



KENYA'S SPECIES-SPECIFIC CONSERVATION ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE BROADER IMPLEMENTATION OF ACI POW- CHEETAH AND WILD DOG



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ACI PoW implementation in Kenya at a Glance

- Population surveys/census method: Spatially Explicit Capture Recapture (SECR) for lions and occupancy surveys for other large carnivores.
- Periodic animal census: Nationwide census of 2021- **Lions (n=2,589)**, hyenas (n=5,189), **Cheetahs (n=1,160)**, **Wild dogs (n=865)**; **Leopards?**
- Habitat encroachment and climate change are driving the large Carnivores to invade community land leading to increased Human –Carnivore Conflict resulting into retaliatory killings.
- Illegal trade in cheetah cubs
- Illegal trade in **Lions and Leopards** is **opportunistic and** based on demand (for claws, teeth, hairballs, skin, bones)
- The **geographical position** of Kenya makes it a **preferred transit zone** for illegally traded **specimens** and due to porous terrestrial borders across countries in the East African Region
- Species- specific Action Plans (aligned with Regional Strategies) have been developed to guide in implementation of strategies for conservation of the species

Species specific Conservation Action Plans : Conservation & Management Strategies

- Conservation and Management Strategy for Cheetah and Wild Dog (2009-2014; now 2nd Edition being developed)
- Conservation and Management Strategy for Lion and Spotted Hyena (2nd edition being developed)
- Conservation and Management of Leopard (in formulation)
- The government is collaborating with numerous Partners in conservation of the ACI species: RWCC, CCF, ZSL, IUCNCSG, etc

Cheetah & Wild Dog Action Plans

Kenya recognized early enough, the threats facing the survival of Cheetah thus developed the 1st edition of the Conservation and Management strategy for Cheetahs and wild dogs **2009 - 2014**.

The strategy was developed within the broader context of the Eastern and Southern African conservation strategy and was intended to achieve:

- 1) Numerically viable and ecologically functional populations of cheetahs and wild dogs;
- 1) Numerically viable and ecologically functional populations of key wild prey species;
- 1) A declining proportion of livestock killed by predators (management of Human- Cheetah/Wild dog Conflict)

Contributing to Implementation of Eastern Africa Conservation Strategy for Cheetah and Wild Dog



Kenya Cheetah and Wild Dog National Strategy (2009-2014)

Vision: To secure viable and ecologically functional cheetah and wild dog populations as valued components of development in Kenya

GOAL: To reverse declines and improve the status of cheetah and wild dog populations and their habitats across Kenya

Objectives of the Strategy(5)

Objective 1: Develop and implement strategies to promote coexistence of cheetahs and wild dogs with people and domestic animals

Objective 2: Provide relevant stakeholders and managers with scientific and timely information on the status of and threats to cheetah and wild dog populations

