



# KopeLion

ANNUAL REPORT  
2021



## Letter from the Chairman, Tz

My first thought as I write about 2021, is of KopeLion's Ilchokuti and how they navigated the challenges of the year as a close-knit group, supportive of one another as well as of their communities at large. I am in awe of their dedication to coexistence!

2021 was a year that changed and even refined many of the ways that we were thinking. I will remember it as a year for thought and reflection and for determining a clear way forward for our strategy. It was a year filled with increasing numbers of lions in the multi-use areas, increasing livestock depredations despite increased efforts to prevent conflict. Through our Conservation Incentive Payments (CIP) trial and growing the ability of our Ilchokuti to support people and livestock, it was a year of increased tolerance towards lions by the communities.

A key plan for the year was to extend our activities and support in an area where a pride of crater born lions had settled and were raising cubs with an Ndutu-born resident male. With a grant from National Geographic we were able to effect this and extended our area of work and the number of Ilchokuti in the area. The positions of two GPS-collared lions were used from dawn to dusk to inform people of the lions whereabouts and to enable them to steer clear of conflict.







Contd.

As the group began to fracture tragedy struck, and, in August 3 young boys, who were out in the night looking for livestock, were killed by a lioness with her large cubs in Ngoile village.

Our hearts broke - together with the families and friends of the boys.

Nehru said that "the only alternative to coexistence is co-destruction" and so with this in mind, the rest of the year was filled with an urgency to work harder towards reconciliation: to ensure the safety of people and livestock, and consequently secure the safety of the lions. While already working to recall traditional pastoralists best practices for safe herding and secure homesteads, we moved this to the top of our agenda.

Amazingly, for the very first time, zero lions were killed due to human-lion conflict in Ngorongoro in 2021.

So, this is where we are, closing the year with new openings. Our 2022 will be mindful, energetic with new activities, and will use our findings, past experiences, cultures and traditions and learning from collaborators, to inform the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Dr. Bernard Kissui.

Dr. Bernard Kissui  
Chairman, KopeLion Tanzania



## OUR VISION

Lions survive and thrive alongside human communities in Ngorongoro and other landscapes in northern Tanzania.

## OUR MISSION

To enable lasting co-existence between people and lions in northern Tanzania

### KOPELION THEORY OF CHANGE

Lion populations are declining at a catastrophic rate, with 90% of their range lost to date. In a world of diminishing space, their future is increasingly tied to shared landscapes.

Yet, where lions live alongside people, without effective incentives for their conservation and without tolerance and the recognition of the benefits they bring, conflict killings pose their greatest threat.

MITIGATING CONFLICTS	INCREASING TOLERANCE	MONITORING LION POPULATIONS & BEHAVIOR
Supporting communities in Northern Tanzania to alleviate human-lion conflicts and preventing the traditional/retaliatory killing of lions.	Safeguarding the presence of lions in Northern Tanzania by ensuring that communities are fully engaged in their conservation and earning tangible benefits, directly linked to lions.	Using science and traditional knowledge to find innovative solutions for lion conservation in Northern Tanzania.

### BEHAVIOR CHANGE

The value of lions is recognized by the community and tolerance towards lions is improved.

### OUTCOME

Increased and continuous lion population and range

### LONG TERM GOAL

Lion population recovery in Northern Tanzania is a community choice and enterprise.



# Strategies & Impact

## PREVENTING CONFLICT

**\$284,000**

worth of lost livestock found  
by Ilchokuti

**189** bomas reinforced.  
**728** wounded animals treated

## INCREASING TOLERANCE

**\$28,570**

earned to date from **6** villages in the  
CIP trial.

