

Annual Report 2023



*Enabling lasting coexistence
between people and lions in
Ngorongoro*



Vision

Ngorongoro is a healthy, balanced landscape that benefits both people and lions. We envision a future where living with lions is not only possible but it is considered to be economically and ecologically valuable by pastoralist communities.

Mission

To enable lasting coexistence between people and lions in Ngorongoro. We work to improve pastoralists' livelihoods and ensure lions' connectivity across the Greater Serengeti Ecosystem, applying cultural, environmental, economic values to our conservation efforts.



Values

We have a long-term connection and commitment to the conservation of lions in the Greater Serengeti ecosystem.

We believe that people and large carnivores can coexist by finding the balance between the costs and the benefits.

We encourage cultural and traditional principles that uphold good environmental practices.

We enjoy cultivating growth: from each person individually to KopeLion as a respected organisation.

Our work is led by the Ngorongoro community, including our strong and supportive team.

We propose to add further value to:

Communities: By ensuring that conserving lions is a community choice, that the benefits of protecting them outweigh the loss and that cultural connections with lions are upheld.

Protected areas: By safeguarding lion 'corridors of tolerance' through community areas - maintaining resilient lion populations for environmental and economic worth, and funding valuable research on long-term lion population monitoring.

Tourism and related industries: By protecting lions - Tanzania's biggest wildlife tourism attraction - and the associated local, national and international economies.

Conservationists, donors and philanthropists: By ensuring an effective conservation impact in a highly valued area by an organization that works 100% on the ground.

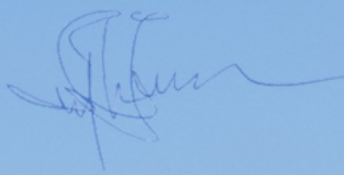


I am filled with gratitude as we reflect on another successful year. We've reached the end with all our wheels in place and a full tank, ready for what lies ahead!

The true highlights of each year that passes always center around people. I'm thrilled to see the growth within our team—new skills and abilities that strengthen our mission. Equally inspiring is the resilience of the pastoralists in Ngorongoro, who continue to show remarkable tolerance towards lions despite ongoing challenges with livestock losses. Our partnership with them in human-lion coexistence is mutually supportive and deeply valued.

I am delighted to share that in collaboration with six villages, we have successfully concluded the trial of paying for the presence of lions, with the majority of the funds dedicated to education, a crucial investment for the future. As we await the analysis of our efforts, further research underscores the positive impact of our work on lion conservation. It reaffirms our belief that long-term, adaptable interventions are essential for effective coexistence.

As we continue to learn and grow together, I am optimistic about the prospects for 2024. Together, with our amazing team, we will build upon our achievements, further improving our collaborative efforts, and we'll transition to being community-led. Here's to an even better year ahead!



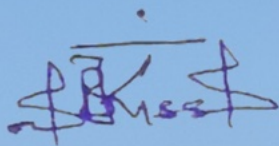
Executive Director US and Principle Investigator TAWIRI
Ngorongoro Lion Research Project, Ingela Jansson

Once again we have watched KopeLion grow. In 2023 they have expanded into new areas in the NCA, areas that are proving to be important to both lions connecting across the landscapes and in providing support to pastoralists and their livestock, as they pass through.

My work with lions spans from Serengeti through Ngorongoro and across to Tarangire. In this large area, I see the challenges to the connectivity and the real need to keep exploring ways to support people to live together with these large carnivores. The work of KopeLion is constantly looking at new ways to encourage and enable coexistence, and measures its impact through funding the work of the TAWIRI Ngorongoro lion research project.

It is a successful collaboration and the fruits of the hard work on the ground are reflected in the collapse of the traditional killing of lions in Ngorongoro and the increasing ability of the pastoralists to tolerate lions passing through the landscape, with the support provided by the KopeLion Ilchokuti.

I am proud to be a part of this team and together with my fellow board members, I thank them, the community of Ngorongoro, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, TAWIRI, all of our funding partners and I encourage them to continue with their support of this important initiative.



