



IL NGWESI GROUP RANCH

Kenya



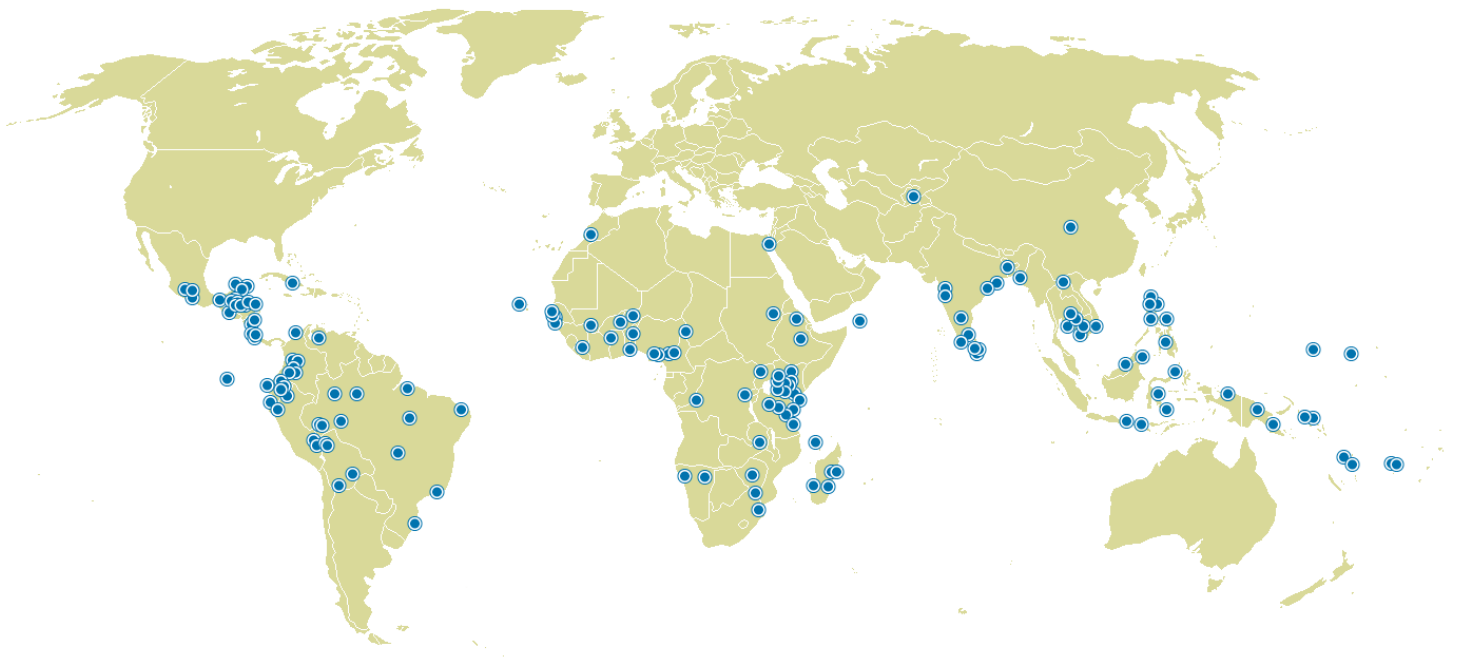
Equator Initiative Case Studies

Local sustainable development solutions for people, nature, and resilient communities

UNDP EQUATOR INITIATIVE CASE STUDY SERIES

Local and indigenous communities across the world are advancing innovative sustainable development solutions that work for people and for nature. Few publications or case studies tell the full story of how such initiatives evolve, the breadth of their impacts, or how they change over time. Fewer still have undertaken to tell these stories with community practitioners themselves guiding the narrative.

