membership
			important in its development and success.	
THEME 2: ADVOCACY & LOBBYING				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to engage in a national conservation agenda; • Need to influence national social and economic agenda within the conservation context; • Harness the collective expertise and other resources available within the NGO sector. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be called Kenya Conservation Alliance. • Accesses, collects, analyses and reports of priorities once priorities have been set; • Clearing house in regard to issues we want to put out there; • Responsibilities will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information management and packaging, how to communicate and advocate for positions; ○ Accountability and transparency- a watchdog type of body. ○ A watchdog in terms of holding govt. KWS and others accountable and ensure transparency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership-based with a secretariat and a management or advisory board articulating needs of the membership.

Priorities	Opportunities and Benefits	Potential Impacts: Advantages & Disadvantages for Individual Organizations	Suggested Structure & Role	Target Membership
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to build capacity of members to act on a more local level so body to evolve into different roles. 	
THEME 3: COMMUNITY AND LIVELIHOODS				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Space for wildlife: Mostly outside protected areas and interfaces with the community directly; HWC: Not fully addressed--- support the involvement of communities in addressing HWC issues; Benefit sharing: Do communities get benefits from wildlife apart from what KWS gives? Association/ organization governance, i.e. management, structures, resource sharing; Ensure the communities have the capacity to manage wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger body to champion livelihood and community agendas at national level; Structured resource mobilization; Opportunity to engage communities to ensure we have space for wildlife; Other benefits that may emerge from broader wildlife sector. 	<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collective bargaining power; Unified voice at many levels. <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential loss of identity particularly for smaller organizations; Manipulation by a few members- from experiences- due to dependence on resources. Powerful individuals may have strong agendas on specific issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered legal entity in Kenya; Structured at the national and conservancy level; Body to be created by NGOs present with opportunity for others not present to join; Membership should include conservation organizations and include application vetting. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HWC compensations- currently a very slow process- need to lobby the government to ensure the process moves faster; 				

Priorities	Opportunities and Benefits	Potential Impacts: Advantages & Disadvantages for Individual Organizations	Suggested Structure & Role	Target Membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there prevention measures to mitigate HWC? We need more dialogue; ● Buy out of land and easement arrangements; ● Community conservancies---- support to ensure community conservancies are viable and sustainable. ● Migratory corridors are getting blocked as a result of change in land-use; ● Education and awareness; ● Land use: Compatible land use- land use should give benefit to both wildlife and people; ● Benefit sharing: Look at policy issues; ● Governance: Capacity build communities and mobilize resources- should work together. 				
THEME 4: CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secure land for wildlife; ● Physical planning map that is wildlife focused- should be legally recognized at all levels and should be a current 	Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Involvement in spatial planning; ● Development of conservation incentives for land owners; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of competition between this body and government particularly internationally and a balance must be found which is possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Start from regional approach and cascade into a national platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National; ● Open to conservation NGO's operating in the country; ● National and regional groups that will

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<p>wildlife distribution map that can be revised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening NGO involvement with government agencies e.g. KWS, KFS, and institutionalizing this involvement; • Conservation community needs to have a larger say in infrastructural development going on in Kenya; • Have an annual conservation conference: requires a task force set up to set this up; • Development and conservation must be harmonized; need to find a balance to ensure compatibility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance wildlife priority within the government for example, extractive industries to give some of their budget to wildlife conservation; • Harmonize conflicting policy. <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective bargaining voice when addressing conservation issues- representation on the boards of other organizations that rely on wildlife • Consolidation and harmonization of funds • Reduce duplication of conservation effort • Full consolidation of expertise to support conservation • Creation of stronger partnership between government and NGOs increasing transparency on both sides - will eliminate competition and conflict 			<p>articulate on issues particular to respective regions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can include framework to engage with representatives from WRUA'S, Forestry NGOs, County government environment Executives.

