



Strengthening and Scaling Community Conservation in Africa

A Learning Event | New York City, November 5, 2019

The fate of Africa’s irreplaceable wildlife and landscapes is inextricably linked to the leadership and support of the people and communities living among them. While conservation challenges are rising due to land use change, infrastructure development, and illegal wildlife trade, a new generation of inspired and talented African conservationists is rising to meet this challenge. Local organizations are developing and implementing effective, community-based solutions that protect wildlife and habitat while improving local economic opportunities from conservation. These locally-driven solutions are delivering impact on a growing scale, with community-driven conservation areas (‘conservancies’) now established across over 55 million acres of Namibia and Kenya alone.

The Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg Foundation (LCAOF), BAND Foundation, and Maliasili brought together a unique gathering to showcase some of the African conservation leaders driving this change and create an opportunity for private foundations and individual philanthropists to learn from these conservationists, and from each other.



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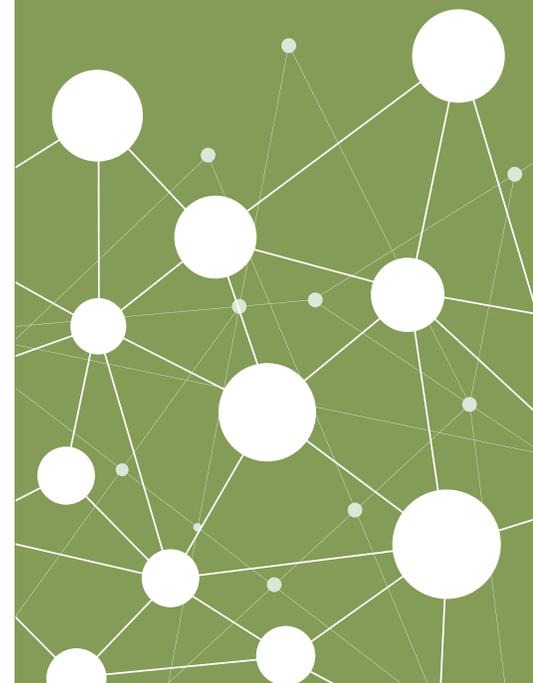
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Investing in community-based conservation through strong, well-functioning local organizations offers one of the best risk/reward opportunities for achieving durable conservation outcomes in Africa. A key challenge is to galvanize an accessible, efficient and accountable marketplace for enabling such investment at scale.”

–Nick Lapham, President, BAND Foundation



Frontlines of African Community Conservation

The heart of the event was a series of presentations and group discussion amongst a set of leading local conservationists describing their work advancing community conservation on the ground in Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia.

Leela Hazzah described how [Lion Guardians](#) has used innovative and collaborative approaches to reduce conflicts between people and lions in southern Kenya and now on a much larger scale.

John Kamanga of the South Rift Association of Landowners ([SORALO](#)) described how indigenous cultures and traditional land use practices support conservation in Kenya's Rift Valley.

Damian Bell, the founder of [Honeyguide](#) in northern Tanzania, provided a vision for a business-based approach to community-based conservation.

Daniel Sopia of the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association ([MMWCA](#)) outlined the growth and impacts of conservancies in Kenya's most important wildlife area.

Basilia Shivute of Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation ([IRDNC](#)) in Namibia provided an overview of the evolution and impacts of Namibia's communal conservancies.

All presentations from the session are available [here](#).

Scaling Impact through Funder Collaboration

In order to strengthen and scale up innovative, locally-based models of conservation, it is critical that local organizations are able to access funding that enables them to sustain and grow their work. The event also provided an opportunity to review challenges facing African conservation organizations in accessing funding- particularly from private philanthropies in the US, given the geographic, legal, and administrative barriers.

During the event funders engaged in group discussion of these common challenges in finding and supporting local African organizations. LCAOF, BAND, and Acacia Conservation Fund shared perspectives on the strategic importance of finding ways to invest in talented local organizations and for funders to collaborate in developing new funding models. **These funders introduced a new initiative in partnership with Maliasili called the Maasai Landscape Conservation Fund**, a new pooled funding venture focused on the savannahs of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania that is being designed as a new model for investing in high-impact African conservation organizations.

The fund aims to deploy \$3 million over the next three years (of which \$2.6 million has already been pledged) in an effort to accelerate the impact of community conservation models and the efforts of local organizations, in one of the world's most important landscapes for wildlife.

To learn more about the event, receive information on future learning events on African community conservation, connect with any of the organizations that presented, or explore some of the new initiatives and funder collaborations discussed, contact:

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