



African Conservation Fund
Annual Report
2007

Empowering Communities
Protecting Wildlife



A new approach . . . it's working

Dear Supporters,

For the past 2 years we have been spreading the message that a new approach is needed to address the longterm conservation challenges facing East African wildlife and people. Because of population growth and expansion of farms and an increase in poaching, the once-open savannahs are being developed and wildlife are suffering as they come into conflict with people.

If wildlife like elephants and wildebeests are to continue to migrate throughout the savannahs, if the great carnivores are to survive, we must work with communities to turn wildlife into economic assets.

Working with communities to create their own wildlife reserves, eco-lodges, & related commerce means that conservation continues long after we move on because they are not dependent on aid funds. Local self-governed conservation is also more stable during unpredictable political turmoil and conflict.

People often ask us: aren't there already a lot of organizations over there working on conservation? Why are you different? African Conservation Fund provides the bridge between community-based conservation efforts in East Africa to resources in the West like funding, training, and global communications. There is no mid-level organization whose sole program is to provide usable resources—grants, loans, training, exchanges, and communications products—directly to and for the benefit of communities, with the end goal being sustainable and locally based conservation of important (and big) regions and wildlife.

And our approach is working. Several ground-breaking programs started in 2001 are bearing impressive fruit: widescale locally driven conservation planning and economic development across the Rift Valley, from Maasai Mara to Tsavo. And the seeds of those fruits will spread and grow even more efforts

The time is now ripe for a concerted investment in community conservation efforts in East Africa. You are reading this because you are among those who have chosen to invest already, and we thank you for your support. This coming year will be exciting, thanks to you.

*Roseann Hanson
Executive Director*

Board of Directors:

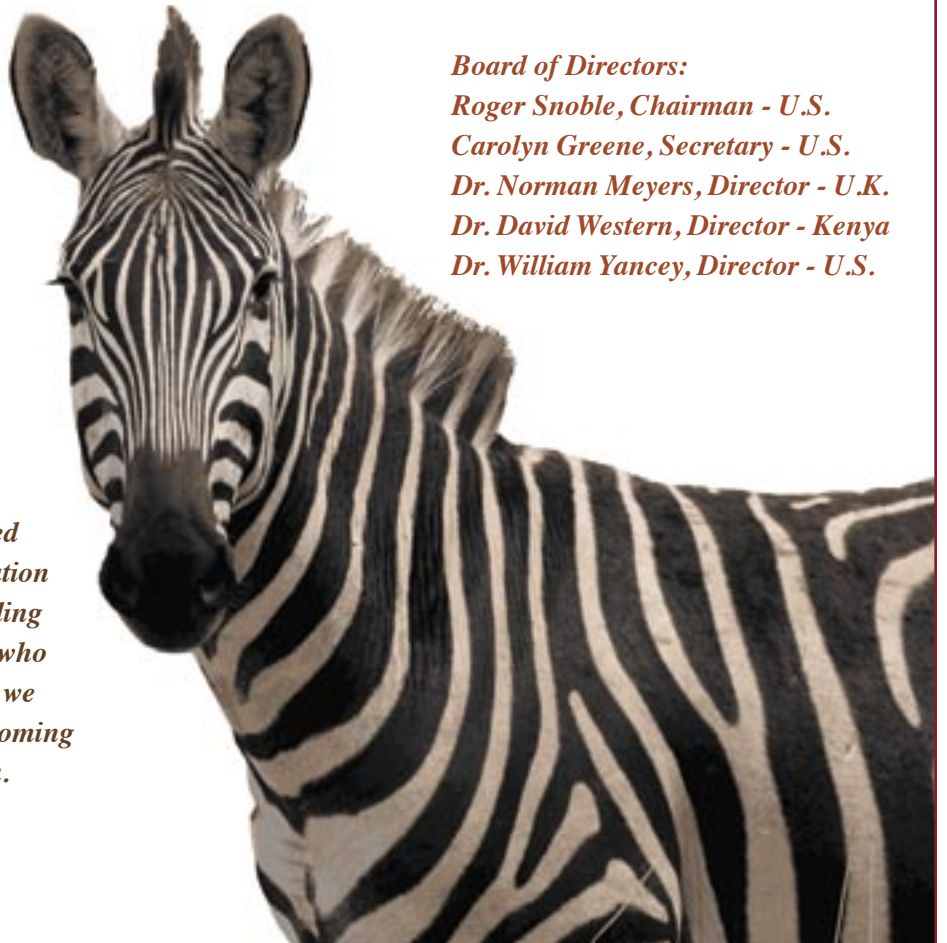
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Dr. David Western, Director - Kenya

Dr. William Yancey, Director - U.S.



