



# KENYA COUNTRY STRATEGY

## *Executive Summary*

Kenya is known globally for its plentiful wildlife, scenic landscapes, and diversified terrain. It hosts a broad range of animal and plant species, some found nowhere else in the world. The network of protected and other areas supporting this biodiversity provides crucial ecosystem services, including clean water, fresh air, carbon sequestration, pollination, and soil erosion control.

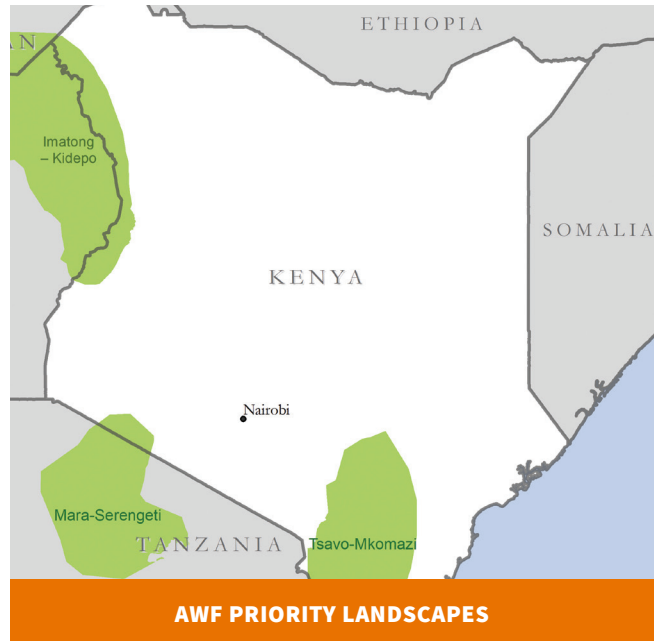
Despite government efforts to improve management and conservation of natural resources, Kenya is losing biodiversity and seeing an increase in unsustainable land use. Major threats include land fragmentation and degradation, human settlements, agricultural expansion, increased urbanization, and infrastructure development. The biodiversity loss is exacerbated by impacts of climate change.

The challenges are great, but they also present opportunities for recalibration, particularly a stronger focus on innovative and integrated approaches to conservation funding, constituency-building, and partnership-building across sectors.

### **AWF SUPPORTS A MODERN KENYA WHERE WILDLIFE AND THEIR HABITATS THRIVE AND SUPPORT CITIZENS' WELL-BEING.**

We prioritize all of our work against 10-year targets and three overarching goals:

- Kenyan leaders across various sectors and at all levels are shaping and driving shifts in inclusive policy, planning, and finance, leveraging wildlife and habitats as essential to sustainable development
- The ecological integrity, connectivity, and climate resilience of the ecosystems in Kenya's priority landscapes are improved and support sustainable development
- Wildlife in Kenya thrives *in situ*



### **MEASURING EFFECTIVENESS**

AWF's comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system tracks key performance indicators linked to our organizational goals of supporting African conservation leadership and policy decision-making at all levels of government, implementing landscape-level strategies, and protecting wildlife in their habitats. The process, which includes annual and 10-year targets, helps us to demonstrate whether we are on track to meet our goals, identify areas of improvement, and replicate successful strategies at scale. Importantly, it allows us to be responsible partners and ensure we are delivering on our commitments.

### **AWF PROJECTS IN PRIORITY LANDSCAPES**

In Kenya, AWF focuses its efforts on strategies at the country level and within the Tsavo-Mkomazi ecosystem. In its national focus, this strategy aligns with Kenya's development blueprint, "Vision 2030," and prioritizes support to global, regional, and national policy engagement. At the landscape level, AWF implements programs and projects designed to create meaningful changes for biodiversity conservation and community well-being.