To mark its 10-year anniversary, the Equator Initiative aims to fill this gap. The following case study is one in a growing series that details the work of Equator Prize winners – vetted and peer-reviewed best practices in community-based environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods. These cases are intended to inspire the policy dialogue needed to take local success to scale, to improve the global knowledge base on local environment and development solutions, and to serve as models for replication. Case studies are best viewed and understood with reference to *'The Power of Local Action: Lessons from 10 Years of the Equator Initiative'*, a compendium of lessons learned and policy guidance that draws from the case material.



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IL NGWESI GROUP RANCH

Kenya

PROJECT SUMMARY

This Maasai group ranch in the central Kenyan district of Laikipia has established an 8,645-hectare community-conserved area that balances the needs of local pastoralists with wildlife conservation and the operation of a lucrative eco-lodge. One of the pioneering and most successful of Kenya's Maasai-owned ecotourism initiatives, Il Ngwesi has served as a model for replication across the country. Its sanctuary rangers ensure a high level of security for the conserved area, which has played a key role in a network of connected wildlife protected areas and corridors in central Kenya.

In addition to the areas of freshwater management and education, ecotourism revenues have been invested in targeted health interventions. The group is a lead partner in a health campaign which offers awareness-raising, testing and counseling, for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, the campaign has targeted thirteen local group ranches for a combined population of 40,000 people.

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KEY FACTS

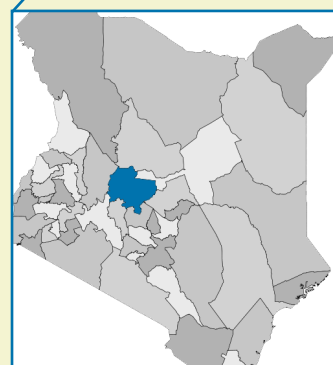
EQUATOR PRIZE WINNER: 2002

FOUNDED: 1995

LOCATION: Laikipia District, Kenya

BENEFICIARIES: 7,000 Laikipiak Maasai pastoralists

BIODIVERSITY: Lewa Wildlife Sanctuary



Background and Context



Il Ngwesi Group Ranch consists of 8,645 hectares of community-managed land located in Mukogodo Division, Laikipia District, north of Mount Kenya. It sits next to the Ngare Ndare River, on the edge of the Mukogodo Hills, and consists predominantly of semi-arid and arid savannah land. The ranch is owned and managed by the local population of almost 7,000 Laikipiak Maasai pastoralists. Key species found in the area include the white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*), African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*), while the area is also a sanctuary for the critically endangered black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). The Group Ranch has been able to promote conservation and generate income-generating opportunities for its members through the conservation of around 80% of the ranch area, a reduction in the Maasai's dependence on livestock, and the promotion of conservation-friendly ecotourism.

A context of environmental, social and economic threats

Following the end of commercial hunting in the area during the 1970s, local people used firearms purchased from Somali refugees to poach wildlife indiscriminately. By the late 1980s, elephant populations had been significantly reduced and rhinos had disappeared from the area. The Il Ngwesi land remained an important wildlife corridor between Laikipia and Samburu, but the ecosystem was simultaneously coming under threat from deforestation, with sections of the Mukogodo forest being cleared for timber, fuel wood, and for agriculture. As well as contributing to widespread land degradation, this also increased local tensions between pastoralists and farmers. Human development indicators were low, meanwhile: there were few schools in the area, contributing to low levels of educational attainment, while the entire district was served by one government-run hospital, with a doctor-to-patient ratio of 1:44,000.

Over-reliance on livestock, the decline of traditional grazing management systems, and human-wildlife conflict meant that the Maasai tribes' livelihoods were under threat. The poverty of the area

in turn threatened the security of Lewa Downs, a privately-owned wildlife conservancy directly to the south of Il Ngwesi. In response, the management team at Lewa, with support from Kenya Wildlife Service, encouraged the formation of a community conserved area within Il Ngwesi, and the creation of an ecotourism attraction to generate revenue. They engaged Maasai elders and community leaders in the process, trained local people as rangers, and overcame initial skepticism within the communities to establish the Il Ngwesi Group Ranch in 1995.

