



LAIKIPIA NORTH COMMUNITY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



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Organizations' Profile

Laikipia North Community Conservation Initiative (LANCCI) was initiated in May 2019 and it was officially registered in September 2021 under the ministry of Labour and Social Service as a Community Based Organization.

LANCCI envision a future where the delicate balance between activities and natural environment is upheld, ensuring the preservation of biodiversity and well-being of both present and future generation in the Laikipia North Region. Our key mandate is to champion the protection and conservation of both Flora and Fauna, sensitize communities on effective and sustainable land use practices.



VISION & MISSION



VISION

A sustainable, bio-diverse, resilient environment that enables Indigenous people to advance their livelihoods and food system while conserving fauna and flora.



MISSION

Our mission is to support Indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) to create an enabling environment that conserves their indigenous habitat in the midst of changing global climate conditions





Theory of change

Our approach integrates livelihood empowerment to ensure that local communities not only survive but thrive alongside nature. We champion the coexistence of humans and the environment, fostering harmonious relationships through education, advocacy and practical solutions. We envision a future where people and nature flourish together creating a legacy of sustainability.

• Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Our interventions are aimed at directly working with communities to share capacities on pasture management, promote soil health and prevent erosion.

• Biodiversity Protection and Conservation

We exist to protect endangered tree species from extinction. To achieve this we are committed to rejuvenating community awareness of indigenous cultural conservation models.

• Livelihood Empowerment

At LANCCI, we see conservation from the lens of empowered livelihoods of vulnerable communities through interventions such as regulated and profitable livestock.

• Co-existence of Human-Nature

Understanding the peoples are the stewards of the ecosystems—we at LANCCI strive to promote the co-existence of local communities with Flora and Fauna. By this, we manage human-wildlife conflict while championing the rights of local and advocating for wildlife protection. In propagating the seed of stewardship we promote the sustainable use of wood products and trees as a source of feeds for livestock.

• Research, Partnership and Development

In collaboration with other relevant institutions, we undertake collaborative Research on early drought warning signs in liaison with the meteorological department and subsequent communication with the community members.



1. LAND RESTORATION

Laikipia North Community Conservation Initiative with the support of The Global Greengrants Fund, the REACH program (Restore, Enhance and Champion for the Healing of Rangelands) has embarked on a mission to restore and revive 15 hectares of degraded lands within the villages of Kurum, Tool and Loishimi in Laikipia North.

The program aims to support the livelihood of the pastoral community via regeneration of pasture through construction of about 800 semi-circular bunds where reseeding of two indigenous grass species; Maasai lover grass and African fox tail has been done, and also restore degraded lands using land restoration approach in order to reduce soil erosion and conserve water water at the same time.

The success stories of the above measures include:

- **Regeneration of grass on the degraded lands hence bringing back the land to life.**
- **Provision of pasture to the livestock after growth of grass in three restoration sites which are; Kurum, Tool and Loishimi.**
- **Creating a source of income to the 250 beneficiaries who were brought on board through their restoration work.**



The population comprised of 50% women, 30% youth and 20% men thus displaying communal workmanship. The program was able to include people living with disabilities.

2. LIVELIHOOD REVITALIZATION

We conducted a 2 day workshop on 27th and 28th September 2023 with beekeepers in Shulmai conservancy these are: Seek, Bokish, Kurikuri, Tool and Seek at Tool nursery school, Laikipia North constituency. The aim was to analyze the challenges faced by beekeepers, to determine beekeepers preference in beekeeping techniques either traditional or modern methods and also to consolidate respondents responses on the above issue. We held a discussion with the beekeepers whereby we started of with analyzing the responses we got from a survey that was conducted earlier where they also had a chance to ask questions that raised from the survey. We also discussed about modern and traditional methods of beekeeping not forgetting to highlight challenges that the beekeepers undergo.

These challenges ranged from drought it being the main challenge to lack of markets, lack of training, exportation of bees by private ranchers, deforestation and charcoal burning which led to decreased levels of nectar and destruction of trees by elephants.

As part of the beekeepers feedback they were anticipating that bees will be back after the El-nino rains that were expected in the coming months of October-December later in the year, they were also hopeful that the efforts displayed by LANCCI in bringing them together to air their challenges will be productive in the long run. Also they were grateful for bringing together both those who were well experienced in matters of beekeeping and those that are not experienced much and got to learn from each other.



Subsequently, on 28th May 2024, Beekeepers held a training session at Tool Nursery School in a learning and linkage meeting with the farmers to learn on traditional techniques of maintenance and hygiene of a log trunk beehive. Indigenous traditional knowledge was dispensed to farmers by the experienced farmers. To the beekeepers who had ventured into the beekeeping production it was indeed an eye opener on how to attack bees using bee wax, cattle dung and special trees species used to smoke into the beehive to maintain the good fragrance of the beehive. Appropriate positioning of the log trunk beehive was also demonstrated and the proper harvesting techniques of honey to ensure bees continue to inhabit the beehive. Thereafter log truck beehives were distributed to the farmers. This program is meant to reclaim communal responsibilities in indigenous food systems and conservation of ecosystem.

