

Shine Brighter Première

Shortfile 18 Human-wildlife conflict

Document 3, Extrait p.159 – Article de *ifaw.org*, 2024

Human-elephant conflict in Kenya

Elephants eat up to 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of food and drink up to 190 litres (334 pints) of water a day. As such, they need to travel over a large area to find water and forage¹. But in Kenya, natural habitat is changing due to a growing population and a changing climate. Elephant territory is increasingly broken up by farms, towns, roads, train lines, and industrial activity, like mining.

Elephants increasingly lack space and resources and more often wander into human communities. They eat or destroy crops² and damage property. Elephants may also injure people who come too close to them, as they may feel threatened.

Some of the world's most marginalised people live in areas close to elephants. They compete with elephants for land, food, water, and other natural resources. They sometimes have to encroach³ on elephant territory in search of water or firewood.

The more humans and elephants come into contact, the greater the chance of severe human-wildlife conflict occurring.

ifaw.org, 2024.

¹ food

² *cultures*

³ trespass

Kenya bans uprooting and export of baobab trees amid outcry

Kenya has banned the uprooting and export of baobab trees from coastal Kilifi County following a public outcry over the increased felling¹ of the unique species.

Baobab trees fetch around \$3,000 each for export, prompting² locals in Kilifi to uproot them in large numbers to meet the huge demand for them in the U.S.

According to the Kenya Forest Service, most of the baobab trees in the country are hundreds of years old.

Raymond Mwandsoya, a 41-year-old businessman and resident of Kilifi, told Anadolu Agency that the communities there have always been surrounded by baobab trees, with some tribes treating them as sacred trees.

Mwandsoya, who owns three acres of land in Kilifi, lamented that many people were purchasing land in areas where the baobab tree grows naturally in the wild with the intention of selling the trees.

“When it started, it was not this serious. People didn’t notice. But then the landscape started being disfigured. We also noticed so many people willing to sell their trees – some even 500 years old – to an American company. It is very sad, and we are happy that the government has stepped in³ to protect our treasures,” he added.

aa.com.tr, 2022.

¹ cutting down

² encouraging to act

³ intervened

Document 2, Extrait p.161 – Discours de Wangari MAATHAI.

“In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now.”

Wangari MAATHAI, *a Kenyan activist and Nobel Prize laureate* (1940-2011).

Document 3, Extrait p.161 – Article de Eliud KIBII, *The STAR*, 2024.

Green Belt sues state

The Green Belt Movement has sued¹ the government over an attempt to excise² 51.64 acres of Karura Forest for the construction of a dual carriageway along Kiambu Road.

Green Belt Movement, an NGO³ co-founded by Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, on December 11 filed a petition in the Environment and Land Court seeking to stop the process.

[...] GBM argues that the forest holds immense ecological, cultural, and historical value, as it serves as a crucial urban green lung⁴ for Nairobi, playing a vital role in water conservation, biodiversity preservation, and climate-change mitigation⁵.

“The 51.64-acre encroachment would lead to significant deforestation, destroying biodiversity and critical habitats within the forest. The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) conducted lacked transparency and failed to consider alternatives to minimize harm. The construction will result in increased pollution, soil erosion, and a reduction in rainwater infiltration, further exacerbating climate risks,” GBM argues in the petition.

Eliud KIBII, *The STAR*, 2024.

¹ take legal action against

² cut out

³ Non-Governmental Organisation

⁴ poumon

⁵ reduction

Document 1, Extrait p.162 – Article de Harleen SEHMI, *African Wildlife Foundation*, 2021.

Interviewing Kenyan activist Elizabeth Wathuti

How has the role of youth in conservation changed over the years?

Young people today are more vibrant than ever before, and a major shift is that youth are no longer waiting to be given a seat at the table. They are on the front line, stepping up action and pushing leaders to take more urgent action. Beyond using their voices for change, young people in communities across the world are taking up leadership roles in implementing nature-based solutions to address the climate crisis, the most challenging issue of our time. Most of my childhood memories are of time spent out in the forest, close to clean streams¹. But this natural world that my friends and I knew as children is changing before our eyes. We are now experiencing ecological grief², seeing trees we planted as kids turning into logs³ and stumps⁴. My fight as an environmentalist and a climate activist is personal because it embodies how I feel the pain of nature caused by environmental degradation. [...]

What is the biggest lesson you have taken away from the life and work of Wangari Maathai?

I remember when I planted my first tree at the age of seven, the late Professor Wangari Maathai was the Member of Parliament of Nyeri, my home region. There

¹ small rivers

² profound sadness

³ *bûches*

⁴ *souches*

were many instances of women planting trees and establishing tree nurseries, as well as tree planting activities at schools — these opportunities were a seed⁵ planted in me and fueled my passion for conservation to date. It is also the driving force behind the campaigns I head at the Wangari Maathai Foundation, established to instill the late Professor Wangari Maathai's character traits into young people and keep her legacy alive.

How can visual storytelling and photography inspire youth to become conservationists?

Photography can inspire young people to take action because an image encapsulates a real story rather than a theory. For example, much of the information about nature destruction is theoretical; reading about it is different from seeing it actually happen. Photography, as a form of visual storytelling, can bridge the gap, allowing people that live in places that are not deforested to see the impact of forest loss.

Harleen SEHMI, African Wildlife Foundation, 2021.

⁵ *graine*

Cultivating change

Investing in climate education and empowering rural women with sustainable practices can create a ripple effect¹ that benefits the environment, improves livelihoods, and strengthens communities. It is a powerful strategy for achieving sustainable development and building a more resilient² and equitable world. The advantages of teaching rural women tree planting techniques and briquette making are manifold³. These practices promote environmental conservation, improve health outcomes, provide economic opportunities, and enhance⁴ community resilience. By prioritising climate education and supporting sustainable initiatives, we can empower women to become champions of change and stewards of a sustainable future. Through their leadership and participation, rural women can drive the transition towards more sustainable and resilient communities, ensuring a better quality of life for present and future generations.

Environews Nigeria, 2024.

¹ *un effet domino*

² strong

³ varied

⁴ make something better

Évaluation de la compréhension de l'écrit – Guide pédagogique

Communities leading the future of conservation in Kenya

Across Kenya, the future of wildlife is increasingly being shaped not in protected areas, but in the communities that live alongside it.

With more than 65% of wildlife found on community and private land, conservation success depends on local stewardship, shared benefits, and inclusive decision-making. At IFAW, this understanding guides our work across key landscapes like Amboseli and Tsavo.

For me, this is not a new idea. It is a lesson I have seen reinforced throughout my career: conservation only works when it works for communities.

Early in my career as a government forest officer, I worked within a system that approached conservation through a “command-and-control” model. Decisions were made centrally, and communities were expected to comply. Local knowledge, cultural practices, and livelihoods were rarely part of the equation.

Over time, it became clear that this approach could not deliver lasting results. Forests, wildlife, and ecosystems cannot be protected without the people who live closest to them.

[...] Across Kenya, this shift is now taking shape. Community forest associations, conservancies, and local resource groups are playing a growing role in managing natural resources. But participation alone is not enough. Communities must also share in the benefits and decision-making that come with conservation.

[...] Across Kenya, I am encouraged by what I see. Communities are not only participating in conservation - they are leading it. And that is where lasting change begins.

Ben Wandago (Kenya country director for IFAW) and Edward Indakwa,

ifaw.org, 2026