



South Rift Association of Land Owners

Annual Report **2019**

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South Rift Association of Land Owners



REVENUE TO  
COMMUNITIES –  
**2,000,000 KSH /**  
**20,000 USD**



ADDITIONAL  
COMMUNITIES WORKING  
WITH SORALO COVERING  
**5,000 SQ KM**



NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
TAUGHT CUSTOM CREATED  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
CULTURAL LESSONS - **362**



NUMBER OF  
CONSERVATION  
PUBLICATIONS BY  
SORALO TEAM AND  
AFFILIATES - **11**



**2019 SUMMARY  
OF IMPACTS**



ELEPHANTS  
POACHED - **0**



TOTAL AREA UNDER  
SORALO RANGER  
PATROLS **7,000 SQ KM**



NUMBER OF NEW LOCAL  
COMMUNITY RECRUITS  
- **14**



AREA UNDER NEW LAND  
USE PLANS - **350 SQ KM**



NEW DONORS - **3**,  
AMOUNTING TO  
**\$123,000** OF NEW  
INCOME FOR 2019'



From the Director,

**John Kamanga**

"We set out in 2019 to achieve many things. Some of the highlights for me included helping the communities of the South Rift to earn over two million shillings from conservation, expanding our projects to a larger area of the SORALO landscape, and improving our ability to manage and respond to human wildlife conflict by investing heavily in our ranger network. We have had elephants return to the area, and have been helping the communities deal with the challenges with living alongside these great beasts. We have formed new research partnerships, and our teams have published new material to support our conservation story. In addition, our conservation education lessons have had their first year of implementation, with 290 children being taught with our custom designed lessons focused on Maasai principles of eramatare (husbandry), enkinet (respect) and entaisere (seeing a future).

We have new donors and partnerships, and travelled far and wide telling our conservation story. Finally, I am very proud to now be a National Geographic Explorer! Thank you to everyone for the support we have received this year and we are looking forward to what the future will bring."

# TO RECAP: OUR PURPOSE AND APPROACH

Much of SORALO's approach can be summed up by the two Maasai words, each with deep cultural meanings:



**Enkop'ang**

Roughly translates as 'our good land, our common identity, our common pride'



**Eramatare**

Roughly translates as 'stewardship over common resources'

Combining these two concepts provides the basis for SORALO's purpose within the South Rift landscape. This landscape is a place where, for centuries, the Maasai people have lived and kept intact, benefiting themselves, their livestock and wildlife. The area is still home to the majority of Kenya's Maasai. Yet, today it is a threatened landscape, confronting a growing population, a culture in transition and land use changes that threaten critical habitats.

## Our Vision

A healthy and intact landscape that sustains pastoralist communities and wildlife.



## Our Mission

To maintain a healthy and connected landscape for people and wildlife in Kenya's South Rift.



# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

To achieve our vision, we focus on addressing four key areas of intervention, each in turn supported by sound science and accurate information:

- Improving rangelands governance by securing communal lands, water and natural resources through appropriate local tenure arrangements.
- Improving natural resource management and conservation to monitor, manage and protect wildlife and other resources.
- Generating benefits and increased income through sustainable natural resource-based enterprises that improve local livelihoods and create incentives for conservation.
- Promoting cultural values and practices that promote co-existence of people and wildlife.

**Governance:** People are able to secure rights over communal lands, water, and resources.

**Management:** People are able to monitor, manage and protect wildlife and other resources.

**Livelihoods:** People are able to generate benefits and income from natural resources.

**Culture:** People retain the cultural values that promote co-existence and communal resource uses.



Local communities' decisions and actions maintain a healthy and connected landscape for people and wildlife

A healthy and intact landscape that sustains pastoralist communities and wildlife

These four interventions not only form our Theory of Change for achieving our vision and mission, but also form the structure of SORALO's programmes and thus governs how we implement our work.



# OUR FIVE STRATEGIC GOALS FOR 2018 – 2023



## Our Five Strategic Goals for 2018 – 2023

-  • Secure and strengthen community rights to land through strong and effective local governance institutions
-  • Support natural resource management practices and institutions that enable people and wildlife to co-exist across the SORALO landscape
-  • Promote cultural values that foster co-existence and communal land management
-  • Support the development of sustainable resource-based enterprises for improved livelihoods and enhanced connectivity
-  • Grow and strengthen SORALO into an effective organisation capable of delivering on its mission

# ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2019



## Protecting Open Rangelands



## Securing space for people and wildlife- a story of the governance challenges and solutions facing the Loita communities.

Central to SORALO’s mission is ensuring that the communal rangelands of the South Rift are kept open and intact for people, their livestock and the abundant wildlife that live there. SORALO believes that local communities need to be able to secure rights over the land and communal resources. Much of SORALO’s work, therefore, centres around helping to secure and strengthen community rights to land through strong and effective governance institutions and legal tools. Assisting communities to develop Land Use Plans and the mechanisms under which they are implemented is one such example of our work in this regard. This year SORALO was able to complete this process with the Morijo community. In addition, SORALO has played a key role in ensuring that neighboring communities continue to plan together and that the community plans are represented at higher levels, including the County and National arenas.