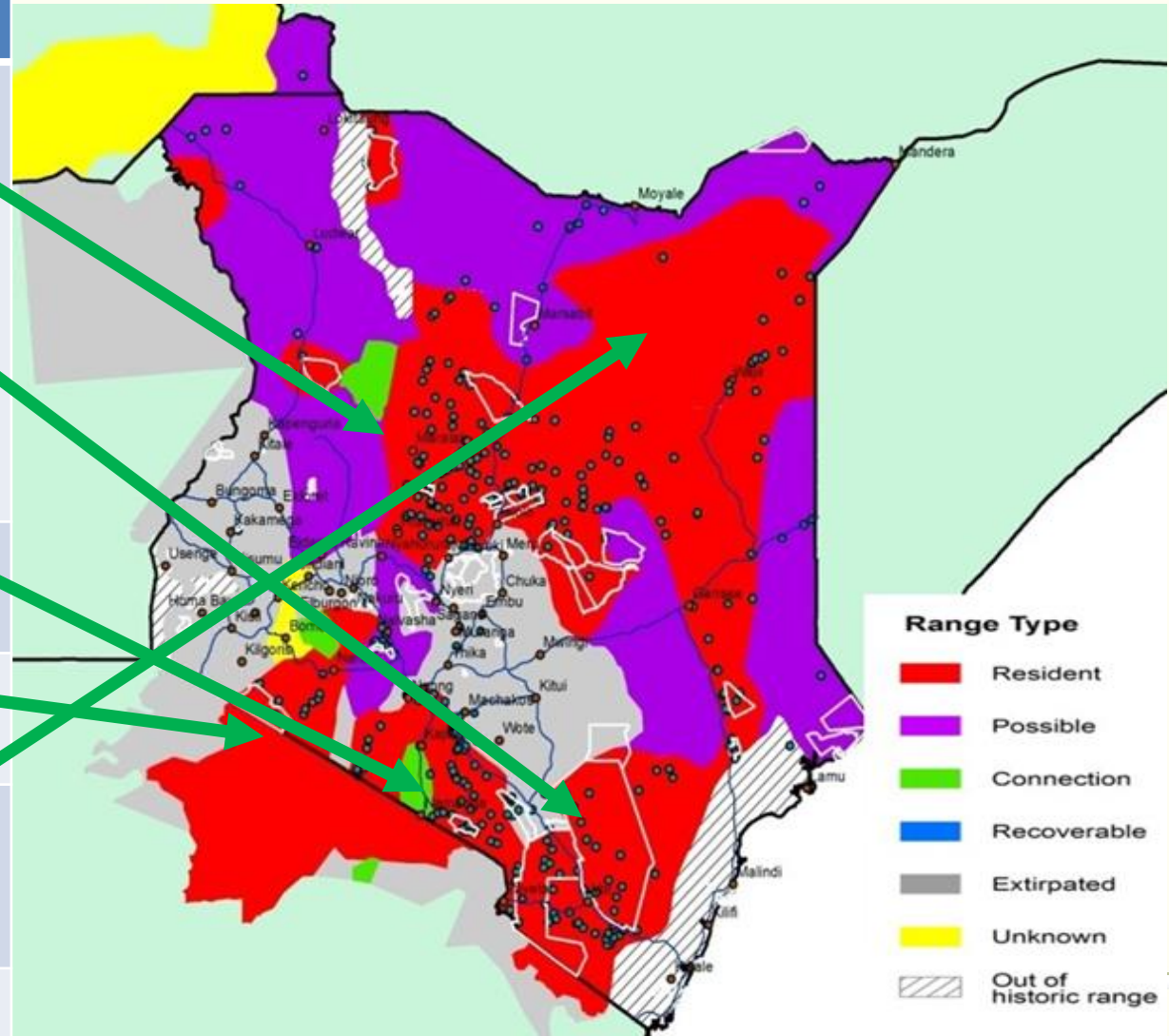
Objective 3: Strengthen human, financial and information resources for conserving cheetahs and wild dogs in collaboration with stakeholders

Objective 4: Review and harmonize existing legislation, and, where necessary, develop new legislation, for conservation across cheetah and wild dog range at national and international levels

Objective 5: Mainstream cheetah and wild dog conservation in land use planning and its implementation

Cheetah range

Name	Population Estimate
Laikipia/Samburu	450
Tsavo Ecosystem, Mkomazi including Garissa, Tana river and Lamu	400*
Amboseli and Machakos	60
Mara Ecosystem	50
Northern Kenya- Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera	140*
Others	60*
Total (Source: NWCR, 2021)	1,160

