



An Ecosystem Where **People**
and **Nature** Thrive in Harmony

www.amboseliecosystem.org

About AET

The Amboseli Ecosystem Trust was established in 2009 to bring together the local community, government, conservation, and developmental stakeholders in the Amboseli Ecosystem to develop land use practices that improve the livelihoods and well-being of people and wildlife.

Where we Work

The Amboseli ecosystem cover an area of 1.3 million acres and is a delicate balance of ecological connectivity between the Amboseli National Park, adjacent group ranches, and conservancies with distant conservation areas such as Chyulu Hills, Tsavo West, and Kilimanjaro West in Tanzania.

The exceptional intersection of wildlife diversity with livestock and pastoralism makes the Amboseli Ecosystem a unique mosaic of people and wildlife for which it earned the designation as a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB) in 1991. The MAB Programme champions sustainable use and conservation of the resources of the biosphere with a special focus on harmonious coexistence.

Our Strategic Goals



Ecosystem Planning

The Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan 2020 - 2030 is effectively implemented through coordinated partnerships.



Conservancies Development

Community conservancies and designated Rangeland Management areas are effectively managed to enhance habitat connectivity.



Enterprise Development and Tourism Goal

Economic growth and community livelihoods are enhanced through viable community enterprises.



Corporate Growth

AET's Institutional Capacity strengthened to deliver its mandate as a locally led umbrella body.

Vision statement

An ecosystem where people and nature thrive in harmony

Mission statement

To foster sustainable development through effective conservation in the greater Amboseli Ecosystem.

