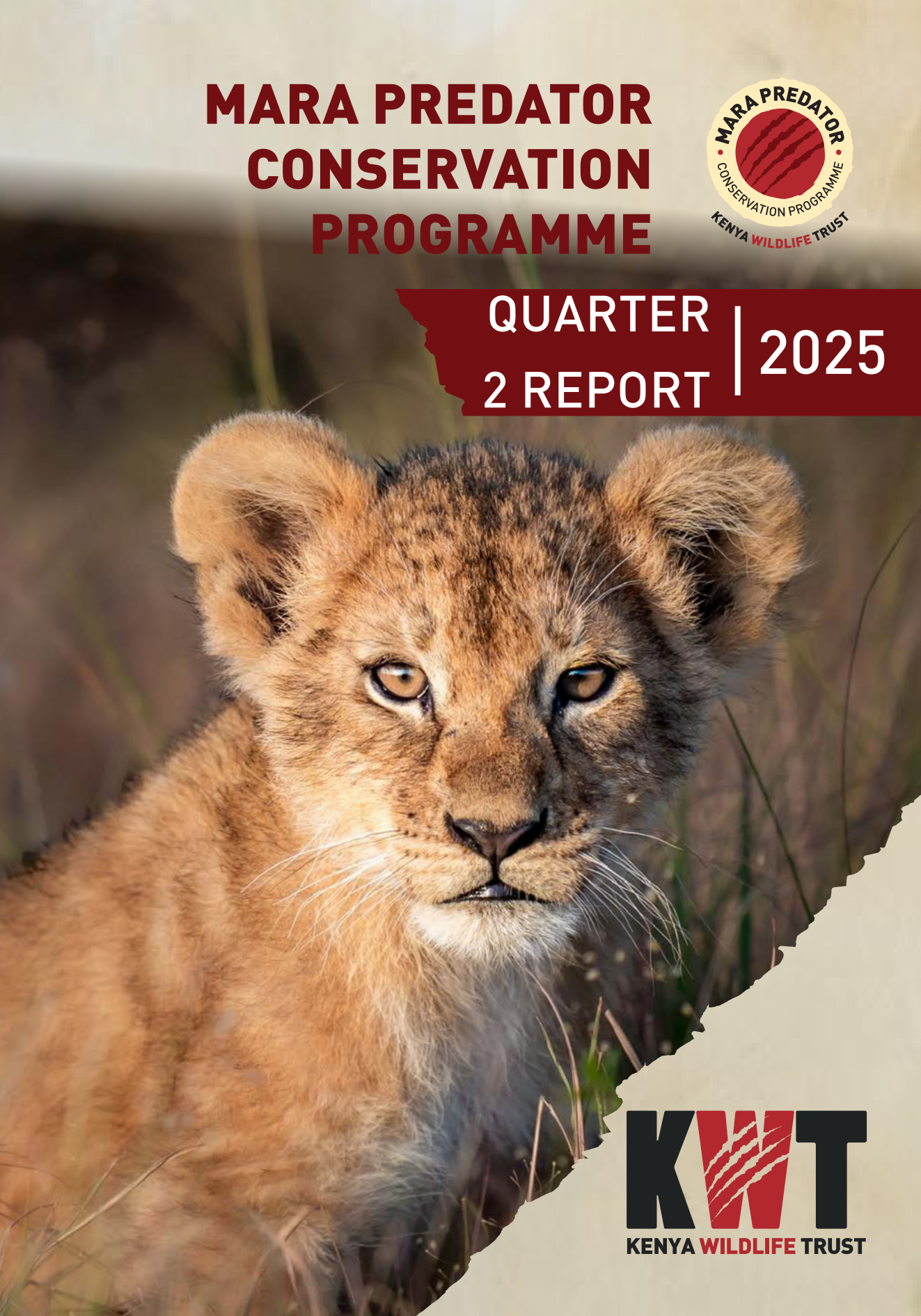
MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME
KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

QUARTER 2 REPORT | 2025



KWT
KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

OVERARCHING GOALS

SCIENCE-DRIVEN CONSERVATION OF PREDATORS IN THE GREATER MARA ECOSYSTEM



FOSTERING HARMONY

To help community members and landowners understand and appreciate the role of predators in the ecosystem

SCIENCE-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

To ensure that key stakeholders in the Greater Mara Ecosystem consistently utilise sound scientific information to inform conservation strategies





THRIVING PREDATORS, THRIVING ECOSYSTEM

To support stable, healthy predator populations in the Greater Mara Ecosystem by providing scientific evidence for conservation action

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Design & Layout: Felixie Kipng'etich.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the second quarter of 2025, Kenya Wildlife Trust's flagship, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) advanced its mission through focused predator monitoring, conflict mitigation, and community engagement. Over **4,300 Km** were covered in predator monitoring, resulting in **120 lion** and **31 cheetah sightings**. Data from collared lions and cheetahs provided valuable insights into movement patterns and conflict risk with people. Notably, the lion Orkitok died following injuries, and two female cheetahs lost their litters shortly after giving birth.

Human Wildlife Conflict cases rose sharply this quarter, with a **35% increase** in hyena-related incidents and higher lion, leopard, and cheetah depredation. Our team of Lion Ambassadors responded to **1,137 geofence alerts**, removed **40 snares**, and reached **over 4,100 people** through community outreach initiatives. During this period, **seven anti-poison campaigns** which reached over 33,000 people were conducted in addition to community barazas engaging 430 participants on efforts to coexisting with predators. Additionally, **302 herders** were trained on improved livestock protection to reduce retaliatory killings.

Through our Ufugaji Hifadhi initiative, **65,751 cattle** and **12,667 sheep** were vaccinated, strengthening livelihoods and food security. In addition, our Conservation education initiative involved over **350 students** in school clean-ups, art activities, and field experiences.

MPCP also benefited from strategic support from partners such as AirKenya and photographer Venkat Iyer and strengthened its team capacity through occupational health and first aid training.

We invite you to read more on this and more achievements within the report

RESEARCH UPDATE



Photo © Felix-Studios-Disney-LRF

Predator Monitoring

During this reporting period, the research team continued with regular monitoring of predators across the study area to track population dynamics. The team covered 4343.67 km, recording 120 lion sightings and 31 cheetah sightings (Figure 1).

These ongoing monitoring efforts offer important insights into predator behaviour and population changes, helping to determine trends over time. The data collected is important for guiding conservation strategies and ensuring the effective protection of these species.