Livestock depredations **DOUBLED** but  
**ZERO** lions were killed in retaliation

## MONITORING LIONS

**12%**

increase in lion sightings in  
community areas, for last 5 years

**6** GPS collared lions followed  
daily to prevent conflict



# Preventing Conflict

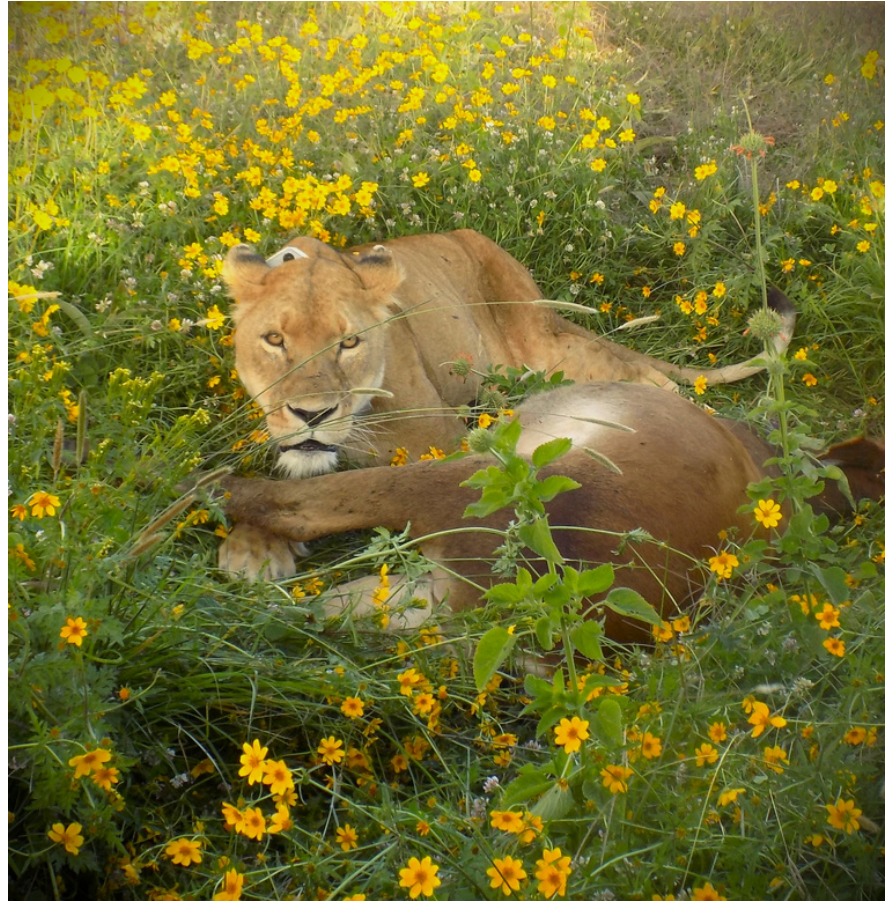
Making sure there are minimal encounters between people and predators is the key to the survival of livelihoods and lions. To implement this, our 27 Ilchokuti (Protectors), work within their own communities to warn people about the presence of lions, help to find lost livestock which are most vulnerable to attack, and they repair homesteads and livestock enclosures, making them impenetrable to attack.

In 2021 we employed three new Ilchokuti and increased our area of work, to assist with the increasing lion numbers in areas with pastoralist settlements. We provided the GPS positions of 6 collared lions from between 6am and 10pm at night to ensure that people were informed of their presence, and permission for two additional lions to be collared was obtained by the TAWIRI research project.

We improved the skills of our Ilchokuti with external trainings in Basic Wilderness First Aid and Livestock Wound Treatment and Health plus appropriate kits for both, with Coordinators additionally taught to be competent in situational leadership and communication skills.

The simple but effective 'Lion Guardians' model was thoroughly put to the test in 2021. High numbers of depredations in Olbalbal, Meshille and Ngoile resulted in challenging days, and in competent communicators, skilled at diffusing understandably angry situations.

Zero lions killed in 2021 is very clearly a testament to the KopeLion team's abilities and hard work.