Board Chair Tanzania, Dr. Bernard Kissui

ACHIEVEMENTS

New 'Corridor of Tolerance' Finalized

supporting pastoralists while facilitating the dispersal of lions from the Ngorongoro highlands to the Makao Wildlife Management Area and Maswa Game Reserve

3 new Ilchokuti zones in Kakesio - 304 sq.km, being 11% of our total Ilchokuti area. Lion baseline established

Conservation Incentive Payments Pilot Finalized

34,900 USD

Earnings from lions during CIP pilot

268

Total count lions 2023

NCA: 134 (0.016/km²), NCA ex Crater: 70 (0.0087/km²), Crater: 64 (0.246/km²)

Ilchokuti datasets demonstrate their strong support to the community

129,254 km

walked by Ilchokuti

187

livestock enclosures reinforced after being breached by predators

1,088

animals treated for wounds

4,217

lost livestock found when most vulnerable to lion attack (93% of lost livestock found)

“

Fighting communal and individual poverty is every Maasai warrior's true lion to kill. Poverty is the lion in the homes and minds of many. As young people we agree that the commitment to coexistence in NCA is the most effective and reliable spear to fight it

- Youth Olchurai



CUT THE COSTS

The loss of livestock to lions is reduced, the traditional and retaliatory killing of lions in Ngorongoro is prevented and sanctions on traditional killings continue to be upheld.

Establishing Another 'Corridor Of Tolerance'

The last pieces were added at the start of 2023 to complete an additional 'corridor of tolerance', stretching from the Ngorongoro highlands through to the savannahs of Kakesio and out towards Makao WMA and Maswa Game Reserve, with the aim to facilitate more movement and connectivity of lions through these areas without devastating effects on pastoralists and their livestock. Three new Ilchokuti were employed in January 2023, in the two villages of Kakesio and Osinoni to support coexistence between pastoralists and lions.

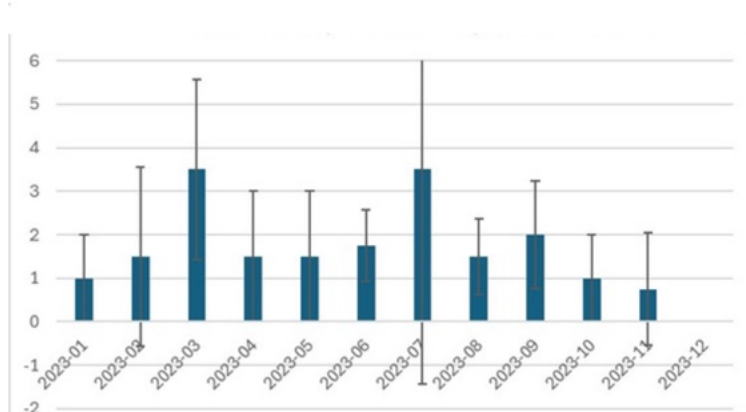
"The information we received from the Ilchokuti about the safe times to collect water and firewood has helped us to reduce incidents of conflict."
Pastoralist woman, Kakesio

Daniel Saitoti, Julius Mbaash and Ndoyai Kiranga were hired as Ilchokuti by KopeLion in Jan 2023. The interview process is demanding, including a week long trial in demonstrating and reporting their tracking skills and ability to support their community. They were trained in how to treat wounded livestock, GPS tracking and data collection, and their zones in Eseketeti, Oldonyo and Oltulelei were mapped together with the research team.

These three Ilchokuti came in with such energy and vigour, they outshone the others and picked up our internal awards for best performance halfway through the year.



Mean Monthly Lion Observation Days, Kakesio Area.



Household surveys were executed at the start and end of a one year period to identify any changes in these communities' knowledge, attitudes and practices towards co-existence with wildlife as a result of the KopeLion project, and to draw on successes and identify challenges to inform future projects.

Findings from this study indicate that the KopeLion project has in a short time, had significant impact in strengthening community knowledge, attitudes and practices towards promoting coexistence and preventing conflict amongst livestock, people and wildlife.

Creating awareness of the importance of wildlife and coexistence through the involvement of Ilchokuti and village leaders has resulted in a shift in attitude, with the community placing greater value on protecting and sharing land with wildlife.

There has been a marked increase in understanding the role of the NCAA, the Government of Tanzania and Kope Lion in regard to ownership and responsibility. However, there is still confusion over wildlife ownership. There has also been a significant shift in leaders acknowledging the importance of community involvement and the role that they all can play in protecting wildlife and promoting coexistence.

The use of the Ilchokuti is considered an effective way in which to localize the project, provide employment opportunities and ensure community engagement. The use of GPS to track lion and predators is thought to be effective in establishing safe grazing zones on a daily basis.