Priorities	Opportunities and Benefits	Potential Impacts: Advantages & Disadvantages for Individual Organizations	Suggested Structure & Role	Target Membership
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak on issues that KWS may not legally be able to address 			
THEME 5: WILDLIFE CRIME				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked at crime from three perspectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crime itself; ○ Crime prevention, which could be categorized into: Stopping the Killing; Trafficking; and Reduction of Demand; ○ Legislation. • In terms of who the body would interface with vis-a-vis wildlife crime internationally, the group named: CITES, Interpol, foreign governments, World Customs Organization, UN agencies, regional organizations, international nonprofit organizations, and international consumers of wildlife products as the target groups; • Locally the body would engage: KWS, Police Service, KAA, County governments, NIS, KRA, ODPP, Private sector such as tourism investors, airlines, 	<p>The group listed the following potential benefits of KCA as an entity. It could work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a coordinated approach to sectors used in perpetrating Wildlife crime; • Synchronize information sharing; • Identify gaps and weaknesses; • Contribute a singular input in legislation and policy; • Efficiency in resource use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased length of time in reaching a consensus; • Information leaks; • Possible collapse of some organizations, which lack an established niche; • Challenges in coordination of experts. 	<p>In terms of structure of the body, there was agreement that the body should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be organization based; • have a collaborative charter signed by all members that addresses aspirations of members structure and objectives; • have rotating board membership; • have a lean secretariat; • be hosted by KWS or partners. 	

Priorities	Opportunities and Benefits	Potential Impacts: Advantages & Disadvantages for Individual Organizations	Suggested Structure & Role	Target Membership
telecommunications, media, banks and most certainly communities.				

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE, MANDATES AND FUNCTION

Participants agreed that the name of the organization would be the 'Kenya Conservation Alliance (KCA)'. They noted that the Alliance would be an umbrella organization consisting of national and regional NGOs and open to individuals involved in the wildlife sector. They agreed that membership would exclude government agencies.

Participants favoured KCA's registration as a legal entity whose operations would be carried out by a secretariat with a management board to oversee its functions. They further proposed a working text for the Alliance's mandate, *"working together to seek consensus, while respecting diversity of views, and representing those views effectively to all entities that have an impact on wildlife."*

The participants also suggested that the Alliance would carry out coordination functions including: championing the conservation agenda at a national level; setting priorities and carrying out resource mobilization; advocating for increased accountability and transparency in the wildlife sector; assisting in the harmonization of conflicting policies; influencing national social and economic agenda in the context of conservation; harnessing collective expertise and resources; and promoting a balance between development and the conservation sectors. KCA, they added, would focus on the following priorities and actions:

- enable accessible, standardized and harmonised protocols for data collection and research;
- create a collective database for sharing information;
- strengthen and institutionalize NGO involvement;
- carry out studies and programs to address human-wildlife conflict and habitat loss;
- carry out education and awareness building and enhancing access and benefit sharing for communities and landowners;
- mobilize resources for wildlife conservation;
- develop a national conservation strategy; and
- harness the collective expertise and other resources available within the NGO sector.

Participants noted that the Alliance presented a diversity of advantages to member organizations including sharing of information, increased credibility and increased collaboration and partnership. However, some participants cautioned that small organizations risk the loss of identity and that the Alliance may create competition with government agencies functions in wildlife management.

On Wednesday, Conference Chair Ambassador Kimani noted the need for priority setting, an effective operational structure and a comprehensive membership, and recalled KCA thematic areas: research and data sharing; advocacy/lobbying; community and livelihoods; conservation and development; and wildlife crime.

Dr Richard Lesiyampe, the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, recognized the positive role the judiciary, private corporations and NGOs play in managing the wildlife sector. He stated the government's willingness to support wildlife conservation through promoting a comprehensive structured framework with protocols in place to ensure effective

communication and collaboration with the government. He highlighted the five thematic areas of KCA as critical in addressing national and trans-boundary wildlife crime, stressing on the need to engage communities as key in achieving success in tackling wildlife challenges. He highlighted successes achieved by the Northern Rangelands Trust and encouraged emulation of their community-based conservation models on a wider scale. Dr Lesiyampe reported on Kenya's ratification of the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing from utilization of genetic resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and observed that biopiracy was a missing element in KCA's agenda. He further referred to the rationalization of the Wildlife Act and the opportunity for further amendments from participants.

