

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

2025



| Feature Story

A Defining Milestone: Gazettement of the LUMO Conservancy Management Plan (2024–2029)

The gazettelement of the LUMO Community Wildlife Conservancy Management Plan 2024–2029 marked a pivotal moment in the Conservancy's journey, formally anchoring LUMO's vision, priorities, and governance framework within Kenya's national conservation architecture. This milestone signified more than regulatory compliance; it affirmed LUMO's legitimacy as a community-led conservation institution with a clear, long-term roadmap for balancing wildlife conservation, community well-being, and sustainable land use across the landscape.

The management plan provides a structured foundation to guide decision-making, partnerships, and investments over the next five years. It consolidates lessons learned from past interventions while setting clear objectives for governance, conservation operations, tourism development, and community engagement. By securing gazettelement, LUMO strengthened accountability to its community and partners, creating a shared reference point that aligns stakeholders around a common purpose. This achievement now serves as a cornerstone for future growth, adaptive management, and strategic collaboration, ensuring that LUMO's conservation efforts remain community-owned, transparent, and impact-driven.

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| Governance

A New Chapter in Leadership: LUMO Conservancy Elects a New Board

In a landmark event that underscores our commitment to transparent and dynamic governance, LUMO Conservancy convened a Special General Meeting (SGM) in August, culminating in the election of a new Board of Directors. This significant gathering brought together the essential voices of our conservancy: representatives from each of the three founding member ranches—Lualenyi, Mramba, and Oza—alongside our key partners.

The meeting served as a vital forum for reflecting on the year's progress, navigating shared challenges, and, most importantly, steering the conservancy's future through a peaceful and democratic transfer of leadership responsibility. The election results heralded a new chapter for LUMO, which saw the election Mr. Bedan Mwalwala as the incoming Chairperson. This process is the very engine of our community-led model, ensuring that governance remains responsive, accountable, and directly representative of the member ranches. The newly constituted board, infused with fresh perspectives and mandate, now carries forward the collective ambition to build upon past successes. Their leadership is charged with guiding LUMO's strategic direction, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that the conservancy continues to thrive as a beacon of community-led conservation for the benefit of both people and wildlife.



| Governance

The Roots of Governance: Witnessing Democracy at Oza

In March, a cornerstone of LUMO's own governance was reaffirmed at its source as we witnessed the democratic election of the new Oza Community Land Management Committee. This vital body holds the stewardship responsibility for the entire 28,000-acre Oza Community Land, a foundational territory of which 10,000 acres were historically set aside to form part of LUMO Conservancy. Observing this transparent electoral process was a powerful reminder that our conservancy's strength and legitimacy are deeply rooted in the robust, self-determined governance of our founding member ranches—Lualenyi, Mramba, and Oza.

| Governance

Advancing Equity & Inclusion for Improved Conservation Outcomes

Equity and social inclusion featured prominently in LUMO's 2025 engagements, particularly through learning exchanges and workshops on governance, gender, and social equity. Peer learning exchanges with teams from KWCA, IIED and WMAs from Tanzania provided valuable insight into how SAGE and SEGA frameworks can help address deep-rooted governance and equity challenges within conservancies. These exchanges strengthened LUMO's capacity to reflect on its own systems while offering lessons to others navigating similar shortcomings.

“TUMERITHISHWA, TUWARITHISHE”

— a Swahili expression that beautifully encapsulates a profound and forward-thinking conservation ethos that was a highlight of an exchange visit with teams from Tanzania's Waga and Uyumbu WMAs in LUMO. It stresses the need to move beyond mere stewardship to frame environmental protection as a sacred intergenerational covenant. It charges us not only to conserve but to actively improve and enrich these resources, ensuring that the next generation inherits a world more resilient and abundant than the one we received.