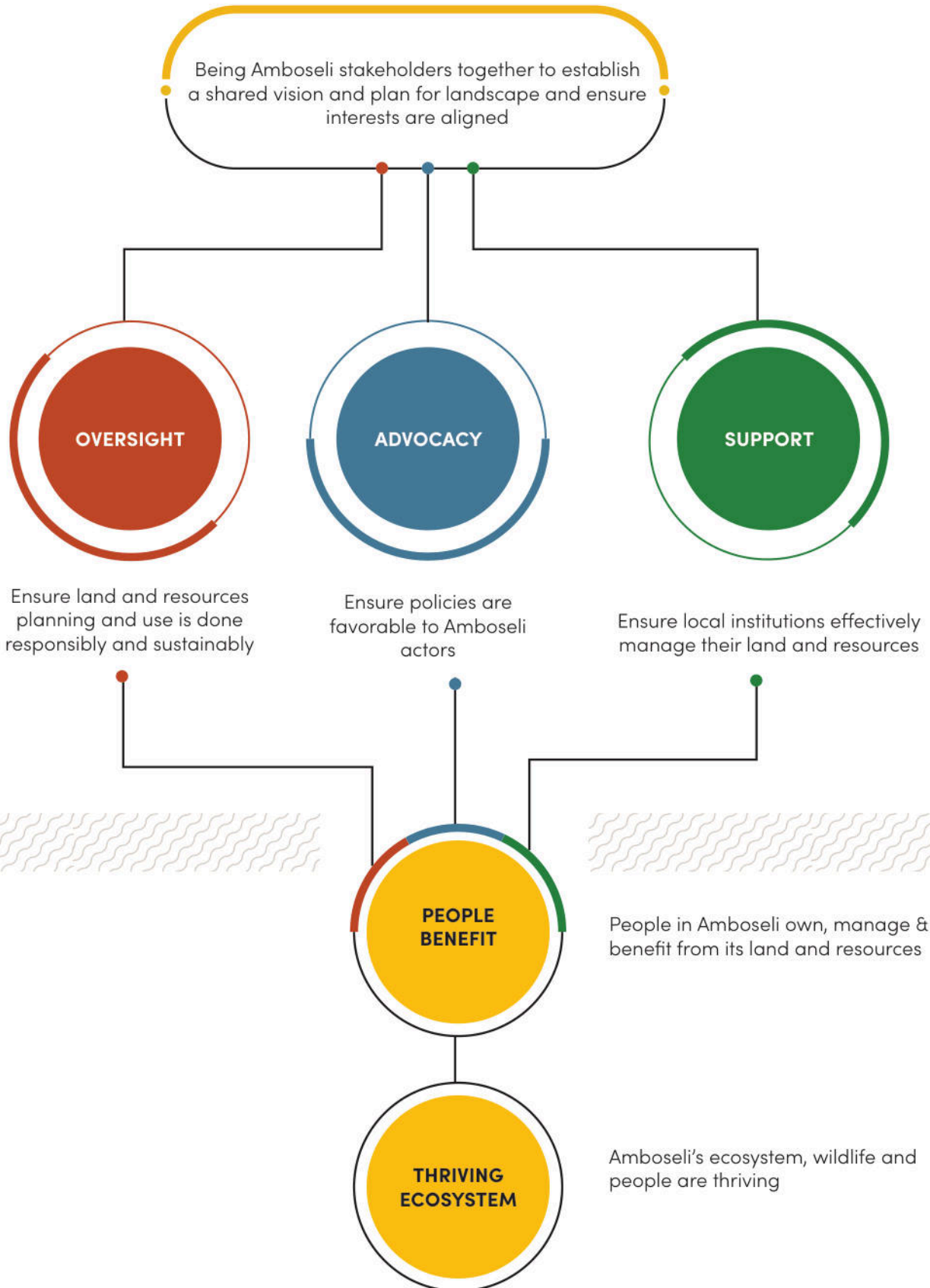


Core values

Respect
for culture,
Innovation,
Accountability,
Collaboration
and Teamwork

Impact Model

COORDINATION



Our impact

Ecosystem Plannings



2 AEMP
Plans



2 Grazing
Management Plan



35 Number of
conservancies



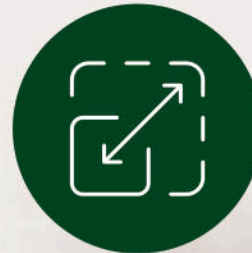
4 conservancy
management plans



1.3 million acres
Total area under
conservation



650,166.17 Total area
under conservancies
(acres)



716,122.83 Total
area under
rangelands (acres)

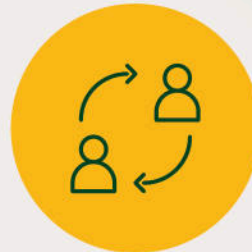
Wildlife Security



744 Number of
rangers in the
ecosystem



249 Number of
rangers trained



61 Change
Agents

Rangelands Restoration



11 Number
of grass
seedbanks



330 Number of
women involved in
restoration



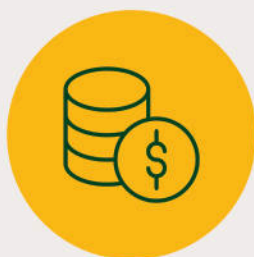
44 Number
of Grazing
committees



94 Number of
grass banks



Community Engagements



140 Financial and Governance training



398 Number of students in conservation education



24,300 Number of Water Bunds Dug



2,450 Number of Trees Planted



1,327 Number of community members in conservation education



Community Livelihood



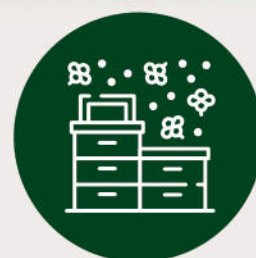
91 Number of Energy saving jikos



10 Number of Kitchen Gardens



470 Number of grass seeds harvested (Kgs)



386 Number of Bee hives



20 Breed Improvement Sahiwal Bulls

Implementing the Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan

Appreciating the interdependence of different components of the Amboseli Ecosystem, the stakeholders realized that management of small units independently was contributing to faster degradation of the ecosystem. There was an urgent need to change the approach in favour of holistic management at the ecosystem level. This brought together all stakeholders into a unity of purpose to draw out a common program coordinated on a common platform.

It is then that a long process started of developing an ecosystem management plan. This culminated in Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan (AEMP) whose 2020 - 2030 edition was gazetted by the CS Tourism and Wildlife Hon. Najib Balala in January 8th 2021.

