

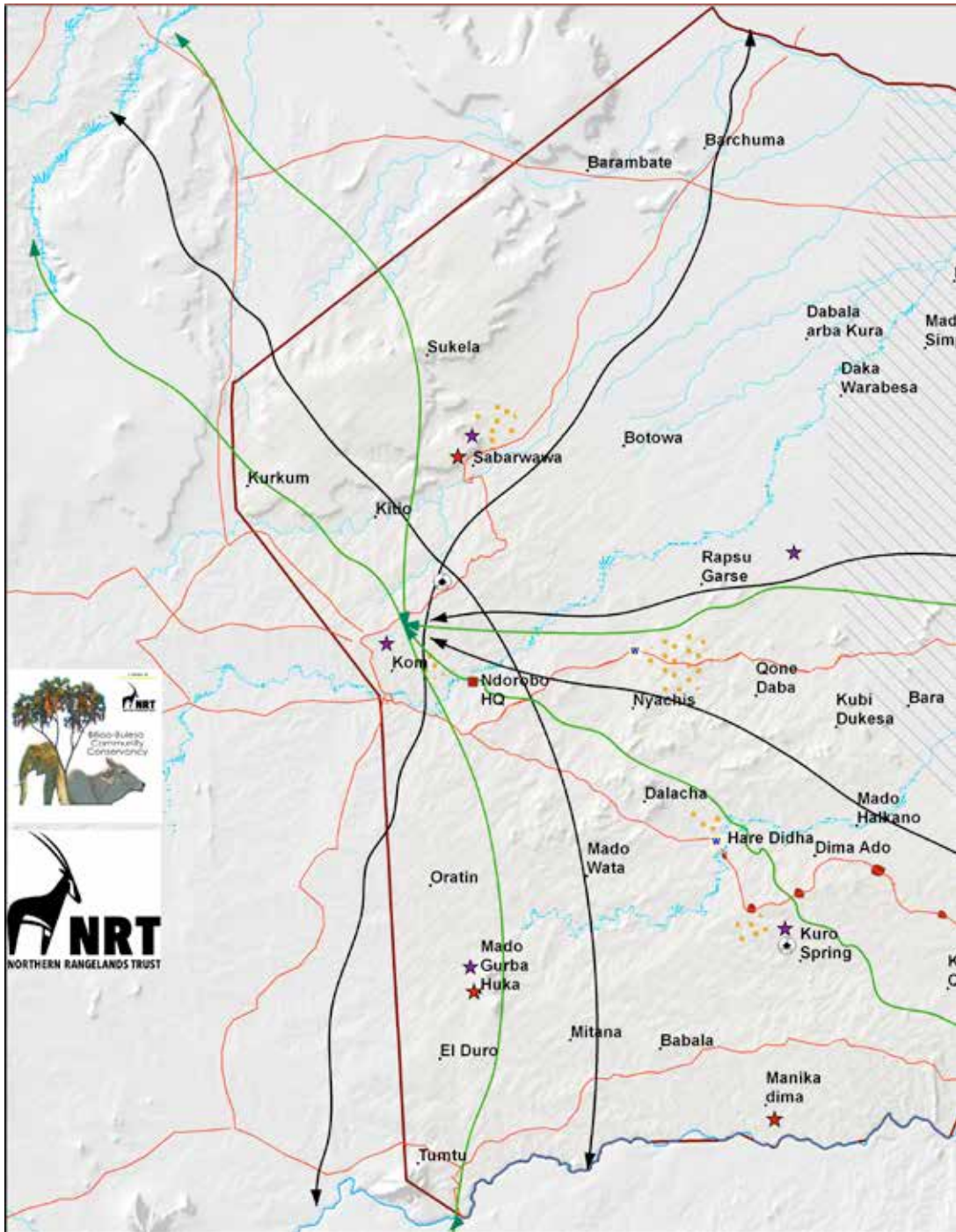


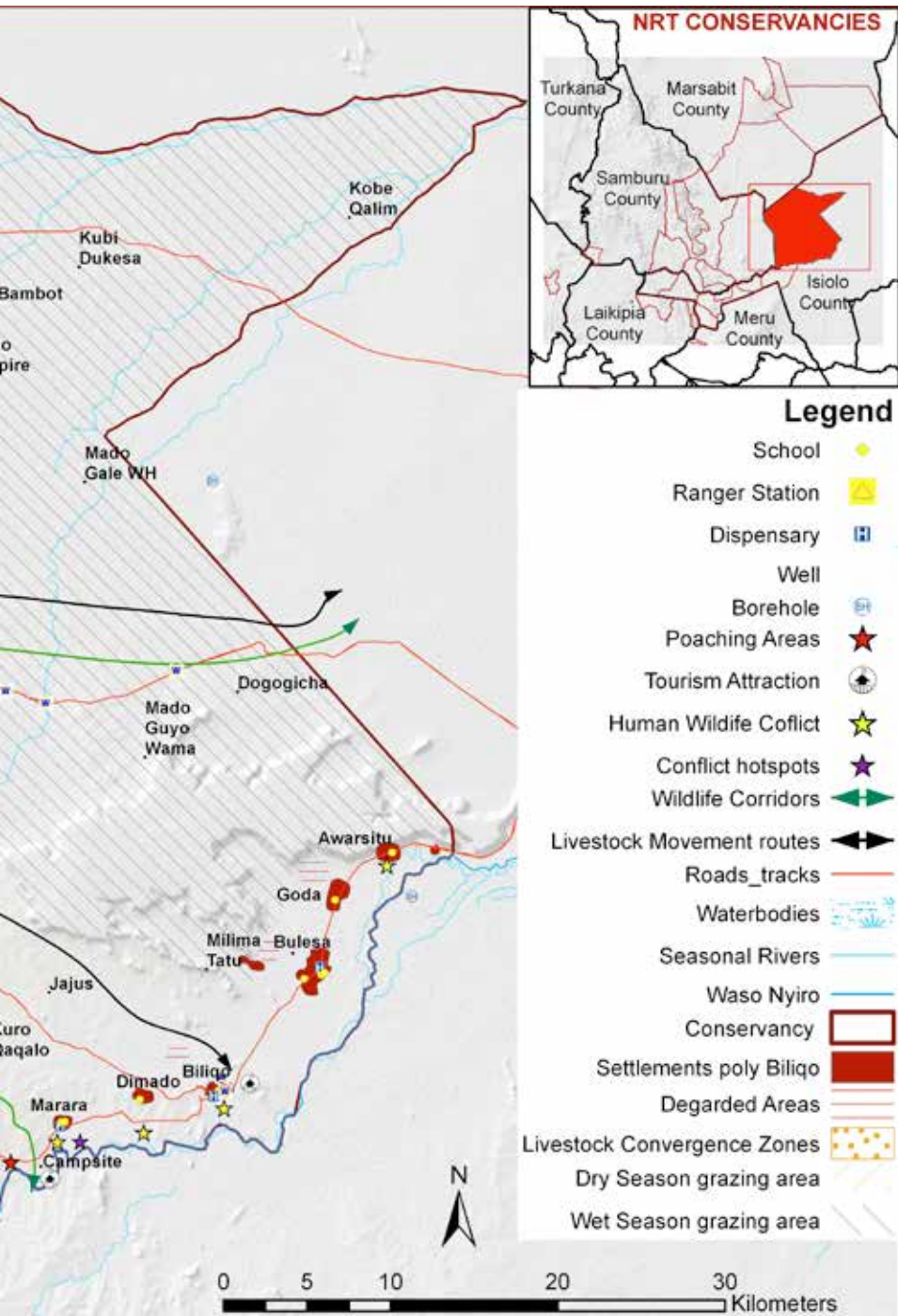
BILIQO BULESA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY

**MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
(2017 - 2021)**



BILIQO BULESA COMMUNITY CONSERVANCY





INTRODUCTION

This Conservancy Management and Community Development Plan has been developed by Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy with support from the Northern Rangelands Trust. The plan was developed through a participatory process led by the Conservancy Board. The process included the following steps:

- **Background information** - including reference to previous reports, baseline statistics on human livelihoods.
- **Mapping** -participatory and field mapping of key features across the conservancy, development of a conservancy map to visualize the current status and future vision for the conservancy.
- **Board brainstorming session** - to identify the main challenges and long term priorities for the conservancy, and identify key partners and stakeholders for inclusion in the planning process.
- **Consultation with community and key partners** - meetings with community, government and partner organization representatives in all zones of the conservancy, to discuss and develop the goals and objectives.
- **Draft plan** - a draft plan was developed and circulated to Conservancy Management for discussion with the Board to ensure it accurately captured discussions and priorities from community and stakeholder meetings.
- **Final plan** -presented to the AGM for endorsement, publication and dissemination of the plan to partners.