Operational Support & Partnerships

Building the Backbone of Conservation: The Operations Center and Strategic Partnership with Emeritus Philanthropic Foundation

In 2025, LUMO Conservancy strengthened its operational backbone through a strategic partnership with the Emeritus Philanthropic Foundation, culminating in the construction of a new Operations Centre. This collaboration represented more than infrastructure development; it was a shared investment in the long-term effectiveness, coordination, and professionalism of community-led conservation in the Tsavo landscape.

The establishment of the Operations center is poised to significantly enhance LUMO’s capacity to respond to conservation challenges in real time while supporting integrated approaches to wildlife monitoring and rangeland security. By consolidating operational functions under one roof, the center is set to improve efficiency, accountability, and communication across teams. This milestone reflects the value of purpose-driven partnerships that go beyond project support—strengthening institutions, and laying durable foundations for conservation impact that will serve both people and wildlife well into the future.



Youth Leadership, Environmental Stewardship & Awareness

Walking the Commitment: World Wildlife Day 2025 at LUMO



World Wildlife Day 2025 was commemorated through a youth-led environmental action that reflected both purpose and responsibility. Members of the LUMO Conservancy Youth Forum came together to mark the day with a 9-kilometre clean-up walk from Mwaktau town to LUMO Conservancy along the Voi–Taveta Road, reinforcing the connection between clean spaces, healthy ecosystems, and human wellbeing.

The walk served as both a practical clean-up exercise and a visible statement on the importance of responsible waste management for coexistence.

Beyond the immediate environmental benefit, the commemoration highlighted the growing role of young people as conservation ambassadors within our collective efforts.

Operational Strength

From Welfare to Performance: Investing in People on the Frontline

Last year, in acknowledgement that effective conservation depends on the wellbeing of those who deliver it, simple but meaningful investments made—such as equipping field staff with new boots and enhancing technical capacity through continuous training—had immediate impacts on morale and field effective.

One of the year’s key interventions was the construction and commissioning of additional staff quarters, aimed at decongesting existing accommodation and improving overall living conditions for conservancy staff. As teams continued to operate in demanding and often remote conditions, improved housing helped ease daily strain, supported adequate rest, and created a more dignified living environment for those working on the frontline of conservation.



This was complemented by practical field support through the LUMO Volunteer Program, which enabled the provision of new pairs of heavy-duty boots for rangers, directly improving safety and comfort during foot patrols. Together, these investments addressed everyday realities faced by staff and reinforced a culture of care and professionalism—strengthening the human foundation upon which effective, enduring conservation depends.

Community Health & Wellbeing

When Care Meets Conservation: Delivering Health and Dignity at Community Level

In 2025, LUMO continued to operationalize a core belief: conservation cannot be sustained in isolation from community wellbeing. As part of its broader community development mandate, the conservancy worked with partners to support targeted health initiatives within the community and learning institutions, recognizing that dignity, and wellbeing are foundational to meaningful community participation in conservation.



Through partnerships with Ol Malaika Trust and Community and Wildlife Conservation (CWC), free community dental clinics were conducted at Mwanjila Vocational Training Centre in Bura Station and Maktau Primary School, bringing oral health services into accessible, familiar spaces. In parallel, menstrual health education sessions were held for school girls at Marungu and Mwashuma Primary Schools, accompanied by the distribution of reusable sanitary pads to support hygiene, and dignified learning experiences.

These interventions were modest in scale but significant in intent. By leveraging partner expertise and aligning health support with existing community structures, LUMO helped sustain wellbeing-focused priorities that strengthen trust and social cohesion. The result is not only healthier individuals, but communities better positioned to engage, collaborate, and steward the landscapes they share with wildlife—reflecting a conservation approach grounded in care as much as protection.

