



For Immediate Release:

For KWCA press inquiries, contact:

Dickson Kaelo

CEO

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)

+245 708 418 522

dkaelo@kwcakenya.com

For LGT VP press inquiries, contact:

Oliver Karius

CEO

LGT Venture Philanthropy

+41 44 256 81 16

oliver.karius@lgtvp.com



**Venture
Philanthropy**

LGT Venture Philanthropy renews partnership with Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association to scale the conservancy model across Kenya and beyond

Nairobi, Kenya, 19 September 2022 – LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation (LGT VP) is delighted to announce a three-year follow-on engagement with Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA). LGT VP's core funding and strategic support will enable KWCA to further expand and improve its organizational operations, financial strategy, and monitoring and evaluation.

KWCA serves as the national membership organization and representative body for Kenya's conservancies, acting as their unified voice and connecting them with the key players in the country's conservancy network. KWCA's vision is to conserve ecosystems through thriving and effective conservancies that benefit local communities, wildlife and healthy ecosystems alike, while simultaneously combatting and mitigating Climate Change. Grounded in the idea that local communities and landowners are effective stewards of wildlife and habitats, KWCA works towards this goal by representing conservancies at the national policy level and by equipping landscape conservancy associations and conservancies with tools, technical support and capacity building. This support leads to favorable framework conditions for conservancies, empowered and well-managed conservancies, and a surge in improved livelihoods.

Over the past four decades, Kenya has experienced a 68% decline in its wildlife populations, and its forest cover shrunk from 10% to 6%. The conservancy model poses a sustainable solution for long-term conservation because it integrates local communities' livelihoods and has potential for growth. Despite their overall success, the growth of community conservancies is impeded by insufficient policies and incentives, inadequate recognition and understanding of their impact, weak institutional and planning capacity, and weak governance structures. KWCA seeks to close these information, communication and legislation gaps.

Since its founding in 2013, KWCA has promoted favorable legislation which includes developing and reviewing the National Wildlife Policy 2020, Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013, Wildlife Strategy 2018 and the Community Land Act 2016. Additionally, KWCA has grown from two to 175 registered members and played a central role in unlocking funding for conservancy rangers through the government Economic Stimulus Program to cushion conservancies from COVID-19 impacts. In just five years, the land protected under conservancies has increased by 2.3 million hectares¹. KWCA is working towards contributing to Kenya's national biodiversity targets and development of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework to increase land under conservation to 30% by 2030 through the conservancy model.

¹ Membership increased from 111 to 175 between 2017 and 2022

LGT VP's [environment strategy](#) focuses on an integrative approach of protecting and regenerating ecosystems, benefiting the environment and local communities alike. In line with this strategy, by advocating for the conservancy model across Kenya, KWCA tackles three interlinked challenges: biodiversity loss, lack of livelihoods and Climate Change. LGT VP has been active in "protecting the overall Maasai Mara ecosystem" since 2016 to strengthen the community conservancy model and develop carbon assets. KWCA is an important "puzzle piece" to complete LGT VP's overall [portfolio in Kenya](#), as it adds the national perspective and interface with the government to promote the conservancy model across the country. KWCA connects 13 on-the-ground organizations, such as Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA), with SaruniBasecamp Pardamat Conservation Area and Mara Naboisho Conservancy, with the national government to scale up successful conservancy models across Kenya.

Oliver Karius, CEO of LGT VP, affirms: "We are proud to renew our long-term partnership with KWCA. We believe in conservancies as an effective way to preserve and regenerate Kenya's invaluable ecosystems and biodiversity, while ensuring livelihoods for and empowerment of local communities. KWCA's team has been a champion of the conservancy network since the very beginning and has played a critical role in demonstrating the conservancy model's success in Kenya and beyond. With KWCA's leadership, conservancies can become a central piece in the global strategy to tackle the interlinked problems of poverty, biodiversity decline and climate change."

Dickson Kaelo, CEO of KWCA, agrees: "We are deeply excited about our growing partnership with LGT VP. LGT VP has proven to be a critical partner in strengthening the capacity of KWCA and its network of conservancies. This partnership is coming at a time when the world is negotiating for an ambitious post 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework to increase the land under conservation from the previous 17% to 30% by 2030. Through this partnership, KWCA will review its strategic plan to align with the global and national biodiversity targets, grow our internal capacity to engage in high level policy advocacy and adopt strong monitoring systems to evaluate our impact. The partnership with LGT VP is further playing an instrumental role in growing our long-term sustainability and we look forward to establishing our endowment fund to advance community led conservation in Kenya."

The Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) is a non-profit membership society and the national representative body and voice for conservancies in Kenya. KWCA seeks to catalyze the conservancy movement by connecting, informing, convening, and representing conservancies and other key stakeholders in a shared effort to make wildlife conservancies, benefiting local communities and ecosystems thrive. For more information, please visit www.kwcakenya.com.

LGT Venture Philanthropy LGT Venture Philanthropy is an independent charitable foundation established in 2007 with teams in Switzerland, Sub-Saharan Africa, and India. The Foundation strives to improve the quality of life of people facing disadvantages, contribute to healthy ecosystems and build resilient, inclusive, and prosperous communities. LGT VP focuses on strengthening the capabilities of locally rooted organizations that deliver effective, scalable solutions across health, education, and the environment contributing directly to the SDGs. For more information, please visit www.lgtvp.com

###