Direct Payments As A Mechanism For Ecosystem Level Conservation

The Kitengela Wildlife Conservation Lease Program
**Impacts On The Wildlife System**

- Blockage and disruption of important migration routes
- Habitat fragmentation and declining access to critical resources
- Declining nos. of wildlife, changes in traditional distribution patterns
- Reported increase in poaching
- Increasing human-wildlife conflicts

**Objectives Of The Wildlife Lease Program**

- Aims to provide a financial incentive to encourage land owners south of the park to allow wildlife unrestricted access to their land.
- Started in April 2000, initially with 214 acres, in 2001 grew to 2,708 and in April 2002 was at 7,000 acres. 14,000 acres are wait listed

**Key Steps Taken Before Land Is Put Under Lease**

- Confirmed to be within critical wildlife area
- Titles checked to verify ownership
- Physical verification and measurement of effective conservation land
Implementation Of WLP

- Payment US$ 4 per acre per year
- 5% base annual inflation
- Paid in 3 installments at beginning of school term for fees.
- Consolation scheme to reduce lion-livestock conflict with adjacent park has been instituted
- The Wildlife Foundation monitors & enforces

Lessons From The Lease Program

- Strong link between direct financial payment and conservation
- Timing of payment has yielded high social benefits
- Modest fee plus livestock earnings strong disincentives for farming
- Important role of champions & key individuals in community
- Value of strong ecological & social economic data in directing program

Land Under Lease

![Graph showing land under lease from 2000 to 2004 with an asterisked note indicating acres wait listed.](image)
Challenges To The Program

• Rampant land sales in the Kitengela, especially along Nairobi Namanga road.
• Increasing per acre land prices
• Current lease agreements on annual basis
• Lack of funding to support the program on long-term basis

Key Partners

• The Wildlife Foundation (TWF)
• Friends of Nairobi National Park (FoNNaP)
• African Wildlife Foundation (AWF)
• African Conservation Center (ACC)
• International Livestock and Research Institute (ILRI)
• Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)
• International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

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