

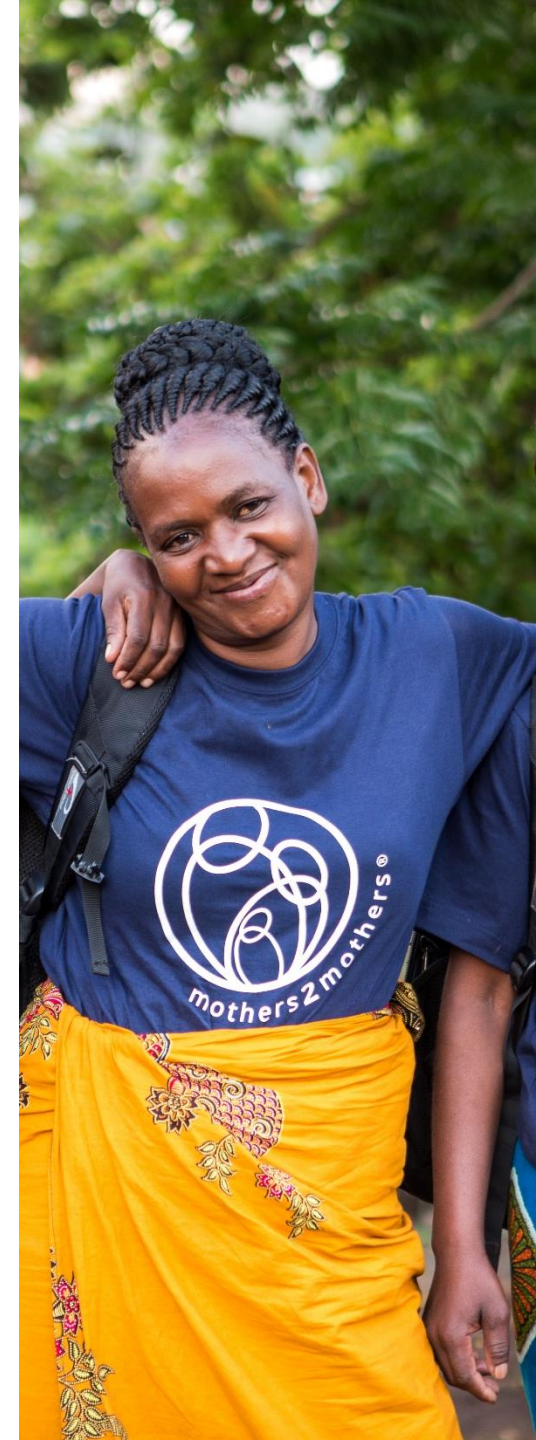


LGT Impact Fellowship 2021/2022

Impact Report

By Samwella Lerno

August 2022





Samwella Lerno (Kenya)

Host organization: KWCA

Fellow position: Project Management Fellow

Fellowship duration: August 2021 – August 2022

Degree: Business Administration/Project Planning & Management

Professional experience: 6 years



Summary

Took lead in design and implementation of two key KWCA's projects; southern Kenya landscape project aimed to catalyse landscape learning and coordination for the KWCA's regional associations and other partners working in the southern part of Kenya and in the mainstreaming of youth of engagement in conservancy leadership and management

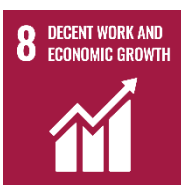
The problems/challenges KWCA aims to tackle

- Uncoordinated conservation efforts in Southern Kenya
- Less agency & optimism among young people in conservancies
- Exclusion of youth in conservancy leadership

The solution KWCA provides...

- Supporting community led conservation initiatives to keep land open, healthy and communally managed for the benefit of pastoralism and conservation.
- Define the landscape of southern Kenya and create a common shared vision for the contribution of conservancies

... contributing to the SDGs:



Opportunity for a Fellow

- Leveraging on technological advancement of environmental data and techno-conservation
- Land use planning and natural resources mapping
- Climate change and adaptation strategies

"My experience as a Fellow..."

... KWCA's community led conservation model that puts people at the heart of conservation, allowed me to work directly with the communities that live with wildlife through the concept of co-creation in designing and implementing projects which speak to the needs of the community. This deepened not only my hands-on experience on project management but also my appreciation for community centered development."

-Samwella



Samwella's achievements...

- Structured an engagement framework for the southern Kenya landscape project, setting a defined role, mission, vision and a map of the landscape ensuring continuity
- Took part in developing southern Kenya landscape map showing the geographical extent and the spatial connection between the 5 sub-landscapes (Maasai Mara, South Rift, Amboseli, Athi-Kaputei and Tsavo).
- Organized the first ever national conservancy youth forum that brought together young people from 11 landscapes across the country
- Organized two peer learning visits to Tsavo and Mara for conservancy members and a partners' visit on community conservation policy and practice in Kenya
- Facilitated and attended IUCN's first ever Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Kigali Rwanda
- Supported in the revision of KWCA policies and guidelines towards being gender responsive



... contributing to KWCA

- **Fundraising:** Supported fundraising through proposal development e.g Maliasili award (USD 3million), USAID, WWF – IKI Small Grants(ANBT)
- **Strategy Development:** Took lead in the development of KWCA's youth engagement strategy
- **Institutional Strengthening:** 3 key landscape associations; Baringo (BCCA), Tsavo (TTWCA) and Amboseli (AET)
- **Grants Reporting:** Donor reports timely delivery and quality improved

Samwella's next challenge

Samwella will continue supporting KWCA in implementation of southern Kenya landscape project and the organizational youth-friendly strategy and action plan