



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN THE AMBOSELI ECOSYSTEM SURVEY 2018



A WORD OF THANKS

Letter from Amboseli Ecosystem Trust

Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to all who supported this initiative. This economic contribution survey could not have been successful without the trust and cooperation of each participant, each of whom provided crucial, confidential data.

First and foremost, AET thanks the Amboseli Trust for Elephants for coordinating the development and implementation of this survey on behalf of AET. Secondly, AET thanks Big Life Ltd. for financing this immensely important exercise.

Further, AET recognizes the support of the entire fraternity of Amboseli Ecosystem stakeholders and partners, without whom this report would not have been possible. Therefore, AET wishes to acknowledge our gratitude for the contribution of each institution to this survey. The diversity of respondents is representative of the whole ecosystem: conservation NGOs, hoteliers, research institutions, community groups, and private companies. We so appreciate their commitment to preserving our ecosystem.

AET lastly acknowledges the time and effort of our able independent consultant, Devan Feeney. She was instrumental in each phase of this report, from survey drafting and data collection to findings consolidation and finalising this report. We sincerely appreciate her time and commitment.

Finally, AET hopes that the findings of this economic survey will help highlight the critically important work of many survey participants in conserving Amboseli's natural resources. In addition, we hope to encourage greater response rates in future reports, as there is so much to be gained by presenting even more comprehensive data. Reports such as this will undoubtedly help shape the future of the Amboseli Ecosystem, and we're immeasurably grateful for all current and future survey participants.

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SURVEY OBJECTIVES

Current unprecedented levels of human development pressure on Kenya's natural resources make understanding the consequences of alternative development paths and the policies enacted to achieve them of critical importance. This is imperative both for human welfare (economic and otherwise) derived from natural resources, as well as for the conservation of Kenya's rich natural heritage.

THIS SURVEY QUANTIFIES THE BENEFITS OF PROTECTING AND
AND CELEBRATING WILDLIFE IN AMBOSELI, AND ITS FINDINGS
ARE INTEGRAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE ECOSYSTEM.

The Amboseli Ecosystem supports a unique balance of natural biodiversity and human communities, where wildlife and humans cohabitate without distinct boundaries between wild and domestic spaces. Resident wildlife such as African elephants move freely between Amboseli National Park and surrounding community and privately-owned land, much of which has no formal protection.

Lying at the base of Kilimanjaro, Amboseli National Park and its surrounding ecosystem remain one of Kenya's most prized and distinctive conservation areas. The natural attractions of the Amboseli ecosystem are world-renowned and attract many visitors each year, with significant associated economic inflows.

This survey was conducted by Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) to measure the financial contribution of conservation and related industries such as tourism to the economy of the Amboseli ecosystem. Nowadays, the economic value of wildlife and natural resources is hotly debated and the costs of living with wildlife are receiving considerable focus. With this report, AET hopes to provide the best information possible to decision-makers who affect the long-term future of Amboseli such as local communities, local and regional leaders, and other ecosystem users and contributors.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

AET spearheaded a collaborative effort to craft a comprehensive questionnaire to measure the financial benefits from conservation and wildlife-based tourism in the Amboseli ecosystem. Questions ranged from employment statistics to tax amounts paid, from support for education and local businesses to conservancy fees. No contribution was left unconsidered, and each income stream is directly dependent on the continued existence of Amboseli's biodiversity and natural resources.

A list of entities that engage in eco-tourism, research, and conservation activities in the ecosystem was developed, and the questionnaire submitted to each. Of the twenty-six entities contacted, eighteen responded. As such, the figures presented here represent minimum economic contributions, and it is hoped that additional organisations will contribute data in the future, enabling a more complete analysis.