Where we are making a difference



East Africa's Rift Valley harbors some of the most significant biological and cultural diversity remaining anywhere on Earth. This dramatic region is home to the famous "Cradle of Mankind," as well as the world's most diverse large mammal populations and largest migratory spectacle. Not coincidentally the Rift Valley is the ancestral corridor for a unique assemblage of highly adapted pastoral groups. The relationship between these cultures and the wildlife is inextricable and dynamic, the result of millennia of nomadism and sustainable land management.

Much of the work we support or assist is in the Maasailand of Kenya's South Rift Valley (from the Masai Mara Reserve in the west to the slopes of Kilimanjaro and Amboseli National Park in the east, and from Mt. Suswa south to Shompole), as well as in the Laikipia Plateau, the Athi plains south of Nairobi, northern Tanzania's Tarangire National Park, and other projects that are trans-regional. As African Conservation Fund grows, we will be able to expand our scope of support throughout the region.



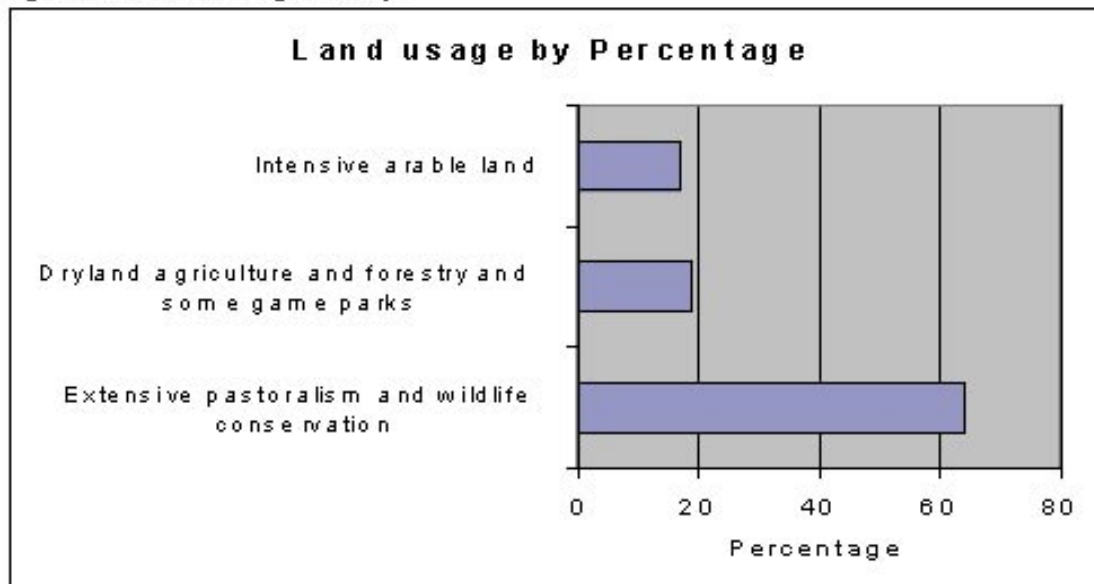


Why a different approach is key

While national parks are important, particularly as core areas for protecting endangered animals, they will not be sufficient to ensure the future of East Africa's famous wildlife and dramatic open landscapes.

This is because more than 65% of wildlife lives outside parks, dispersed throughout pastoralist lands, where they have coexisted with people like the Maasai for millenia.

Fig 1: Current land usage in Kenya.



Source: GOK, 2004: Kenya National Atlas



Science & conservation action

A keystone of any conservation project is sound science. We not only raise funds to support research, but also to support direct action to address challenges identified by scientists.

African Conservation Fund's supporters contributed \$78,000 to support research and conservation of Rift Valley elephants that traverse the borderlands.

New Partner in Conservation Dr. Marissa Ahlering is also conducting DNA research on these herds.