This is the second time a management plan is being done for the entire ecosystem after the expiry of the first AEMP 2008 - 2018. The Amboseli model has set the pace nationally and is being replicated in other areas like Narok County and may soon be adopted countrywide.

The Project Implementation Committee

The PIC is an organ working with AET which draws membership from key government agencies including NEMA, KWS, County, National governments, Conservation and development organization. The PIC reviews all major projects in the ecosystem before their implementation to ensure they are not in conflict with the wider interests of the people as per the ecosystem plan. Unaware of this reality, many land brokers have been preying on investors especially outside the ecosystem, and luring them with land for agriculture. This is how some investors have committed a lot of money in the process only for their projects to run afoul of the zonation scheme. Although PIC started as an informal stakeholder consultative arrangement, it has been given a legal mandate under the ecosystem plan to vet all major projects in the Amboseli Ecosystem.



The Amboseli Community Conservancies

The Community conservancies in the Amboseli Ecosystem are crucial in securing the intricate balance for the wildlife and communities in the landscape. The conservancies offer crucial habitat connectivity and dispersal areas for wildlife migratory routes from the Amboseli National Park to the Tsavo National Park, Mt. Kilimanjaro National Park and the Chyulu National Park.

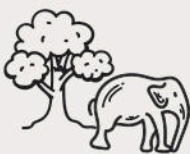
AET's conservancy development program was initiated to support the community in the establishment of strong conservancies that have inclusive governance structures and investments to sustain their operations and generate benefits to the local communities.



→ New Community Conservancies

The landowners of the Olgulului Group Ranch, led by their management committee, agreed to form a brand-new conservancy dubbed the Taisere Conservancy, a 5,000-to-10,000-acre area, that is to border the Kitenden Wildlife Corridor, Kitirua Conservancy, and the Amboseli National Park. Additionally, AET working with the Oloitiptip family have established the Olgulului ranch conservancy. The 10,000-acre ranch that is privately owned by the prominent family has been set aside as land under wildlife conservation and livestock production. These are major milestone towards securing land connectivity and providing space that is crucial to extent the dispersal areas of wildlife from the Amboseli National Park.

In partnership with the community and stakeholders in the Amboseli landscape the program has **increased the number of conservancies** from **16** in 2018 to **35** in 2024.



This increase in the number of conservancies translate to the **increase of the number of households benefiting** from conservancies from **62,440** to over **90,000 families** in 2024.