A community-owned conservation initiative

Lewa Conservancy has been a constant partner in Il Ngwesi's conservation work since 1995. The chief means through which the group has sought to encourage sustainable land management is the development of a community-owned ecotourism enterprise, centred on the construction of a luxury eco-lodge and conservation of the area's flagship wildlife species. Il Ngwesi Lodge was opened in 1996, and caters to the high-end Kenyan tourism market. The lodge is run by Il Ngwesi Company Ltd. and has stimulated the development of various other conservation-based enterprises, such as cultural bomas (villages), artisanal handicraft production, and community-run camp sites. The revenues generated by these initiatives are reinvested in infrastructural projects that are prioritized by the Maasai community at annual general meetings. To date, revenues have been used for water infrastructure projects, schools, educational scholarships, and extensive health outreach services.

Holistic land management is central to Il Ngwesi's strategies for conservation and development. Management of the group ranch land area has involved its division into settlement and conservation areas. The latter is further divided into a relatively small core zone, measuring 5km² (500 hectares) and a larger buffer zone of 6,000 hectares. Within this buffer zone, pastoralists are permitted to graze livestock during dry periods, making it an important strategy for reducing the impacts of droughts. Meanwhile, various infrastructural

projects within the ranch area help to prevent soil erosion and maintain paths, while access to water has been improved for local communities. The Maasai group ranch members play a participatory role in all land-use decisions.

Governance and organizational structure

The Il Ngwesi Community Trust committee (or Natural Resource Management committee) consists of fourteen representatives from the seven Maasai communities. The committee meets three times a year to hear proposals from the community representatives and debate decisions concerning the management of the group ranch or particular land-use regulations. The Community Trust committee has a legal advisor to review proposals; once agreed upon, these proposals are taken to the Group Ranch committee.

The Group Ranch committee consists wholly of Maasai community members, although they also seek advice from government departments and other partners in specific areas of expertise, including issues such as land acquisition, updating the members' register, and financial management. The Group Ranch committee is led by a Board of Directors, comprised of six elected members of the community and three external experts. Decisions are referred to the Group Ranch committee for a vote, before being outlined at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting to gain the approval of the entire community. Elections are also held at the Annual General Meetings, as well as audited accounts being presented to the members.

To solidify this management structure, the Group Ranch developed a constitution to establish clear decision-making and implementation processes. This includes the objectives, duties and powers of committees, office bearers, members, and non-member residents; procedures for financial management, conflict resolution, and meetings; and a description of the areas, rules and sanctions for different activities, such as grazing, conservation, and camp sites. The Group Ranch also has provisions for a salaried secretariat, including a Programme Manager, responsible for carrying out the operations of the Group Ranch. Other innovative provisions include a commitment to retire 50% of all committee members at each election (elections are held every five years for the Group

Ranch Committee and every two years for the Community Trust Committee), so that newly acquired skills gained through training are retained, but a reasonable turnover of personnel is ensured.

The lodge itself is run as an independent limited company with a majority shareholding owned by the Group Ranch, and is governed by a board made up of four community members, representatives from Lewa and Borana conservancies, and the local Member of Parliament. The project typically employs around 32 staff; 24 are employed full-time, with 15 working at the lodge and nine full-time guards, while casual workers are hired on a regular basis.



“Il Ngwesi has been very sensitive to the effects of climate change. Sources of income have shifted from pastoralism to agriculture to reduce the impact of a drought as a result of the unpredictable rain patterns. Il Ngwesi was also severely affected by the drought of 2008-9 (75% of buffaloes died as a result), and this has influenced the plan to make the area 100% conserved. Youth are also being targeted to use alternative fuel sources for fires in communities, and to acquire solar panels as a source of energy, to minimize the rate of deforestation”

James Kasoo, Il Ngwesi Group Ranch

Key Activities and Innovations



Il Ngwesi's work has focused on ensuring the ecological integrity of its conservation area while delivering tangible economic and social gains for its Maasai members. Conservation strategies have included employing armed rangers to maintain security within the conservation area and enforce its prohibitions. Alternative livelihood activities have been encouraged to decrease the Maasai's reliance on livestock and increase household incomes. Infrastructural projects, alongside health and education programs, have improved the wellbeing of the group ranch's communities.