It was reported that there was a need to train more Ilchokuti and to involve women in order to increase the spread of information and local support for the project.

Responses from the household survey focus group discussions support the following impact statements: Over the past one year:

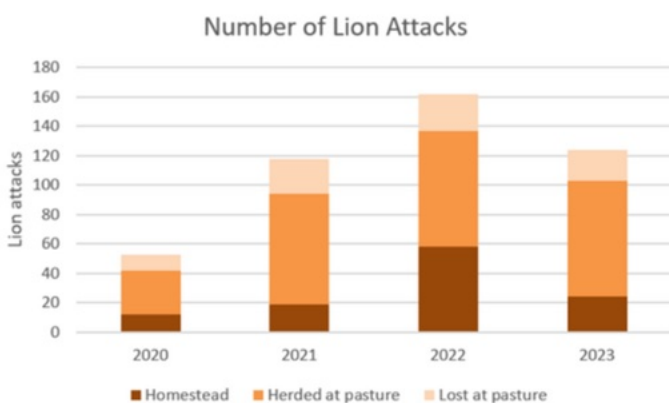
- There have been changes in community knowledge towards wildlife - **Agree 100%**
- There have been changes in community attitude towards wildlife - **Agree 100%**
- There have been changes in community practices towards wildlife - **Agree 100%**
- There have been changes in community perception of Kope Lion - **Agree 100%**
- There have been changes in community awareness of Kope Lion activities - **Agree 100%**
- There has been improved understanding between Ilkuchotus and community - **Agree 100%**
- There has been reduced conflict between wildlife and livestock in your area - **Strongly Agree 100%**
- There has been reduced conflict between wildlife and people in your area - **Strongly Agree 100%**



An effective tool to reduce the conflict - GPS collar updates



Having experienced high levels of conflict in the Ndutu area through the dry season in 2022, this year we made sure that people, livestock and lions had a better chance of living together by ensuring more lions in the prides had GPS collars.



Three young females in the Town Hill pride had 11 cubs, and so one was fitted with a GPS collar to help to protect them, but more importantly to protect the livestock that their cubs were, at this point, being raised on!

Collaring a lion within a pride, combined with expert traditional knowledge on the ground, helps us to protect people, livestock and lions.

Despite the escalation in conflict due to drought and other factors in 2022, the attacks on livestock by lions were reduced by 25%, in 2023.





TWH-32 after his collar detached successfully, using the remote drop-off function. Soon after he ran off with the collar, he dropped it and we could retrieve it. He was found alone and in good health.



Kalamas - a lion who died as he lived - in peace, in April 2023. Kalamas was a unique lion, and stunning! With his massive mane and unscarred face, he wandered wide and far across the NCA landscape, with sudden visits into the Crater where he was obviously very attractive to the females.

He lived calmly and elusive in the community area, rarely causing any conflicts, which made him a lion adored by everyone. His name "Kalamas" was given by our team, a Maa name that means a "Trickster" (English), "Mjanja" (Swahili). It is our hope that Kalamas spread many genes across the NCA landscape.



LK124 and MK127 having collars fitted, both dispersed crater born lions from different prides.



Following the information on presences of lions over the area that was provided by villagers through our lion guardians, two Camera traps were set at the Makarot hill to maximize lion detectability.

ILCHOKUTI - THE HEART OF KOPELION



Once again we congratulate the team of 30 Ilchokuti (our field experts and guardians of the herders, livestock and lion), who work across the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in their homelands, actively supporting pastoralists to live with lions. The daily reports read like an action movie, to the Ilchokuti it is simply what they do. It is sometimes tough and often challenging, but the rewards are also reaped when livestock survive after being treated when wounded predators, when lost livestock are recovered safely, and when new lions are seen in one of the zones.

While so many are modest and unassuming, we know that their work is appreciated, and that the tolerance of pastoralists and the connectivity of lions in Ngorongoro is largely testament to their efforts.

MEET MUSSA NOONGIRIMBAN



“

Today I found all 3 collared lion's signals and actually saw Nang'ida. I had to chase cattle away from being attacked by her while drinking, and then I went to help to reinforce a livestock enclosure.

Musa Helps to keep the peace in Ndotu. His task is crucial: to inform local herders about the presence of lions, ensuring that dangerous encounters are avoided. What Musa loves most about his work in Ndotu is the cooperation and understanding he get from the community. They listen and respect his guidance, understanding that the conservation of lions is not just about protecting wildlife but also about safeguarding their own livelihoods.