Figure 1: Some of the community representatives receiving the copies of the Morijo Land Use plan



### A completed Land Use Plan for Morijo

In 2019 SORALO helped the **13,340 residents** of the Morijo region to secure **353 square kilometres of land** by completing and implementing their Land Use Plan. This including approving the Action Plan and Implementation Framework, developing by-laws and establishing an inclusive community LUP committee as well as village committees in the 23 villages within the region. As a result, the community have been able to:

- ✓ Sustainably manage their grazing lands
- ✓ Secure two water sources
- ✓ Protect traditional ceremonial grounds
- ✓ Set aside an area for potential eco-tourism developments
- ✓ Start to demarcate a forest boundary (otherwise known as a 'cut line') for the sacred Loita forest (known as the Naimina Enkiyo forest)
- ✓ Begun the re-establishment of the Loita forest management council that has been inactive for many years



As SORALO we take this as one of our greatest governance achievements to date. To have supported the Loita community to develop a well-designed land use plan, supported by community-based by-laws and overseen and implemented by local governance systems is a strong tool for helping to conserve a critical portion of the SORALO landscape. These systems will also stand this particular community in good stead with the proposed forthcoming demarcation of their land.

### CASE STUDY: Inter-community Engagement – bringing together Shompole, Olkiramatian and Loita communities

Historically, Maasai communities across the South Rift have relied upon each other in times of hardship, sharing resources such as drought refuges and critical water sources that are needed by their livestock. Indeed, many Maasai traditions are designed to facilitate reciprocity between neighboring communities. However, with changing times, both communication and planning between neighbors are becoming increasingly important, particularly in the face of changes in governance systems and land tenure arrangements. SORALO, therefore, takes pride in being able to encourage and facilitate inter-community engagements, promoting discussions around the challenges of shared resources, among other topics.

We would like to highlight one such meeting. This meeting brought together leaders from the Shompole, Olkiramatian and Loita communities, and was attended by special guests Dr David Western, a long-term mentor to these communities and supporter of community conservation in the region, and our partners the Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation (LCAOF) from the USA who were in Kenya exploring avenues for supporting conservation efforts of local communities. These three communities all depend upon the Loita hills for water, and it is therefore imperative that inter-community conversations take place ahead of potential conflicts over resource use.

Meetings such as this often take many hours of carefully facilitated discussions around both challenges and opportunities. This meeting, in particular, concluded with a few key recommendations, all of which highlight the strength of inter-community interactions and provide the stepping stones for future work:

- Bring together all the communities in the region to deliberate on how to work together to address the threats and leverage on the opportunities in the landscape.
- Establish more community land use plans to secure the available and threatened land resources.
- Take up the plans to government for recognition by policy and legal framework and incorporation into government plans and programmes.
- Develop a cross border, cross-county tourism circuit and plan.
- Formalise forest boundaries and management plans.
- Ensure better collaboration with KWS and other partners on wildlife resource management.



This case study highlights SORALO's landscape approach to conservation and illustrates how we prefer to engage with donors and supporters – by bringing them into the story to see for themselves. From the perspective of the community leaders, the meeting was summed up by his statement that;

*'This is just the beginning; these meetings must continue as we need each other now more than ever due to changing climate and pressing land use changes.'*

— Eric Sonkoi, Loita community representative.





## Conserving Coexistence



Because no national protected areas exist in the SORALO region, people and wildlife must coexist within the same spaces. Wildlife are still able to move freely across the landscape and by doing so enhance the connectivity between Mara-Serengeti and Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystems. A key focus of SORALO's work is conserving this coexistence and landscape connectivity. Doing so is no easy feat.

After close to two decades of concerted community conservation efforts, resident herds of elephants totalling more than 200 animals, and prides of lions 15 individuals strong, have returned to the Shompole/Olkiramatian ecosystem. A conservation success story indeed, but also one which poses significant challenges. As some wildlife populations grow and expand across the region so does the prevalence of human-wildlife conflict.

Now, more than ever, conserving wildlife in the South Rift requires a strong community commitment to conservation and growing a coexistence team. Our coexistence team is comprised of dedicated community rangers who protect people from wildlife and wildlife from people, community resources assessors who seek to understand and inform how pastoralists and wildlife can coexist, and now community lion liaisons who help track lions and respond to conflict across the larger landscape. To ensure we are rising to the challenge of conserving coexistence SORALO has spent the last year improving our ability to tackle human-wildlife conflict and growing, supporting and expanding the reach of our coexistence teams.

## Catalysing Coexistence Across the South Rift

Over the last fifteen years successful community conservation efforts in Shompole and Olkiramatian have led to an increase in the presence of key wildlife species and catalysed interest in community conservation across the South Rift. To keep up with these opportunities we have focused on expanding the area covered by our coexistence teams and supported grass-roots governance institutions in the South Rift to make decisions and take actions which promote coexistence (Figure 1, table 1).

### In 2019 we have:



Grown our coexistence team from **33 to 47 people**, including 5 new community rangers and 9 lion liaisons (see Figure 2 for a map of current SORALO ranger spread across the landscape)



Tripled the area covered by our coexistence teams from approximately **2,000km<sup>2</sup> to 7,000km<sup>2</sup>**.