Conservation regulations

The by-laws established to protect the ranch's 6,500 hectares of conserved land include the outlawing of tree-felling, poaching or killing of animals, and starting of fires in the conservation area. Il Ngwesi is not fenced, so nine security personnel are employed, and have been given training and weapons by the government's reserve police force to enforce these by-laws. The security personnel control the number of local people crossing the conservation area; they have also banned *pangas* (machetes), dogs, and matchboxes from being taken into the conservation area.

From pastoralism to agriculture

Conservation has been strengthened by the purchase of land outside the Il Ngwesi Group Ranch for agriculture: 2,000 acres were acquired for wheat planting using USD 30,000 from the UNDP Equator Prize 2002. Community members have also been encouraged to diversify from livestock to agricultural activities, including the irrigation of land on the slopes of Mount Kenya. This facet of Il Ngwesi's holistic approach to land use is complemented by the controlled use of conservation land for pastoral grazing, and the frequent relocation of the rhino sanctuary to allow the regeneration of depleted grass and bushes. Action has been taken to reduce the effects of trodden paths in the conservation area by planting Rhodesian grasses; local people have also been employed to build gabions along roadsides to reduce water run-off and topsoil erosion from hillsides. Infrastructural investments have also been made in constructing

water systems, connecting group ranch communities to rivers using pipes.

Investments in community wellbeing

This holistic approach to land use management has been underpinned by Il Ngwesi's extensive health and education programs. Income generated through tourism has been used in constructing new school classrooms, providing salaries for teachers, and creating bursaries for children to attend both secondary and tertiary education. In 2006, Il Ngwesi instituted an HIV/AIDS programme, using funding from the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) in Canada, which provides awareness, testing, counseling, and medical support services to local communities. Training people within these villages as counsellors and community care workers has been a key part of this work. As of 2010, over 4,000 people had been tested both within Il Ngwesi and outside the group ranch. Construction is also underway on a health clinic, while mobile health services have been delivered to communities in partnership with Lewa Conservancy.

National and international recognition

Various strategies have helped to raise Il Ngwesi's profile both as an ecotourism destination and as a model for community-led conservation in Kenya and East Africa. The four-star eco-lodge has been successfully marketed via a website maintained by Il Ngwesi staff based in the nearby town of Nanyuki. Il Ngwesi was awarded the British Airways Best Ecotourism Destination Award in 1997, and also won in the Best Small Lodge category at the 2006 Global Responsible Travel Awards. Its high profile has also been boosted by its rhino sanctuary. The conservation area received a single black rhino in 2002, with assistance from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the approval of Kenya Wildlife Service. Ongoing conservation of this species, along with two white rhino specimens, is testament to the high level of security within the group ranch area. The nine armed rangers communicate via radio, using a radio channel frequency purchased from Kenya's Communication Commission.

Impacts



BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS

Il Ngwesi was historically home to abundant populations of several species, before poaching in the 1970s and 1980s severely depleted wildlife numbers. Black rhinos in particular were heavily affected, while Il Ngwesi's importance as an elephant corridor attracted poachers from eastern Kenya and Somalia. The land-use system implemented by the Group Ranch since 1995, however, has rehabilitated wildlife species numbers, and has made the re-introduction of numbers of black rhinos a genuine possibility.

Much of the conservation work within Il Ngwesi should be seen in the context of coordinated efforts within Laikipia District as a whole, and in the network of community-conserved areas and private conservancies surrounding Lewa Downs Wildlife Conservancy. This network is now coordinated by the Northern Rangelands Trust. Il Ngwesi is a crucial partner in these efforts, and has been a pioneer in community conservation. Many of its successes are based on having diversified income sources for its pastoralist communities, as well as ensuring the security of the conservation area.