Sometimes, however, if a lion has killed livestock, Musa has to use his negotiating skills to diffuse a tense situation, and ensure there is no retaliation. For the most part, herders in Ndotu accept the loss of livestock to lions in return for the water and grazing here in the dry season.

MEET BALAS GITONYODA

Balas Gitonyoda was born and raised in Olpiro in a large family of livestock breeders. The meaning of the word 'balas' in Barabaig, is a person who is talented, talks a lot, is influential in the community and provides advice that builds people. Balas's family relies on livestock for all their needs in life, and his father insisted that he look after the livestock and refused to take him to school. By the age of 15 he found all his friends had gone to school, but he persevered and learned to read and write behind them, with a desire to gain education and knowledge in leadership.

Balas has worked as a security guard on coffee estates and is skilled in the business of cattle markets. He prides himself on his discipline to work hard, to work in a team, and to be honest and truthful. Balas detests people who are lazy!



“

I am very happy to work with Kopelion because I struggled to find a job and now, I am doing a job where I can both use my skills and be at home. Kopelion has given me many trainings that have increased my skills to help my community.

REALISE THE VALUE

Communities are fully engaged in lion conservation and recognise their worth.

Conservation Incentive Pilot



Historically, compensatory schemes aimed at reimbursing communities for livestock losses have been the primary tool to mitigate human-carnivore conflicts in Africa. However, these schemes have often been fraught with inefficiencies such as fraud, delays in payments, and a lack of trust, diminishing their effectiveness in fostering positive attitudes towards wildlife conservation.

Recognizing these challenges, incentive-based schemes, known as Conservation Incentive Payments (CIPs), have emerged as a promising alternative. Unlike traditional compensation, CIPs link financial incentives directly to conservation outcomes, thereby aligning the economic interests of communities with the goals of wildlife preservation. The success of such schemes elsewhere prompted exploration into implementing a lion CIP program in the NCA.

Beginning in 2017, feasibility studies indicated strong stakeholder support and a viable legal framework for establishing a CIP program in the NCA. A collaborative workshop in 2018 involving NCA residents, authorities, elected leaders, and local businesses outlined the framework for the pilot program. In October 2020, the three-year pilot was launched in partnership with NCA authorities and villages in Ngorongoro and Misigiyo wards.

Under this initiative, villages received direct payments based on the presence of individual lions within their territories, monitored through advanced techniques like GPS collar data and direct observations. Payments were contingent upon verified conservation actions and were used by communities for various approved projects, enhancing local development while reducing economic tensions caused by livestock depredation.

By the conclusion of the pilot in 2023, participating wards had collectively earned substantial sums, which exceeded the value of livestock losses during the same period. Misigiyo and Ngorongoro wards notably directed a significant portion of their earnings towards educational initiatives, markedly improving community perception and support for the CIP program.

An extensive post-pilot evaluation indicated overwhelmingly positive community feedback, with high awareness and approval rates among residents.

Moreover, villages involved in the CIP program exhibited more favorable attitudes towards lions, viewing them as economically beneficial and demonstrating reduced tendencies towards retaliatory killings.

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It hurts when a cow is eaten, but I endure it because I know the benefits that come afterwards are greater than the losses.

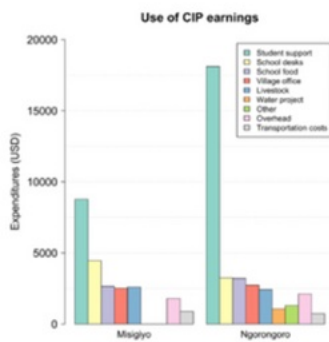
- Misigiyo community member





Piloting the CIP program revealed a number of important lessons, from ensuring that communities have the capacity to effectively manage their earnings to developing an earnings framework that is both ecologically relevant and administratively feasible.

Perhaps most importantly, because an incentive-based scheme requires substantial trust and communication, this type of a program is most likely to be successful where there is a history of engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders.



Villages used their CIP earnings for a variety of purposes, including to purchase school desks, food for primary schools, village office furniture, collectively owned bulls for a livestock breeding program, equipment for a water supply project, and, most significantly, supplies necessary for needy students to attend secondary school.