The purpose of this plan is to capture the holistic, long-term vision for community development and conservation success of our Conservancy. It is a tool to:

- Guide the conservancy management in their activities, ensuring they focus on priorities that have been determined by the wider community, conservancy staff and Boards
- Provide continuity of management and hold managers and Boards to account by their members
- Assist with fundraising and developing partnerships, highlighting where additional resources are required
- Meet the requirements for registration of Conservancies under the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013

It is a succinct document that identifies key features and values of the conservancy and sets out the primary issues the conservancy is seeking to address, with a broad vision and objectives. The specifics of how the conservancy will tackle these issues, actions to be taken and resources needed will be captured in more detailed plans for each sector, e.g. land-use and settlement, tourism development, business and sustainability, integrated water resources development, etc. Annual operational plans and budgeted activity plans will be developed by the Conservancy Management and Board at the start of each year. It is a living document that needs to be used, adapted and referred to continually.

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SECTION 1.

THE BILIQO BULESA CONSERVANCY COMMUNITY

Isiolo County – Charri Ward

WARD	LOCATION	SUB-LOCATION	SETTLEMENT	POPULATION (2013)
Charri	Biliqo	Kom	Dima Adho	650
		Biliqo Marara	Biliqo Marara, Nyachis	600
		Biliqo	Biliqo	2,600
Bulesa	Bulesa	Godha	Godha	1,400
		Bulesa	Bulesa	3,600
		Bulesa	Awarsitu	550
TOTAL				9,400

The community

- **Ethnicity:** Our conservancy is mainly inhabited by Borana community, living in six settlement areas. Our people are traditional semi-nomadic pastoralists who predominantly depend on livestock for their livelihoods. Average household size is 6.6.
- **Land area and ownership:** Community Land with a total area of approximately 377,300 hectares. The entire conservancy area is managed as integrated livestock and wildlife range, there are no areas where livestock grazing is excluded.

Natural assets

- **Water resources:** The main water sources are the Ewaso Nyiro River which forms the southern boundary of the conservancy, as well as boreholes which are found in Marara, Dima Adho, Biliqo, Bulesa and Awarsitu. Dhallow wells and springs in Kuro Basin, Kitiyo, Dhilo, Burquqe, Sabarwawa, Komu Ghala, Komuree, Dhima Adho, Gabmeti and Kachorabiru. Water is used for domestic use, livestock and irrigation of crops in Bulesa and Dima Adho.
- **Trees:** A large Doum palm forest is found along the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River. The main tree species are *Acacia spp.* and *Commiphora spp.* (Koone, Qoote, Qudhuba, Burquqe, Adde, and Dadach). Tree cover has been reducing due to deforestation for building, charcoal burning, fires, soil erosion along the river, and clearing for farms in some areas.
- **Minerals:** Sand (used for construction) and marble (not commercially mined).

- **Grassland:** most of the conservancy is grassland and bush land that provides critical pasture for livestock. Dry and wet season grazing areas are defined. The community has complete authority over the grazing land and the conservancy has an elected grazing committee.
- **Wildlife:** The conservancy is an important corridor and dispersal area for wildlife, resident wildlife include elephant, lion, cheetah, buffalo, leopard, lesser kudu, gerenuk and other smaller mammals. The area has large populations of game-birds including sand grouse and guineafowl which were previously utilized in commercial bird shooting which generated revenue for the community.

Physical assets

- **Infrastructure & communication:** The settlements are located off the main Isiolo-Merti road. Other roads include; Kom- Merti, Kom-Isiolo, Biliqo-Kom. The roads are murrum/earth roads which are sometimes impassable during rains. There are three airstrips in Kom, Bulesa and Dima Adho. All settlements have primary schools, mosques and madarasas. 86% of people live in mud walled and either iron sheet or grass thatched houses. There is no mobile phone network across most of the conservancy, so communication is a challenge