Endangered wildlife species conservation

One milestone was in 2002, when an orphaned black rhino was relocated from Lewa Conservancy to Il Ngwesi. Such an increase in the potential carrying capacity for black rhino in the area has made a direct contribution to the Kenya Wildlife Service's national goal of improving the conservation of this species in Kenya. To date, however, this one specimen and two white rhinos delivered at the same time remain the only rhinos in Il Ngwesi. It is still unclear whether Kenya Wildlife Service will increase this number; ongoing security efforts have demonstrated that the conservancy has the potential to protect this species.

Il Ngwesi's efforts have also benefitted biodiversity and ecosystems in surrounding areas. The ranch provides critical security support to the "no-man's land" directly north of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

This security has significant implications for the survival of the endangered Grevy's zebra, which migrate between Lewa and the government-run National Reserves of Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba.

Other species numbers are thriving. The conservation area is home to viable populations of large herbivores such as elephants, giraffes, impalas, gerenuks, zebras, greater kudus, waterbucks, dik-diks, and warthogs. This reflects broader improvements in ecosystem quality; in 2002, over twice as many tree and herbaceous plant species were counted in the conservancy compared to outside it. Over 300 bird species are also testament to a healthier ecosystem, resulting from decreased dependence on a pastoralist lifestyle. Additional initiatives have included cutting back of acacia trees, oil from which contributes to soil acidity, and planting of grasses to rehabilitate pathways.

Research has been conducted by various institutions, including Kenya Forest Research Institute, Kenya Wildlife Service, the University of Nairobi, Ministry of Tourism, and private researchers such as the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), who have looked at the effects of ticks on wildlife and livestock numbers. Il Ngwesi rangers also assist in monitoring efforts, dividing the conservation area into blocks for occasional species counting.

SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS

Il Ngwesi's community development projects are funded by revenues from ecotourism and seek to increase the wellbeing of the group ranch's communities. Partnerships with international donor organizations are also leveraged for this purpose. 40% of the net profit from the eco-lodge is reinvested in community development, while the remaining 60% is used to cover the lodge's operational costs. The lodge generates approximately nine million Kenyan Shillings (USD 86,500) gross income annually, with the net profit usually ranging between KSh 1.5-2 million (USD 14,400 to USD 19,200.)

i. Job creation

The group ranch has been able to create job opportunities primarily through the eco-lodge. The lodge employs fifteen full-time staff, with a further nine working as conservancy rangers. Temporary positions are created by ongoing infrastructural projects. These have included road maintenance, water systems, and construction of schools and health clinics.

ii. Related sustainable livelihoods

Income generation associated with ecotourism has been seen through the development of artisanal handicraft-making by a women's group, while Il Ngwesi has also explored the possibility of purchasing and marketing locally-produced honey for tourists. In conjunction with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), the Group Ranch has initiated a four-year programme targeting women's groups in craft making. The programme trains women in quality beadwork skills and enables access to micro-credit facilities to allow them to purchase raw materials for production. Training has also been given in leadership and governance, business development, and identifying markets for their products. Plans are in place to establish a rural bank in the Il Ngwesi community with assistance from K-Rep, a Kenyan bank. Small loans will be made available at low interest rates (around 5%) for future business development activities and sustainable enterprises within the community. The sustainability of both handicrafts and honey as income sources depends on successful marketing, however, for which Il Ngwesi is reliant on external assistance.

iii. Benefits to livelihoods from holistic land-use

The group ranch has also been able to boost household incomes through traditional sources. Improved land use management has had substantial benefits for livestock and agriculture. During the 2008-9 droughts, Il Ngwesi's livestock were able to graze within the buffer zone portion of the conservancy area. This helped to substantially mitigate the loss of cattle compared to other areas. The buffer zone supplied approximately three months' worth of grass for the herds, with total livestock losses estimated at around 60%; the communities bordering the conservancy experienced losses around 40%. This compared with livestock losses of up to 90% in other areas of Kenya. The use of grass reserves in the conservancy is a local innovation that could help to offset the effects of unpredictable weather patterns, and is therefore a valuable strategy for community-based adaptation to climate change.