Provide **20 days of training for 12 senior staff** to understand the barriers to collaborative conservation and develop appropriate communication tools



**Identified the presence of lions outside of the current IUCN lion range map** thanks to data collected by our coexistence



Ensured **no elephants were poached** in the SORALO landscape through working collaboratively with local leaders and the Kenya Wildlife Service



**Initiate community dialogue** around conservation in five additional communities covering an additional 4,000 sq. kilometres



Witnessed two communities agreeing to **prioritise wildlife conservation**, a first step towards stewardship



Helped the conservation committees and leaders of Olkiramatian and Shompole to **develop Conservation Action Plans** and better define their roles and responsibilities



Table 1: Outputs for 2019 across the landscape for the Conserving Coexistence programme.

Name	Total
Community meetings	26
Governance trainings	5
Learning exchanges	1
New rangers recruited	20
Rangers trained	33
New patrol coverage	5011 km <sup>2</sup>
Lion liaisons recruited	9
HWC evacuations	6

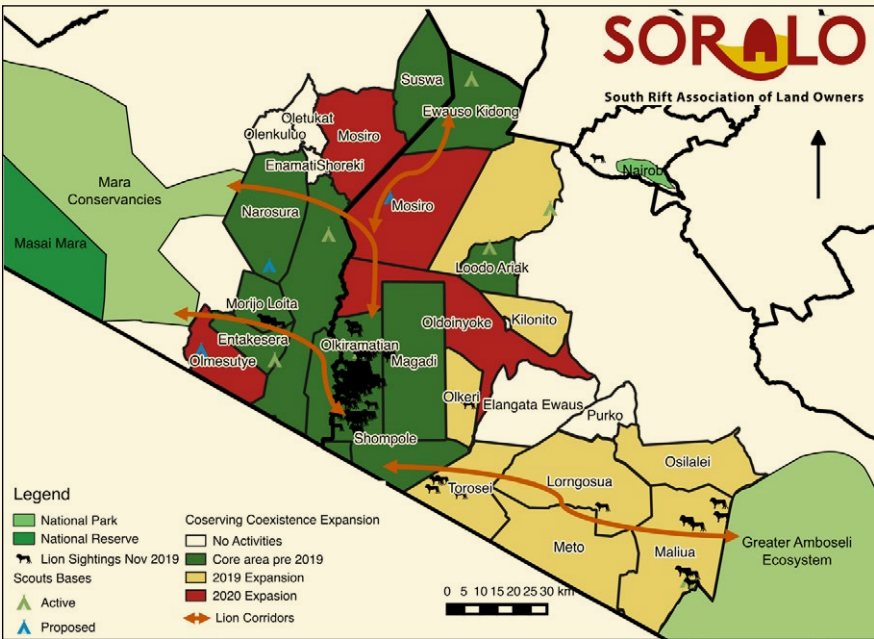


Figure 1: Map of SORALO landscape showing (i) the expansion SORALO's coexistence program in 2019 and 2020, (ii) lion sightings (April 2019- March 2020), (iii) Known corridors of lion movement within the landscape.

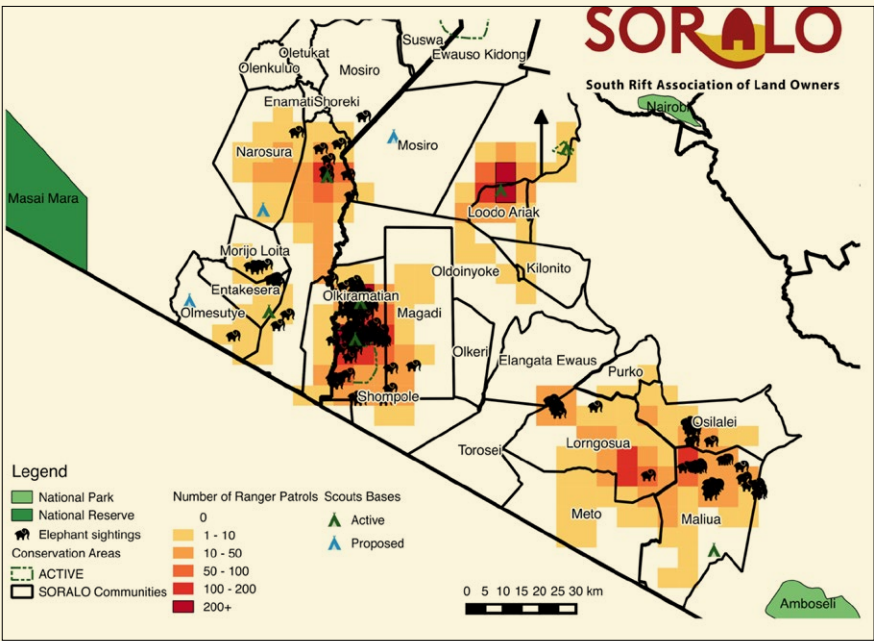


Figure 2: Map of SORALO landscape showing active Rangers bases, area covered by patrol, patrol effort and elephant sightings.

Tackling Human-Wildlife conflict:  
Saving Lives and Protecting Livelihoods



The responsibility of keeping wildlife safe from people and people safe from wildlife rests on the shoulders of our coexistence teams. In the last year alone 10 community members have been attacked by wildlife. Consequently, helping victims of wildlife attacks reach medical treatment has been one of our most valuable contributions to conservation in 2019. First aid and evacuation trainings and rapid response vehicles have allowed our coexistence teams to respond to seven of these wildlife attacks on people and help six community members safely reach medical treatment. We are proud that this training was provided by two of SORALO's own scouts, Joshua Loshorua and Musa Moloi who last year qualified instructors through the LEAD ranger program.