Human capital

- **Health:** There are two health centers in Biliqo and Bulesa that serve the 6 settlement areas. Common ailments include malaria, fever, colds and flu, typhoid, tuberculosis, Kalazar in children (Leishmaniasis – black fever), brucellosis, and high blood pressure. HIV/AIDs is also present. Community members seek treatment using herbal remedies from the traditional doctors, or assistance from Community Health Workers.
- **Nutrition:** Rice is the staple food and is supplemented by milk, meat and available vegetables. Malnutrition is prevalent during drought. Relief food is occasionally supplied.
- **Education:** There are nursery and primary schools in Marara, Dima Adho, Biliqo, Bulesa, Godha and Awarsitu. There is a mobile school in Dima Adho which supports families when they migrate with children. There is one secondary school in Bulesa. Enrolment levels in school are low with many children not attending school due to supporting their families in herding livestock.

Social assets

- **Institutions:** There are several community self-help groups and Chamaas working in the conservancy, including women and youth groups, as well as CBOs and NGOs.
- **Leadership and decision making:** The Community is largely governed through customary institutions that include groups of elders in each settlement area as well as Dheedha (grazing/land management committee) and other committees.
- **Savings and Credit:** Livestock is the principle form of savings; there are no financial services available in the area however credit is common in shops, informal and based on trust.

Livelihoods¹

- **Livestock:** Over 90% of community members own livestock, sale of livestock (cattle, sheep, camel and goats) and livestock products is the main livelihood for 57% of households. The most common livestock are goats and sheep.
- **Business and sale of natural resources:** 22% of the members have small businesses such as shops, or are involved in sale of charcoal, other tree products and honey. 11% of the community are considered wealthy and have money in banks outside the conservancy.
- **Agriculture:** Approximately 17% of people are involved in both pastoralism and agriculture with irrigated crops (sukuma, tomatoes, maize and watermelon) along the Ewaso Nyiro River during the wet season; 4% of people report agriculture as their main source of income.
- **Employment:** Some of the members of the community are employed through the conservancy, schools, NGOs and government departments or engage in casual labour.

Challenges

- **Conflict:** The causes of conflicts in the conservancy are insufficient pasture and water resulting in influx of pastoralists from other Counties, and deliberate provocation and livestock theft by neighboring communities. As well as loss of human lives and stolen livestock, conflict prevents access for grazing in some parts of the conservancy and results in over-grazing in

¹ REGAL-IR, 2013. Participatory Learning, Planning and Action (PLPA) Report Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy, Isiolo County.

other areas.

- **Drought and vulnerability:** The most serious drought was in 1958 known as OLLA BODODA, followed by AGAI GABBO in early 1960s and OLLA MUCHELE in 1981. The community copes with drought by slaughtering big bulls, migrations and social collective responsibility.
- **Livestock production and marketing:** Livestock production is affected by drought, conflict and disease. The only livestock market is in Biliqo, otherwise livestock needs to be transported to Isiolo which is costly and dominated by brokers who control the trade.



SECTION 2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

Priorities for development in Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy:

- Conflict and Insecurity
- Rangeland Management
- Wildlife Conservation
- Water
- Health
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Food Security
- Livestock Production
- Enterprise development
- Institutional Capacity of Conservancy

**COMMUNITY VISION FOR THE FUTURE "20 YEARS"
TO DEVELOP A RESILIENT COMMUNITY
THAT PEACEFULLY CO-EXISTS
WITH WILDLIFE AND SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFITS
FROM CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES.**

GOALS

IMPACT IN 5 YEARS

Goal One: **Building peace and security**

- Peaceful co-existence between communities within and neighbouring Biliqo Bulesa
- Fewer incidents of inter-tribal conflict
- Improved conservancy security infrastructure

Goal Two: **Conserving our wildlife and natural resources**

- Reduced poaching of wildlife
- Reduced incidents of human-wildlife conflict
- Increased populations of wild life
- Severely degraded areas rehabilitated
- Invasive species cleared
- Livestock grazing patterns well-planned and coordinated
- Settlements and agriculture well planned

Goal Three: **Improving services for community development**

- Water available for people, livestock and wildlife
- Improved health and access to health facilities
- Improved access to good education
- Increased food security
- Improved communication

Goal Four: **Growing and diversifying our economy**

- Increased income from tourism
 - Livestock production improved
 - Improved access to livestock markets
 - More diverse enterprises developed
 - Increased income to women from craft products
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SECTION 3.