The group ranch has also encouraged diversification of income through agricultural projects on the higher slopes of the group ranch. The majority of the Maasai remain pastoralists, but most now tend household plots for agriculture.

iv. Investments in education

One area of investment that has yielded substantial socioeconomic benefits is education. 500,000 Kenyan Shillings (almost USD 6,000) is allocated annually for an educational bursaries scheme, whereby community youth members are funded to attend secondary school and universities. This has targeted girls, aiming to reduce the rate

of early marriages in Il Ngwesi communities. The Group Ranch has also benefitted local primary schools through the building of houses for teachers at Sang'a Primary School, and sinking a borehole at Enakishomi Primary School. Donor support has been sought to fund teachers' salaries.

v. Water systems infrastructure

In 2008, with support from Kansas City Zoo, Reid Park Zoo (both USA) and the Northern Rangelands Trust, the Ngare Ndare pipeline was repaired after being damaged in 2006. This has ensured a water supply for the lodge and for livestock. This water system has been extended to schools and communities in 20% of the group ranch area through pipes. Communities have also benefitted from the Sang'a water project, which was rehabilitated with the support of the Lewa Education Trust. In total, seven water systems have been put in place, carrying water from river sources to villages.

vi. Health facilities and outreach

Investments in health have come through the building of a health clinic at Nadungoro, for which Il Ngwesi is in the process of seeking approval from the government to operate. They have also worked closely with Lewa Conservancy in a mobile health project, ensuring that seven local communities are visited once a week by health workers.

The greatest impact on the health of local people has come through Il Ngwesi's "Afya II" program, however. This project took its lead from the USAID-led, country-wide AIDS, Population, and Health Integrated Assistance (APHIA II) program, and in particular from Family Health International (FHI's) work in Rift Valley province. In 2006, in partnership with Canada's Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA), Il Ngwesi undertook a baseline survey to assess awareness of HIV/AIDS issues among local communities. These results led to the initiation of a campaign on awareness, testing, and counseling for the disease, as well as on Malaria and Tuberculosis, through training community volunteers and outreach events. The target population extended beyond Il Ngwesi Group Ranch to a total of thirteen local group ranches; to date, ten of these groups have been reached, with a combined population of approximately 40,000.

The two group ranches initially covered by the program were Il Ngwesi and Makurian, with 5,000 targeted for counseling and testing, and 20,000 targeted for increasing prevention awareness in 2007/8. In subsequent years the scope has been expanded, with 3,000 targeted for counseling and testing in both 2009 and 2010. A University of Toronto study in 2009 is indicative of the progress that has been made. They found that over 8,000 tests had been conducted (including repeat tests). The incidence rate was under 5%, while those that had tested positive were receiving care. Contraception use was more prevalent, and was cited as a result of the success of outreach activities. Approximately 70% of those surveyed had attended at least one HIV/AIDS awareness session; 56% had been tested in Il Ngwesi's mobile tent; 80% had received a home visit from a program volunteer; and over 80% had volunteered with the project or knew someone who had.

POLICY IMPACTS

Il Ngwesi has had an impact on Kenya's wildlife policies through its association with Lewa Conservancy, the Northern Rangelands Trust, and its partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service (the owner and founder of Lewa's private conservancy, who was instrumental in encouraging community conservation in Il Ngwesi, served on the board of KWS from 2008-2011.) This relationship initially led to Il Ngwesi being granted its black rhino in 2002. The significance of this should not be understated: KWS policy had been that communal conservancies could not be given endangered rhino specimens due to security concerns. After an assessment of Il Ngwesi, however, it was deemed a sufficiently safe environment. Il Ngwesi can be seen as a test case for community conservation, therefore.