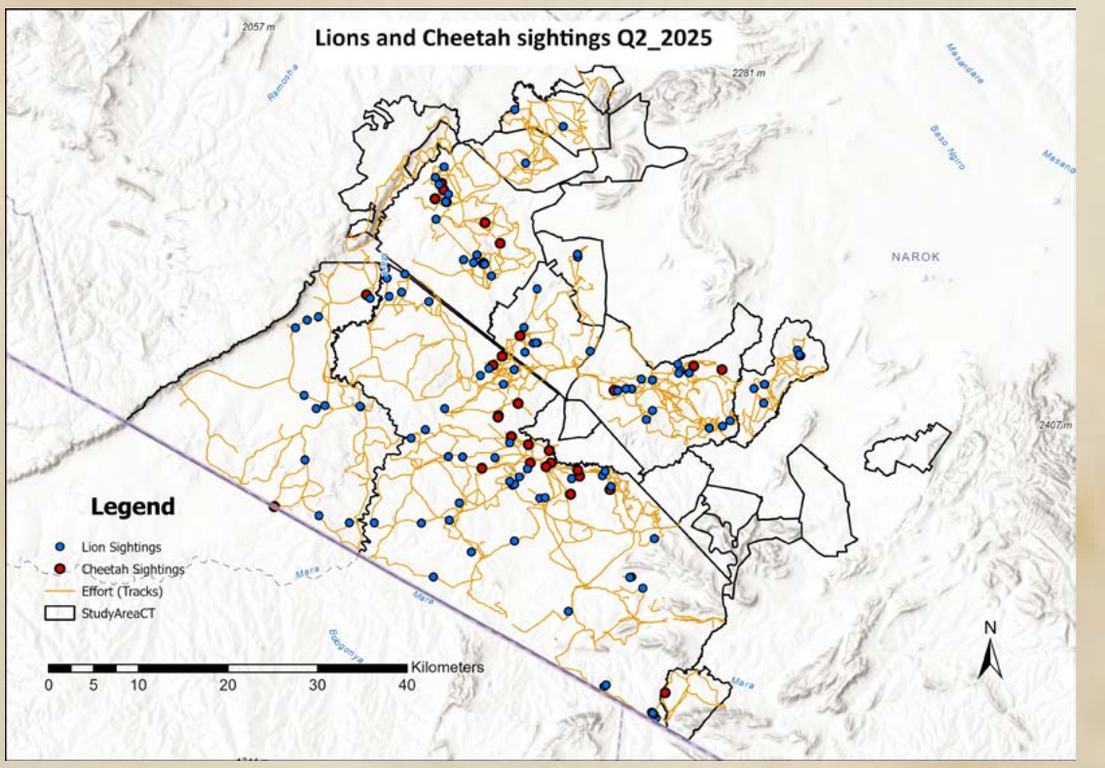


Figure 1: Map showing effort tracks, cheetah and lion sightings.

Lion Updates
Lion Collars

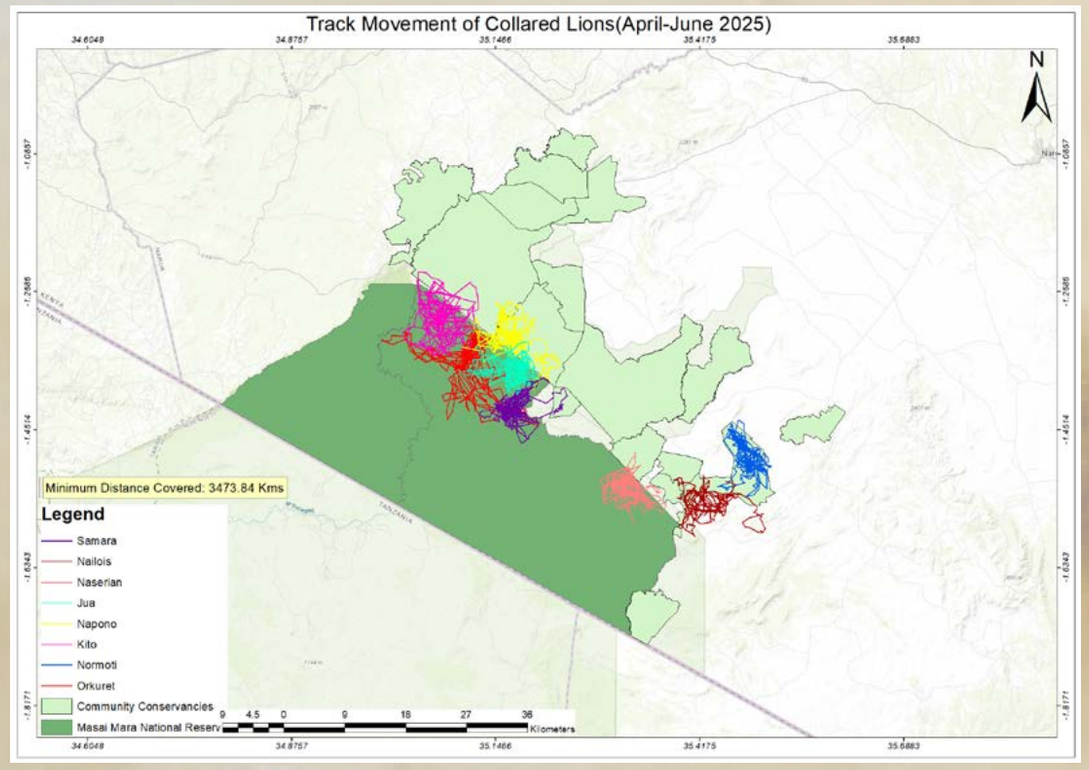


Figure 2: Tracks of collared Lions

Collared Subject	Coverage (Km)	50% Home range utilization
Samara	389.33	2.25 Km^2
Nailois	289.28	3.87 Km^2
Naserian	421.04	4.0 Km^2
Jua	348.37	2.81 Km^2
Napono	500.53	1.69 Km^2
Kito	518.05	5.56 Km^2
Normoti	417.89	2.25 Km^2
Orkuret	580.36	4.56 Km^2

Lion Mortalities
Salas male (Orkitok)

In mid-May, Orkitok, one of the three Salas males, sustained serious injuries during a territorial fight. He received treatment from the Kenya Wildlife Service vets and was closely monitored by our team in collaboration with the County and Olare Motorogi Conservancy rangers. Unfortunately, Orkitok died on the night of June 6th and was discovered the following morning by the Conservancy rangers.

Orkitok, along with brothers Olepolos and Osapuk, was born in 2015 to the Salas Pride. They formed a strong coalition that led the Rekero and Topi Prides for years. Until his death, Orkitok and his brothers remained the pride males of the Topi Pride and fathered many cubs, including the seven Topi boys.

Retaliatory poisoning

In late May, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) responded to a fatal incident involving a sub-adult male lion on the eastern edge of Mara North Conservancy (MNC). The incident highlights the persistent challenge of human-lion conflict in the ecosystem. On the morning of May 23, 2025, our team received a community report about a lion exhibiting disoriented and distressed behavior near the Ng'osuani settlement. This followed a reported livestock depredation event the previous evening, where a pride of seven lions had allegedly killed three calves.

