



# MILGIS TRUST

## Conservation Education

**“RAMATE E LOSHO”**  
*Looking after our society*

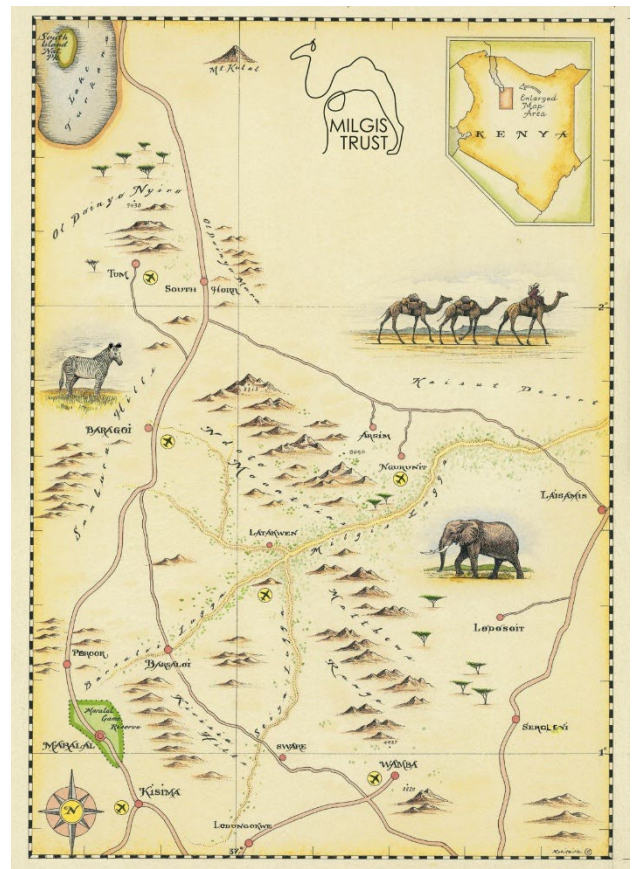


### Introduction & Beneficiaries

Funding conservation education in Samburu raises awareness about wildlife protection and sustainable practices. By empowering locals with knowledge, we promote environmental stewardship and help preserve the region's biodiversity for future generations.

### Location

The Milgis Ecosystem spans 6,000 square kilometers within the northern rangelands of the Matthews and Ndoto Mountains. It is primarily located in Samburu County, with a portion extending into Marsabit County.



Date: 23 February 2025

Signed:

## Project Summary

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**1. Overview of Activities** This report outlines the key activities and progress in community conservation education efforts, focusing on engaging local communities, especially the younger generation, in wildlife and environmental protection.

The report covers a series of outreach efforts from October 2024 to February 2025, with specific attention to key community engagements and their reactions to conservation education.

### 2. Key Objectives of Outreach

Our outreach programs focus on **Wildlife and Environmental Conservation**, educating communities on the importance of wildlife protection and environmental sustainability.

- **Preserving Traditional Culture:** Promoting the integration of traditional Samburu culture with sustainable practices to preserve cultural heritage. Recognising that many young people are unaware of important customs, such as moon phases and age-set transition rites like the white bull ceremony, we aim to educate future generations. To protect this heritage, we are advocating for the creation of a cultural protocol that will ensure the preservation of Samburu traditions for years to come.
- **Gathering Communities & Conservation Films at Night:** Raising awareness about the negative impacts of plastic waste and promote environmental conservation. We organised night screenings of educational films designed to highlight the importance of protecting the environment, supporting wildlife populations, promoting sustainable livestock management, and fostering peaceful coexistence between local communities and wildlife. By screening impactful conservation documentaries and films on critical environmental issues, we aim to educate and inspire action. These screenings serve as a platform for raising awareness, sparking meaningful discussions, and encouraging collective responsibility for our planet's future.
- **Looking After the Environment:** Plastic arrived rapidly in our society, with little understanding of its long-term impact. The misconception that plastic waste simply disappears when discarded has led to significant environmental harm. It is crucial therefore to raise awareness about the dangers of littering plastic, as its persistence in nature can have devastating effects on wildlife, ecosystems, and human health. Educating the public about the importance of responsible disposal and the environmental cost of plastic waste is a key priority for the Milgis Trust.
- **Promoting Environmental Awareness Through Children's Books:** Providing schools with educational children's books that highlight the importance of wildlife and its connection to a happy environment. By distributing these books, we aim to inspire young minds, foster a love for nature, and instill the values of conservation from an early age. Through engaging stories and captivating illustrations, we hope to encourage the next generation to become active stewards of the planet. An example of this was the support given to the Nkare Narok School in establishing a wildlife club and provided students with "The Elephant Queen" books to educate them on peaceful elephant coexistence.