# Increasing Tolerance

In October 2020, local stakeholders launched a three-year Conservation Incentive Payment Pilot Program (“CIP Program”) to promote human-lion coexistence in the NCA. The program, piloted in Ngorongoro and Misigiyo wards, provides direct payments to communities based on the verified presence of lions on ward land and includes a substantial penalty for any retaliatory lion killings. Three times per year CIP earnings are disbursed to the villages within each participating ward, which are authorized to use the payments for any community purpose they choose, subject to applicable laws and regulations.

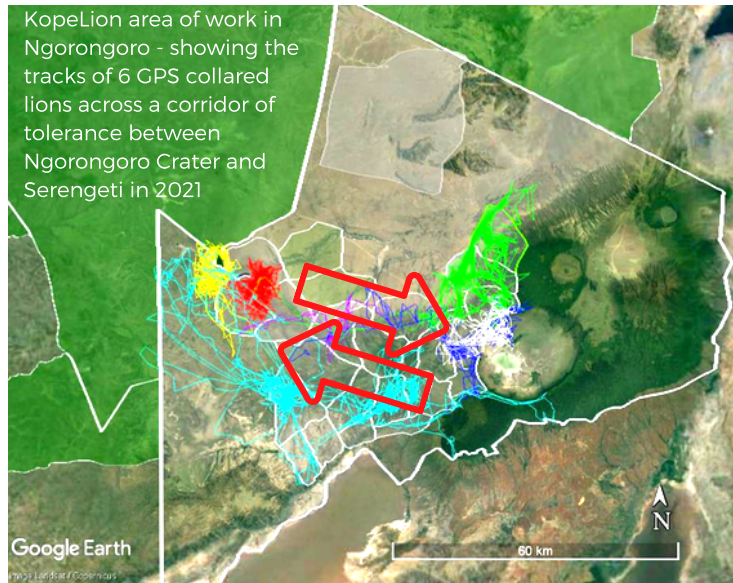
To date, CIP earnings have vastly exceeded the costs of lion attacks on livestock within the pilot area, allowing lions to become a net financial benefit to the communities as a whole. These funds have allowed villages to complete the construction of a kindergarten classroom, purchase new school desks, renovate a village office, bring water to a sub-village, and purchase cattle as an investment to eventually pay bursaries for poor families.

Livestock losses in 2021 rose sharply over prior years due, at least in part, to increased lion presence in the NCA’s multi-use area. Despite this high level of depredation, 2021 saw no retaliatory lion killings, which reflects a notable level of coexistence and tolerance by local communities. Going forward, we will need to evaluate whether and how CIPs can help ensure that “social carrying capacity” is not exceeded and that communities remain tolerant of a growing number of lions on village land.

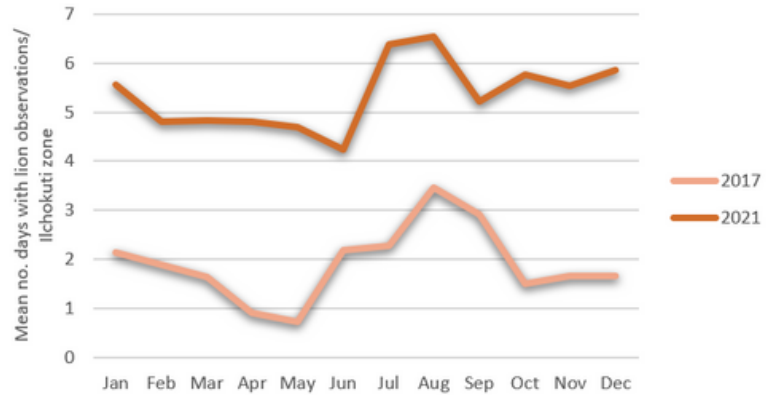
# Monitoring Lions

KopeLion works closely with the TAWIRI lion research project, providing them with collars, vehicles, fuel and salaries. The long-term research on Ngorongoro's iconic lions informs our work, and genetic sampling from the populations will confirm the success of a working coexistence model and that the 'corridor of tolerance' facilitates connectivity and dispersal.