*'Joshua is a graduate from one of our first Ranger Life Saver instructor courses. He's now with us for a refresher and update. Since his graduation 1.5 years ago, Joshua has directly saved three lives. One severe hyena attack, and two elephant attacks, as well as multiple other medical emergencies. The three lives saved were community members, and all have made a full recovery directly attributed to Joshua's field treatment. Subsequently, Joshua has become a focal point for any wildlife related incidents in his community, reinforcing that rangers take care of wildlife and communities alike. To say that we are proud of him is an understatement of note.'*

Boris Vos –CEO and Founder LEAD ranger and Ranger Campus



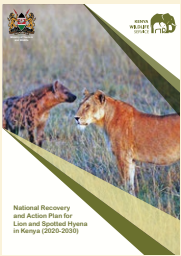
To tackle the growing incidences of human –wildlife conflict SORALO has drawn inspiration from an old African folk tale, a belief that elephants are afraid of bees. It seems to be true. Elephants are terrified of bees. Thanks to Save the Elephant’s Elephants and Bees project, and a kind donation from the Remembering Elephants project (part of the Remembering Wildlife series), SORALO was able to trial the concept of using bee-hive fences in an initial three farms in Olkiramatian. Since their construction in May 2019, 20% of the hives have been occupied. With these bees, the fences have been effective in deterring elephants away from every single farm.

*‘The elephants tried to get into the farm last night, but the fence stopped them. If they had come in, I would have lost all my pumpkins in one night.’*

– Lawrence Lolari, farmer.

*‘Elephants have come up to the fence three times in the last month, but have not managed to get in through the fence.’*

–Kimita Kiletai, farmer.



Guiding lion and spotted hyaena conservation across the Kenya.

Looking beyond the boundaries of the South Rift, SORALO has helped shape the future of lion and spotted Hyaena conservation. In partnership with the University of Oxford’s Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU) we helped the Kenya Wildlife Service to develop a bold and forward-thinking new Recovery and Action Plan for Lion and Spotted Hyaena in Kenya.

New wheels!

A special thank you to Greg du Toit, our conservation ambassador, for introducing us to Margot Raggett, founder of Remembering Wildlife. Thanks to a generous donation from the Remembering Lions series, SORALO has a ‘new’ second-hand pickup. This has significantly added an element of reliability to our aged fleet of cars. Kitted out with new tyres and in-built 200 litre water tank it is now fully equipped to enable our teams to safely venture into the remote parts of our landscape, help rush victims of human-wildlife conflict to hospital or return lost livestock safely home.





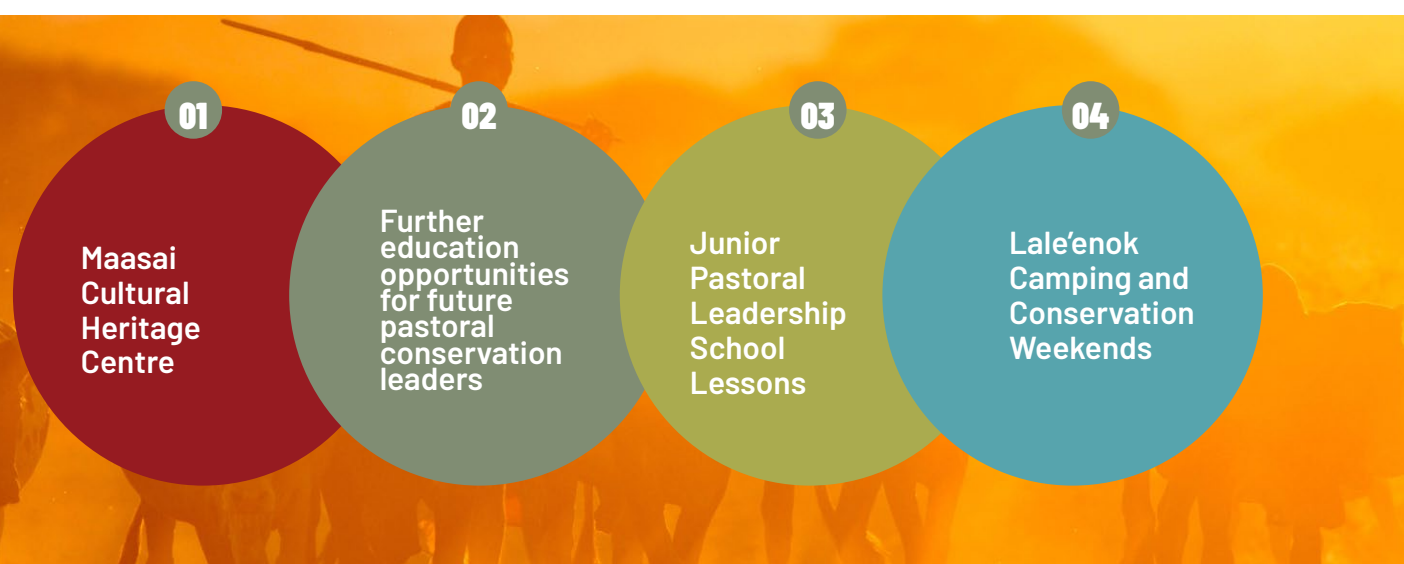


## Culture and Conservation; past, present and future



SORALO's vision of the future lies in the hands of the next generation.