A collaborative response team was immediately mobilized, comprising personnel from MPCP, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and MNC, who were the first to arrive on the scene. Mara Elephant Project (MEP) also provided support, deploying a drone to survey the area. The distressed lion, unfortunately, succumbed shortly after the team's arrival. MPCP assisted in transporting the carcass to the Sekenani Research Center for a full post-mortem examination. The autopsy officially confirmed that the cause of death was poisoning.

KWS is leading the investigation, and we anticipate further action will be taken against those responsible.

Cheetah Updates

Births

In the last quarter, two adult female cheetahs, Namunyak and Nashipae, gave birth. Namunyak was seen heavily pregnant and gave birth in Naboisho Conservancy. She was seen lactating and going in and out of the lair on several occasions. She lost her entire litter while still in the lair. Namunyak was last seen in Olkinyei and Naboisho conservancies.

Nashipae gave birth around the Simba area but unfortunately, she also lost her litter in the den, and we saw her mating with Mwanga in Olare Motorogi Conservancy a few days later.

Cheetah Collars

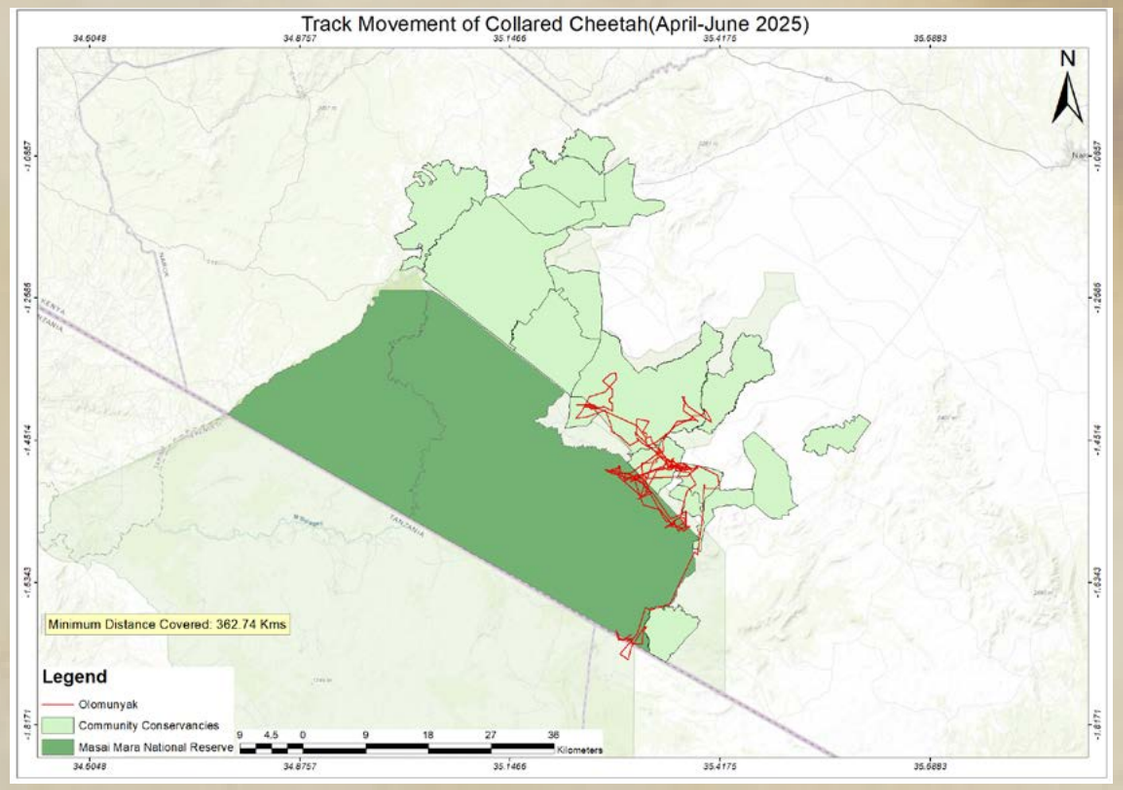


Figure 3: Tracks of collared Cheetahs.

Collared Subject	Coverage (Km)	50% Home range utilization
Olomunyak	362.74	33.62Km^2

Kayioni

Kayioni, a male cheetah collared by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP), was named by Ripoi Conservancy rangers following his collaring in September 2024. Prior to his collaring, he was part of a coalition with two brothers, who have since disappeared, likely due to human-wildlife conflict in areas with high sheep density along the conservancy's periphery.

We estimated Kayioni to be approximately six years old at the time of collaring. The collaring was part of MPCP's real-time conservation initiative, enabling close monitoring via EarthRanger and immediate alerts to the conservancy manager and Lion Ambassadors. The collar detached after seven months as programmed, and Kayioni remains in good health. Rangers continue to monitor him actively. The collar successfully dropped off in April.

Here is a link to the full collaring report.

Scan to read more



Photo © Matthew Williams Ellis

Mortalities

Kisaru's son

In January 2024, the well-known cheetah Kisaru, daughter of Amani, was found dead inside the Maasai Mara National Reserve. The exact cause of death remains inconclusive. Some reports attribute it to lions, while others suggest human involvement. At the time, Kisaru was raising a six-month-old male cub.

Following her death, the cub was captured and placed in an enclosure near the Mara Triangle Headquarters, where he was cared for until an attempted release in April 2025. Mara Triangle management intended to collar the cub prior to release, but tragically, he died during the recovery phase from sedation. A postmortem revealed that complications linked to a lack of physical activity contributed to his death.

The Mara Predator Conservation Program was not involved in the cub's capture, care, immobilisation, or collaring. We recommend that any future efforts to rehabilitate cheetahs involve qualified experts with prior experience in cheetah rehabilitation. Without such expertise, cheetahs should not be captured for the purpose of release.

Introducing Predator Watch

While our quarterly reports provide a comprehensive, data-driven look at the trends and scientific outcomes across the Mara, we know that the day-to-day drama of the wild is just as compelling. To bring you closer to the action, we are excited to have launched ***"Predator Watch,"*** our new weekly blog series.

Think of it as the real-time diary to our quarterly journal. Each week, Predator Watch shares the immediate stories from our field teams; the hunts, the pride dynamics, and the individual triumphs and struggles of the predators we monitor. It's the perfect way to follow the narrative of the Greater Mara as it unfolds.

We invite you to complement the in-depth analysis you find in this report with the weekly stories from the field. You can follow the Predator Watch series on our website, and recieve timely updates by subscribing to our newsletter or by following us on social media.

Scan to read more



Photo © Billy Kaitet

Lion Ambassadors Program

The EarthRanger platform has significantly improved real-time monitoring of collared lions, cheetahs and tagged cattle, enabling timely incident reporting and helping prevent human-wildlife conflict. It provides critical data such as geofence alerts, movement patterns, and immobility detection, which inform targeted interventions like lion lights, predator-proof bomas, and community outreach. The platform also supports broader conservation efforts, including anti-snaring, livestock vaccination planning, and disease monitoring, ensuring a data-driven approach to wildlife and community protection.