ENVIRONMENT DONORS FORUM PERSPECTIVES

Mr. David Drinkard, the Deputy Economic Counsellor of the US Embassy in Kenya, described the history of the relationship and collaboration between the US and Kenya on strengthening and building capacity of government institutions to carry out their mandates. In the wildlife sector he reported on bilateral collaboration that has had mutual benefits to both Kenya and the US, and welcomed the formation of KCA, reiterating continued support of his government to wildlife conservation and management in Kenya.

Ms. Juniper Neill, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Kenya Director, Environment and Natural Resource Management Office, discussed the partnerships that the US has had with Kenya through funding and development support from the Agency. She highlighted recent developments in international policy towards emerging wildlife issues in Africa, particularly in combating wildlife crime, with a focus on priority countries such as Kenya. She encouraged organizations to apply for USAID grants available for wildlife and environmental conservation. She lauded the NGO forum's efforts in convening the conference and expressed willingness to engage and support the newly formed KCA.

Mr. Michel van Winden, the Deputy Permanent Representative, the Netherlands Embassy in Kenya, highlighted financial support from his embassy to Kenya over the past 10 years including: support to KWS for capacity building in combating wildlife crime and support for the water sector in arid areas and support to food security programs. He remarked that the National Conservation Strategy is in compliance with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Environment Strategy, and that it presents an opportunity for meaningful policy dialogue in the sector. He encouraged the use of a sustainable financing model within KCA and highlighted the need for increased collaboration and partnership between NGOs and the government. Mr. Van Winden, pledged the full support, based on proposals, of the Netherlands Embassy towards the strengthening of KCA while emphasizing the need for Kenya to prepare for a future without donors.

Ms. Farrah Musani, the first Secretary of political affairs, The Canadian High Commission (CHC) also noted the important role of KCA as a more coordinated civil society lobby group in the conservation sector. She pointed out that CHC is the current chair of the INTERPOL's Wildlife Crime

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Working Group and that as such has prioritized fighting wildlife crime through provision of financial support for equipment, specialized training of KWS rangers and a forensic laboratory to improve prosecutions. She highlighted the CHC's aim in enhancing networking and interagency cooperation within the security sector in Kenya through support to the Lusaka Agreement Taskforce, an agreement to fight wildlife crime in Africa. Ms. Musani expressed Canadian support for a more vibrant and focused civil society engagement in the sector, including through KCA. She encouraged participants to review the 2013 public benefit organizations (PBO) Act for advice on the formation and operationalization of KCA.

Mr. Mark Patry, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa recognized the parallels between KCA goals to conserve the wildlife heritage of Kenya and UNESCO goals to support conservation of natural and cultural heritage. Mr. Patry recognized the difficulties in balancing conservation and development and urged the Kenyan government to support KCA. He referred to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) engagement with the government of Kenya (GoK) and stressed that its priority is in enhancing good governance. Patry spoke also on behalf of DFID, highlighting financial support in combating wildlife crime in Kenya, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He confirmed DFID's pledge for financial support of KCA and reiterated UNESCO's financial and coordination support.

Mr Javier Montano, the Drug Control and Crime Prevention Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs reported on his organization's intent to partner with the GoK to support regional conservation efforts with an emphasis on wildlife and forest crimes. He highlighted the transboundary nature of crimes against the environment, adding that prosecution of perpetrators and masterminds of these crimes as an important approach in tackling the problem. He described the functions of the International Consortium in Fighting Wildlife Crime in addressing judicial capacities in target countries in the same five thematic areas of the conference. Montano identified initiatives such as The Joint Crime Control Unit, which work with the GoK to strengthen prosecution and enforcement levels at national and regional levels. He further expressed full support for KCA's role in combatting wildlife crime.

Ms. Bianca Notarbatolo, Illegal Wildlife Trade expert, United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) reiterated the support of the United Nations fraternity to the on-going engagement by civil society working in the conservation sector in Kenya.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Justice Nzioki wa Makau thanked the donor's forum and development partners for commitment shown in supporting the on-going process. He reiterated the judiciary's commitment towards capacity building of its staff in handling wildlife crimes.

In response to a question by Mr. Charles Oluchina, Kenya Country Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) concerning strategies of the development sectors interfacing with conservation

sector, Mr. Juniper Neill (USAID) and Mr. Michel Van Winden responded by highlighting long term strategies and processes within which they have engaged key players in conservation sector in the past.