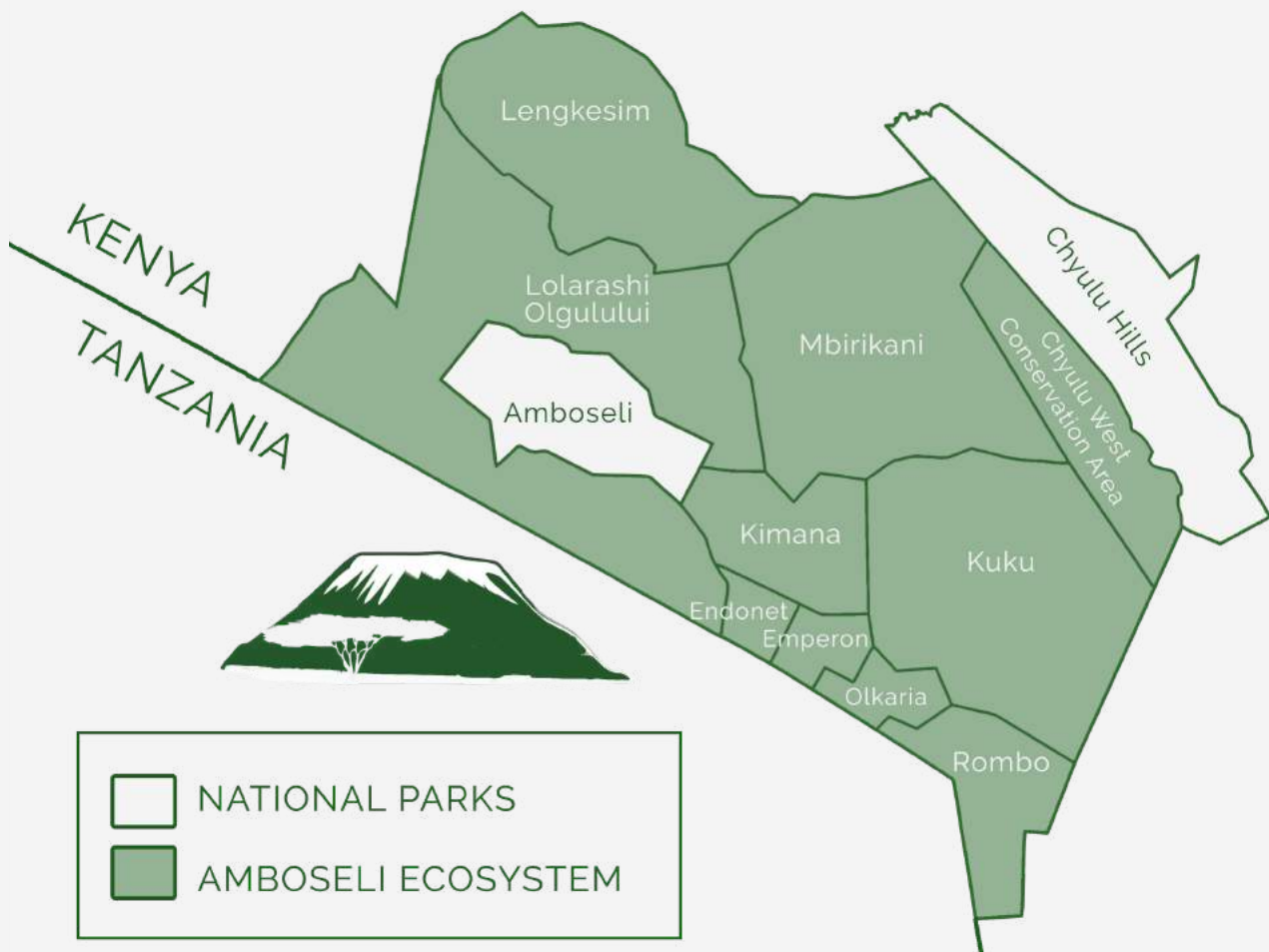
In order to maintain confidentiality and impartiality, AET contracted Devan Feeney as an independent research consultant to collect data from respondents, consolidate the findings, and prepare this report. Devan formerly lived in the Tsavo region of southeastern Kenya but now lives in the United States and has no connection or vested interest in the Amboseli region.

All statistics are for the fiscal year 1st July 2017 - 30th June 2018.



SCOPE OF COLLECTED DATA

While data from Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Amboseli National Park itself could not be obtained, respondents cover much of the surrounding community ranches and conservancies (both of which are depicted below in green).





EMPLOYMENT



1,194 Full-Time Staff Members, **79%** of whom are members of Maasai Group Ranches

Earning a total monthly salary of **KES 36,850,895**

169 Part-Time Staff Members, **59%** of whom are members of Maasai Group Ranches

Earning a total monthly salary of **KES 1,208,437**

195 Casual Employees engaged per month

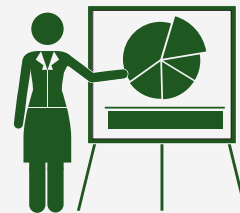
Earning an average total monthly payment of **KES 1,946,333**



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EDUCATION



KES 24,440,394 Paid to support **110**
teachers' salaries for the year

KES 58,485,943 Spent on



(in 2017)

- 100** primary school scholarships
- 118** secondary school scholarships
- 133** tertiary school & university scholarships



COMPENSATION



While every action is taken to ensure humans and wildlife coexist harmoniously, wild animals are just that : **WILD**

When interaction with wildlife results in losses for community members, conservation organisations and eco-tourism companies may step in to compensate

IN FISCAL YEAR 2018

KES 25,679,385

was paid to the community as consolation for wildlife-related losses

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COMMUNITY-BENEFIT ECOSYSTEM SERVICE FEES

Bed Night Fees
Entrance Fees
Lease Fees
Research Fees
Conservancy Fees
Grants & Subsidies for
- Community Meetings
- Educational Tours



Maasai Group Ranches
Private Landowners
County Government
Community Rangers
Community Families
Kenya Wildlife Service

KES 158,013,037 Paid for 1,545.86 KM²
of land use



49,286 Guests hosted at the nine tourism survey respondents

Total Paid for Conservancy Gate Fees: KES 61,443,699

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Total Taxes Paid to
Kenya Revenue Authority:

KES 197,105,191



LOCAL INVESTMENT

Total amount spent on goods at local businesses within the Amboseli Ecosystem and greater Kajiado County:

KES 108,139,035

AND 71% of respondents send guests to cultural bomas for an approximate economic value of:

KES 11,045,190

CONTINUED COMMUNITY SUPPORT

KES 236,256,241



- Maasai Olympics
- Ranger Trainings & Allowances
- Leadership & Literacy Training
- Retrieving Lost Cattle, Children, & Herders
- School Construction & Upgrades
- Medical Support & Emergency Medical Transport
- Sponsored Village Visits & Manyatta Visits
- Providing Food, Water, & Water Filters to Community
- Reinforcing & Rebuilding Bomas & Fencing
- Distributing Seed Balls & Reforestation
- Support for Livelihood Projects e.g. Handicrafts

IN SUMMARY

Total **Annual** Economic Value of Conservation, Eco-Tourism, and Research in the Amboseli Ecosystem as reported by respondents:

KES 1,360,676,095



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AET wishes to highlight the monumental effort put forth by the many individuals and organisations that made this report possible.

Thanks to Devan Feeney, who prepared this report, with support and funding by Amboseli Trust for Elephants and Big Life Ltd.



Support provided by Big Life Ltd. was possible thanks to funding through the GEF-funded and UNDP-implemented project **"Enhancing Conservation in the Productive Southern Kenya Rangelands through Landscape Approach"**.



Further, AET acknowledges the 18 respondents to this survey in industries such as tourism, research, conservation, and community outreach. Participants are memorialised below.



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