→ Conservancy Leases and Registration

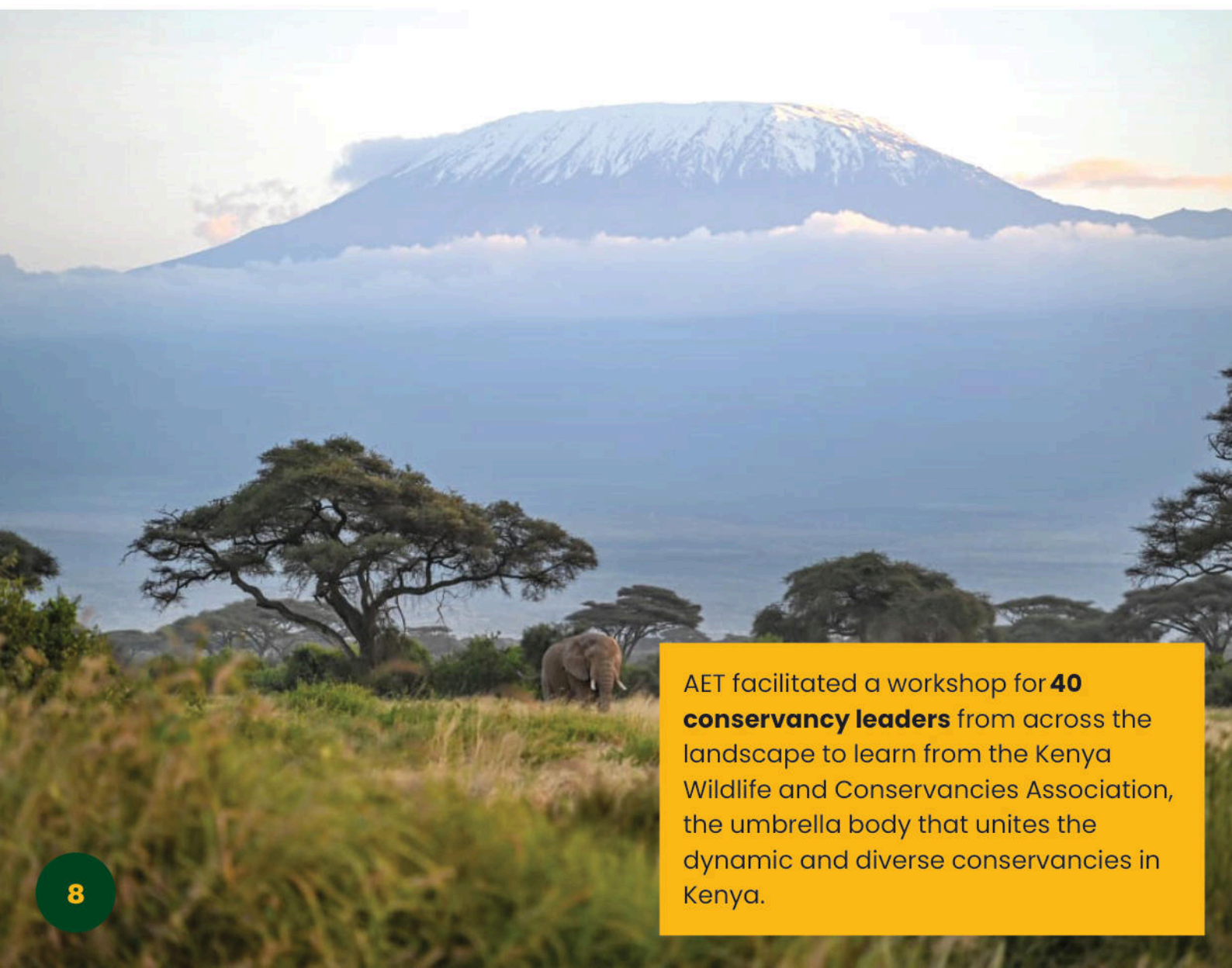
AET recognizes that the registration of conservancies with national, regional and governmental association and institution empowers them to be legal and distinguished entities that can drive economic benefits to their communities. Therefore, as the regional representative of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, AET works with conservancies to ensure they are fully registered and incorporated as required by the constitution of Kenya.

AET works with conservancy land owners in seeking conservancy investors and support in conservancy lease negotiations to ensure communities gain maximum benefit. These eco-tourism benefits ensure the sustainability

and operationalization of the conservancies as unique economic entities that support communities and wildlife.

→ Amboseli Ecosystem Conservancies Annual General Meetings

Amboseli Conservancies Annual general meetings provide conservancies with a landscape forum to streamline the direction of conservancies in relations to policy, governance and forge a consolidated model for best management practises, governance and operation. AET facilitated a workshop for 40 conservancy leaders from across the landscape to learn from the Kenya Wildlife and Conservancies Association, the umbrella body that unites the dynamic and diverse conservancies in Kenya.



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The Amboseli Rangelands



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The impact of climate change and the increase in livestock and wildlife in the Amboseli landscape have had devastating impact on the ecological viability and sustainability of rangelands as a natural resource that supports conservation and community livelihoods.

AET's rangelands and restoration program works with the local communities to enhance traditional pastoral systems of grazing and pasture management into effective grazing management structures that can secure forage to support livestock and wildlife throughout the year. The program also employs technical restoration intervention to restore degraded areas across the ecosystem which include the digging of bunds, trenches and vallerani water harvesting techniques.

→ Grazing Management Plans

AET supported the OOGRA community to develop and review their grazing management plan, a blue print document that outlines the sustainable holistic use of pasture to safeguard wildlife and livestock. Ten grazing committees were mandated with monitoring and managing

ten grazing zones and thirty grass banks. The committees ensure that there is equitable and sustainable use of pasture in 42 grazing blocks distributed across the zones, which are the lifeline for livestock and wildlife throughout the year. AET is working with stakeholders to replicate the plan across the Amboseli Ecosystem.