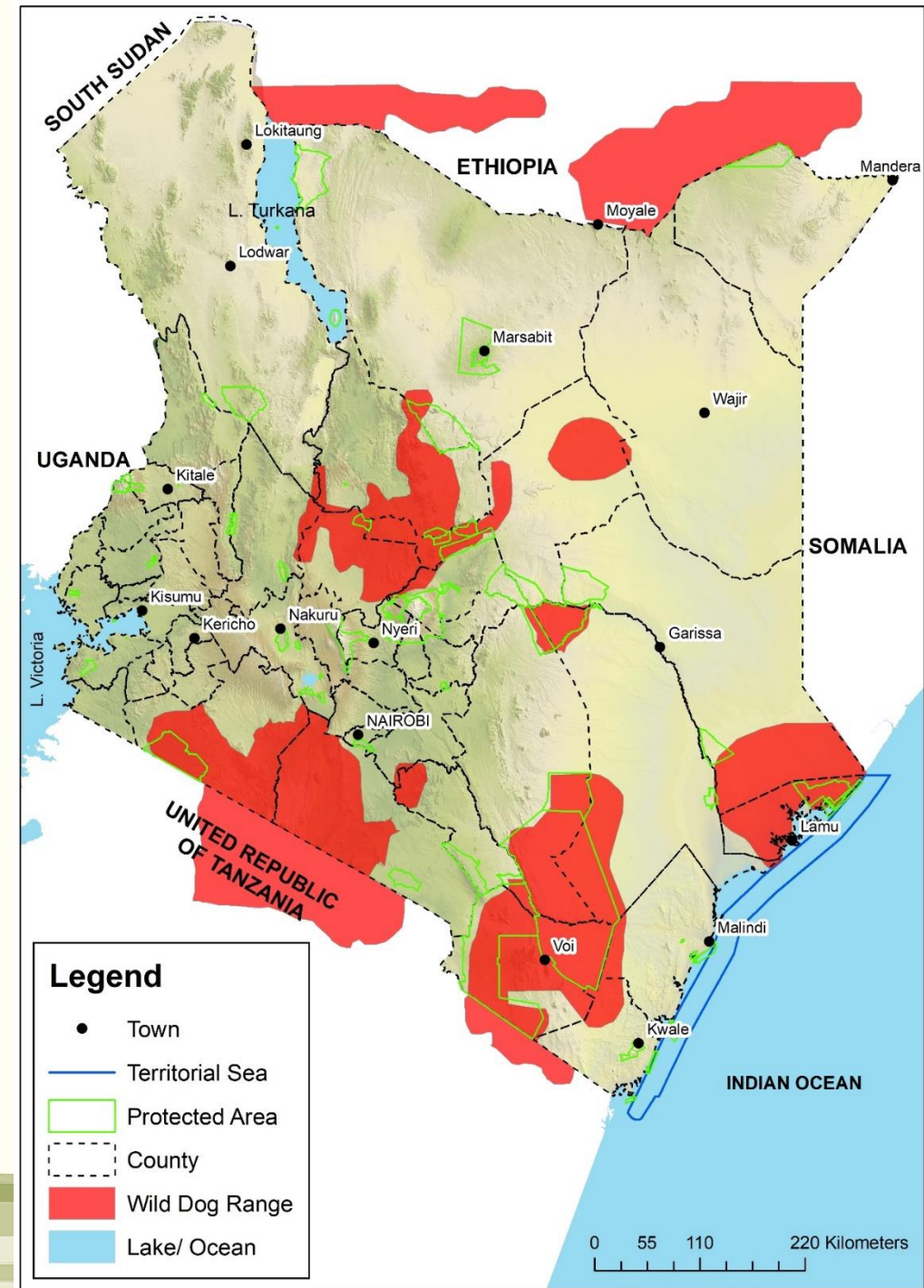


Cheetah Projects in Kenya

- Maasai Mara – Where most projects are based
- Laikipia mainly in private conservancies
- Samburu- conservancies, NRT and projects e.g. Action for cheetahs
- Tsavo conservation area
- Salama/Machakos – fewer sightings with increased infrastructure development and human settlements
- Meru/Kora
- Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT) conservancies
- Garissa/Ijala/ Wajir/Madera/Lamu – minimal presence of projects, a number of rescues of orphaned cubs and HCC cases reported

Wild dog Population and Range

Location	Population Estimate	
	Adults	Packs
Ijara-Lamu (probably transboundary population with Somalia)	130	11
Isiolo	30	2
Kajiado-Loliondo (transboundary population with Tanzania)	100	8
Kora-Kitui	20	2
Machakos	220	20
Masai Mara	20	2
Laikipia-Samburu	245	5
Tsavo	100	12
Grand Total	865	59



Revision of Strategy/Action Plan

- The strategy expired in December 2014, a conference was held in October 2015 to undertake a partial review of the strategy;
- However, since the National Strategy was born of the regional Conservation Strategy for the Cheetah and African Wild Dog in Eastern Africa, the national strategy review did not include re-writing the targets or activities but supplementing some of the targets with suggested ways to better address them;
- Since the inception of the strategy, KWS and WRTI has been championing its implementation with the support of partners, donors, communities and private researchers;
- To enhance coordination and collaboration between the various stakeholders, Annual Carnivore Researchers Conferences are held to share and disseminate research findings and inform interventions for species conservation