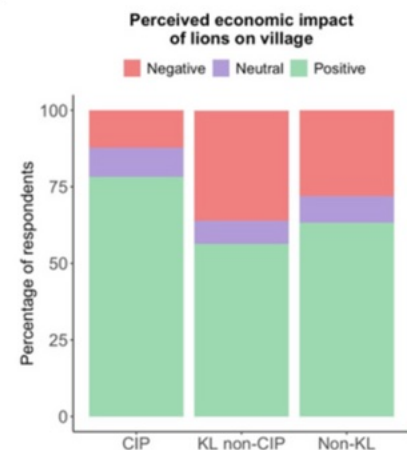


We believe our experience working closely with the NCA's communities, the NCA Authority, and the tourism sector for nearly a decade - and developing the CIP program together with these stakeholders - helped the program achieve the high level of support and approval we observed.

Finally, it bears emphasizing that, like many conservation interventions, an incentive-based scheme like the NCA's CIP pilot program can only be sustained with reliable long-term funding.

Ultimately, we believe, those stakeholders who benefit from the conservation of a particular species or ecosystem - whether they be governments, private businesses, or the international community - should find ways to support these types of programs.

The long-term interests of all stakeholders will be advanced by making the conservation of wildlife financially advantageous for local people.



Relatedly, 78% of respondents within the CIP villages viewed the economic impact of lions on their village as positive, compared with 56% in the KopeLion non-CIP villages and 64% in the non-KopeLion villages.

In conclusion, the NCA's lion CIP pilot program exemplifies a transformative approach towards mitigating human-lion conflicts by leveraging economic incentives to foster coexistence.

Its success not only in reducing livestock losses but also in promoting positive community attitudes towards conservation highlights the potential of incentive-based schemes as pivotal tools in preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development in wildlife-rich regions worldwide.

34,900 USD
Earnings from lions during
CIP pilot

25,040 USD
Value of livestock killed and
wounded by lions during CIP
pilot

CRATER TRIPS & NIGHT FILM SHOWS



Thanks to IUCN-SOS and the European Union and with help from Asilia and &Beyond, we took another 100 students to the crater in 2023. These trips are full of learning and fun, starting with a presentation on KopeLion's work, before heading down for a full day in the crater getting up close to the wildlife, with hundreds of questions being asked.

We will continue with this activity in 2024 with another 240 primary school students thanks to the Donald Slavik Family Foundation.

This year we also decided to take all KopeLion's Ilchokuti to the crater for an end of year treat! Many had never been and this was an amazing day with plenty of time for exchanging stories, bonding as a team as well as the chance to visit this amazing wildlife extravaganza that so many only get to view from the rim.

Night film shows continued through 2023, with Dennis visiting different and remote locations as he works through the end of the month round, collecting all the Ilchoktui reports and delivering supplies.

He has reached over 2,000 people, providing cups of tea, and entertainment, and discussions on how to keep safe from lions when herding and at home.

We are delighted that WildAid's film, Tanzania - Land of the Lion, featuring KopeLion's work won the Public Service Announcement Award of the Year 2023 at the 13th Philanthropy Festival in China!

The film highlights the remarkable achievements made by Tanzania—home to the largest wild lion population in the world—in protecting the iconic species.



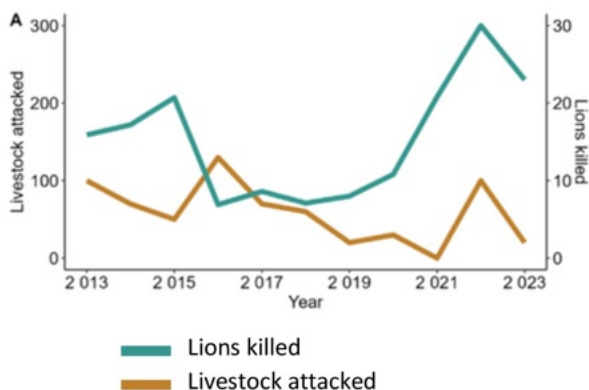
APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE

Use scientific and traditional knowledge to design, implement, measure and apply to our work to enable human-lion coexistence.

The Long Term Results of our Work

KopeLion's efforts to mitigate conflicts between humans and lions have shown promising results over recent years. Conservation activities aimed at reducing these conflicts have coincided with an increase in lion movement through human-inhabited areas. This movement has helped lions establish themselves in these environments, promoting connectivity.