Lion Ambassadors' Conflict Reports

Spotted hyenas continues to be a major source of human-wildlife conflict across the landscape, accounting for a significant portion of livestock depredation cases, which have increased by Over 40% compared to the previous quarter.

Likewise, lions and leopards remain among the most problematic predators, with their involvement in conflict rising by 45.67% and 22.87% respectively. Cheetah-related incidents have also seen an uptick, increasing by 10% over the same period.

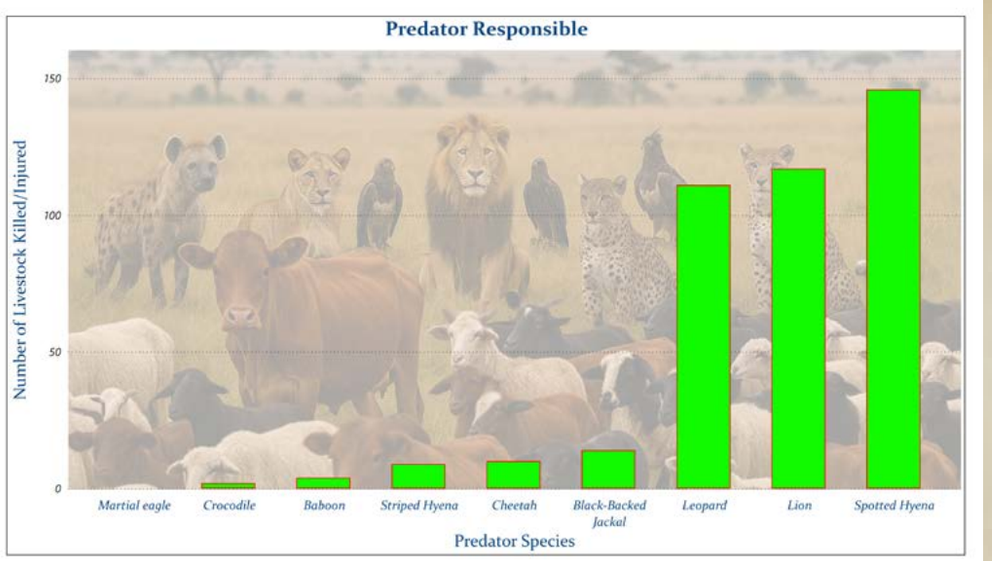


Figure 4: April-June 2025, Predator responsible for livestock depredation.

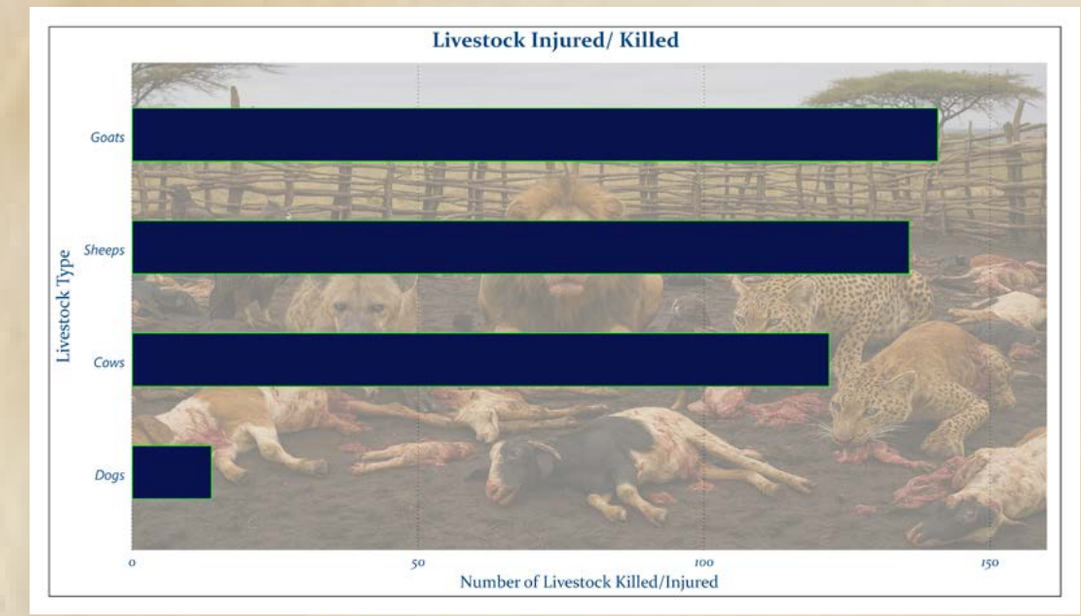


Figure 5: Number of livestock Killed/Injured.

Figure 5 illustrates the number of livestock killed or injured, with goats continuing to be the most affected species in reported conflict cases this quarter, like the previous one, though incidents have risen by over 40.0%. Sheep and cattle follow, highlighting a general rise in conflict cases this quarter.

This increase can be attributed to various factors, including higher rainfall levels across the landscape, which have likely led to predators expanding their home ranges beyond protected areas into community lands, an observation supported by collar tracking data.

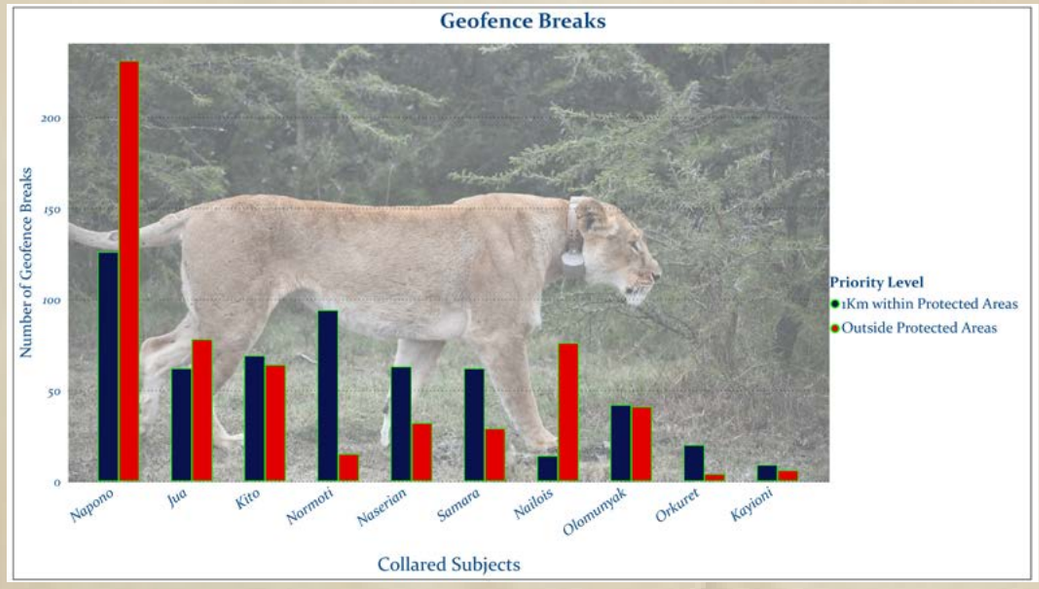


Figure 6: Geofence Breaks

Collars for Conservation

As depicted in Figures 2 and 3, the movement paths of collared predators demonstrate how they utilize the broader ecosystem, often moving from one location to another and occasionally crossing beyond protected areas.

