

ACK 2022

A year in review



January 2022

- We identified a series of Detection Dog consultants to grow the Scat Dog project as we continue our National Cheetah Survey.
- We laid on our Samburu area workplan: Our field officers will complete four patrols and one transect weekly to document trends in cheetah and other species and human activities in the Meibae Community Conservance
- We continue to conduct boma light follow-up monitoring quarterly to document the long term impact of flashing lights on human wildlife conflict resolution.
- Each year we completed reviews and contract renewals for full time staff to assure needs of project and staff are being met.



Field Officer, Learkeri recording a track observation during his routine patrol.



February 2022

- Our education department developed plans with My Samburu Womens group for market clean-up and waste management awareness in the Meibae Community Conservancy.
- We were a part of the second season of Wildlife Warriors with an episode of the series featuring Cosmas and the Scat Dogs.
- To assist in empowering community skills we selected and trained an electrician to work with deterrent light repairs where the community members can take their lights for speedy repairs in order to keep livestock protected from night time predator attacks.
- Unfortunately our projects had a bit of a set back after an accident involving some of our staff and a project vehicle – thankfully everyone walked away.
- Sadly the project lost one of our scat dogs to complications of Tick Bite Fever – Rest in Peace Arti.



March 2022

- Our education department completed a series of Conflict Mitigation Workshops with 30 rangers from three regions to test and improve our Conflict Mitigation Toolbox.
- Our US team held the third Careers in Conservation talk to gather people in various conservation careers to encourage youth from around the world to follow their dreams in conservation. Cosmas Wambua shared his journey from a KWS volunteer to his role as a founder and director of ACK.
- Scat Dog team members Anthony & Madi, and Edwin & Persi were certified as Conservation Detection Dogs;
- PHD candidate Noreen Mutoro published a manuscript on her MSC study of cheetah diet which forms a portion of her PhD dissertation.



*Cosmas Wambua-
ACK Asst. Director
was featured in both
Wildlife Warriors
and our Careers in
Conservation Social
Hour.*



April 2022

- ACK staff members, Mary Wykstra and Adelaide Moturi, assisted our partners at Cheetah Conservation Fund in Somaliland to help with cub care after a large confiscation by the Somaliland government left them understaffed. The trip was funded by CCF.
- Our field team completed corridor mapping and selected camera transects to research the interactions of conflict species with human land use along historical wildlife corridors to seek solutions that will benefit both animals and people.
- The Scat dog team conducted a K9 Demo at Muthaiga Club and completed a video for online course in conservation k9 for Colorado State University.
- Members of the science team revisited k9 previously located cheetah scat sites in Samburu National Reserve and Buffalo Springs National Reserve to document cheetah play tree visits.



May 2022

- Mary Wykstra and Jane Wanjira attended two-day Carnivore workshop that focused on review of the Kenya lion and hyena strategy in anticipation of an upcoming cheetah strategy review.
- CaLL USA volunteers organized an ACK online Auction that raised a little over US \$2000 for ACK general operations.
- The K9 detection dog team conducted searches in Meibae to learn GPS and tracking equipment.



June 2022

- ACK completed KWS Prior Informed Consent stakeholder meetings in accordance with the Kenya Nagoya Protocol requirements.
- The final consultant from K9 Conservationists completed her time with ACK. The consultant visitors (Kayla, Rachel, Heather) produced a series of podcasts and reports and strengthened our written protocols and record keeping to assure our new handlers are well versed with all best practice protocols.
- Mary Burak initiated volunteer work to assist in grants and planning for national survey and we revisited the need for a cheetah care center in Kenya which will be discussed with KWS and other in-country stakeholders.



July 2022

- 20 students and 3 chaperones from Kalamazoo Christian High School spent a week with ACK learning about conservation. The students worked with Lolokwe Primary school within the Meibae Community Conservancy to create a moist garden which was later replicated at Silongo with initiative of staff member Learkeri Lbiteri.
- We strengthened our partnership with Colorado State University through a visit by Prof Jennie Willis. We planned more opportunities for K9 and other internships as well designing a study abroad course and safari for 2023.