Between 2016 and 2021, there was a noticeable decline in direct conflicts between humans and lions. However, the year 2022 saw a significant uptick in livestock attacks and retaliatory lion killings due to a number of influencing factors. This spike was followed by a decrease in conflicts in 2023, highlighting ongoing challenges in maintaining sustainable coexistence in shared habitats and the need for a flexible, long term approach.

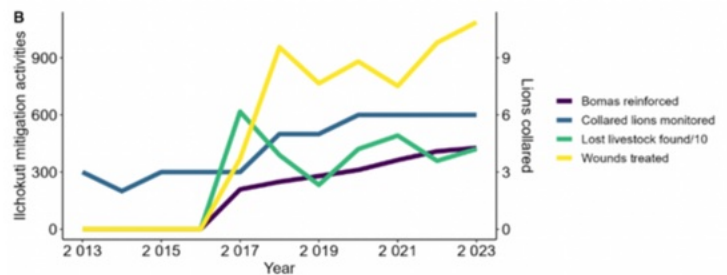


Key strategies such as collaring lions for early warning systems have been effective. These collars track lion movements, alerting pastoralists to potential threats and reducing retaliatory killings.

Local engagement, including initiatives involving Ilchokuti, has expanded, at the request of the community, supporting participation in conflict mitigation and has reduced the overall killing of lions, despite an increase in livestock attacks.

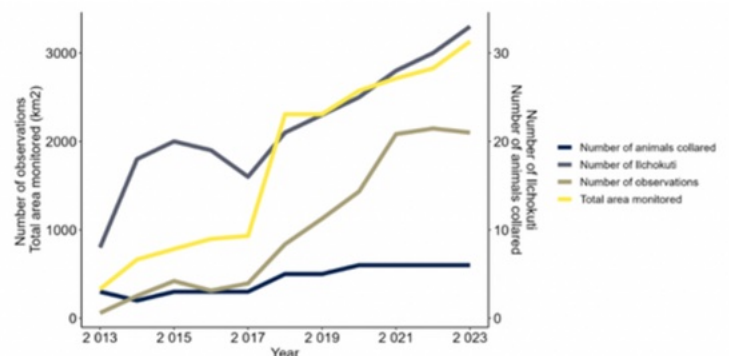
Data analysis reveals that since 2015, lions have increasingly utilized areas occupied by people and supported by KopeLion.

Concurrently, reports of lion attacks on livestock by pastoralists have spread across a broader region. Even lions born within the Crater, known for their limited movement, have shown greater mobility beyond their birth territories.



Male lions frequently interacting with humans have adjusted their behavior over time. They have reduced the overall area of their home ranges within the NCA, suggesting adaptation to settle more effectively in human-inhabited areas.

Despite setbacks such as the 2022 drought-driven conflict surge, collaborative conservation efforts continue to show progress. The partnership between conservation organizations and local communities with their traditional knowledge remains crucial in ensuring the long-term coexistence of humans and lions in the dynamic landscapes of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.



Paper: Parsons, A.W., Sandström, C., Capper, S., Faust, L., Kissui, B.M., Packer, C. and Jansson, I. 2024. The benefits of inclusive conservation for connectivity of lions across the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania. Conservation Science and Practice. In Review.

ENABLING OUR SUCCESS

Creating conversations: was one of the catalysts that we initiated in 2023 to reach our strategic objectives. Across our landscape of lions, we brought together different stakeholders to foster dialogue, build trust and co-create solutions to complex problems, with a particular focus on youth.

Recognizing the importance of local knowledge, values, and practices we looked to develop processes that can lead to sustainable change. Using a series of activities to promote active participation and open dialogue, we looked at adopting better grazing practices, embracing alternative livelihoods, and ending retaliatory lion killing.

WAZEE AND NYANGULO (ELDERS AND WARRIORS)

If there ever were roles more perfect for Roimen, KopeLion's Lion Monitoring & Conflict Officer and our Director and Founder, William Ole Seki, it is to enjoy a long conversation, combined with some roast goat, with youth to discuss, Maasai traditions and the lions in Ngorongoro and their role in the sustainability of ecosystem services.



As part of our creating conversation theme, three such meetings were executed in 2023. The discussions that evolved, the opinions of the youth, the support of the elders in stopping the Alamayo (the traditional killing of lions), and the pledges made together for the future were very interesting.