The event was a success bringing farmers together to share their experiences and educating them more and the participants were active and lively throughout the sessions. On the other hand we would recommend the following:

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- **Planting of tree species that will attract the bees by the beekeepers themselves.**
- **I Sensitize the people on the importance of not carrying out deforestation and also to stop burning charcoal.**
- **I Put measures in place to protect forests since they are major habitats for bees.**
- **I Regulate grazing which is famous in the area so as to protect bees habitats from destruction by the livestock.**
- **I Hold training sessions on beekeepers on how to handle bees and harvest honey so as to build their capacity and also educate the new generation on impacts of bee keeping as an economic strategy.**
- **I Search for better markets for the farmers to sell their produce.**
- **I Take action in mitigation due to climate change causing drought which causes bees migration.**
- **I Fencing of apiaries to prevent children and livestock from accessing and destroying the bees around the homesteads.**



To sum it up the workshop was successful as the beekeepers got educated and their questions were attended to by us diligently, we got to build the capacity of beekeepers at the grassroots level and also we got to advocate for beekeeping as an alternative form of livelihood in Laikipia North.

3. SCHOOL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

3.1 DEBATES

On February 16th and March 15th 2024, the halls of seven high schools echoed with spirited debates on the invasive species of *Opuntia Stricta*. This has mainly grown in Maiyanat Conservancy, promoting urgent discussion on its impact and solution. The schools included Doldol Boys, St. Francis Girls, Doldol Mixed, Ilpolei Secondary, Kurum Secondary and Lokusero Secondary Schools. LANCCI conducted this program in partnership with Laikipia Wildlife Forum. The students, mainly drawn from the environmental clubs of those schools, debated on the origin of the invasive species of *Opuntia stricta*, its advantages and disadvantages to the communities, its management, control and eradication of the invasive species and community stakeholders' views on the invasive species. They demonstrated using skits and powerpoint slides presentation on the invasive species. On the final phase of the debate, St. Francis Girls emerged the winners, followed by Doldol mixed Secondary schools and Doldol boys the third. Lokusero secondary emerged the most improved. Based on Merit, the schools were awarded with trophies, notebooks and certificates. The winners and first runners up were promised for a trip to Borana Conservancy.



3.2 TREE PLANTING

The School conservation program is mainly driven by one of our core values on nurturing environmental stewards and through the collaboration with school heads and patrons of the environmental clubs this has been made possible. This program is objectively implemented by LANCCI in order to:

- promote intergenerational knowledge transfer through development of a curriculum on conservation.
- initiate tree planting activities in our schools within Laikipia North, plan visits to conservation parks.
- strengthen environmental clubs activities by including concepts of conservation.
- promoting discussions on climate change which has become a reality within our communities and finally support students on environmental based research and innovations.



4. TREE GROWING CAMPAIGN

Through the support of Equity Bank Kenya in May 2024 we successfully conducted a tree planting activity in schools within Laikipia North. The 500 tree seedlings that we planted majorly comprised Indigenous tree species seedlings of the *Olea Africana*, (*Loirensis*) *Juniperus procera*. (*Itarakwa*) and the *Grevillea* (*Silky Oak*) within 7 schools of the Mukogodo Division Of Laikipia North.

In relation to environmental challenges such as environment degradation and climate change the organization had the opportunity to join force with various school environmental clubs and a safe house in the area to foster change by planting trees.

With the event gracing both students and teachers, LANCCI brought about the idea of tree adoption where each student is to adopt a tree and take care of it, upon completing their studies they are supposed to handover the tree to another set of students.

This were the benefit the trees were to bring to the environment.

- **Environmental Restoration-The increased green cover helps combat soil erosion,improves air quality and supports local biodiversity.**
- **Climate change mitigation-Trees play a crucial role in sequestering carbon,thus contributing to the fight against climate change.**
- **Educational growth-Students gain hand-on experience in environmental science and sustainable practices,enriching their academic and personal growth.**

Overall,the tree planting events have set a positive precedent,and it is hoped that these efforts will inspire ongoing environmental initiative within the school communities .



5. CONSERVATION THROUGH SPORTS

Annual Football tournaments was to sensitize communities on the importance of conservation and to nurture young talents through football. On December 22nd 2023, the field ignited as six teams unite on the field to showcase talent and advocate for our planet's preservation. LANCCI has taken a significant step in promoting environmental conservation through its innovative initiative that combines sport with ecological awareness.

The football tournament proved to be a powerful tool in achieving the set objectives. It highlighted the significant role that sports can play in promoting social causes. The event demonstrated how athletic competitions could be leveraged to bring communities together, raise awareness about important issues, and drive collective action towards environmental sustainability. On the other hand we would recommend the following;

- **Expand the initiative** - Consider organizing similar tournaments in other regions to broaden the reach and impact.
- **Increase Frequency**- Conduct the tournament more frequent, perhaps bi-annually to maintain momentum and continually engage the community.

The success of this event underscore the potential for similar activities to inspire ongoing environmental initiatives within various communities by continuing to



ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Executive committee

1. Bernard Loolasho
2. Stephen Lpian Treasurer
3. Maureen Opiri Secretary

To guide the Executive Committee is an Advisory Council that has been drawn from the communities in which LANCCI operates:

1. **William Naimado-Environmental Conservanist**
2. **Jecinta Sajila- Community Organizer**
3. **Stephen Basele- Data and IT Expert**
4. **Partrick Saikong- Lawyer**
5. **Elizabeth Masikonte- Community Organizer- Iingwesi**
6. **Sosaita Paul- Community Development Expert**
7. **Bernard Loolasho- Secretary to the board**

OUR PARTNERS









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Our goal is to support and enable Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to understand the dynamics of conservation & cope with the effects of climate change and take requisite action.



Design By:
ELIUD KITANGWAN
ASS. ADMIN, LANCCI
0115115600

 +254113544373
 www.lancci.org
 info@lancci.org
 13-10401 DOLDOL, KENYA