## Community Conservation Education in Action

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### 1. Loindong'o Women's Group (20 Oct)

This group was formed. The idea is to make them aware of all things around their homes, including looking after the flora and fauna that makes the world tick, whilst also encouraging small scale businesses, like beadwork. Providing economic opportunities outside of only their livestock, and strengthening their advocacy for conservation, building long-term support for protecting natural resources.

### 2. Lorok Onyekie, and Raraiti (15 Nov):

Our outreach efforts successfully engaged the following community members:

**Lorok Onyekie:** 120 children, 35 women & 30 men

**Raraiti:** 230 children, 60 women & 30 men

The sessions primarily focused on wildlife management and environmental cleanup. We highlighted the importance of community involvement in wildlife conservation, emphasising local wildlife services as a key aspect of sustainable environmental practices. These initiatives aimed to foster greater engagement and participation in wildlife management at the community level.

### 3. Mabati Community (16 Nov):

The community was very responsive to our wildlife education films, with 190 children, 20 women & 40 men participating.

In the Nkupuruti area, which is home to endangered species like Grevy's zebra, the community was thrilled by the educational outreach, recording sightings of five elephants during our visit.

### 4. Plastic Pollution in Nairimirimo (28 Nov):

Plastic waste is rapidly spreading across Nairimirimo, a crucial wildlife corridor that shelters endangered species like the Grevy's zebra and migratory elephants.

A recent meeting in Nairimirimo underscored the severity of the issue, with plastic waste, including nylon, covering nearly one square kilometer of the local market. This pollution poses a serious threat to both the environment and wildlife. If left unchecked, the consequences could be catastrophic. We are working to co-ordinate a meeting with local chiefs from Ikwaasi, Lorokonyekie, and village elders from the surrounding area.

Collaboration with the community will be essential to developing solutions and preventing further environmental degradation. This collective effort is crucial to safeguarding Nairimirimo and its wildlife for future generations.

#### **5. Youth Sports and Conservation (30 Nov):**

A meeting with youth groups in Lorok Onyeki and surrounding areas was held to discuss the integration of sports and conservation. This initiative will not only engage young people but will also create a platform for building long-term support for conservation efforts through community sports events.

#### **6. Community Leaders Meeting (6 Dec):**

To combat plastic waste in Nairimirimo and Latakweny, a community leaders meeting was held in December to ensure strict measures were taken to prevent plastic and nylon waste from entering these areas. This collaborative effort with community leaders is crucial for ensuring long-term environmental protection.

#### **7. Youth Day (12 Dec)**

It was an exciting day as the youth groups from Ilgwe Eldome and Loikumkum expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the support received. During the visit, they interacted with each other, shared conservation ideas, and gained valuable insights from the event, making the experience both enriching and motivating for everyone who attended. During the day the group committed to:

- Campaign against environmental degradation within the local community.
- Work to recover areas in Loikumkum affected by plastic waste by introducing new conservation laws and policies that will guide all community members.
- Support the work of Milgis, demonstrating their commitment by devoting their time to Milgis led initiatives.

The group is now planning a campaign in Loikumkum to eliminate plastic waste and ensure the cleanliness of the Loikumkum Lugga.