While conservation efforts often focus on the direct challenges and needs of today, it is tomorrow where the successes and failures will be most felt. It is tomorrow's generation that will carry forward the vision of a healthy and intact landscape for people and wildlife. To achieve this, SORALO invests in future pastoral conservation leaders, who come from the South Rift landscape. SORALO is developing a multi-faceted approach to supporting conservation leaders, which involves four main components, as illustrated in Figure 3 below.



### SORALO South Rift Association of Land Owners Lesson Guide for Wildlife Clubs UNDERSTANDING OUR ENVIRONMENT THROUGH MAMMALS and BIRDS



Term One  
Junior Pastoral Conservationist Programme

### SORALO South Rift Association of Land Owners Lesson Guide for Wildlife Clubs UNDERSTANDING OUR ENVIRONMENT THROUGH PLANTS and PASTORALISM



Term Two  
Junior Pastoral Conservationist Programme  
Year 1 (2018-2019)

### SORALO South Rift Association of Land Owners Lesson Guide for Wildlife Clubs UNDERSTANDING OUR ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CULTURE & the FUTURE



Term Three  
Junior Pastoral Conservationist Programme  
Year 1 (2018-2019)

## Junior Pastoral Conservation Leadership

This year saw the first-year trial of the Junior Pastoral Conservation Leadership lessons being taught at the Wildlife Clubs in six schools in the Shompole and Olkiramatian regions.

- As a result of the lessons, the 362 children who attended reported more favourable views of how people, livestock, and wildlife can live together as well as other elements of Maasai traditions

Every year, SORALO hosts young school children for what is known as Education Outreach Weekends. In 2019, three different weekends saw six schools and 120 school children come to Lale'enok for the night. The learning objectives and activities include learning about the Maasai culture, land-use change, resource management and how SORALO plays a role in this landscape. The children also get the chance to experience what our field teams do on a daily basis.

These weekends always prove highly successful in terms of student learning and satisfaction and are highly sought after each year by teachers, students, and elders alike. So much so, that there has been an interest from students who have graduated from school to ask SORALO to consider how they might stay in contact with the work at Lale'enok. As a first step, some school leavers have started an 'alumni' group connected to Lale'enok. The group totals 16 at present, with more set to join.



Steiner's story

As a direct consequence of his work with SORALO, a young graduate from Olkiramatian has won a place, with a full scholarship, to the prestigious Diploma in International Wildlife Conservation Practice at Oxford University in the United Kingdom. SORALO is proud to have supported Steiner Sompeta to this level of academic excellence, and showcase one of the possible endpoints of the Pastoral Conservation Leadership framework.



*'The opportunity to be in the University of Oxford strongly appeals to me for much more than the international adventure and exposure I am experiencing. I'm investing in my career growth, in a way that my passion grows and I can learn as much as possible, by adding expertise in the conservation field. What SORALO has done in terms of my career growth means a lot to me; the SORALO family has moulded a conservationist out of a statistician and helped me grow career-wise in the conservation field by providing a conducive working environment and room to grow academically. Without them I wouldn't have had the chance to be a part of the Oxford alumni network, which has brought me into contact with so many outstanding researchers and pioneers of the conservation field. I am confident that both these organisations will help me reach my utmost potential and hopefully this way I can, in turn, provide back to them and to my community'*

—Steiner Sompeta, Oxford.



Building a Maasai Cultural Centre

In partnership with the Smithsonian Institute, SORALO has embarked on an ambitious project to design and build a Maasai Cultural Centre in the heart of the SORALO landscape. The site is adjacent to the National Museum of Kenya's famous prehistoric site, Ollorgasaille. Construction of the Centre began in July this year. A basic structure is already in place with a large covered veranda offering stunning views across the Rift Valley floor

Each gallery room will showcase a different element of Maasai culture, weaving a story of the Maasai people through time, ending with a display that will promote debate about the future of Maasai society. The purpose of this centre will be not only to illustrate the richness of Maasai culture through time, but to interrogate the future of this culture of conservation and the landscape on which it thrives.





## Creating support for Coexistence

SORALO plays a bridging role, working with communities on the one hand and the wider conservation and donor communities on the other, in order to maintain support for coexistence between people, their livestock, and natural resources.

Creating support for coexistence takes many forms; from helping secure livelihood benefits from conservation and supporting families in times of crisis to showcasing the community coexistence story to audiences around the world through presentations and publications.

*Lale'enok: a community conservation enterprise.*

In 2019, our Lale'enok Resource Centre in Olkiramatian received a record of 225 visitors and earned significant revenues for the local conservation committee, local employees and for the owners of the centre, the Olkiramatian Reto Women's Group. Both guest numbers and revenue increased by approximately 40% from 2018. The total income to Shompole and Olkiramatian from Lale'enok in 2019 was KSH 7,054,556, which is approximately \$70,545.