Milestones in the implementation of the Species Conservation & Management Strategies

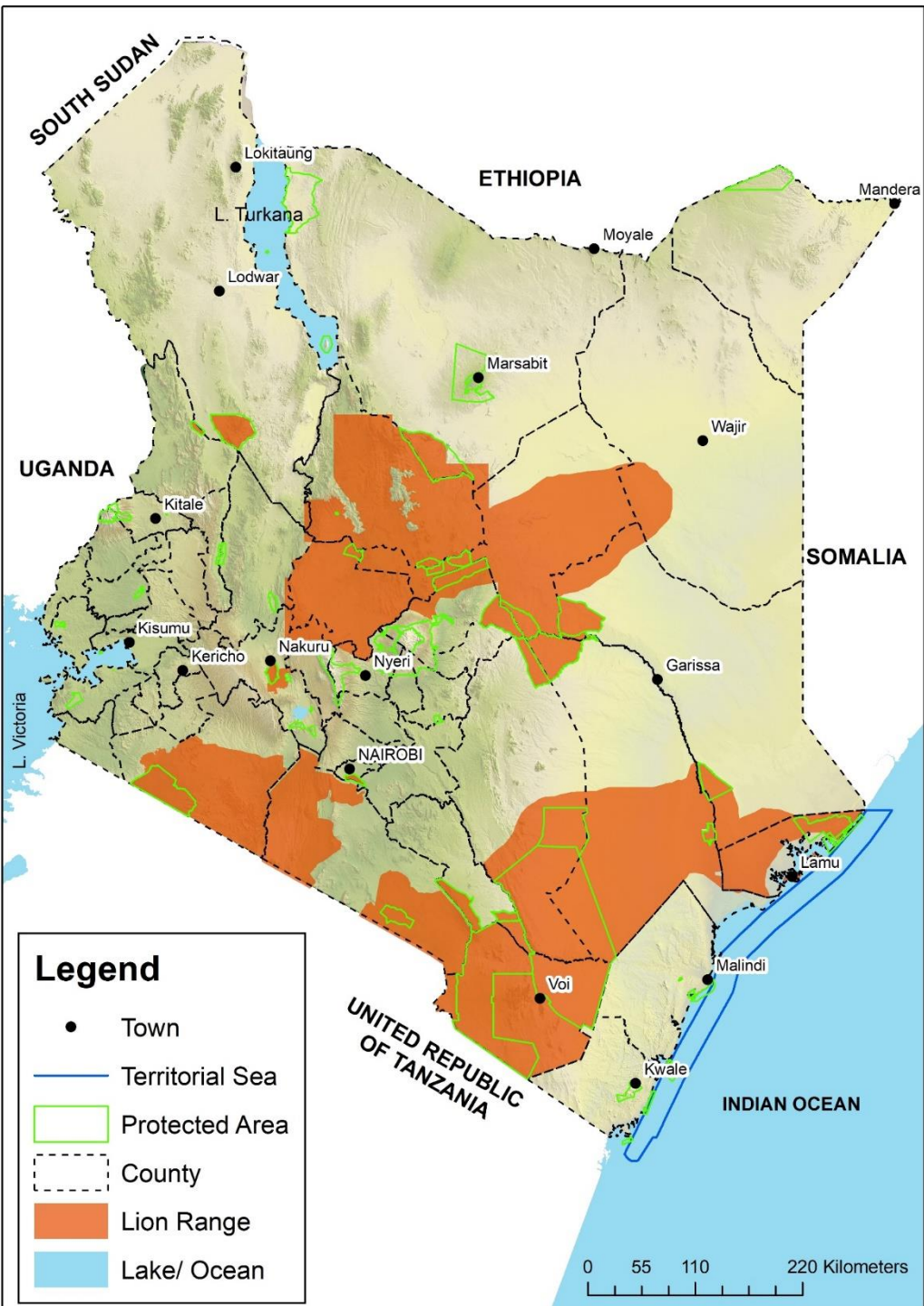
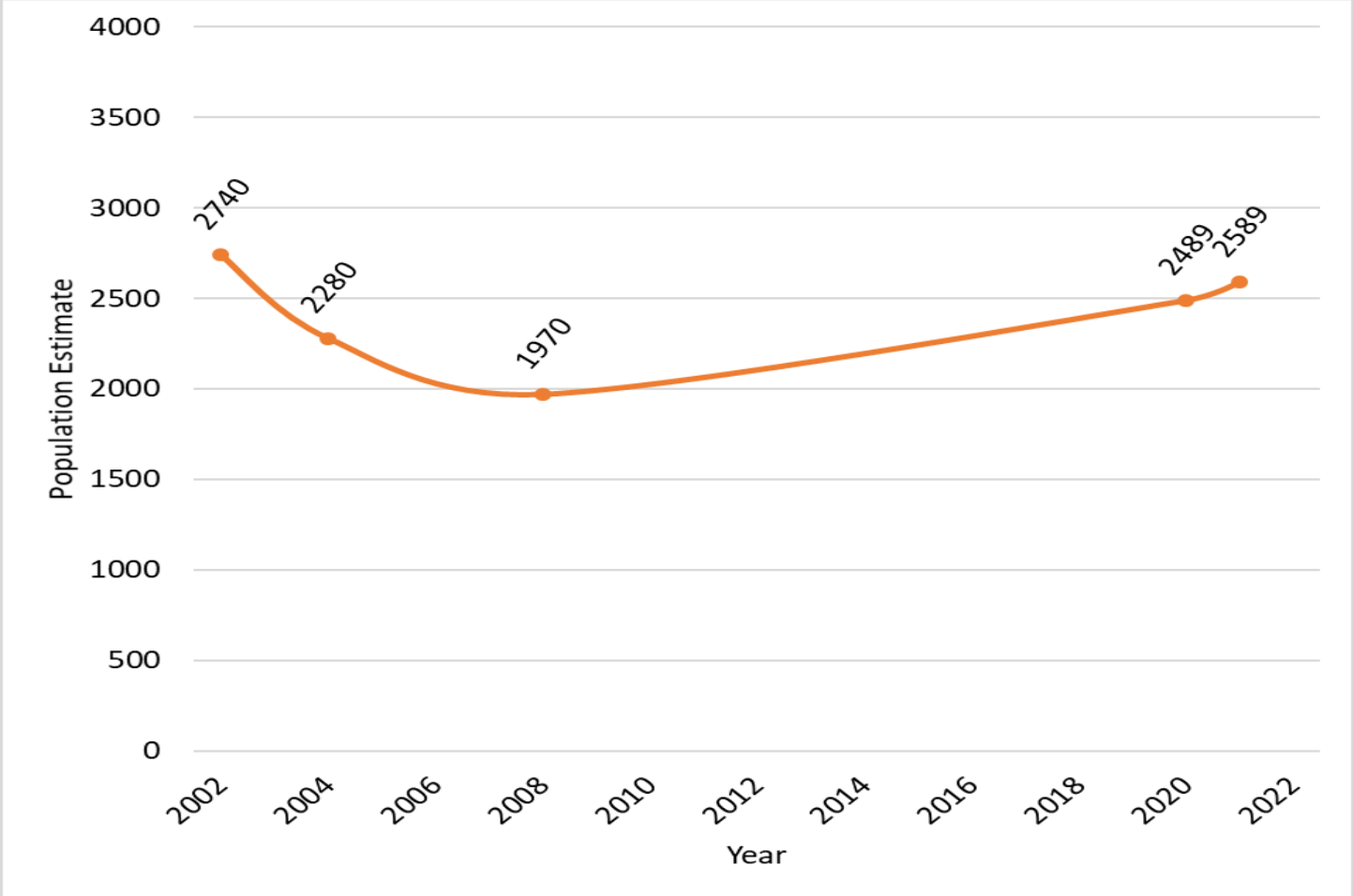
- Surveys and monitoring to evaluate presence, trends, and threats in cheetah and wild dog, Lion and spotted Hyena range areas are on-going locally; **Surveys and monitoring of Leopards limited**
- National carnivore survey undertaken in 2019-2020 with occupancy surveys targeting cheetahs. **Apart from Garissa, Northern Kenya was not covered; (Data reported in 2021 NWCR)**
- Strengthening of collaboration between the government, private sector, community and cross-border communities in monitoring of resident and connecting range for both species
- Methods of reducing livestock depredation have been developed in collaboration with communities
- Systematic collection of conflict data is nationwide and ongoing to inform HCC interventions
- Dissemination of information on large Carnivores (cheetah and wild dog, Lion, Leopard, Hyena etc) conservation is carried out during National Annual Carnivore conferences;