Since 2002, however, the group ranch has not been awarded a second individual, as KWS remain unconvinced of the ranch's security. The Rhino Sanctuary's sole inhabitant is now an eight year-old male, but has not been given a mate. Il Ngwesi maintain that their armed rangers guarantee a sufficient level of security. This has caused frustration on the part of Il Ngwesi's wardens, with bureaucracy and policy changes also cited as a reason for the ongoing situation.

Despite this, Il Ngwesi is undoubtedly regarded as a model for community-based conservation and tourism within Kenya, and has been influential in advising replication efforts. In particular, its governance structure and method of benefits distribution have informed other community conservancies in Kenya and Tanzania.



“Policy decisions should consider the negative and positive impacts for communities. Policy details must be defined and communities must be educated on their effects. Government donors should know that communities do not always benefit as they would hope from donations – improved monitoring of their impacts and better systems of governance are needed”

James Kasoo, Il Ngwesi Group Ranch

Sustainability and Replication



SUSTAINABILITY

The Group Ranch is financially sustainable, with average annual revenues from the eco-lodge of around USD 86,500. This adequately covers the lodge's operational costs, while 40% is invested in community development projects. The lodge has operated without external funding since 2004. In addition to lodge revenue, a conservation fee is also payable for entry into the area, at USD 40 per person, per day, while groups of visitors pay USD 300 per night to stay in the lodge's campsites. Associated ecotourism attractions also generate revenue for the Group Ranch. The cultural *boma* (a traditional Maasai village) promotes indigenous traditions and Maasai culture. Tourists can visit the village without staying at the lodge, with profits going directly to the villagers themselves. Hiring out conservancy vehicles provides an additional source of revenue, while women's groups have developed artisanal handicraft-making to capitalize on ecotourism.

Strategic partnerships and investments

External funding is sought where Il Ngwesi's own revenues cannot cover its community development projects. International partners have also contributed in the form of technical assistance, for instance in Il Ngwesi's health and enterprise development schemes. FHI and ICA have played key roles in the "Afya II" program, which is wholly funded by external sources, while VSO volunteers have given training and marketing advice to the women producing artisanal handicrafts. Teachers' salaries are paid by Il Ngwesi, the government, and specific donors. On the other hand, the maintenance of water systems and security in the conservancy are funded wholly by Il Ngwesi.

A strategy to enhance the long-term financial autonomy of the Group Ranch is the purchase of land to build residential property in the local town of Timau, which will then be leased to generate extra income. This decision was taken by the Group Ranch Committee

with the acquiescence of the Il Ngwesi Community Trust. Profits from the eco-lodge that would otherwise have been paid out to the Maasai community member shareholders in the form of dividends were instead used to purchase the land plot. A finance committee has been appointed to come up with quotations and seek external funding for the construction.

Social and ecological sustainability

Community participation through Il Ngwesi's governance structure is fundamental to its long-term sustainability. By giving the group ranch inhabitants a voice and a vote, the initiative has ensured a strong degree of local ownership. Its tangible socioeconomic impacts have also gained it the support of the community. This support is not assured, however, and external land acquisitions have also been used to ease pressures within the conservation area. Population growth and unpredictable weather patterns have increased tensions over land use for wildlife conservation versus livestock grazing. The Group Ranch Committee has therefore proposed relocating the various communities to external sites. 100% of the group ranch would then be used for conservation, although there are fears that this could lead to the land being managed by Kenya Wildlife Service as a government-run conservancy.

The long-term ecological sustainability within the Laikipia District is aided by Il Ngwesi's relationship with neighbouring conservancies through the Northern Rangelands Trust. If the Maasai populations are resettled elsewhere in the next five years, the conservancy will be utilized entirely for wildlife management. Wildlife species will be translocated from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy to boost existing wildlife populations in Il Ngwesi. Increasing the black rhino conservation potential of Il Ngwesi is also a major focus of the future, while discussions are being held with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Lekurruki Group Ranch, and Borana Ranch to establish a large combined conservation area between the four properties.

Challenges to Il Ngwesi's sustainability

Competition with other ecotourism ventures: marketing of Il Ngwesi will be crucial to this, as will further improving the road infrastructure. Reaching Il Ngwesi from the main road from Isiolo is currently a challenge in bad weather.