ACTION PLAN AND KEY PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL	ACTION	PARTNERS
1: Building Peace and Security		
Peace with neighbouring communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish multi-ethnic Nomadic Boarding Primary School ● Permanent police outpost at Kom ● Joint Board meetings and peace events with neighboring conservancies ● Improve Radio Communication network linked to Police and KWS 	NRT Isiolo County CDF Min. of Sports and Culture CIC Kenya Police
Conservancy Security Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employ additional conservancy rangers ● Additional Conservancy security vehicle ● Upgrade conservancy headquarters, rangers accommodation and establish outpost ● Lobby for additional firearms for rangers ● Increase road network into additional areas to improve security 	
2: Conserving our Wildlife and Natural Resources		
Rangeland Management & forest conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acquire Community Land title ● Regular joint grazing committee meetings for regional grazing planning ● Map grazing blocks ● Implement wet season grazing plans ● Establish grazing by laws ● Grass re-seeding and rehabilitation of degraded areas ● Tree planting in degraded riverine forest areas ● Clearing of invasive species <i>Acacia reficiens</i> and <i>Prosopis julliflora</i> ● Expansion of conservancy area to include Merti ● Develop land-use plan with areas identified for settlement, agriculture, grazing and conservation 	MID-P NDMA NRT Isiolo County RAAP CORDAID CARITAS
Wildlife Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish core conservation area and buffer zone ● Implement human-wildlife conflict mitigation in key areas ● Effective anti-poaching patrols throughout conservancy ● Establish water points for wildlife 	KWS NRT

GOAL	ACTION	PARTNERS
3: Improving Services for Community Development		
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digging of boreholes ● Increase access to clean water in all settlements ● Construction of check dam ● Reliable clean water supply for Conservancy HQ 	Isiolo County NRT RAP Red Cross ENNDA
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction of a hospital and dispensary ● Establish mobile health clinics ● Provide ambulance services ● Build sanitation blocks in settlement areas ● Primary healthcare awareness 	Isiolo County Red Cross AMREF
Access to education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase bursaries available for students ● Upgrade secondary school to boarding ● Construction of permanent buildings for schools in all settlements ● Awareness campaign to reduce FGM and early marriages of girls, and increase retention in school ● Increase numbers of teachers in schools 	IIRR NRT CDF Isiolo County PWHE
Food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irrigation scheme for subsistence farming along Ewaso Nyiro River 	NRT ADESO
Infrastructure and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Upgrade existing roads ● Upgrade/maintain airstrips ● Extension of local FM radio coverage ● Lobby mobile phone providers to expand network coverage 	NRT Isiolo County Safaricom Orange Airtel MID-P RAAP
4: Growing and Diversifying Our Economy		
Tourism income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain wildlife security for tourist attraction ● Tourism development plan ● Establish tourism campsites /facility ● Establish cultural centre 	Isiolo County National museums of Kenya
Livestock production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase market for livestock products ● Construction of livestock market ● Improve veterinary services for livestock 	KWS NRT Ministry of Livestock
Diverse enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate feasibility of fish farming project ● Establish honey project ● Promote poultry faming ● Gum and resin collection and marketing ● Establish youth and women enterprise fund for development 	Ministry of Fisheries KLMC SIDAI Uwezo fund ADESO

SECTION 4.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

The Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy

- Our conservancy was the first conservancy to be established in Isiolo County in 2007 and was a springboard for other communities in Boranaland to initiate conservation. Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy is now registered as a Not for Profit Company (Registration No. CPR/2013/123577)
- This plan is geared towards improving the management of natural resources and livelihoods of communities in the conservancy area.
- The conservancy is governed by a board of 14 elected representatives (5 elders, 4 women, 5 youth). The Board is endorsed at the AGM and is in charge of overseeing Conservancy employees and guidance on strategic direction for the conservancy.
- Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy borders Melako Conservancy in Marsabit County and Sera Conservancy in Samburu County along the common grazing area of Kom. Biliqo Bulesa is strategically placed and playing a key role in peace and security within the entire region. This is a role that has seen the Conservancy break the cycle of raids and counter raids by different ethnic groups, through dialogue.
- With the large areas of grasslands, the conservancy is critical range for wildlife and provides vital grazing for livestock from across the region in dry seasons and during droughts. The area is well known for the good quality of indigenous Borana cattle.