On the EarthRanger platform, two levels of geofencing are implemented (virtual boundaries that trigger alerts when a collared animal crosses them). A 1 km geofence within protected areas sends a standard warning alert to signal potential risk, while a 1 km geofence outside protected zones triggers a critical alert, indicating that the animal is approaching community areas.

Throughout this quarter, several alerts were generated and relayed to Lion Ambassadors, who responded based on the urgency of the alert. This system allows them to warn nearby communities in advance, helping prevent potential human-wildlife conflict. In total, 1,137 alerts were triggered and effectively addressed by the Lion Ambassadors during the reporting period.

One of the key activities that Lion Ambassador conducts is de-snaring whereby they remove snares across the ecosystem. During this quarter the Lion Ambassadors de-snared over 40 snares within the landscape during their daily patrols ranging from neck snares, foot, sharp sticks, hanging snares, spear and wire, spring-loaded snares and trap hole snares. This aims to reduce human wildlife conflicts.



Tyson Sayianka, a Lion Ambassador at Oloisukut Conservancy, removing snares along the conservancy's boundary.

Additionally, the lion ambassador conducts awareness on the same on negative impacts of snaring wildlife and to understand the possible causes of snaring.

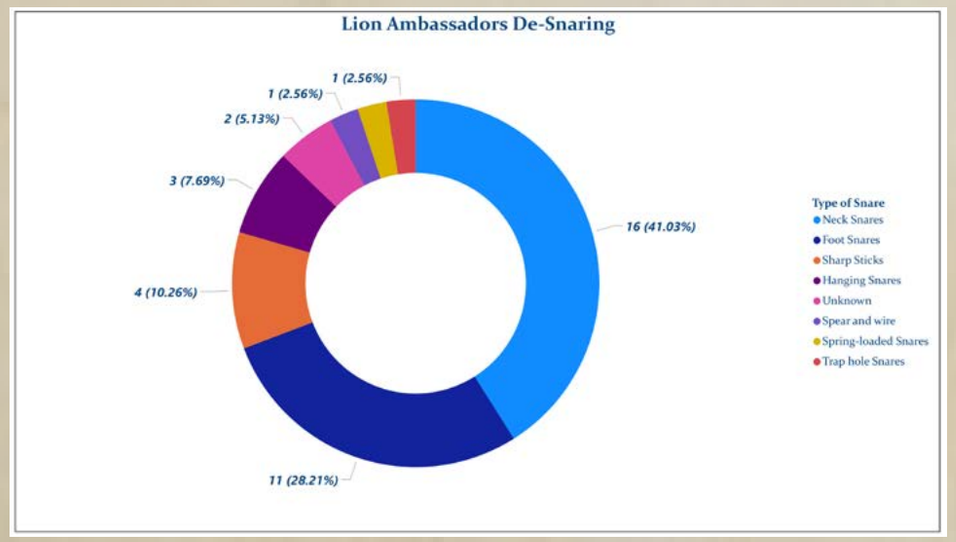


Figure 7: Lion Ambassadors De-Snaring.

Lion Ambassadors carry out ongoing grassroots community engagement to reach a wider audience at a more localized level. During their daily patrols, they interact with community members through various activities, including raising awareness, resolving conflicts, offering conservation education, and sharing information.

Over the course of this quarter, the Lion Ambassadors engaged with 4,155 individuals sharing critical information.

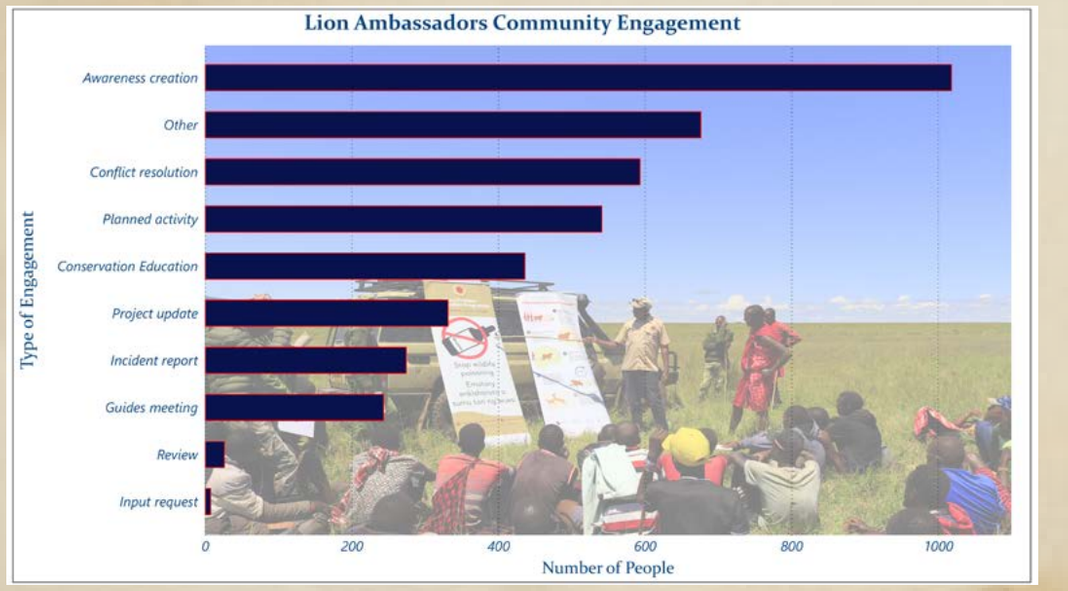


Figure 8: Grassroots Community engagement.

Collars for Conservation Discussion

On May 3, 2025, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP), in collaboration with Governors' Camp, hosted a hybrid open discussion titled **"Collars for Conservation."**



Attendees of the open discussion at Governors'

The event, held at Governors' Private Camp and streamed online, unified local and international stakeholders around the goal of advancing predator conservation in the Mara through science-driven collaboration and outreach.