### LALÉ'ENOK 2018

Visitors (Number of Individuals)	225
Total accommodation revenue (to Reto Womens group) (Kenya Shillings)	1,008,900
Conservation fees for Olkiramatian (Kenya Shillings)	713,500
Conservation fees for Shompole (Kenya Shillings)	713,500
Local employment (Kenya Shillings)	4,618,656

In addition, the Olkiramatian Reto Women's Group fulfilled its annual order of bracelets for the Cincinnati Zoo. Each year the Zoo purchase 1,000 pieces of custom-designed jewellery, which they then sell at the Zoo shop, sharing our conservation story at the same time. The order brings in 300,000 KSH (3,000 USD) directly into 200 women's pockets.







## Supporting Local Schools

For the past five years, SORALO has been proud to have been able to partner with Glenstal Abbey School from the Republic of Ireland. Through this partnership over 2,300 local school children have benefitted from new or renovated classrooms, additional latrines, computer training and of course, new friendships. In total 100 computers have been given out to the school. All of this is thanks to the fundraising efforts of the young men from Glenstal who have raised a total of just under \$94,000 over the years. In addition to raising funds, a small team of students, accompanied by two dedicated teachers from the school, come to stay at Lale'enok and spend three weeks at the school of choice for that year, and help to teach computers and sports in free lessons.

Parents and local leaders have applauded these efforts, and give thanks to SORALO for supporting this fruitful partnership. The Glenstal students themselves are quick to point out the benefits of the project for themselves. They often say that the happiness of the young Kenyans despite what appears to the Irish team to be challenging circumstances, and the welcome received from them, opens their minds and enlarges their hearts. What could be more important?



## Sharing the SORALO story – the Ghana example.

The role of Africa's rangelands - and the work of organisations such as SORALO to encourage the sustainable management of them – cannot be underestimated in achieving global targets for the preservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and sustainable development. To achieve this, TerrAfrica/ WOCAT and the World Bank have developed an essential set of guidelines for sustainable rangeland management (SRM) in sub-Saharan Africa. These guidelines provide over 100 best-practice approaches and technologies, under a variety of social systems and ecological conditions, to aid in the sustainable management of rangelands. An extensive network of collaborators across the continent have played an important part in documenting their experiences, and SORALO and many of its conservation and rangeland partners in Kenya provided vital case studies, learning experiences, and contributions to the project.

In October 2019 SORALO's Parashina Lampat and Peter Tyrrell had the opportunity to share these experiences on the international stage at the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) in Accra, Ghana.



*Presenting the SORALO story in Ghana.*



# THE INFORMATION FOR ACTION CYCLE

SORALO believes in basing conservation action on credible information.

Drawing on traditional mechanisms for information collection and sharing for decision making, we focus on making sound information a keystone for local and national decision-making. We also support rangeland monitoring efforts, which have enabled SORALO to showcase the local management systems are ecologically sensible. SORALO also uses the information collected to understand and improve our own initiatives.

To this end in 2019, through the LaLe'enok Resource Centre, SORALO:

- Collected 12 months of ecological information from the Shompole and Olkiramatian ecosystem, including the state of the rangelands, the location of settlements and the prices and sales of livestock in the local markets
- Hosted three international student groups and two Kenyan student groups
- Hosted two international master's students
- Hosted two international volunteers
- Grew our research partnership with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to include livestock related research

Not only were we able therefore to grow our local knowledge for conservation action, but continue to build a credible body of knowledge for publication and international consumption.



# PUBLICATIONS

Over the course of 2019, SORALO staff, affiliates and associated researchers published a series of important conservation papers, and gave talks and presentations based on conservation issues within the SORALO scope of work:

- Western, David, Peter Tyrrell, Peadar Brehony, Samantha Russell, Guy Western, and John Kamanga; "Conservation from the inside-out: Winning space and a place for wildlife in working landscapes." *People and Nature*. <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/pan3.10077>
- Hunter, F. D., Mitchard, E. T., Tyrrell, P., & Russell, S. (2020). Inter-Seasonal Time Series Imagery Enhances Classification Accuracy of Grazing Resource and Land Degradation Maps in a Savanna Ecosystem. *Remote Sensing*, 12(1), 198. <https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/12/1/198/htm>
- Tyrrell, P., du Toit, J. T., & Macdonald, D. W. (2020). Conservation beyond protected areas: Using vertebrate species ranges and biodiversity importance scores to inform policy for an east African country in transition. *Conservation Science and Practice*, 2(1) e136. <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/csp2.136>  
Article: <https://theconversation.com/kenyan-wildlife-policies-must-extend-beyond-protected-areas-127821>. 6500 views, reprinted in Daily Nation and Standard, Kenya's two largest newspapers.
- Johnson, Paul J., Vanessa M. Adams, Doug P. Armstrong, Sandra E. Baker, Duan Biggs, Luigi Boitani, Alayne Cotterill.. **Peter Tyrrell**. "Consequences matter: Compassion in conservation means caring for individuals, populations and species." **Animals 9, no. 12 (2019): 1115**. [mdpi.com/2076-2615/9/12/1115](https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/9/12/1115) <https://africageographic.com/stories/battle-for-the-soul-of-conservation-compassion-vs-biology/>
- Perry, L. R., Moorhouse, T. P., Loveridge, A. J., & Macdonald, D. W. (2020). The role of psychology in determining human–predator conflict across southern Kenya. *Conservation Biology*.
- Blog post: <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/whats-good-for-livestock-can-be-good-for-wildlife/>. To date it's received 2% of page views on the BES website (excluding the journals) during this time - far exceeding views on other articles on research
- Western, G., Macdonald, D. W., Loveridge, A. J., & Dickman, A. J. (2019). Creating Landscapes of Coexistence. *Conservation & Society*, 17(2), 204-217.
- Maynard, L., Jacobsen, S., Kamanga, J. 'Stakeholder collaboration: evaluating community-based conservancies in Kenya' *Oryx* (2019) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0030605318000789>. Published online by Cambridge University Press: 28 February 2019
- Lily Maynard & Susan K. Jacobson (2019) The influence of group maturity on community-based environmental management in Kenya, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 62:14, 2567-2587, DOI: 10.1080/09640568.2019.1572346
- Dickman, Amy, Paul J. Johnson, Peter Coals, Lauren A. Harrington, Peter Tyrrell, Keith Somerville, Alayne Cotterill, and David Whetham. "Wars over Wildlife: Green Militarisation and Just War Theory." (2020). <http://www.conservationandsociety.org/preprintarticle.asp?id=288121;type=0>