Dr. Mordecai Ogada, the Executive Director, Conservation Solutions Afrika drew attention to the need to involve KCA in providing support to overcome challenges of rapid infrastructural development in direct conflict with conservation. Ms. Juniper Neill, acknowledging these challenges expressed USAID's desire to engage state actors such as National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) in capacity building of staff in EIAs to reduce approval of contentious projects. Mr. Mark Patry recognized KCA as a great entry point in lobbying in this area and proposed leveraging on existing conventions protecting internationally recognized natural heritage sites such as the RAMSAR convention on wetlands. Ms. Farrah Musani informed the plenary that the donor forum meets regularly to discuss priority issues and encouraged KCA to engage with them on emerging and priority issues.

Mr. Julius Cheptei, Assistant Director, KWS Southern Conservation Area highlighted activities planned for commemorating the World Wildlife Day, African Environment Day and the Wangari Maathai Day. He invited participants to participate in the naming of elephants in Amboseli geared at creating a fund to secure elephant conservation and referred to the upcoming launch of the KWS forensic laboratory.

CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS AND ACTION POINTS

Mr. Steve Itela, Chief Operations Officer, The African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Kenya, chaired the session. He engaged the participants on the way forward for the KCA. Participants provided suggestions for KCA's work and tasks for the interim committee.

The interim committee was tasked by Mr Peter Hetz, Executive Director, Laikipia Wildlife Forum to take on immediate activities including: drafting of the KCA charter, drawing up articles of association to govern the alliance and development of a business model for the group. He proposed that these activities act as a basis for the next meeting. Participants also suggested that the committee leverage legal expertise into the interim committee to ensure that all aspects of KCA are anchored on existing legal frameworks.

Dr. Paula Kahumbu, CEO of Wildlife Direct and Dr. Ian Douglas-Hamilton, Founder and CEO of Save the Elephants called on KCA to become involved in wildlife processes and conventions and participate in joint reporting on wildlife poaching. Dr. Kahumbu also noted the need to actively involve more local civil society groups in KCA. They noted that this would build awareness of the work or the Alliance.

The Conference participants agreed that:

- the current committee should continue serving as the interim committee for KCA;
- the interim committee would draft the KCA charter, which would be thereafter shared with all stakeholders for comments before endorsement;
- the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association would be co-opted into the interim committee to ensure representation of landowners as well as enable lessons and experience sharing;
- KCA would be functional by April 2015.

The Interim (caretaker) committee members for KCA were identified to the participants as:

- Steve Itela, African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)
- Munira Bashir, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Lucy Waruingi, African Conservation Centre (ACC)
- Eric Kihuu, Rhino Ark Trust
- Ben Okita /Resson Kantai-Duff, Save the Elephants (STE)
- Fiesta Warinwa, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
- Pat Awori, Kenya Elephant Forum
- Benson Wachira, Pan African Alliance for Animal Welfare (PAAWA)
- Peter Hetz, Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF)
- Dickson Kaelo, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)

CLOSING SESSION

In closing remarks the moderator, Ambassador Martin Kimani challenged NGOs to adopt a sustainable development model that will be recognized and supported internationally with the potential to be used as a benchmark for posterity.

Mr. Richard Moller, the Chief Conservation Officer of the Tsavo Trust in a vote of thanks acknowledged the participation of government, civil society, development partners and other stakeholders. He also recognized the contribution of the chair of the meeting, Martin Kimani, in guiding fruitful deliberations throughout the conference. Chair of the session Mr. Itela thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 1:00 PM.

GLOSSARY

CHC	Canadian High Commission
DFID	Department for International Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GoK	Government of Kenya
KCA	Kenya Conservation Alliance
KEPSA	Kenya Private Sector Alliance
KWCA	Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



Participants at the First Conference of Conservation NGOs in Kenya, Enashipai hotel and spa, Naivasha, Kenya

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This report was written and edited by Sheila Funnell and Herman Chege Njoroge. The Editor is Dorothy Wanja Nyingi, Ph.D. dorothyningi@yahoo.com. The KCA Interim committee reviewed document for circulation.