



**ENONKISHU
CONSERVANCY**
LAND • PEOPLE • WILDLIFE

ENONKISHU CONSERVANCY

Location: Kenya
Wilder Rangelands Case Study

*Rangelands Working Group,
Global Rewilding Alliance*

Table of contents

OVERVIEW	03
APPROACH: WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY	04
OUTCOMES & IMPACT	06
PART OF A LARGER EFFORT	07



Leopard with livestock. Photo Credit: Enonkishu Conservancy



Overview

The Global Rewilding Alliance has convened Alliance Partners — including Enonkishu Conservancy — and cross-sector experts through its Rangelands Working Group to launch the Rewilding Rangelands Initiative: a coordinated effort to restore ecological function and foster coexistence across the world's rangelands.

Enonkishu Conservancy sits on **community-owned land** on the northern edge of **the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, a key wildlife corridor and unique rangeland.**

Over the course of years, grazing by livestock combined with land subdivision led to soil degradation, reduced grass cover, and habitat loss.

To sustain both pastoralist livelihoods and wildlife, a new model was needed.



Photo credit: Enonkishu Conservancy

Enonkishu's model blends grassland restoration, livestock management, cultural heritage, and economic opportunity through a holistic strategy.



APPROACH:

Wildlife Conservancy

Regenerative Grazing & Holistic Management

The conservancy uses holistic management to guide all decisions, balancing people, profit, and planet. Grazing is planned adaptively as livestock is moved through different blocks of land to **prevent overuse and allow vegetation to recover**.

Mobile predator-proof bomas (livestock enclosures) are used and moved regularly, mimicking natural herd patterns and enhancing soil fertility, grass regrowth, and biodiversity.

Tools for Land Recovery

Additional **dams and erosion control measures** support grass growth and distribution of grazing pressure. The regular monitoring of vegetation, livestock, and wildlife informs grazing decisions and helps track land health improvements.

“Herds for Growth” Programme

Rather than reducing livestock entirely, the Enonkishu model uses **cattle as a tool for regenerating grasslands** by encouraging carefully managed herd movements that break soil crusts and promote dung distribution. The programme improves cattle breeding, husbandry, and grazing practices which increases herd health while reducing overgrazing pressure.



Photo credit: Enonkishu Conservancy



APPROACH: Wildlife Conservancy

Working With Local Communities

Community engagement is central to the model. **Maasai landowners** lease their land collectively and participate in governance, creating **shared ownership of the conservation vision**. Through sustainable livestock enterprises (e.g., Mara Beef) and eco-tourism partnerships, community members benefit from income that **rewards restoration, not exploitation**.

Furthermore, to equip community members with skills to manage land and enterprise sustainably, the **Mara Training Centre** provides practical courses on sustainable rangeland management, livestock husbandry, monitoring, leadership, and governance.



Photo credit: Enonkishu Conservancy



Outcomes & Impact

- Carefully **managed grazing** has improved grass cover and soil health, reversing degradation trends.
- As habitats recover, **herbivores and predators are increasingly present**, showing healthier ecosystem function.
- Enhanced livestock health and **diversified income streams** (beef, tourism, training) support sustainable community development.
- Enonkishu demonstrates the importance of the **Wildlife Conservancies** as:
 - They protect the land in between protected areas, **creating corridors and networks** that allow more movement of species.
 - They are **community-owned or co-managed** which gives communities agency and enhances livelihoods. This also allows these models to be cost-effective and flexible.
 - They restore degraded land and enhance **human-wildlife coexistence**.

Without Wildlife Conservancies, land would be subdivided, fenced and turned into intensive agriculture.

Enonkishu Conservancy showcases that **degraded rangelands can be regenerated at landscape scale** when pastoralist knowledge and nature restoration science are combined under community leadership. This model advances sustainable **coexistence** between people, livestock, and wildlife, offering an inspiration for rangeland restoration globally.

A [peer-reviewed study](#) confirms this impact, finding that Enonkishu has delivered strong conservation outcomes such as preventing farmland encroachment and sustaining healthy rangeland and wildlife populations, while developing inclusive governance that balances conservation with the needs of Maasai communities.

Read more about them [here](#).



Part of a larger effort

These case studies are part of the the **Rewilding Rangelands Initiative** — a collaborative effort to restore ecological functionality and uplift coexistence across rangelands through coordinated action across disciplines, sectors, and geographies.

A growing coalition of the Global Rewilding Alliance, Alliance Partners and experts have joined the Rangelands Working Group.

Explore other [case studies](#) and learn more about the [Initiative](#).

ABOUT THE GLOBAL REWILDING ALLIANCE

The Global Rewilding Alliance is a worldwide organisation catalysing the rewilding movement by bringing together an active network of over 290 partners, working on every continent to help nature heal herself and secure a thriving future for people, nature and planet.

Our mission is to mainstream rewilding in science, policy and practice.

The core support of our Global Rewilding [Champions](#) is enabling us to build the hopeful, growing, global rewilding movement.



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