



Joyce Makau

Host organization: Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA)

Fellow position: Monitoring and Evaluation Fellow

Fellowship duration: June 2025 – May 2026

Degree: MA M&E, MSc in Agricultural and Applied Economics

Professional experience: 14 years



Summary

I led the development of MMWCA's 2026–2036 Strategic Plan, guiding stakeholder engagement and aligning organisational priorities with its long-term vision through an evidence-based planning process.

The problem MMWCA aims to tackle....

- Land fragmentation, biodiversity loss, weak governance and institutional capacity, limited livelihood opportunities, and gaps in policy implementation and coordination in the Greater Mara landscape

The solution MMWCA provides...

- Focuses on strengthening conservancies through improved governance, expanding protected landscapes, growing sustainable conservation-based livelihoods, enhancing community well-being through essential services and economic opportunities, and fostering the policies and partnerships needed to secure long-term conservation outcomes.

... contributing to the SDGs:



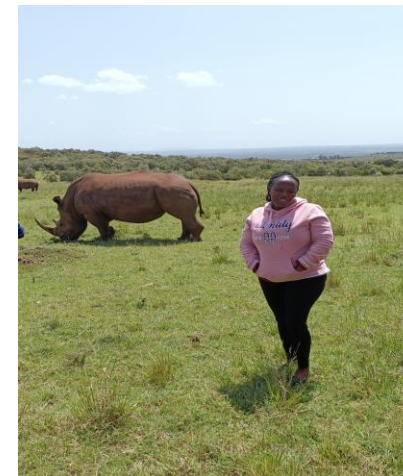
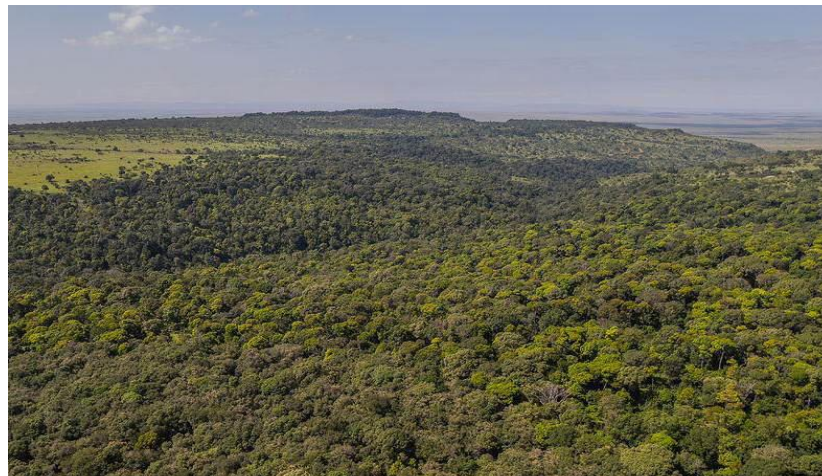
Opportunity for a Fellow

- Generate evidence of impact on conservation and community livelihoods.
- Attract funding and partnerships by demonstrating measurable results.
- Strengthen accountability and transparency through regular monitoring and reporting.
- Promote learning and adaptive management by sharing lessons and best practices.
- Leverage technology and data systems to improve tracking and reporting

“My experience as a Fellow...

... has been a truly transformative journey. MMWCA is unique in its ability to place communities at the heart of conservation, demonstrating that protecting wildlife and improving livelihoods can go hand in hand. Being part of MMWCA as it unites thousands of landowners, conservancies, and partners around a shared vision for the Mara has deepened my appreciation for the power of collaboration, local leadership, and evidence-driven decision-making in creating lasting impact.”

-Joyce Makau



Joyce's achievements...

- Led the development of the MMWCA 2026–2036 Strategic Plan within a short and accelerated timeframe, incorporating a Theory of Change and mini Theories of Change for each objective to strengthen strategic clarity, coherence, and results-based planning.
- Developed strategic frameworks, including objectives, KPIs, and MEAL systems, to strengthen performance tracking, accountability, and learning.
- Designed the operational plan, translating strategy into actionable activities, timelines, responsibilities, and resource requirements for effective implementation.
- Led the collection and analysis of baseline data to inform the MMWCA 2026–2036 Strategic Plan, ensuring evidence-based priorities and objectives.

... contributing to MMWCA

- Established and registered a Youth Forum as a Youth Council, strengthening youth participation in conservancy governance, policy dialogue, and conservation initiatives, including pathways toward youth representation on conservancy boards.
- Secured and operationalized an MOU with Human Practice Foundation, advancing strategic partnerships under Goal 4 of the strategy.
- Mobilized USD 150,000 to support governance strengthening under the strategic plan.
- Improved resource mobilization by aligning fundraising efforts with strategic priorities and funding gaps, resulting in multiple targeted proposals and concept notes.

Joyce's next challenge

My next focus is pursuing a PhD in Disaster Management, integrating MEL to advance evidence-based approaches for strengthening resilience, adaptive capacity, and effective response systems in vulnerable communities.