Foundations contributed \$237,000 to fund ground-breaking research on climate change and savannahs, as well as work on using data from community-contributed research to model minimum viable conservation areas. An additional \$136,000 will support ongoing data collection and evaluation in Amboseli National Park.

Partners in Conservation Samantha Russell and the South Rift Association of Land Owners are participating in these efforts.

Donors to Cincinnati Zoo's Angel Fund contributed \$20,000 to support community-based research, a new research centre, and direct conservation actions, including establishing a new South Rift game scout program, to help solve wildlife-human conflict in the South Rift region. Ensuring the survival of East Africa's cheetahs are an important focus of the program.



A budding and under-funded but truly vital program is the regionwide Game Scouts Association. Last year the highly effective Maasai scouts worked diligently to protect wildlife in over 1.2 million acres of Maasai conservation areas. Working with Kenya Wildlife Service, they apprehended 172 poachers, confiscated 9 vehicles, destroyed 863 snares, and stopped 73 illegal charcoal dealers.

Responding to an email campaign, African Conservation Fund donors contributed \$1,000 to help train and provide uniforms for new scouts.





Community

By supporting communities through research, planning, and economic development, we support conservation on a sustainable scale.

We are helping to build support for enterprise projects throughout the Rift Valley, from women's beadwork programs to an "Opuntia Cocktail Syrup" endeavor that seeks to turn the fruit of an invasive pest cactus into an economic benefit (a program of the Uaso Ng'iro Baboon Project's Twala Women's Group). We are also helping to develop web presences for several projects.



Our newest support project is the South Rift Research Station and Resource Centre, a program of the South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO). The Olkiramatian community in the Lake Magadi region has donated a parcel of land to their women's group, who have partnered with SORALO to build and staff the region's first Research Station and Resource Centre.

The centre will be rented out to scientists and conservation education groups. The multi-functional centre will provide accommodation and board for scientists, and the community will benefit from employment, training, conservation assistance, and a growing cadre of global supporters.

2007 was the first year for the fledgling centre; tasks focused on planning, raising funds, and attracting new scientists and education groups to the facility. African Conservation Fund raised \$20,000 and escorted Earth Expeditions to the region, fostering a new longterm partnership with SORALO, Miami University, and the Cincinnati Zoo.



Eco-tourism . . . Science-tourism

By introducing people to the wildlife and people of East Africa through tourism and education, we help ensure future generations of global supporters for conservation.



We launched African Conservation Fund's "friendraising" safaris in 2007. We offer two types of safaris: Adventure Safaris, during which participants drive their own 4WD truck with camping gear, guided by African Conservation Fund hosts and Maasai guides from the South Rift Association (see the new tourist route we are helping to pioneer, below). We also offer traditional luxury safaris, guided by top East African scientists and stopping at unique community-owned lodges and sanctuaries.

We are also promoting "Science-Tourism," bringing in university-level researchers and continuing education programs from around the world.



To help raise awareness for the development of the SORALO tourist route and establish our first Adventure Safaris, several North American 4WD recreation companies donated equipment for our first raffle, raising \$15,000.





Our latest innovation: Venture conservation

If times are tough . . . if economies are spiraling downward, if climate change is accelerating conservation challenges, then no time is better than right now to champion innovative ideas.



The coming year will see the development of a new program to allow people to invest directly in the building of portions of an eco-lodge or other community development project, and gain certified carbon-offset credits for conserving ecologically vital savannah landscapes in East Africa.

Investors - who we call Venture Conservationists - will have a share in globally important projects while enjoying a

local connection with communities that few business investments these days can provide in return.