Climate change: rain patterns have changed considerably in recent years, and impose hardship on pastoralists that in turn increases human pressures on the conservation area.

Ownership of newly-acquired land: questions exist over the ownership structure for any potential expanded conservation areas and residential plots.

Security: further strengthening security operations within the conservancy could be key to Il Ngwesi receiving more black rhino individuals or other at-risk species, which in turn would improve its ecotourism potential.

REPLICATION

Il Ngwesi has been used as a model for community conserved areas in Kenya, as well as in Tanzania, Uganda and Southern Sudan.

Exchange visits have been hosted at Il Ngwesi, while elders from Il Ngwesi have also been invited by Kenya Wildlife Service to share lessons on governance processes with other communities. Much of the replication of Il Ngwesi's model has taken place locally, such as the establishment and development of Naibunga Conservancy, which covers over 17,000 hectares, while Shompole Community Trust, from near Magadi in southern Kenya, has also replicated Il Ngwesi's eco-lodge model.

PARTNERS

- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
- Northern Rangelands Trust
- Laikipia Wildlife Forum
- Africa Wildlife Foundation
- Kenya Wildlife Service
- University of Nairobi
- Kenya Forestry Research Institute
- Voluntary Service Overseas (two full-time volunteers for next two years to cover range of activities)
- Borana Ranch
- Family Health International



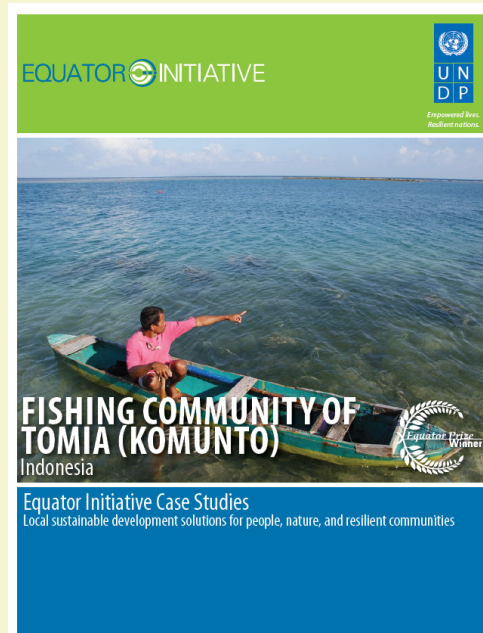
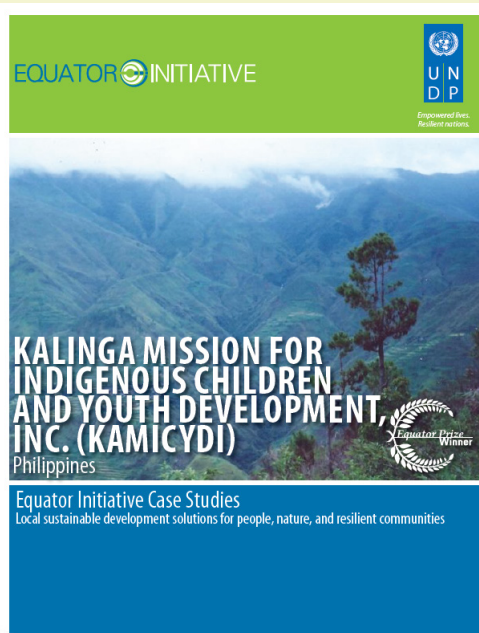
“Biodiversity concerns everyone; it is the responsibility of everyone to take care of their ecosystems. Everyone must contribute”

James Kasoo, Il Ngwesi Group Ranch

FURTHER REFERENCE

- Il Ngwesi Group Ranch website: ilngwesi.com
- Il Ngwesi Group Ranch PhotoStory (Vimeo) vimeo.com/27016070 (English) vimeo.com/15750010 (Swahili)

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