The session was led by MPCP's Senior Programme Scientist, Niels Mogensen, who provided an overview of the programme's use of GPS collars for predator conservation in the Greater Mara Ecosystem. The main objectives of the presentation were to demystify the science and ethics behind collaring and to demonstrate its role in mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

Some of the areas of discussion included:

- **Technology and Ethics of GPS Collaring**: The discussion detailed the functionality of modern GPS collars, which include activity sensors and pre-programmed, automatic drop-off mechanisms. It was emphasized that the collars are designed for animal welfare, weighing less than 1% of the predator's body weight and deployed in strict collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) veterinarians.
- **Real-Time Conservation and Conflict Mitigation**: MPCP's efforts include the innovative use of collars for real-time conflict mitigation. The EarthRanger platform was showcased to demonstrate how tracking data provides immediate alerts to our Lion Ambassadors when a collared predator nears community lands. This proactive system enables on-the-ground teams to work with communities to prevent livestock depredation and avert retaliatory killings.
- **Data-Driven Strategies**: The presentation highlighted how data from collared individuals directly informs broader conservation strategies. This includes identifying conflict hotspots, guiding the strategic placement of predator-proof bomas, and focusing anti-poisoning campaigns and other community outreach efforts in high-risk areas.

Special thanks to the team at Governors', whose partnership was instrumental in hosting this event and for their continued support of our conservation efforts.

A full recording of the webinar is available and can be accessed by clicking this link.

Scan to watch



Photo © Calvin Naurori

COMMUNITY UPDATE



Photo © Felixie Kip

HUMAN-PREDATOR CONFLICT MITIGATION

Anti-Poison Campaigns

In response to the rising incidence of wildlife poisoning in the Mara Ecosystem, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) conducted a series of targeted anti-poison community awareness campaigns. These efforts focused on educating local communities about the devastating impact of poisoning on wildlife and ecosystems.

A central feature of the campaign was the involvement of the Buffalo Dancers, who used music and artistic performance to deliver compelling conservation messages.

In total, seven anti-poison campaigns were held across key locations in the Greater Mara Ecosystem; including Aitong, Mararienta, Ngosuani, Lemek, Sekenani, Ewaso Ngiro, and Oloolaimutia-reaching and engaging more than 33,300 people from diverse demographic groups, including men, women, youth, and elders.



Buffalo dancers performing during the Anti-Poison Campaign in Aitong Center.

Anti-Poison Barazas

Between March 28th and April 5th, 2025, MPCP conducted a series of community awareness barazas in seven villages across the Mara ecosystem: 5 Kilometre, Olare Orok, Mara Rianta, Ositeti, Esoit, Olng'ayanet, and Olderkesi.
A total of 430 participants; 290 men and 140 women took part in the sessions.

These meetings aimed to raise awareness about the dangers of wildlife poisoning, the ecological



KWS Narok County Assistant Director Kuseren addressing community members at a Baraza in Olderkesi.

significance of predators, and the broader value of biodiversity, while also identifying potential local conservation champions. The barazas led to a notable increase in community understanding of their role in responding to poisoning incidents, alongside a strong commitment to ending retaliatory poisoning and promoting the responsible use of chemicals.

Some of the key challenges persisting during these barazas included low uptake of predator-proof bomas and social tensions in Olderkesi, largely linked to ongoing land demarcation disputes.

Mara Herders Training

The Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) is actively addressing human–predator conflict, a leading threat to predator populations in the Mara ecosystem.

A key strategy, developed in collaboration with local communities, involves enhancing herder vigilance to reduce livestock losses, an approach aimed at preventing the retaliatory killings of predators that often follow such incidents.

With the decline in traditional herding knowledge, partly due to increased school attendance and reduced youth involvement in herding, communities near protected areas have experienced a rise in livestock predation. In response, MPCP conducted targeted herder training sessions in May and June 2025, reaching 302 herders across multiple conservancy areas to strengthen livestock protection practices and reduce human–predator conflict.

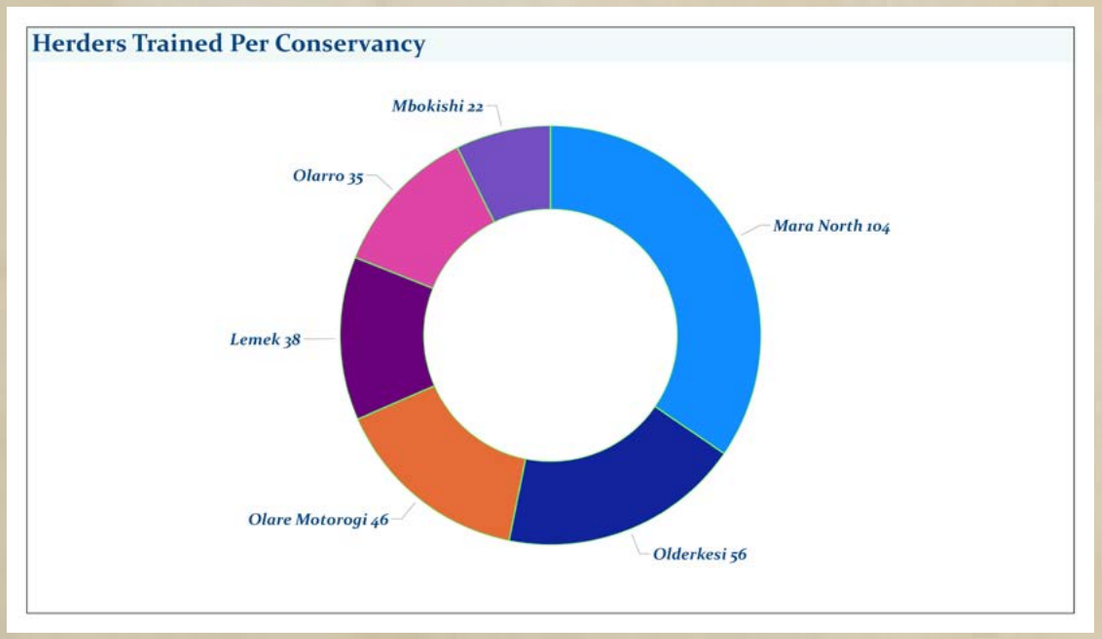


Figure 9: Area covered, and number of people trained.

The training was designed to achieve several key objectives: enhancing herder vigilance as the first line of defence against predators, reviving traditional Maasai herding practices, promoting coexistence through an understanding of predators' ecological roles, introducing low-cost and practical herding techniques, reducing retaliatory killings through improved livestock protection, and empowering communities to manage predator-related conflict effectively.

The sessions yielded multiple positive outcomes. Herders strengthened their skills and adopted safer, more effective herding practices, leading to a reduction in livestock losses to predators. Participants also gained a deeper understanding of predator behaviour, the risks of poisoning, and relevant wildlife legislation, including the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013.

The training cultivated stronger community collaboration and helped revive valuable cultural knowledge. These changes are expected to contribute to reduced human–predator conflict, improved predator conservation, and a more balanced and resilient ecosystem.