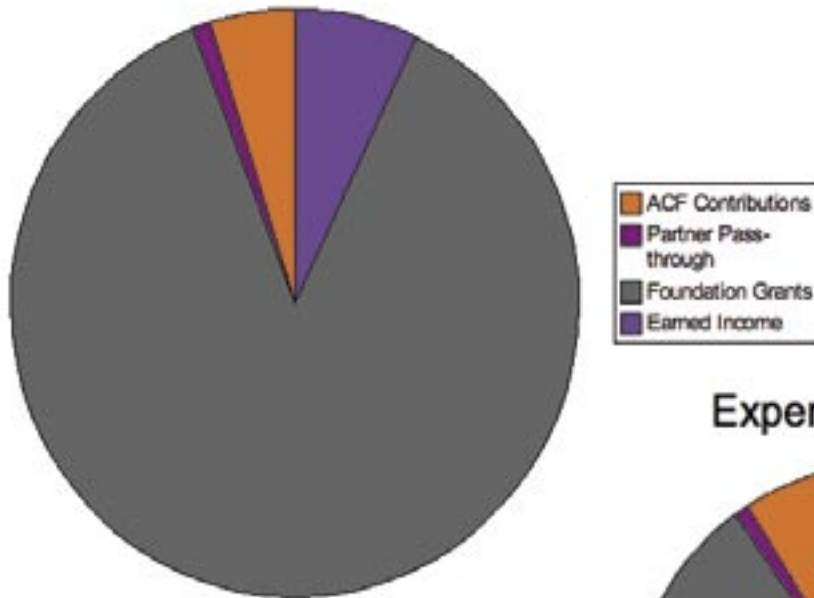


*"People who have been far, see far."
- Maasai saying*

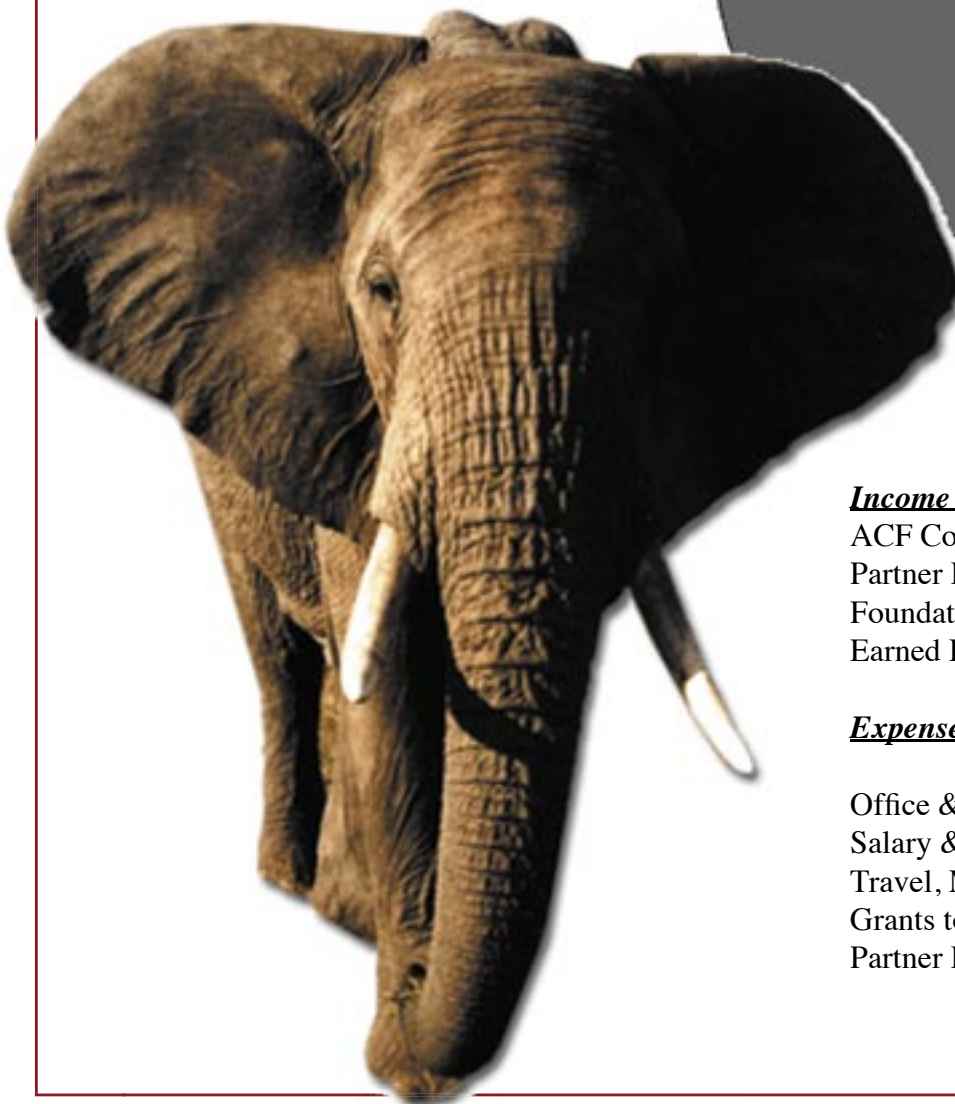
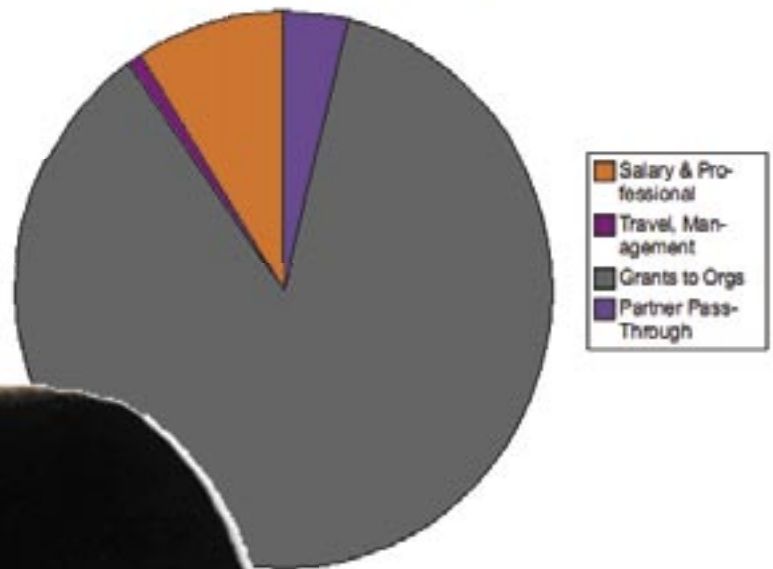
As part of our innovation commitment, we will continue to seek funding and support for our cultural exchange program - the "Two Cowboys" project - in order to promote cross- and intra-cultural information exchanges by sponsoring more visits between pastoral cultures worldwide.