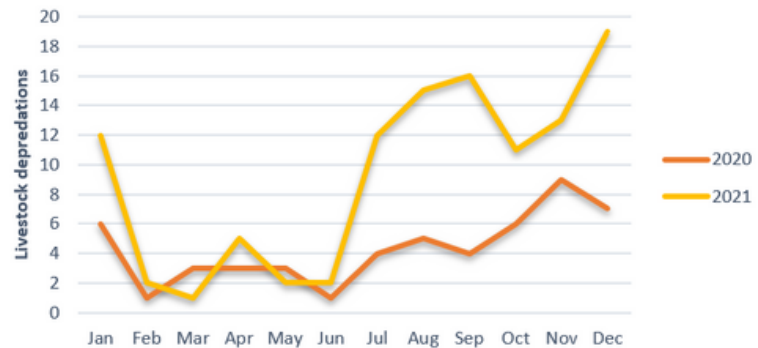
2021 continued with another 12% increase in the observations of lions in areas with people, showing an on-going tolerance towards lions across our area of work, while highlighting the need for increased on the ground conflict mitigation activities in 2022.



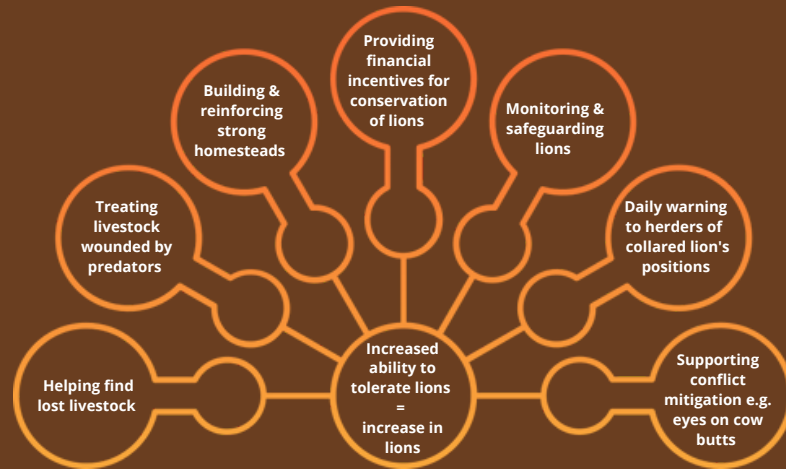
## Lion Observations in the Multi-Use Areas



## Livestock Depredations by Lions in the Multi-Use Areas







KopeLion inputs increases community tolerance to lions  
and consequently  
increases lions numbers up to their carrying capacity.

**"THE ILCHOKUTI, HAVE SUPPORTED THE COMMUNITY AND WITH THEIR GPS AND COLLARS, HAVE HELPED TO IDENTIFY WHERE THE LIONS ARE, SO THEY CAN BE AVOIDED."  
MESHILLE COMMUNITY**

# TEAMWORK

Building our own capacity as well as collaborations and partnerships has relied on working together and learning together. We did a lot in 2021!



Situational leadership course



HWC prevention with RWCP



Makame WMA & Honeyguide



Coordinators - consolidated!