Achievements in implementing the regional strategy via national action plans (2007 & Revised in 2022)

- Increase in cheetah and wild dog sightings and population estimates in Kenya;
- Establishment of community-based conservancies and partnerships with local communities and stakeholders;
- Strengthening of law enforcement and anti-poaching efforts;
- Improvement in education and awareness programs for local communities

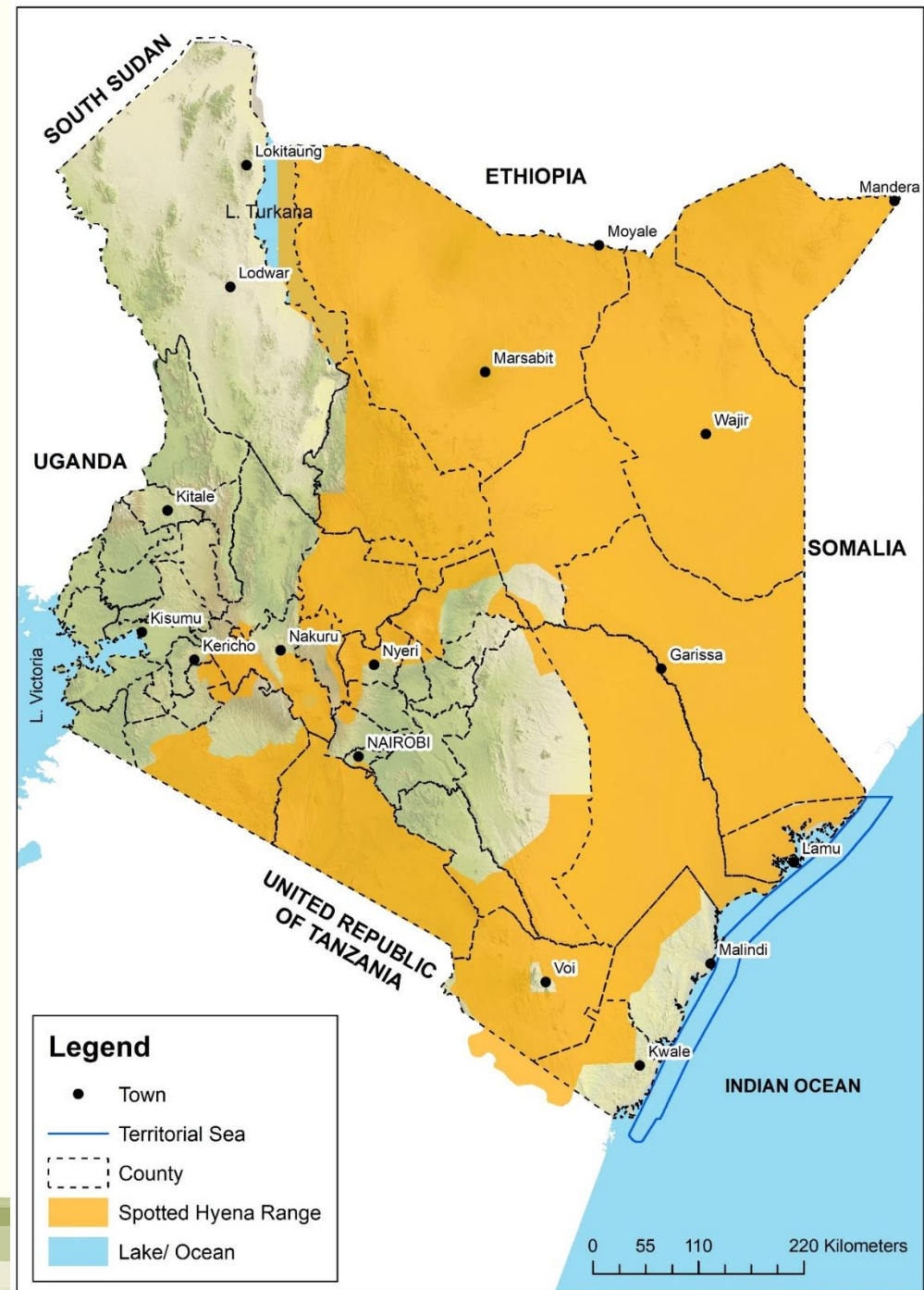
THEME	OBJECTIVE in the Regional Strategy for Cheetah and Wild Dogs (summarized)	ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED (some examples)	ORGANISATIONS	PROGRESS – national self-evaluation
1.Coexistence	Implement strategies to promote coexistence of cheetahs and wild dogs.	Results (5) Activities :8-4-4-3-6	multiple	
2. Surveys and information	Provide stakeholders with scientific information on the status of and threats to cheetah and wild dog populations	Results (2) Activities: 5-5	multiple	
3.Capacity Development	Strengthen human, institutional and information resources for conserving cheetah and wild dogs	Result(s) (1) Activity: 5	multiple	
4.Policy and legislation	Review and harmonise legislation, and, where necessary, develop new legislation, for conservation across cheetah and wild dog range at national and international levels	Results (5) Activity: 7-3-4-3	multiple	
5.Advocacy	Mainstream Cheetah & Wild Dog conservation in land use planning & its implementation	Results (3) Activity: 3-7-4	multiple	
6. National plan and regional strategy	Develop, update, and implement regional and national conservation programmes for cheetah and wild dogs	Results (3) Activity: 3-3-3	multiple	