→ Recognition of Exemplary Grazing Practises.

AET facilitated a survey to monitor the performance of the grazing committees in their roles to ensure sustainable use of rangelands. The survey measured the performance of the committees in relations to monitoring, record keeping, inclusivity, implementation of bylaws and best managed grazing blocks. The winners went home with a cash reward of Ksh 100,000, a trophy, and certificates, while the Olgulului committee who came second, and the Imisigiyo committee who were the third runners up received cash rewards of Ksh 75,000 and Ksh 50,000, and certificates respectively.

The event signified a unified effort towards communities becoming climate resilient and averting the massive livestock and wildlife losses caused by lack of pasture and water during prolonged droughts.



→ Landscape Grazing Committee

AET hosted 40 grazing committee chairpersons from across the Amboseli landscape to reflect on pasture management as a crucial intervention that enhance climate resilience for pastoral communities. The forum also offered grazing committees a chance to learn from other well established grazing committees such as the OOGRC committee who have launched their grazing management plans and bylaws. This engagement provides a consolidated effort for grazing committees to develop a landscape approach towards sustainable and equitable use of rangelands.

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Wildlife Security

AET's wildlife security program works to build the skills and capacity of community rangers working in conservancies across the landscape. The program facilitates trainings on different skill sets that enhance rangers' ability to tackle the myriad of conservation challenges happening across the dynamic and intricate Amboseli landscape.

The program's wholistic approach to wildlife security also includes the human wildlife coexistence committee, which is crucial in coordinate the response and mitigation of human wildlife conflict and the change-agents program that empowers community members to be wildlife ambassadors who promote wildlife conservation.



→ Human Wildlife Coexistence Committee

The Human Wildlife Coexistence committee comprises of 30 members from the different stakeholders working in the Amboseli Ecosystem. The committee is tasked with providing guidance, resources and coordinating response to human wildlife conflict incidences. This coordinated effort consolidates the resources and expertise of the different stakeholders in the ecosystem in tackling and mitigating human wildlife conflict incidences.

→ Rangers' training at the Amboseli Conservation Academy.

AET facilitated the training of 20 community rangers from the Olgulului Community Wildlife rangers (OCWR) at the Amboseli Conservation Academy. The rangers underwent a rigorous training course tailored to the challenges they encounter protecting wildlife in the Amboseli community conservancies. The course included lessons in Kenya Wildlife Act 2013, Human Rights, Crime Scene Management, Anti-Poaching, Bushcraft Skills, Drill, and Discipline.

→ **Rangers trained on human rights and code of conduct.**

Rangers working in the Amboseli landscape come across persons they suspect to have committed or are complicit to a crime, therefore the knowledge on human rights safeguards the rights of the persons involved and the rangers. This is fundamental to safeguard the rights of every individual and ensure the highest standards of discipline are adhered to by the rangers.



→ **Rangers trained in Fire Management skills.**

Wild fires in the Amboseli have had devastating ecological effect because they lead to huge losses of vegetation across large tracks of land. AET facilitated the training of community conservancy rangers on fire management to support in reducing the losses caused by wildlife fires.

→ **Community Change Agents**

Community change agents are individuals from the community who are passionate above wildlife conservation and work as wildlife ambassadors and environmental stewards.



Enhancing Community Resilience to Climate Change

AET's community livelihood program works to increase economic benefits to community households through diverse nature-based enterprises. These enterprises programs work with women and youth to enhance their income ability while also creating ownership and stewardship for sustainable use of natural resources.

The Amboseli Ecosystem Climate Change Strategy

The effects of climate change have been severe and devastating to the communities and wildlife of the Amboseli Ecosystem, this prompted AET working with the community and stakeholders to develop the Amboseli ecosystem climate change strategy. The objective of the strategy and action plan is to enhance the technical, institutional and individual capacity to address the impacts of climate change.