Sentinel Wilderness First Aid training



Training the CIP village liaison officers



Full team meetings



Wildlife Safety Awareness in 25 villages



Livestock health training



TAWA visit to KopeLion



Lincoln Park Zoo exhibit on KL



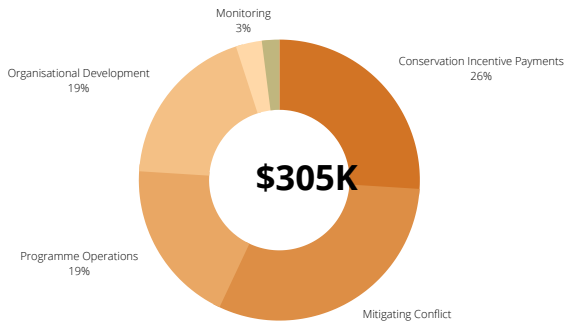
Handing out the First Aid kits



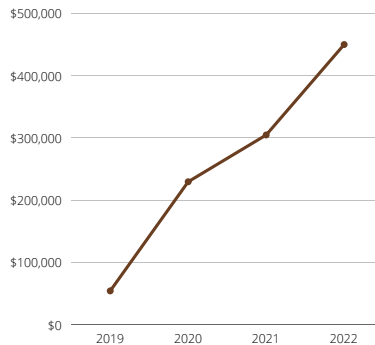
# FUNDING & PARTNERS



Aadje Geertsema  
Ainslie Wilson  
Binh & Joscha  
Dale Strickland &  
Lyman McDonald  
Dale & Wendy Anderson  
Daniella Seiff  
Donna Sheppard  
Gibson Family  
Kim Simmons  
Lara Behr  
Mansharamani Family  
and many , many more



Project expenditure breakdown



Project growth

Over the last three years we have grown our programmes, our reach and our team and we now need to sustain this progress. In 2022, we have committed to deepen our impact, in the area we work.

To ensure that we reach our goals we will invest in:

Ensuring that our team are motivated through professional development, competitive salaries and effective tools and equipment to work with.

Improving abilities to prevent conflict between people & lions with new activities e.g. eyes on cow butts, improved bomas.  
building greater knowledge and awareness about lions in Ngorongoro for the youth and their future through educational projects,  
enabling pastoralists to be engaging in lion conservation

# KOPELION'S PEOPLE

## Ilchokuti

Altapway Olewanga  
Alting'idai Olteritoi  
Kambaine Sauni  
Katakara Orishi  
Kayanda Olenini  
Kinyi Olendolok  
Kisyombe Telele  
Laambarakwo Saning'o  
Leapa Ndiuni  
Loseryan Kulangai  
Maanda Lemati

Machanyoda Gidamane  
Masanja Tulito  
Mbekure Mujuu  
Moson Sindima Masoy  
Mussa Nongirimban  
Ndeleya Olepesai  
Ngaayai Ormunderei  
Oloning'o Noongirimban  
Rapaito Matunda  
Sandet Kitumi  
Silo Gisung'uda

## Ilchokuti Coordinators

Lazaro Oletekero  
Lukas Moiri  
Ndolok Kilitya  
Rumas Olelekipa

## And

Leonard - who fixes our vehicles  
Sabore - who is always available  
in emergency  
William - who does so much of  
our outreach and PR

## Field and Office

Gladness Manase	Finance & Administration Manager
Kadogo Lerimba	Field Operations Officer
Lilian Lepere	Field Office Administrator
Ololotu Munka	Programmes Coordinator
Retilda Nicolas	Household & Logistics Coordinator
Roimen Lelya	Lion Monitoring & Conflict Officer
Sally Capper	Director of Development & Strategy
Selina Macharia	Phone Operator & Data clerk

## USA Board

Adam Pekor  
Dr. Anna Estes  
Dr. Bernard Kissui  
Ingela Jansson  
Rob Barbour  
William Ole Seki

## Tz Board

Adam Pekor  
Dr. Bernard Kissui  
William Ole Seki





Kope Lion Inc

11701 Park Ln S Apt D6f, Richmond Hill,  
NY 11418, USA  
501(c)(3)

P.O. Box 98,  
Karatu, Tanzania

[info@kopelion.org](mailto:info@kopelion.org)  
[www.kopelion.org](http://www.kopelion.org)

Join us to invest in enabling the lasting coexistence  
between people and lions in Ngorongoro.



**kope\_lion**

**kopelion**