Educational Support & Partnerships

Seeds of Learning, Foundations for Conservation



The construction of two new classroom units at Latika Primary School marked a significant milestone in LUMO Conservancy's commitment to aligning conservation outcomes with community well-being. Addressing long-standing overcrowding at the school, this initiative created safe, dignified learning spaces for children living adjacent to the conservancy landscape. Spearheaded through a partnership between Community and Wildlife Conservation (CWC), Lions Bluff Lodge, LUMO Conservancy, and the local community, the project demonstrated the power of collaboration in delivering tangible, people-centred conservation benefits. Beyond infrastructure, the classrooms symbolize LUMO's belief that education is a cornerstone of sustainable conservation. By investing in learning environments, the conservancy helps nurture informed, empowered future custodians of the landscape—young people who grow up understanding the value of coexistence between people and wildlife.

Heritage, Tourism & Community Pride

Culture as Conservation: Keeping Identity Alive in Living Landscapes

In 2025, we affirmed that conservation is not only ecological, but cultural. Visits to the Gonda Bara Isanga and Mwaktau cultural groups opened space for celebrating traditional music, dance, storytelling, and cuisine—elements that anchor identity and belonging within the landscape.

By integrating cultural experiences into conservation and tourism narratives, LUMO helped elevate community heritage as a living asset rather than a relic. These interactions strengthened community pride and offered visitors a deeper, more respectful understanding of the people behind the landscape.

In doing so, LUMO reinforced the idea that safeguarding culture is inseparable from safeguarding land—both must be passed on together.





Livelihoods, Animal Welfare & Human–Wildlife Coexistence



From Welfare to Resilience: Strengthening Livelihoods Through the Mtunze Punda Daima Project

For many households in Msorongu, Mwambota, Latika, and Chakaleri, donkeys are central to productivity and daily survival. In 2025, this reality informed the inception of the Mtunze Punda Daima Project, an initiative implemented by MAZIDO International. The project was designed to improve donkey welfare as a pathway to strengthening household resilience, recognising the close relationship between animal health, livelihoods, and community stability.

The project applies a group-based approach that places learning, responsibility, and problem-solving within the community itself. Through participatory peer learning sessions, donkey owners shared experiences and practical knowledge, while free animal health clinics addressed recurring welfare challenges affecting productivity. In response to persistent losses linked to human–wildlife conflict, groups collectively designed and constructed model predator-proof bomas, translating dialogue into locally owned, practical solutions.

LUMO's role in 2025 was to walk alongside the MAZIDO team by supporting community engagement spaces and helping guide inclusive dialogue within these group settings. This partnership approach ensured conversations remained grounded in both livelihood realities and broader landscape dynamics.

Conservation Education



Nurturing Future Stewards Through Conservation Education

Through engagements at Mwaktau Secondary School, Kongoni Primary School, Msorongu Primary School, and Latika Primary School, students were introduced to conservation concepts that go beyond wildlife appreciation — emphasizing environmental responsibility, coexistence, and the role communities play in sustaining ecosystems. These sessions created safe spaces for dialogue, curiosity, and learning, ensuring conservation is understood as a shared responsibility rather than an abstract idea.

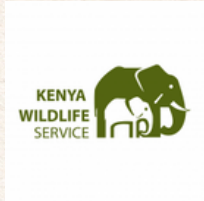
The outreach programs were intentionally practical and participatory. By engaging wildlife clubs, supporting school-based projects, and introducing nature-based livelihoods solutions like beekeeping, we are helping nurture a generation that sees conservation not as an external intervention but as part of their identity and future. This approach reinforces the belief that lasting conservation outcomes are rooted in informed, empowered communities — starting with education.

Partnership Spotlight

Our Partners



TAITA TAVETA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCIES
ASSOCIATION



Across all our work in 2025, partnerships remained a defining source of strength. Progress in all conservation outcomes was made possible through collaboration with other institutions. Each partner contributed distinct value—whether through expertise, resources, facilitation, or trust at the community level—allowing us to front and sustain priorities that would not be achievable in isolation. These partnerships continue to shape a shared conservation journey, grounded in mutual respect, learning, and a collective commitment to stewarding landscapes and livelihoods for the future.

Contact Us



Phone Number:
+254 101 306 562



Email:
info@lumoconservancy.com



Website:
www.umoconservancy.com