August 2022

- Mary Wykstra launched the fall fundraising tour in the US and attended the first live conferences for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) in three years. Thank you to all who assisted in making the tour a success.
- Adelaide Muturi started study leave to pursue her Masters Degree in Climate Change and Adaptability.
- The field team delivered a copy machine to the Lolokwe Secondary school



September 2022

- Mary Wykstra was joined by Michele McCarthy, volunteer and grant writer, in the western US portion of the fall fundraising tour.
- Cosmas Wambua attended the Regional Cheetah and Wild Dog planning meeting to develop strategies for conservation of cheetah and wild dog.
- Jane Wanjira coordinated management and analysis of 2021 and 2022 data while field staff took leave time.



October 2022

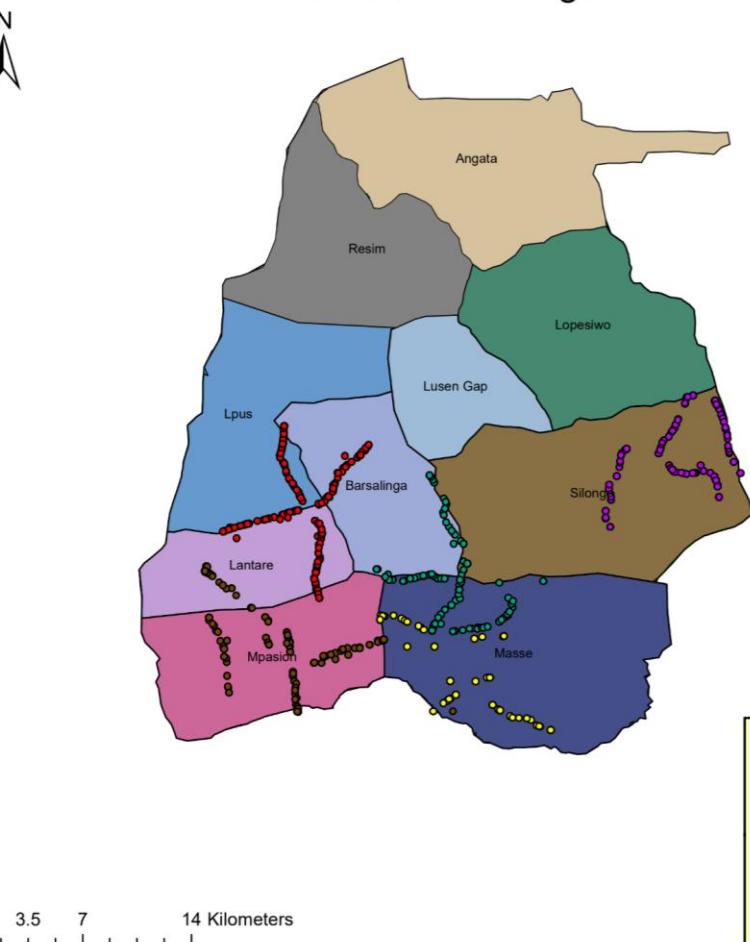
- Mary Wykstra completed the fall fundraising tour and secured long term donors including Palm Desert, San Diego Wildlife Alliance, Fresno's Chaffee Zoo , Binder Park Zoo, Tanganyika Wildlife Park, Animal Ark, Cleveland Metroparks, Utah's Hogle Zoo and Potter Park Zoo.
- Light rains started in Kenya, a much-needed reprieve although it was not adequate to break the 4-year drought – ACK raised funds to donate food rations to community members and to support the efforts of the Grevy's Zebra Trust in supplying hay to zebra.
- Calendars were donated to schools and conservation partners to share information about the cheetah and its habitat.