Herders' Training session at Mara North Conservancy.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Environmental Clean-Up Efforts

During the quarter, Wildlife Club members in several schools actively served as environmental ambassadors, leading clean-up campaigns within their schools and surrounding areas.

A standout initiative came from Margaret Kenyatta School in Olkurroto, where students extended their efforts to the broader community by conducting awareness campaigns on responsible waste disposal and organizing a clean-up of a local stream that flows into the Mara River within the Olare Motorogi Conservancy (OMC).



Wildlife members from Olkurroto during a clean-up at OMC.

The initiative aimed to instill environmental responsibility among students, raise community awareness on waste management, and improve both water and environmental quality. As a result, school environments became cleaner, community engagement in conservation increased, and the health of local water sources and ecosystems within the conservancy improved.

Nature-Themed Art for Conservation Awareness

To promote environmental awareness through creativity, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) facilitated art-based projects in local schools. As part of the World Giraffe Day celebrations on June 22nd, students from Margaret Kenyatta Primary School participated in a creative activity where they painted wine bottles with giraffe-themed designs.



Artwork display at Margaret Kenyatta Olkurroto.

This activity aimed to promote a meaningful connection between children and nature while raising awareness about giraffe conservation through artistic expression. The project not only strengthened students' creativity and environmental consciousness but also increased public awareness of giraffe conservation through the display of their artwork.

School Kitchen Garden Project

At Irbaan School in Talek, students established a chilli kitchen garden as an eco-friendly solution to help mitigate human–wildlife conflict. Situated along a wildlife corridor between the Maasai Mara National Reserve and Naboisho Conservancy, the school frequently experiences elephant intrusions.



Wildlife club members and MPCP's interns posing for a photo in the kitchen garden.

The project leverages the natural deterrent properties of chilli to discourage elephants while providing students with hands-on conservation learning.

Outcomes included a reduction in elephant disturbances, improved student safety, enhanced conservation awareness, and income generation to support ongoing Wildlife Club activities.

Asilia 'Twende Porini' Conservation Experience

The Twende Porini program, organized by Asilia camps, provided an immersive conservation experience for local Maasai students. For four days, 16 Wildlife Club members from Ntere, Olesere, Olkurroto, and Molibany schools, accompanied by two teachers, participated in game drives, conservation discussions, wildlife documentaries, and art sessions.

Twende Porini aimed to deepen students' understanding of wildlife protection and promote a lasting appreciation for biodiversity. As a result, participants enhanced their conservation knowledge and developed a stronger connection to the natural environment.



Children with seedballs during Twende Porini at ASILIA Camp.

Community Engagement

World Environment Day Celebrations

On June 6, 2025, over 350 Wildlife Club members from six schools; Talek Boys, Talek Girls, Molibany, Loigero, Irbaan, and Mara Leadership School, came together to celebrate World Environment Day. The event was supported by key partners, including the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), MPCP, Conservancies, Nature Kenya, local tourism camps, and the Narok County Department of Tourism and Environment. Activities included tree planting, poetry performances, and speeches centered on environmental protection. The event successfully enhanced youth engagement in conservation and fostered stronger collaboration between schools and conservation stakeholders.

These efforts reflect a sustained commitment to building environmental awareness and stewardship among young learners. Through interactive initiatives; ranging from clean-ups and creative arts to sustainable agriculture and field-based experiences, students are empowered to take an active role in protecting their environment and wildlife.



Participants during World Wildlife Day at Nashulai Conservancy.



YOU ARE ALL GOING TO BE TAKING CARE OF THIS PLACE FOR A LONG TIME, AND TO SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE, AND TO SEE YOUR INTEREST IN WILDLIFE GIVES ME SO MUCH HOPE.

NICK LAPHAM

'Ufugaji Hifadhi' Programme

The Ufugaji Hifadhi livelihoods programme is focused on supporting pastoralist families to thrive by enhancing the productivity and profitability of livestock farming. We believe that when livestock are healthier, grow faster, and fetch higher market value, pastoralists are more likely to see long-term value in sustainable livestock management. To achieve this, the programme is strengthening animal health systems to reduce high rates of livestock mortality and disease.

However, healthy animals depend on healthy rangelands. That's why our approach also works to improve access to quality pasture and open grazing areas. By encouraging communities to adopt smarter grazing practices and carefully manage their land to reduce degradation, the programme aims to create a win-win scenario—supporting both productive livestock systems and thriving habitats for the iconic wildlife of the Mara.

Livestock mass vaccination.

This quarter marked the successful completion of the second phase of the livestock vaccination campaign across eight clusters within the Mara ecosystem. The campaign targeted two high-impact diseases; Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in cattle and Bluetongue (BT) in sheep, which are particularly prevalent during periods of heavy rainfall. This critical intervention played a key role in protecting livestock health and safeguarding pastoralist livelihoods.

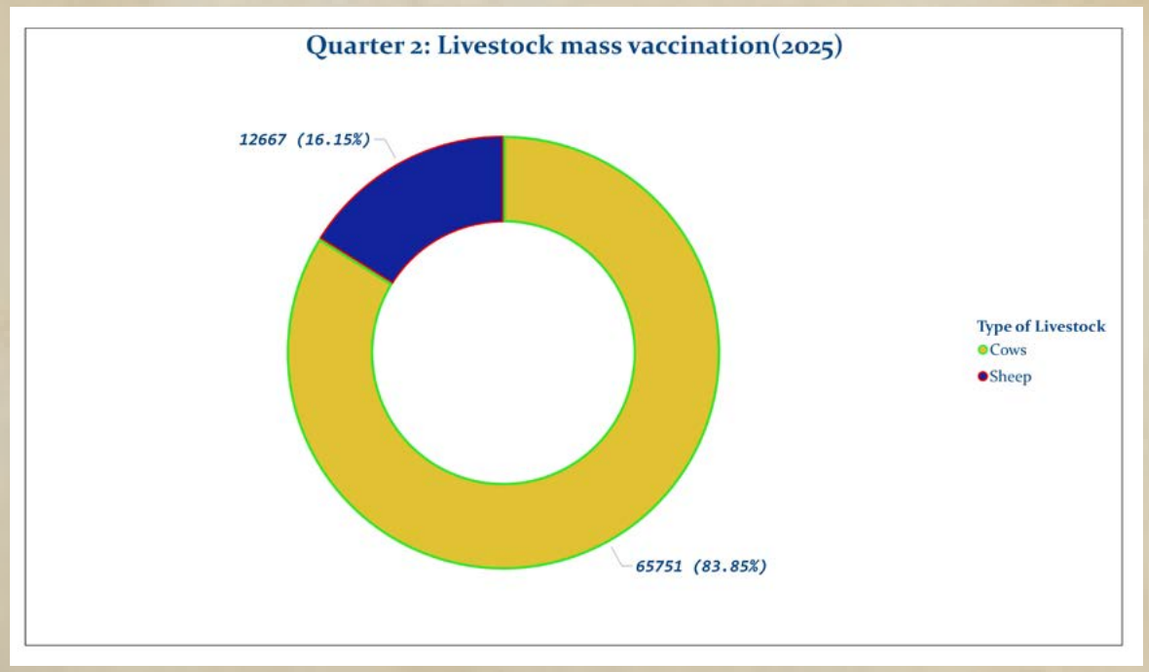


Figure 10: Livestock numbers inoculated in Phase 2 of cows and sheep vaccination

The vaccination campaign was carried out across eight key areas in the Mara ecosystem: Impuai, Talek, Sekenani, Nkoilale, Olkarkar, Meguarra, Oloolaimutia, and Nkineji. A total of 65,751 cattle were vaccinated against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), while 12,667 sheep received the Bluetongue (BT) vaccine.