Partnerships

This is critical in the implementation of this plan. The conservancy will build strategic partnerships with stakeholders to implement this plan. As relationships with key partners develop, detailed operational plans, budgets and timetables will be drawn up with each partner. The Conservancy management will lead in developing funding proposals, partnerships and investments.

Benefit-sharing

- **Employment:** All conservancy employees are recruited from the local community in a transparent process, except where special technical expertise or qualifications are required.
- **Communication:** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) remains the most important event for community-wide communication; the Board, sub committees and Conservancy staff also play an important role in raising awareness, and informing our community about decisions made.
- **Conservancy revenue:** The Conservancy has a dedicated Community Account where 60% of all revenue generated by the Conservancy is held with 40% of revenue going towards Conservancy operating costs. Decisions on spending priorities for community funds are made by village committees and declared at the AGM.

Measuring impacts and creating sustainability

- **Measuring success:** The conservancy will set up a number of impact monitoring tools in collaboration with NRT including Wildlife-CoMMS, Vegetation-CoMMS and Social-CoMMS. Goals as set out by the members and standards shall be the indicators of success in the conservancy.
- **Sustaining progress:** With clear plans, effective partners, and increasing commercial activities in Biliqo Bulesa Community Conservancy, we expect to sustain the progress of this plan in future.



Table of Community Development and Conservation Priority Areas:

GOAL	AREA	PRIORITY
Goal 1: Building Peace & Security		
Security Outposts	Kisimitir	Conservancy Outpost
	Kom	Admin.Police/ASTU Outpost
	Ntorrobo HQ	Construct additional houses for rangers
Joint boarding school	Kom	Construction of a nomadic boarding school for Samburu, Rendille and Borana communities
Security Access Roads	Nyachis –Sabarwawa Kom-Kurkum-Koya Kom-Lantana-Sera Gotu- Biliqo	Improve existing roads
	Kom- Sabarwawa Garsedabata- Kom	New roads
Goal 2: Conserving our Natural Resources		
Rangeland rehabilitation	Korobich, Jajus	Rangeland rehabilitation, clear invasive species.
Reforestation	Along Ewaso Nyiro River	Tree planting
Wet Season Grazing Areas	Mado guyo wario, Dogokicha, Bamboot, Mado simpire, Daka warabesa, Kubi dikesa, Mado gale	Improve planned grazing
Dry Season Grazing Areas	Mado Gurba Huka, Hare dida, Dima Adho, Kuro, Kom, Kom Galla, Babala, Malka Dima, Nyachis, Sabarwawa, Parchum	Improve planned grazing
Land-use plan	All areas	Identify future settlement areas, agriculture, grazing and conservation area
Human Wildlife Conflict	Identify areas of high levels of human-wildlife conflict	Implement appropriate conflict mitigation measures
Core conservation area	Feasibility of site along Ewaso River	Identify and establish core conservation area for wildlife and tourism

GOAL	AREA	PRIORITY
Goal 3: Improving Services for Community Development		
Water	Kilise, Burtute	Construct borehole
	Qorobicha, Godo Machesa	Extension of Dima Adho and Bulesa water pipes
	Awarsitu	Construction of a check dam
	Ntorrobo HQ	Clean water for use by scouts
Health	Bulesa	Hospital for referrals, ambulance to service all settlements
	Dimaadho, Godha, Awarsitu	Dispensaries
	Biliqo/Bulesa	Ambulance services
	All settlements	Sanitation blocks
Education	Bulesa, Biliqo	Training centre
	Bulesa	Bulesa Day Secondary School upgrade to boarding
	All settlements	Upgrade of school buildings to permanent structures
Agriculture	Bulesa, Biliqo, Awarsitu, Godha, Dimaadho, Marara	Irrigation for subsistence farming
Communication	All settlements	Coverage by local FM stations; mobile phone network
Goal 4: Growing and Diversifying Our Economy		
Tourism	Tourism development plan to identify potential areas for tourism	Campsites, camp, cultural centre
Diverse enterprises	Marara, Dimaadho, Awarsitu	Bee keeping/honey production
	Marara- Awarsitu	Feasibility of fish farming
	Biliqo/ Bulesa	Gums and resins collection centre & market established
Livestock markets	Biliqo	Construction of a livestock market
	All settlements	Market for milk, hides and skins



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS





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