Can a simple act of kindness help save the planet?

As conservationists we often sit musing how to save the world from the next great environmental catastrophe. Faced with these impending doomsday scenarios our ideas are often lofty and the thought of implementing them can be daunting if not dread-inducing. A tragic story which unfolded recently that reminded me somewhere in this preoccupation with big ideas we forget to do the little things - simple acts of kindness that make us human.

In Kenya’s Southern Maasailand a shosho (grandmother) left home to collect firewood much as she did every day. By the evening she had not returned and a quick search by the family yielded no reward. The next morning brought little relief and panicked phone calls asking for help ensued. One of these calls happened to be to the SORALO director. His response was instinctual, and the question was not whether the organisation should help but how can we help. Over the following two days SORALO’s community game rangers and Kenya Wildlife Service helped the community and family comb the area. A Mara Elephant Project helicopter which is stationed an hour’s flight away joined the effort. Four days of searching would bring a sad end to the story. Old Shosho had become disoriented and fallen down a cliff in the dark. We all shared the family’s grief. Over the coming days phone calls continued to stream to thanking SORALO staff for their help.

Three days later a stormy afternoon found us at the boma of the bereaved family. We were there to pay our respects and deliver some small gifts of sugar, flour and oil, as is the Maasai custom. A sea of red shukas greeted us like lost family members with warm smiles, handshakes and hugs. Sitting under a delonix tree we sipped our tea and looked at the sun slowly sinking over the Rift Valley wall. Recent rains softening the harsh realities of life and revealing the landscapes striking beauty. Our late arrival had sent half the welcoming committee home but a handful of the 50 or so family and community remained. The outpouring of gratuity was interspersed with appeals to be part of the SORALO conservation efforts that were as palatable as they were genuine. This poignant combination caught us all slightly off guard. A community which had adamantly refused to be part of SORALO or our conservation work was now reaching out to us for support to help them start their conservation story. We are committed to honoring this request but knows what the future will bring.

Reflecting one how to support this new conservation effort Wangari Mathai’s words spring to mind “it’s the little things that we do as citizens that make a difference, my little thing is planting trees”. In sharing this story I am in my own way have echoing her statement by saying it is simple act of kindness towards people and our planet that will be our saviour.

Written by Guy Western

BUDGET SUMMARY 2019

INCOME

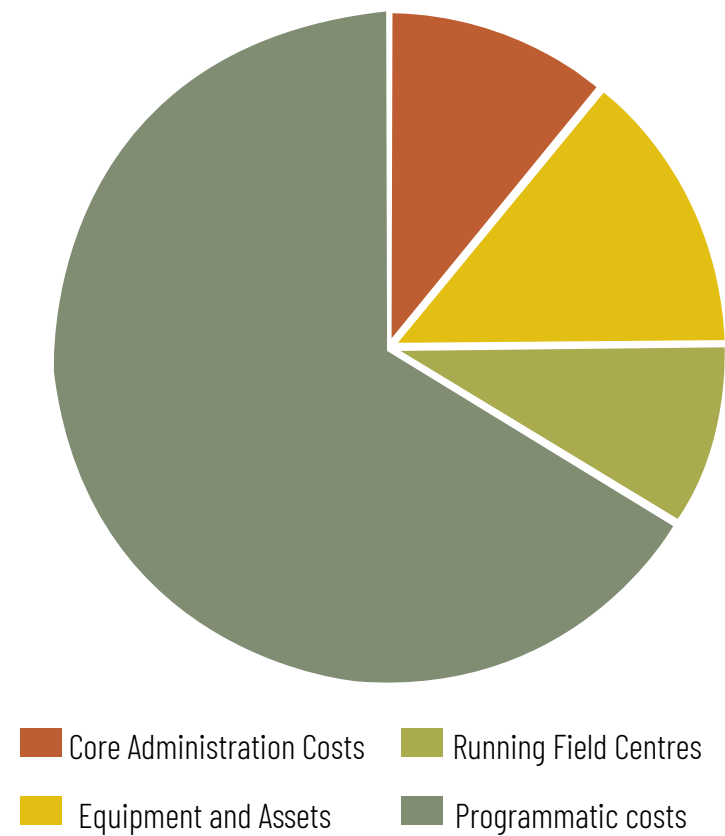
DONOR	KSH	USD
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden	7,090,000	70,900
Lion Recovery Fund	8,999,500	89,995
The Living Desert	1,275,500	12,755
Friends of SORALO	4,456,167	44,562
Institutional Canopy of Conservation (through ACC)	637,117	6,371
IUCN (Netherlands)	632,280	6,323
Leopardess Foundation	2,000,000	20,000
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	3,693,500	36,935
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	499,500	4,995
Larger Than Elephants (European Union)	1,379,277	13,792
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	1,550,000	15,500
Remembering Elephants	300,000	3,000
Remembering Lions	2,995,500	29,955
Rob Walker	2,000,000	20,000
TOTAL DONATIONS IN 2019	37,508,341	375,083
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD FROM 2018	20,767,576	207,675
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2019	58,275,917	582,759