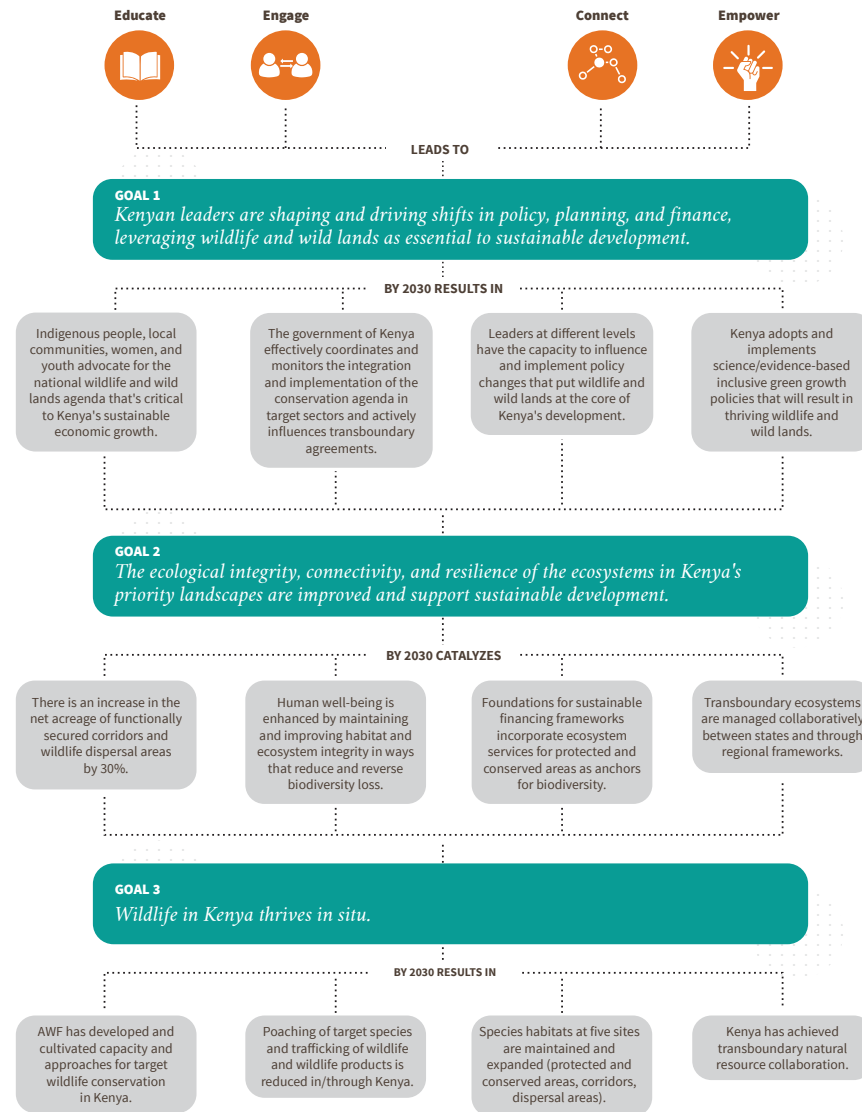
**Wildlife protection:** AWF in Kenya prioritizes the protection of focal species (which in turn benefits other species): elephants, giraffes, rhinos, and lions. Giraffes are our newest focal species and the target of pilot conservation efforts we're carrying out jointly with the Kenya Wildlife Service. Our multi-faceted approach includes working with wildlife authorities to:

- strengthen eco-monitoring and data collection
- support land-use planning and other activities that diminish human-wildlife conflict incidence
- bolster counter-trafficking efforts, including anti-poaching rapid response

**Mitigating human-wildlife conflict:**

Working with the wildlife authorities and local government, and with funding from the European Union, GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation), and other partners, AWF has trained over 8,500 Kenyan and Tanzanian farmers, rangers, and scouts in human-wildlife conflict mitigation. We provide and demonstrate an arsenal of effective but humane tools—pressure horns, flashlights, chili crops, beehive fences, and more—to deter marauding elephants and other wildlife that can wipe out a whole season's crops in one visit or even cause loss of life.

**Anti-poaching collaboration:** To target poaching, AWF has facilitated cross-border coordination among anti-poaching forces. Teams from Tsavo West National Park, Mkomazi National Park, and the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority have conducted quarterly joint and concurrent patrols along the border, guided by intelligence information. With better information-sharing, patrolling rangers and scouts are more effective at targeting and deterring illegal activity, including poaching.



**Prosecutorial support:** AWF works with government partners to help ensure wildlife crime is appropriately prosecuted. Efforts include an innovative court-monitoring program, in which we provide logistical and technical support to often overburdened prosecutors, preventing wildlife cases from slipping through the cracks. We also support ranger forces through training in wildlife law, crime investigation, and evidence handling and storage. Our technical support to rangers and officers is strengthening wildlife law enforcement in a critical cross-border region.

**Policy:** Cognizant that systemic change is key for lasting change, we work with the local and national governmental agencies to further our conservation goals and support an enabling environment that promotes biodiversity conservation and community well-being.



*The African Wildlife Foundation's mission is to ensure wildlife and wild lands thrive in modern Africa.*

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