Grass seed banks

The grass seed bank program is a rangeland restoration intervention and enterprise venture that works with local women groups to manage grass seed bank sites in areas of Olgulului-Lalarashi Group Ranch and Kimana Group ranch. Currently the program works with women from Meshenani, Noonkotiak, Lenkisim and Namelok who have harvest over 240kgs of grass seeds and 196 hay bales. The grass seeds are bought and used to reseed bare areas in the Amboseli landscape and the hay bales sold to livestock owner as supplement feeds during droughts.



Kitchen Gardens



To enhance communities' resilience to the adverse effect of climate change, the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust has conducted training for youth and women in kitchen gardening to equip them with the skills needed to adapt to challenges posed by climate change. The gardens provide a solution for the women to grow fresh vegetables and fruits that can be sold in nearby markets to raise money to cater to household needs while also improving the health and nutrition of their families.



Beekeeping



AET has conducted training on the establishment and management of beekeeping enterprises for women and youth in the Amboseli landscape. Beekeeping provides the groups with an alternative income source that is resilient to the effects of climate change. The program has deployed 386 bee hives to 112 women and 10 men from conservancies across the landscape to facilitate the production of honey for the local market to generate income for their households.



Advancing Women and Youth Inclusion in Amboseli

An integral part of AET's work is advocating for gender inclusion and advancing the empowerment of women and youth. By involving women and youth, conservation initiatives can benefit from increased innovation, local knowledge, and long-term community support, ultimately leading to more effective and inclusive conservation outcomes.



→ Amboseli Women Forum

AET in partnership with KWCA under the RISE (Resilient Inclusive Sustainable Environment) project facilitated the establishment of the Amboseli Women forum. Such empowering platforms build women's confidence, skills and abilities in conservancy leadership and management, it also enables them to network and strategies on improving women's participation in conservancy decision-making structures.

→ Social Analysis and Action Trainings (SAA)

To enhance gender inclusivity in leadership and governance of natural resources, AET and KWCA facilitate trainings on SAA for conservancy members and leaders in the Amboseli ecosystem. These trainings are instrumental in understanding community dynamics and beliefs that leads to gender inequalities at household, community and conservancy levels. SAA further provides communities an opportunity to address their negative social norms and build consensus on gender inclusivity.

→ Gender Champions

Gender champions are community members who have been trained in social analysis and action approach, they are passionate in addressing gender and social barriers through dialogues that enhance transformative changes in their communities. Currently, the program under the RISE project, is working with gender champions in Kitirua conservancy who conduct community dialogues to address and promote gender inclusivity.

→ Women and Youth training on leadership, governance and financial literacy

To ensure women and youth can effectively participate in decision making roles in the governance of natural resource, AET conducted and facilitated several women and youth trainings. Training in leadership and governance is crucial in developing women and youth's skills in leadership and breaking down barriers that have held them back from effectively taking part in decision making.

AET'S Policy and Advocacy Efforts

We recognize the ripple effect of policies and laws passed by the National and County governments in relation to land, tourism, wildlife and conservancies, therefore AET's advocacy efforts are crucial in influencing these key decisions for the benefit of communities and wildlife of the Amboseli Ecosystem. AET is

currently working with both tiers of government in the transition process of the Amboseli National Park to lobby for increase of benefits to the communities living adjacent to the park through conservancies that have provided wildlife dispersal areas and land connectivity from one protected area to another.

→ National and County government Engagement.

AET is working with the national and county government to influence environmental policy and plans to mainstream conservancies and wildlife conservations. At the Kajiado County, AET is advocating for the adoption and passage of the conservancies bill drafted in 2022 which provides a crucial guide to the County Government of Kajiado in providing infrastructural support to conservancies.

→ Transition of Amboseli National Park to the Kajiado County Government.

AET holds membership in the National Advisory and County technical committee overseeing the transfer of Amboseli National Park from the national government to the Kajiado county government. In its membership, AET is advocating for the inclusion and recognition of community conservancies as key habitat areas that support the national park and should be allocated a share of the revenue and benefits that will be generated upon completion of the transfer.



Community Conservation Education and Awareness

Our community conservation education and awareness programs work to promote conservation through enhanced community engagements and school programs that build knowledge on the intricate ecosystem challenges and opportunities to help foster greater conservation awareness for sustainable biodiversity protection across the Amboseli landscape.