This initiative represents a promising step forward, demonstrating that when the youth are supported, they, in turn, support critical conservation efforts.

#### **8. Mission: Plastic Free! (12 Dec)**

In some very positive news, all plastic and nylon waste was successfully collected in the Nairimirimo area, leading to a significantly healthier ecosystem. This achievement was made possible through the efforts of Ramat Elosho.

There is strong optimism that similar progress will be achieved in Latakweny and Loikumkum, following the successful model implemented in Nairimirimo.



## **9. Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) Meeting (5 Feb)**

We had a productive meeting with the Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) to discuss plans for promoting environmental cleanup in the Latakweny community. Our approach involves visiting households to educate residents about the negative impact of plastic pollution and demonstrate proper disposal methods. Collaboration with local communities is key to effectively combating this issue.

During the meeting, we explored various strategies to encourage active participation in environmental conservation and help people understand the importance of this initiative. It was an inspiring day, and I observed a noticeable shift in mindset as individuals gained a deeper understanding of conservation.

While there is still much work to be done, we are confident that with determination and dedication, we will successfully achieve our goals.

## **10. Latakweny Wildlife Club (5 Feb)**

Later in the day, a meeting was held with the Latakweny Wildlife Club to prepare for Friday's environmental day in collaboration with the CHVs and the Mpelegos group. The focus of the initiative is to address land degradation in the northern ecosystems, with the collective effort poised to create a meaningful impact.

## **11. Conservation Outreach (10 Feb)**

The first conservation outreach in Latakweny, conducted in collaboration with the Latakweny Wildlife Club and Mpelegos Women Wildlife Association, was a real success.

In the second edition, a community dialogue was held with the CHVs to discuss strategies for restoring degraded land and to continue educating the community on the importance of conservation.

The third edition of the outreach is planned in collaboration with CHVs, Latakweny Wildlife Club, and Mpelegos Wildlife Association. The focus will be on eliminating plastic waste in Latakweny and addressing the region's land degradation issues before advancing to the next phase of the outreach.

## **12. Environmental Day (14 Feb)**

The third environmental cleanup event in Latakweny was a resounding success! Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), Wildlife Club members, and Mpelegos Wildlife Association joined forces to combat land degradation, marking a powerful display of collaboration and dedication.

The high level of participation was inspiring, with groups coming together to discuss and implement best practices for reducing plastic waste.

The community has also committed to conducting regular weekend cleanups and documenting violations of conservation laws, ensuring long-term engagement in preserving the environment. The enthusiasm and teamwork displayed by all participants were truly motivating.

We are excited to see the positive impact of these efforts on local wildlife and flora. Together, the community is taking crucial steps to create a safe, sustainable environment for nature to thrive.

### **13. Community Outreach & Ramatelosho Visit to Nkare Narok Location (14-20 Feb)**

The outreach efforts continue to expand, with a recent visit to Nkare Narok, where the community demonstrated a strong interest in conservation and protecting their natural resources. During the visit, conservation films were screened, and a local wildlife club was established to foster ongoing education and engagement. The community was also provided with resources such as the Elephant Queen book to promote peaceful coexistence with elephants.

A conservation committee was formed, consisting of five women, five morans (young men), and five elders, whose involvement is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the conservation initiatives.

Additionally, family planning education was integrated into the outreach, with Mary Leorto offering guidance on traditional methods that align with the Samburu way of life, helping to empower the community with knowledge while respecting cultural practices.

## **Pictures tell 1000 words ... our education in action!**

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## Conservation Patrol and Wildlife Monitoring

During the monitoring period, a diverse range of wildlife was observed.