Income 2007 Calendar Year



Expenses 2007 Calendar Year



Income 2007 Calendar Year

ACF Contributions	\$18,824.00
Partner Pass-through	\$10,290.00
Foundation Grants	\$344,439.00
Earned Income	\$27,114.00

Expenses 2007 Calendar Year

Office & Management	\$10,700.00
Salary & Professional	\$23,300.00
Travel, Management	\$2,212.00
Grants to Orgs	\$225,278.00
Partner Pass-Through	\$9,710.00



On behalf of African Conservation Centre and our partners, African Conservation Fund would like to sincerely thank the following people, businesses, and organizations who provided their support during 2007 through funding and goods and services, such as consultation or mailing list contributions. Our work would not be possible without you.

Adventure Trailers

Mr. & Mrs. G. Alexander

Angel Fund - Cincinnati Zoo

Baja Overland

Jeanne Barbour

Cheli & Peacock

Earthroamer Xpedition Vehicles

Edward D. Beggy

Expedition Exchange (Torrance, CA)

Blue Raven Gallery (Katie Iverson)

DesertdudeFilms.com

(Pasquale Benedetto and Kristina Hall)

Equipt Expedition Outfitters

Expeditions West / Expedition Portal

online community

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Lynda Goodrow / Preferred Image

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Carolyn Greene and Kelly Corn

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Jessica Hundson

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JRS Biodiversity Foundation

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Phillips Environmental Products

Elizabeth Searle & Mike Branham

Roemer Off-Road (Britt Pinson)

Michael Schwartz

Roger and Kit Snoble

Al Walter

David Western and Shirley Strum

Bill and Eva Yancey

Partners In Conservation

Fred Brodsky

Bruce and Carolyn Ludwig

Roberta Van deHey

A small group of Africans, Americans, and Britons concerned about the future of wildlife in East Africa founded the African Conservation Fund in 2003, primarily to support the efforts and partners of the African Conservation Centre in Nairobi. The Centre is a 13-year-old East African institution, founded and run by a team of dedicated Africans who combine sound scientific research with targeted longterm community-based conservation projects.

African Conservation Centre and African Conservation Fund assist communities in East Africa in creating conservation projects and economic opportunities that result in improved wildlife management and wealthier, healthier communities.

www.AfricanConservationFund.org