

Conserving Wildlife at Mukutan Conservancy – Ol Ari Nyiro, Kenya

Field Partner: Muklutan Conservancy

I wanted to give you a mid-year update on Mukutan Nature Conservancy and express our thanks for your support for this project.

Key Achievements:

- The first six-months of 2026 saw the expansion of biodiversity monitoring and management at the conservancy, the adoption of new technologies to synchronize ranger and wildlife movement.
- On the operations side, the focus was on construction of the infrastructure needed to install the LoraWAN communications network and building needed housing for the management team, as well as maintaining and repairing critical machinery and vehicles.
- Importantly, the new-last-year COO and Security Manager are working out very well.
- A number of tourism operators visited the conservancy as part of the search for a suitable partner.
- The conservancy relaunched its school visits project and sent one of the community team members off for training to increase our capacity to implement the educational program.
- Mukutan's avocado outgrower program reached a significant milestone with the first export-grade avocado harvest of 61.2 tonnes of first-grade Hass avocados, generating KES 6.1 million in revenue through a direct marketing partnership with Olivado.

Together, these activities showcase how MukutanConservancy is modernizing conservation.

Lions

Mukutan Conservancy currently supports a single resident lion pride.

On 16 February 2026, an adult male lion known as Mkuu was fitted with a GPS collar. Estimated to be approximately five years old, Mkuu is frequently observed in association with another adult male, Shujaa. Together, the two males constitute the dominant male coalition within the conservancy and play a significant role in the area's lion population dynamics.

The collaring program was further expanded between 16 and 17 April 2026 with the successful collaring of two young adult females, Milele and Nyota. Both females are independent, with no dependent cubs, and maintain a stable association, regularly moving together across multiple sections of the conservancy.

The deployment of GPS collars improves the conservancy's capacity to monitor lions and collect ecological data, and reduces risks of human-wildlife



conflict. This matters because Mukutan is now better equipped to understand the effects of lions on introduced wildlife (like zebra), and the Community Grazing Program.

Biodiversity monitoring and management

Through a variety of biodiversity monitoring techniques (traps, forays, and scout reports), the conservancy added a slew of species previously undocumented on the conservancy's species list. This included two bird species, five plant species, and 261 species of insects (2 Damselflies, 15 Dragonflies, 1 Mantid, 3 Bugs, 1 Antlion, 10 Beetles, 7 Flies, 188 Moths, 26 Butterflies and 8 Wasps).



Caspian Plover



Flower of *Oncocalyx fischeri*



Fruit of *Maerua caffra*



Evening Hawker



Highland Hawker



Bullseye Hawker



Barbet Percher



Nomad



Orange-winged Dropwing



Violet Dropwing



Red-veined Dropwing



Keyhole Glider



Blue Cascader



Cymothales antlion



Braconidae wasp



Esmeralda's Kitten



Paradise Skipper



Spotted Velvet Skipper

The above species that had previously not been recorded on the conservancy were added to the conservancy's species lists

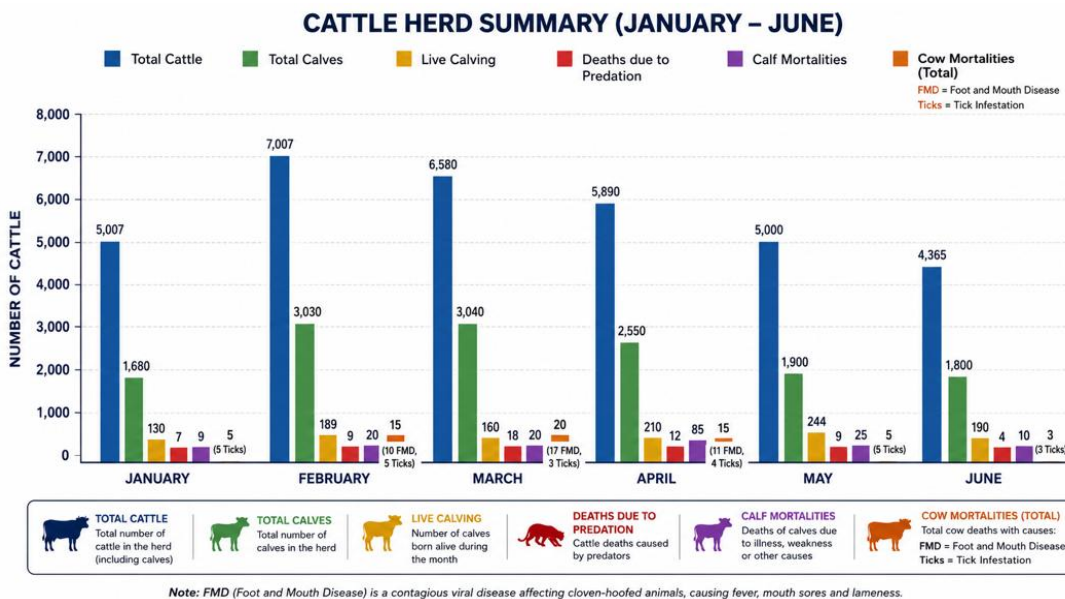
Community Livestock Grazing Programme

The Community Livestock Grazing Program is the primary grassland management tool that coordinates the conservancy's grazing services provided to surrounding pastoral communities.

In January the program registered approximately 3,500 cattle from the communities of Ratia, Nagum, Luoniek, Churo, Amaya, Putero, and Kaptuya. As demand increased, the program expanded to accommodate, at its peak, more than 6,900 cattle and 3,000 calves. Standardized registration, livestock tagging, and movement tracking were introduced to strengthen oversight and improve grazing management.

Regular Grazing Committee meetings and community barazas played a central role in programme governance. These forums addressed livestock allocations, reviewed grazing fees, reinforced grazing

As of the end of June demand for participation in the Community Grazing Programme has started to increase. The conservancy hopes that the emerging El Nino will ease some of the pressure which it will be monitoring carefully.



Looking forward

Earlier this year, the conservancy submitted a Land Use Management Plan to Kenyan officials for their review. The five-year strategy is a thoughtful plan of how Mukutan Nature Conservancy will achieve its conservation goals. The conservancy is eagerly anticipating support from Kenya Wildlife Service to gazette the plan!

Thank you again for helping to make this happen,

The conservancy has many simultaneous activities with equally impressive results. It feels unjust to summarize so much in a short update. If you care to know more, then please don't hesitate to reach out.

Andre Boraks, PhD
Director of Programs & Data
andre@biomeconservation.org