



Memoranda on the Narok County Wildlife Conservancies Bill, 2026

Part 1: Object and Purpose

Object and Purpose

Section 4 (d) provides as follows:

The object and purpose of this Act is to provide mechanisms for intermediate financial support for families and victims of wildlife attacks and losses:

We note that while this objective of the Bill is generally clear, it does not provide sufficient detail for implementation. In particular, the Bill should provide clarity on key issues such as: the specific wildlife species eligible for intermediate financial support, the scope of medical coverage for injured persons, and the types of property losses to be considered (for example livestock such as goats, cows, sheep, and other domestic animals). Further clarity is also needed on the timelines for processing and paying the intermediate support, as well as the mechanisms for ensuring fairness and equity in the distribution of funds.

Part 2: Administration

This part provides for the establishment of the Board.

Section 7 (1) (e) provides for four representatives of communities **nominated from each of the four clusters** listed in the 2nd Schedule and appointed by the Governor.

The establishment of the board to be known as the Narok County Wildlife Conservancies Board is a welcome step toward strengthening wildlife conservation governance in the county. However, the current provision proposing that the four cluster representatives be **nominated** from each of the four clusters raises concern among community members.

IFAW recommends allowing for free and fair elections at the grassroots level for these leadership positions, instead of nominations. Electing representatives directly from the community will ensure that local people feel included and part of the decision-making process. It will also build trust, accountability, and confidence in the leadership to represent the voices, interests, and priorities of the conservancy communities.

Community-led elections will promote transparency, ownership, and stronger cooperation between the board and the people it is meant to serve.

Part 3: Financial Provision

Section 17 : Establishment of the Fund

The establishment of a dedicated fund to be known as the Wildlife Conservancies Fund is an important provision in the Narok County Wildlife Conservancies Bill, 2026. According to the bill, the fund will be allocated and approved by the County Assembly as part of the annual budget process, **with an allocation of 0.02% of the most recently audited accounts** of the County Government.

As a community facing significant conservation challenges—including human-wildlife conflict, habitat degradation, inadequate ranger support, and limited resources for community engagement IFAW recommends for an increase in this allocation to between **3% and 5%** of the most recently audited county accounts.

1. Adequate funding is essential to:

- 1) Supporting effective management and protection of wildlife habitats and biodiversity.
- 2) Strengthening ranger operations, including equipment, training, and security.
- 3) Providing timely intermediate financial support for families and victims of wildlife attacks and losses
- 4) Promoting community conservation education and participation.
- 5) Supporting sustainable livelihoods that reduce pressure on natural resources.
- 6) Enhancing tourism potential and economic benefits for local communities and the county.

2. Risks of underfunding:

- a) Increased human-wildlife conflict due to inadequate mitigation measures.
- b) Continued degradation and loss of critical wildlife habitats.
- c) Weak enforcement against illegal activities such as poaching and encroachment.
- d) Reduced community trust and willingness to support conservation efforts.
- e) Missed economic opportunities from tourism and conservation partnerships.
- f) Inability of conservancies to achieve their intended environmental and social impact.

Second Schedule – List of Clusters

a) Eastern Cluster – This cluster is very large, with significant potential for conservancy development. Key areas include Loita Forest, Loita Hills, Elangata Enterit, Ilkerin Plains dispersal area, and Enkutoto. Generally, the Mara-East region holds strong potential for conservancy creation. Naikarra serves as a vital wildlife corridor connecting the Mara and Loita Forest.

b) Central Cluster – This cluster comprises half of Siana Ward and half of Mara Ward. Although geographically small, it generates substantial revenue through hotels and donations.

c) Western Cluster – This cluster is geographically vast, which makes representation challenging. Resource sharing is also difficult due to its size.

Recommendations – Proposed New Clusters

1. Loita and former Naroosura Ward – **Cluster 1**
2. Naikarra and former Maji Moto Ward – **Cluster 2**
3. Siana and Mara Ward – **Cluster 3**
4. Lolgorian and Kimintet Ward – **Cluster 4**
5. Suswa, Mosiro, and Ildamat Ward – **Cluster 5**

Currently, each cluster is represented by only one person. It is recommended that the number is increased to **at least two representatives per cluster** to ensure effective and efficient service delivery to the community.