→ Conservation Education in Schools.

Conservation education in schools create pathways to empower learners to be responsible stewards of their environment through conservation content that supplements their education curriculum.

Education tours to the Amboseli National Park and Tree Planting in schools

Most learners rarely have access to the Amboseli National Park and have limited knowledge on their ecosystem and most have had negative interaction with wildlife during human wildlife conflict incidences. These education tours therefore, provide students with the opportunity to learn about the ecosystem, the wildlife, and the challenges that face conservation in their communities. Students also participate in tree planting activities to further enhance their environmental stewardships

As decision-makers and change-makers of the future, knowledge of the ecosystem and the intricate coexistence of wildlife and people in the Amboseli as a man and biosphere reserve secures the future of conservation in the Amboseli Ecosystem.

1,480 trees planted
in schools
60 students taken
to the Amboseli
National PRK



→ Community Conservation Awareness Engagements

Community conservation awareness is crucial in building communities' knowledge on sustainable land use, natural resource governance, conservancy model and human wildlife conflict.

Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan (AEMP 2020 –2030) Awareness Meetings

To enhance community understanding on the Amboseli Ecosystem Plan (AEMP 2020–2023) the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust conducted community sensitization meetings in Meshenani, Ilmarba, Risa, Iloirero, Lorkiu, and Ilngosuani areas of Eselengei and Olgulului Group ranches.

The AEMP is an integrated plan developed through a highly participatory process that outlines how the different land uses and natural resources in the Amboseli Ecosystem can be managed and utilized for the benefit of both the community and wildlife.

These meetings enhance community understanding of how land uses and human activities affect the ecological viability of the ecosystem, which supports livestock production and wildlife conservation.

Human Wildlife Conflict Sensitization and Conservation Awareness Meeting

In partnership with other stakeholders, the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust held community engagement meeting to build community awareness on conservation and human wildlife conflict. The shift from traditional pastoralism to farming along areas adjacent to conservancies and wildlife areas fuels human wildlife conflict in the Amboseli ecosystem, therefore these meeting provide a platform to enhance community awareness on sustainable land uses that foster human wildlife coexistence.





Conservation Education through sports: #Score4Nature

In an effort to enhance youth awareness and participation in environmental conservation, AET organized the AET tournament, a football and volleyball event that brought together 16 teams from 10 schools to compete for the AET Cup. The event dubbed #score4Nature was anchored on involving the youth, both boys and girls in sports to nature their talents and also build their awareness on conservation in the Amboseli landscape.

The winners were the Christ the King Secondary school in both football and volleyball and they took home cash rewards and a trophy.

Sports provide a pathway to connect with the youth in schools and the community and increase their awareness in conservation fostering environmental ambassadors and stewards.

The Noonkotiak Resource Centre

The Amboseli Ecosystem Trust, Africa Conservation Centre and the Los Angeles Zoo have begun the actualization of the Noonkotiak Community Resource Centre, which will include components of the Amboseli Visitor Centre, Education and training Centre, and research and information Centre for the whole Amboseli Ecosystem and also a culture based eco-tourism venture that will amplify the benefits to the local community through tourism visitation.

In addition to enhancing the preservation and showcasing of the exquisite Maasai culture,

the centre will also be a focal research hub for ecosystem monitoring and environmental education for the local communities and international tourists visiting the Amboseli landscape.

In the foregoing, the partners will work to refurbish the Noonkotiak Women Cultural boma launched in 2016, by adding value to the existing infrastructure with the aim of transforming it to provide guests with a living Maasai homestead experience.



Donor

Our Donors

USAID, Just Diggit, WWF

Our Program Partners

Big Life, ACC, KWCA, ifaw, KWS, Lion Guardian Born Free, Amboseli Trust for Elephants, OCWR, William and Mary University and Amboseli Tsavo Group ranches Association.

Governmental Partners

Kajiado County, Nema, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife



Working together for the benefit of the people
and wildlife of the breathtaking Amboseli Ecosystem.

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