

PETITION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES CONCERNING FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

[After the Order for Petitions is read, Sen. Abshiro Halake will rise and present the petition before the House, pursuant to Standing Order 220(1)(b) and 224(2)(a)]

1. Honourable Senators, pursuant to standing order 225, I shall now allow comments, observations or clarifications in relation to the petition for not more than thirty minutes.

[after comments by Senators]

2. Honourable Senators, pursuant to standing order 226(1), the Petition stands committed to the Standing Committee on Land, Environment and Natural Resources.
3. In terms of standing order 226(2), the Committee is required, in not more than sixty days from the time of reading the Prayer, to respond to the Petitioner by way of a Report addressed to the Petitioner, and laid on the Table of the Senate.
4. I thank you.



*The clerk
For your approval &
forwarding to Hon.
Speaker.
MURD
31/5/18.*

~~*Approved
Hanna
31/05/2018*~~

*Hon Speaker
You may approve.
31/05/18*

THE SENATE
RECEIVED
30 APR 2018
DIRECTOR LEGISLATIVE AND
PROCEDURAL SERVICES

THE SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
30 APR 2018
P.O. BOX 41842 - 00100, NAIROBI

20th April, 2018

The Clerk of the Senate

Parliament Buildings

P.O. Box 41842 – 00100

NAIROBI

Email: cSenate@parliament.go.ke

③ Mr. Munyua
Kindly facilitate
to's attention,
D. Chandra
30/4/18

RE: PETITION TO THE SENATE PURSUANT TO ARTICLES 119 OF THE CONSTITUTION AND PART XXV OF THE SENATE STANDING ORDERS CONCERNING FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We, the undersigned, citizens of the Republic of Kenya and representatives of the wildlife conservancies across the country

DRAW the attention of the Senate to the following-

1. **THAT** there are over 160 community and private conservancies spread across 28 counties within which most of the country's biodiversity hotspots (Northern Kenya, Maasai Mara, Amboseli, Tsavo, Mount Kenya area, Athi-Kapiti plains, Rift Lakes, Western Kenya and Coastal Belt) are located.
2. **THAT** the above biodiversity hotspots are Kenya's key wildlife areas in form of savannas, grasslands, forests and wetlands whose contribution to the national economy mainly through wildlife tourism, live supporting ecosystem services and development of local livelihoods and infrastructure has been significant.
3. **THAT** the biodiversity areas are under constant threat of depletion and extinction owing to pressure to serve the needs of increasing human population and subsequent needs including settlements, food, industrial and infrastructural development and more so from effects of climate change.
4. **THAT** the loss of the biodiversity possesses dire risks to the nation, manifested in food insecurity, loss of tourism earnings for the country, marginalization of local communities and poverty due to lost livelihoods and resource conflicts among local communities who compete for the scarce natural resources.
5. **THAT** wildlife conservancies are local initiatives that are spread across twenty-eight (28) counties that have developed in the past four decades through support by Kenya Wildlife service and other partners out of the need to enable communities and landowners to address rapid biodiversity loss, multitude of threats to wildlife, ecosystems and rural livelihoods and are reversing negative trends through restoration and protection of critical ecosystems and species.

② Mr. Chansa
Please deal
with this

① DLPS
Please facilitate
MWD
adviser

Petition concerning support to wildlife conservancies for sustainable conservation, national and community development

6. **THAT** while National Parks and reserves account for 8% of conservation land, wildlife conservancies in addition account for 11 % of Kenya's landmass covering an area of 6.5million Ha., protect over 65% of the wildlife and support the country achieve Aichi target no. 11 of the Convention on Biodiversity to which Kenya is a signatory, which requires State parties to increase their areas of protection of biodiversity to 17%.
7. **THAT** following recognition that wildlife conservancies complement state protected areas by creating connectivity of habitats through migratory corridors, conservancies were formally recognized by the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013.
8. **THAT** conservancies contribute to the country's development blueprint, Vision 2030 and its flagship projects; which recognizes the importance of sustainable resource use and development, especially of land, biodiversity, and ecosystems and subsequently identifies use of wildlife conservancies to secure wildlife migratory routes and corridors and reclaiming them as a basis for revenue generation in the tourism sector.
9. **THAT** while state protected areas (national parks and national reserves) are an essential part of conservation, a multi-pronged approach to complement them through conservancies, is needed to ensure the long-term conservation of biodiversity and habitats for future growth and economic development of the country and the counties within which the conservancies occur.
10. **THAT** despite conservancies cushioning the above mentioned adverse conditions undermining conservation of biodiversity, sustainable land management and adaptability to climate change, they face great impediments of financial sustainability, institutional stability and functional continuity.
11. **THAT** wildlife conservancies rely on about 80% of their financing from temporary and unpredictable donors and about 11% from commercial activities such as wildlife-based tourism, livestock sales and payment for ecosystem services to support the management costs of wildlife which require significant investment in institution building, infrastructure, operations, and program support.
12. **THAT** recognizing that heavy reliance on unpredictable and short-term donor funds makes community conservancies vulnerable and unsustainable, it is a strategic imperative that the government acts quickly to address the gap through the implementation of targeted financial support to registered wildlife conservancies.
13. **THAT** the Constitution obligates both National and County governments to promote the conservation of habitats and species as well as ensuring sustainable utilization of the environment and natural resources alongside the right to all citizens for a clean environment.

15. **THAT** further, the Wildlife Management and Conservation Act requires the government to undertake measures to facilitate community-based natural resources management practices in wildlife conservation and management.
16. **THAT** the Community Land Act, 2016, provides for recognition, protection and facilitation of community land rights including sound administration and management of community land including environmental and natural resources management.
17. **THAT** it is therefore imperative that the national government and the county governments take deliberate measures, policy and financial, and set up the necessary legal regime to ensure that conservancies landowners and communities involved in wildlife conservation and management are supported by both national and county governments.
18. **THAT** the conservancies are organized through a national umbrella body at the national level known as 'Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association' which is fully aware and supportive of the undersigned petition of its membership of 160 conservancies.
19. **THAT**, we have made the best efforts to have these matters addressed by the relevant authorities all of which have failed to give a satisfactory response.
20. **THAT** none of the issues raised in this Petition are pending in any court of law, constitutional or any other legal body.

WHEREFORE your humble petitioners PRAY that the Senate-

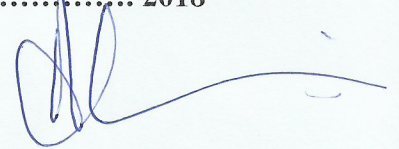
21. Works with the National government to -
 - 1) Enumerate a fiscal policy, legislation and strategy for financial support for wildlife conservancies so as to promote the protection and conservation of over 65% of wildlife resources which are outside state protected areas;
 - 2) Set up an incentives Scheme to encourage community participation in wildlife conservation and for securing identified critical wildlife migratory routes, corridors and dispersal areas for sustainable wildlife conservation and management;
 - 3) Set up a national wildlife conservation fund to secure national and international resources to support conservation of wildlife in Kenya; and
 - 4) Approves the creation of a budget line within the County governments to enable counties promote the conservation of habitats and species as well as ensuring sustainable utilization of the environment and natural resources within respective counties.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS WILL EVER PRAY

Petition concerning support to wildlife conservancies for sustainable conservation, national and community development

Dated this 20TH day of APRIL 2018

Presented by-



Abshiro Halakhe,
Senator.