Our Scouts report to the base every day what they see, and every 10 days they do a proper count in their areas. On 20<sup>th</sup> February, this is the wildlife they reported seeing:

321 Elephant	19 Lesser kudu	3 Leopard fresh tracks	40 Ostrich
25 Gerenuk	152 dik-dik	6 Bush pig	4 Jackal
20 Grants gazelle	16 Grevy zebra	22 Warthog	4 African Hare
21 Greater kudu	16 Common zebra	12 Hyenas	19 Bush buck
2305 Baboon	15 Klipspringer	7 Porcupine tracks	23 Rock hyrax
144 Monkey	4 Kori bustard		2 Debrazza monkey



## Looking Ahead

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The outreach efforts have been successful in raising awareness about wildlife and environmental conservation among various communities. The engagement of local youth, women, and leaders is essential to ensure that conservation efforts are sustainable and integrated into daily life. Continued support and collaboration with the community will be key to making a lasting impact.

Looking ahead, our next major initiative will be the Ramatelosho outreach in the desert region, focusing on the Civicon area and beyond. We are excited to expand our conservation efforts and continue promoting the importance of safeguarding Samburu and Rendille unique fauna and flora. To successfully execute this outreach, funding will be required for logistics, educational materials, and community engagement activities.

## Impact of Community Engagement

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The Milgis Trust community engagement programs have provided far-reaching benefits to the communities involved:

- **Raising Awareness on Wildlife Conservation:** Our programs have successfully increased community understanding of the importance of protecting wildlife, fostering a deeper sense of responsibility toward preserving local species, including endangered animals like the Grevy's zebra and elephants.
- **Promoting Sustainable Practices:** We've educated local communities about the negative effects of plastic pollution and the importance of adopting sustainable practices. This has led to more responsible waste management and greater environmental stewardship.
- **Empowering Communities:** Through targeted programs, we've encouraged community members to actively participate in conservation efforts. Initiatives like forming wildlife clubs in schools, including the Nkare Narok Wildlife Club, help instill a lasting conservation mindset in younger generations.
- **Fostering Peaceful Coexistence with Wildlife:** By providing educational materials such as The Elephant Queen books, and screening movies, we have taught communities, especially children, how to coexist peacefully with elephants and other wildlife, reducing human-wildlife conflict.
- **Strengthening Local Leadership in Conservation:** We have guided communities in forming local conservation committees, involving a balanced representation of women, morans, and elders. This inclusive approach strengthens local leadership and ensures that conservation efforts are rooted in cultural values and community collaboration.
- **Encouraging the communities to form wildlife clubs:** Nairimirimo, Latakwen and Nkare Narok locations which covers an area of approximately 1000 square kms! These clubs play a vital role in fostering ongoing education and promoting the protection of our world. By empowering communities to take ownership of conservation efforts, we seek to ensure sustainable growth in both environmental awareness and wildlife preservation.

## Cost Allocation and Ongoing Financial Requirements

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Ongoing support from donors is crucial for expanding these initiatives, especially in tackling the pressing issue of plastic pollution in wildlife habitats and enhancing the participation of local communities in conservation efforts. Securing funding will be essential for effectively carrying out these actions and ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of our conservation work in these areas.

Key areas where support is needed include:

- **Staffing and Personnel Costs:** Ongoing funding will be required for Scouts, community engagement officers, project coordinators, local educators, and facilitators to implement and manage wildlife conservation and sustainability programs.
- **Educational Materials and Resources:** Budget for the creation, and distribution of educational resources, as well as the costs associated with organising workshops, school programs, and community events.
- **Logistics and Transportation:** Financial support for transportation to reach remote communities and arranging meetings and outreach events in various locations.

**Wildlife Monitoring & Protection:** Upkeep of scouts responsible for monitoring wildlife, patrolling conservation areas, and preventing illegal activities such as poaching. This includes costs for equipment (e.g., radios, GPS devices, vehicles), transportation to remote areas, and ongoing support for scout teams to ensure their safety and effectiveness in protecting wildlife and natural habitats.

**Thanks to contributions to date, we have been able to raise awareness, empower local communities, and foster peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife.**

**Continued funding will create a lasting impact for a more sustainable future.**