While some youth still resented KopeLion's work and the forced changes to tradition, the majority expressed an understanding of a changing world and some relief.

“

We no longer want Alamayo; our hearts are full of memories of our people who lost their lives to wildlife. I imagine, coming all the way from Ildoinyoogol to Ndutu just to join Alamayo and get hurt here in a place that is far from the nearest hospital and you end up bleeding to death or get killed on the spot. Many of us have decided that we will only kill a lion if in defense of ourselves and our livestock.

- Youth from Ngorongoro.

Community Working Group

Another of our initiatives to create conversations is focused around influencers from the Ngorongoro community.

A group was established consisting of 21 individuals from the 15 villages that KopeLion work in plus the 5 Ilchokuti Coordinators, and we worked together with them to provide knowledge on topics that were considered important and/or useful, and that they could then share with their colleagues, neighbour's, friends and families.



8 days were spent together with experts in pastoralism and climate change, rangeland management, livestock health and nutrition, cattle markets with the chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture and law and policies pertaining to livestock and wildlife.

Youth Festival

In July, our team amazingly gathered 100 pastoralist youth from all the areas we work in across Ngorongoro, for two nights to connect, learn, discuss, eat, dance and sing. It was a stunning event, set in the Acacia woodland of Ngoile. The aim was to inspire youth and to provide a space to discuss the challenges of today for their future and the need for critical thinking.



Assisted by Alais Morindat and many other speakers, the youth were informed about the history of pastoralist in Tanzania, the dynamics of the pastoral system including its three pillars.

Discussions topics included Tanzania's Vision 2025, environmental policies, climate change and its consequences, family planning and career and vocational options for youth.



Seka theatre group cleverly delivered messages on KopeLion's work on coexistence, as well as igniting the fireside dancing! We learned a lot about event management and 2024's festival will be even better!



Organisational strengthening

We delivered a new Strategy 2023-2025



Livestock veterinary surgeon, Dr. Ndanu, once again delivered 2 days of training for all 30 Ilchokuti on wound treatment and livestock disease management and treatment, and improved nutrition.

This year a large part of the training was practical which included live weighing of livestock, and practical sessions for wound treatment using different types of drugs, as well as improving vaccination techniques.



Members of our team grew once again this year. They learned about leadership, communications, values and ethics, about AI, and creative design.

They participated in computing and English courses, in driving lessons and tests, joined Maliasili's RISE emerging leaders initiative and at the end of the year they put in an exciting plan to transition to new leadership.

This year our team once again ensured that we shared our work further than Ngorongoro.

We were delighted to have representation and to connect with so many inspiring others at different events including at the International Conservation Conference of Biology (ICCB) in Rwanda, at the International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict, the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) Conference, and Maliasili's African Community Conservation Forum.



Team

Ilchokuti

Altapway Olewanga, Alting'idai Olteritoi, Balasi Gitonyoda, Daniel Saitoti, Isaya, Julius Mbaash, Kambaine Sauni, Katakara Orishi, Kayanda Olenini, Kinyi Olendolok, Kisyombe Telele, Larusai Kuya, Laambarakwo Saning'o, Leapa Ndiuni, Loseryan Kulangai, Maanda Lemati, Mahing'ida Maleck, Masanja Tulito, Mbekure Mujuu, Moson Sindima, Mussa Nongirimban, Ndelelya Olepesai, Ndoyai Karinga, Ngaayai Ormunderei, Oloning'o Noongirimban, Sabore Olojiu, Sandet Kitumi, Silo Gisung'uda

Ilchokuti Coordinators

Lazaro Oletekero, Lukas Moiri, Ndolok Kilitya, Rapaito Matunda, Rumas Olelekipa



USA Board

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

Field and Office

Agrey Minja - **Finance Assistant**
Dennis Peshut - **Field Operations Officer**
Emmanuel Lufilisha - **Research Assistant**
Gladness Manase - **Finance & Administration Manager**
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**
Thomas Modern/Loyce Majige - **M&E Coordinator**

Tanzania Board

Adam Pekor
Belinda Mullo
Dr. Bernard Kissui
William Ole Seki

Partners & Supporters:

Anita Kalitzakis and Air Excel, Asilia Giving, &Beyond, Binh & Alijoscha, Bobby-Jo Safaris, Donald Slavik Family Foundation, Epic, Global Conservation, IUCN-SOS with EU Partnerships, Lion Guardians, Lion Recovery Fund, Lincoln Park Zoo, Maliasili, Mansharamani Family, Masek Lodge, Mike & Bev Cristina, MilkyWire, NABU International, Nasikia & Maasai Wanderings, Ndutu Lodge, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Ngorongoro District, Nomad Trust, PAW Foundation, Project Survival, Ratner Family, Roman Wildlife Foundation, Safina Conservation Fund, Tanganyika Wilderness Camps - Masek, Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute, WWF Germany.