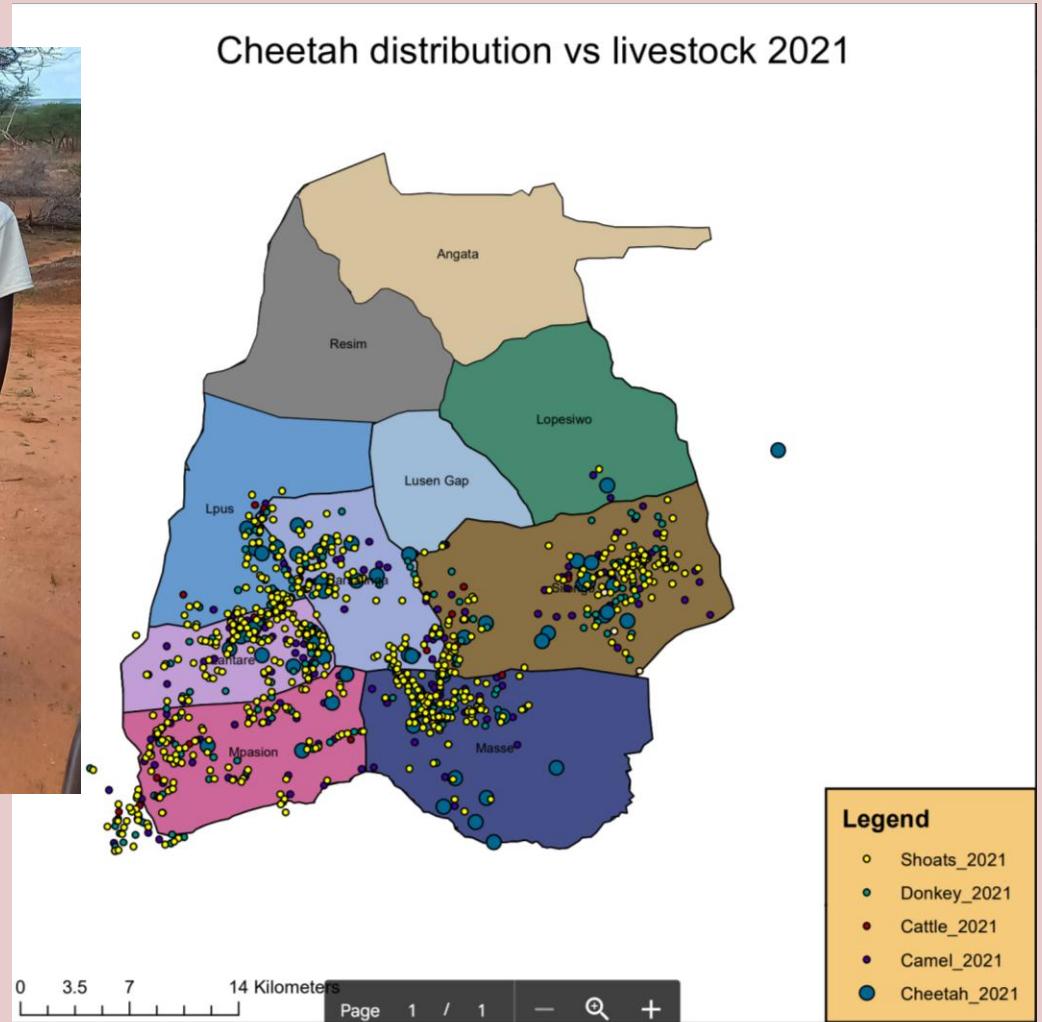
November 2022

- Mary Wykstra co-led a safari for Girls Guides to Paris visiting sites where predators and people share the ecosystem.
- Results of data were mapped and shared with our staff prior to our annual report
- The second supply of food supplements were distributed to needy families in Meibae thanks to generous donor support.

Transects coverage 2022



Cheetah distribution vs livestock 2021



December 2022

- The second International Cheetah Day Football Cup was held in Meibae Community Conservancy – Congratulations Super Eagles!
- The Samburu Woman's group recorded the Takataka song which will be edited for playing at the market centers.
- Mary Wykstra accompanied a Somaliland Delegate tour to learn about the success of wildlife management and conservancy governance