This large-scale intervention is essential for preventing livestock diseases that significantly impact animal health and the livelihoods of pastoralist communities. By improving food security, boosting household incomes, and promoting sustainable livelihoods, the programme makes a direct contribution to poverty reduction across the region.



Livestock vaccination exercise across the Greater Mara region

TEAM UPDATES

Strengthening our connection to the field

Kenya Wildlife Trust's partnership with AirKenya Express remained key to our operational efficiency in the second quarter. Their complimentary flights are essential to our fieldwork in the Greater Mara Ecosystem. In June, AirKenya enabled a visit for KWT's board and management to the Tony Lapham Predator Hub. This direct travel let our leadership meet field staff, review progress, and see the impact of our conservation work firsthand.



KWT team aboard an Airkenya flight to the Mara



KWT staff meeting with AirKenya's Marketing Manager, Jean Uku

Building on this partnership, KWT's Ag. Executive Director, Gloria Achieng, and Fundraising & Partnerships Advisor, Dr. Irene Amoke, met AirKenya's Marketing Manager, Jean Uku. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to celebrate joint successes and underscore how AirKenya's support enables us to protect predators central to Kenya's tourism industry.

We remain grateful for their commitment as our Official Safari Airline Sponsor.

Visit from Nick Lapham

In Q2, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) hosted key supporter Nick Lapham at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub, our Mara operations base. The hub was built with generous support from Nick Lapham and Skip Dunn, in memory of Tony Lapham.

During his visit, Nick, accompanied by KWT board members, met with the research team for a demonstration of the 'Collars for Conservation' initiative. He observed how the geofence early warning system functions to mitigate human-wildlife conflict by tracking predator movements near community lands. Nick also engaged with members of the Margaret Kenyatta Olkurotto Wildlife Club and participated in a tree-planting ceremony.



Photo © Stratton Hatfield

Nick Lapham with the KWT staff, and board members at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub



Nick Lapham plants a tree at Olkurotto

His visit provided a morale boost and reaffirmed his support for our ongoing conservation efforts in the Greater Mara landscape.

In his address to the team, Nick praised the programme's progress and future potential, stating, ***"You guys have built roots, and the fact that you've been here, and I see so many familiar faces here, and you've grown so much... This place is poised to go. It really is."***

Brian Kaelo's journey of global impact

This quarter, we share the journey of Brian Leshan Kaelo, whose trajectory from a local student to an international researcher tells the impact of Kenya Wildlife Trust's Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP).



Brian Kaelo during graduation day at Catawba

Brian's path began when CLP sponsored his Diploma in Wildlife Management. This foundational opportunity led him to join the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) as a research assistant, where for three years he honed his skills in predator monitoring and developed a passion for conservation science. Following a recommendation and support from KWT, Brian was accepted to Catawba College in the U.S., where he pursued a Bachelor of Science in Environment and Sustainability. Even while abroad, Brian remained connected to KWT, conducting research on the effectiveness of "lion lights" using data provided by our team. This research was later presented at prestigious international conferences, including the International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB 2023) in Rwanda.

This year, Brian graduated with Cum Laude honors and is set to continue his academic ascent by pursuing a Master's in Biology at Wake Forest University. Brian's story highlights the long-term vision of the CLP: investing in Kenyan youth to become the next generation of global conservation leaders.



"None of this would have been possible without the support from the Kenya Wildlife Trust, they invested in me and believed in me every step of this journey.

I am incredibly grateful to the whole team for helping empower local students like me to achieve their dreams."

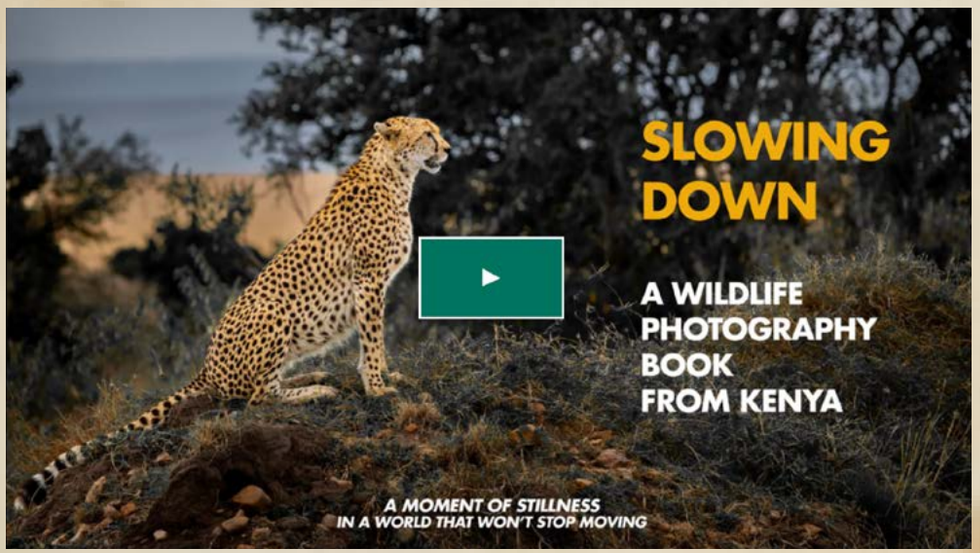
Brian Leshan Kaelo

Photo © Fernando Faciole/Governors'

Art for Conservation

In line with our focus on diverse partnerships, in Q2 2025, Kenya Wildlife Trust established a new partnership with wildlife photographer Venkat Iyer. This collaboration positions KWT as the conservation partner for his upcoming photography book, "Slowing Down."

The collection features images celebrating the tranquility of Kenya's wildlife, which launched alongside the book's Kickstarter campaign in late June. This campaign successfully raised global awareness for both MPCP and our conservation efforts.



Preview of the wildlife photography book by Venkat

This collaboration leverages the power of art to communicate the importance of our scientific and community-focused efforts. Proceeds from the book's future sales will directly support the Mara Predator Conservation Programme, providing a funding stream for our on-the-ground efforts.



Mara Predator Conservation Programme
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