EXPENDITURE

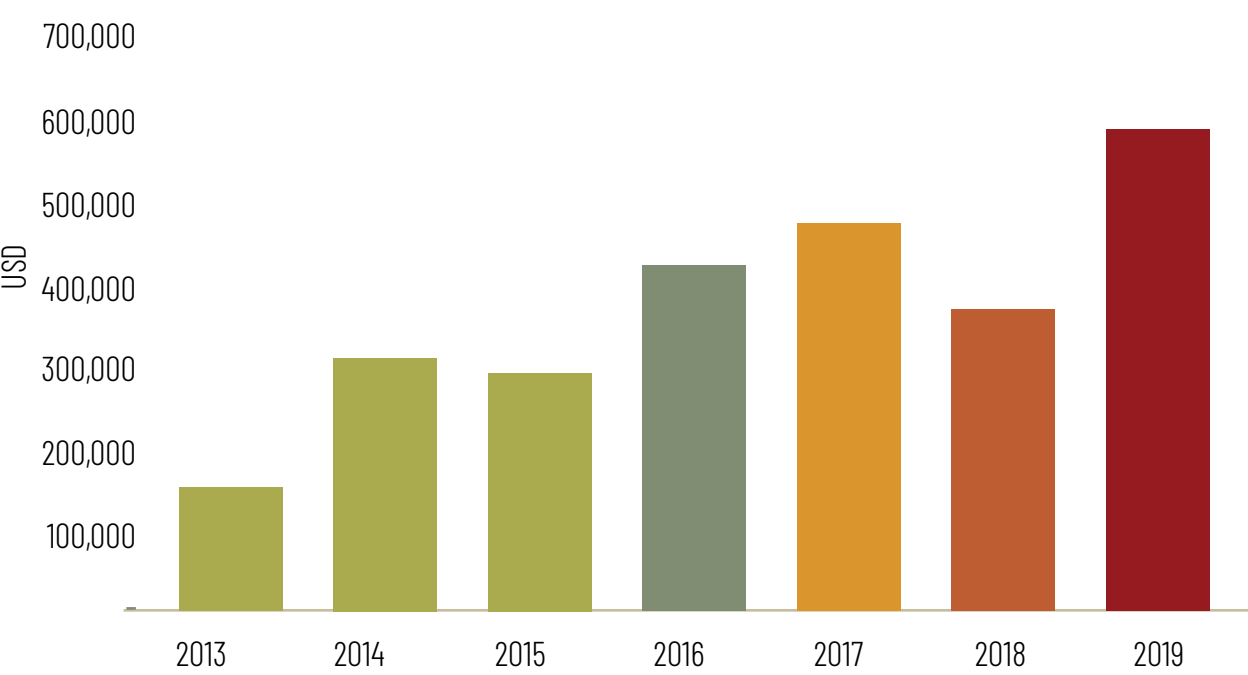
SORALO 2019 EXPENDITURE CHART (KSH)		USD	%
Core Administration Costs	5,385,000	53,850	11
Equipment and Assets	7,054,069	70,541	14
Running Field Centres	4,315,000	43,150	9
Programmatic Costs	33,275,975	332,760	67
TOTAL	50,030,044	500,300	100



SORALO Expenditure 2019



SORALO Income Growth



Partners, supporters  
and our communities  
**THANK YOU!**

First and foremost, we would like to acknowledge the **communities of the South Rift** who are dedicated to keeping their land healthy and intact, and to live alongside wildlife.

We would also like acknowledge and thank **Kenya Wildlife Service, Mara Elephant Project, Big Life, WCS, and IFAW** for their technical and on the ground support that is invaluable during times of crisis.

Finally, our work would not be possible without the support of our friends and committed donors; Greg du Toit, Rob Walker, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, the Akron Zoo, Living Desert, WildCru, IUCN, ILRI, the Leopardess Foundation and of course the African Conservation Centre. A special thank you to the Maliasili team, who keep us strong and supported as an organisation and without whom our successes would be far fewer.

**Photos by:**  
Guy Western, Samantha Russell - du Toit, Parashina Lampat, Bobby Neptune and Johann du Toit  
**cover photo** © Johann du Toit.







# SORALO

**South Rift Association of Land Owners**