Lion Range and Numbers



Spotted Hyena Range and Population

#	Area	Population estimate
1	Meru National Park	98
2	Aberdare National Park	247
3	Lake Nakuru National Park	30
4	Tsavo Ecosystem	3,914
5	Amboseli Ecosystem	346
6	Naivasha Ranches	62
7	Maasai Mara	450



Challenges in and Opportunities for Implementation of Species specific Action Plans

Challenges

- continuous habitat loss and fragmentation due to land-use change,
- increase in Human –Carnivores conflicts,
- Reduction in Wild Prey base
- Diseases
- Accidental Road/Rail Kills

Opportunities

- collaboration with local and international wildlife conservation NGO's, conservancies, local communities and researchers have played a major role in conservation of the Carnivore species.
- To ensure continued survival of these species there is need to update the Conservation and Management strategy for **cheetah and wild dogs, Lion & Spotted Hyena** and development of Action Plan for **Leopards** to come up with clear strategies on how to address the emerging challenges.

Steps to updating the Strategy/Plan

- On Expiry of the strategy in 2014 (Option- develop a new strategy or review the existing strategy).
- The option of reviewing the strategy adopted
- Log frame developed
- Log frame circulated to cheetah researchers for input on activities which have been implemented
- Input from researchers consolidated
- Desk top review of the input from researchers
- Further review with some external technical personnel
- Workshop to further comment on the review document (look at the input received against strategy document, what has been achieved/not achieved, identify areas which need refocusing and restructuring).
- Consolidation of the workshop input
- Strategy review
- Printing of the reviewed strategy
- Distribution of the strategy document and implementation

Suggestions for inclusion in reviewed document

- Captive release of cheetahs;
- Disease investigations-e.g.FIV in captive cats;
- Effects of army training drills and road kills;
- Use of technology in monitoring, capture (robotic goats)
- Stakeholders to work and share data with the National Carnivore Coordination office (KWS and WRTI)
- Encourage landscape approach to Cheetah and Wild Dogs conservation;
- Impacts of climate change

Objective of the strategy review

- review the threats (intrinsic and extrinsic) to Cheetahs and wild dogs conservation in Kenya;
- Standardised survey methodologies;
- Updating of range maps (using presence absence data), numbers and distribution of Cheetahs and wild dogs in Kenya;
- Enhanced coordination, collaboration and synergy among partners at local, national, regional and international level;
- Priority projects (regional, national and landscape) for enhanced conservation and management of Cheetahs

Conclusion

- The African Carnivore Initiative can play a key role in improving the implementation of national action plans and achieving long-term species conservation goals;
- Collaboration and partnerships between stakeholders will be crucial for the success of conservation efforts in Kenya and the wider African region.

Acknowledgement

- ACI Conservation Partners in Kenya: Panthera, ZSL, CCF, SWT, Private researchers etc
- Secretariats of CITES and CMS
- US Government (USF&WS)
- Government of Uganda

Thank You



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