And thank you for all the many more individual donations that we received throughout 2023, to the interns that have joined us working in the field and office, and to the pastoralist communities and the help that they have provided to the project and to protect lions.

Find out more information about our work in Ngorongoro, and please support it, through our website.

Finances

KopeLion Consolidated Unaudited Profit & Loss in USD January through Dec 2023

at 2023 avg rate of 2,383.21 TZS/USD

Revenue	USD	%
Individ and Corp Contributions	84,161	18%
Grants	380,917	82%
Interest and Other Revenue	10	0%
Total Revenue	465,089	100%

Operating Expenses		
Kope US to TZ	0	0%
Fundraising	3,836	1%
Core	6,838	1%
Program:		
CIP	37,036	8%
Creating Conversation	35,456	7%
HWC Monitoring	213,443	45%
Operations	132,609	28%
Org Dev	12,055	3%
R&M	38,268	8%
Total Operating Expenses	479,541	100%

Net Ordinary Revenue (14,452)

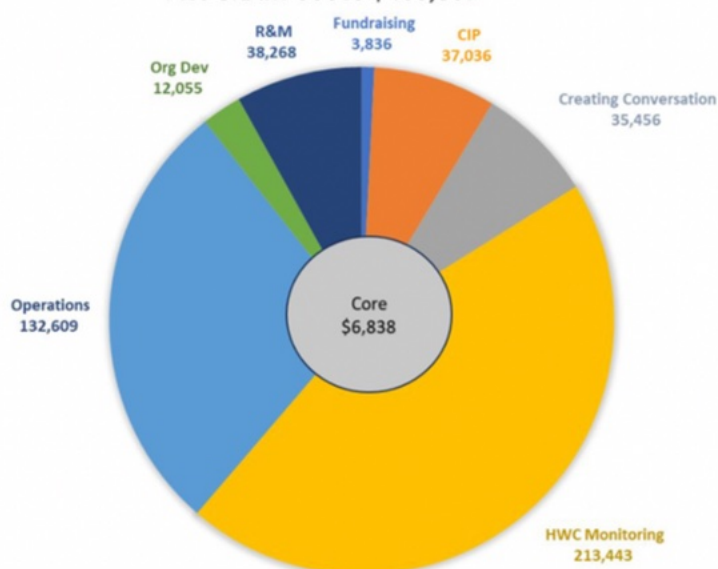
Gain/Loss disposal Fixed Assets 0

Revenue Tax (6,577)

Foreign Exchange Gain/(Loss) 7,131

Change in Net Assets (Loss) (13,898)

PROGRAM COSTS \$468,867



Looking ahead

While we are never quite sure what the future holds in Ngorongoro, we are committed to move forward into the future with an optimistic attitude, and to do the very best that we can in our space of ensuring that people, livestock and lions can live together.

2024 will be full of positive changes.

We have committed to an exciting change in leadership, one that takes us forward to be community-led, and brings opportunities for many, in an organisation that is stable and confident in navigating the path ahead. While working towards this big goal, we will also continue to extend our outreach work across Ngorongoro, with a new programme to work with primary schools and their environmental clubs to provide materials, exciting new content, trips to the crater and fun in learning.

With collared lions considered so valuable by the pastoralists as a coexistence tool, we will continue to fund this initiative through the TAWIRI lion project, and ensure that we maximise technology and traditional knowledge to prevent conflict and to support connectivity.

We plan to continue to create conversations and to expand knowledge to inspire people to invest in a better future for themselves, be it in opportunities for the transference of good herding knowledge, a diploma in health, a degree in IT, entrepreneurship in livestock markets, or simply sound family values.



About KopeLion

KopeLion is a not-for-profit organisation registered in the USA as a 501(c)3 charity and in Tanzania as an International non-governmental organisation.

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