

COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

WESTGATE CONSERVANCY - SAMBURU COUNTY

QUARTERLY REPORT (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022)



SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the efforts and achievements of the Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) in Westgate Conservancy, Samburu East, during the period July to September 2022. During this period, **the project managed to attend to 186 animals**. Of these cases, 165 dogs, 15 cats, 2 donkeys, 3 goats and 1 camel were attended to. The case type distribution comprised of: 109 vaccinations, 66 clinical treatments and 11 emergency interventions.

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, Ewaso Lions, Animal Care Centre, Vet in Wild, County Government of Samburu and other conservation partners started conducting annual mass rabies vaccinations targeting domestic dogs and cats. These efforts were aimed towards protecting wildlife (African wild dogs and other wild carnivores from contracting rabies and distemper) and by extension working towards contributing to the national goal of elimination of dog mediated human rabies by 2030. These were mainly one-off campaigns and therefore not sustainable. With the goodwill from the County Government of Samburu, the Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) was formed in a bid to bring veterinary services closer to the communities. Additionally, CAHI has the aim to reduce the burden of canine diseases of zoonotic importance that can also have a negative impact on endangered wildlife populations.

The programme began operations in October 2021 and is run by a Kenya Veterinary Board registered veterinary surgeon and an assistant from the Samburu community. For the first three years, CAHI will focus in Westgate Conservancy with the aim to expand to other areas based on demand for the services and availability of funds.

CAHI has 4 main objectives:

- (i) Managing rabies and canine distemper diseases in domestic carnivore populations through vaccinations and domestic carnivores' population control
- (ii) Disease surveillance and monitoring (focusing on canine distemper and rabies)
- (iii) Emergency treatments of animals attacked by wild animals
- (iv) Education and awareness programmes to communities in order to reduce burden of disease and improve responsible domestic animal ownership and welfare.

This report provides highlights and achievements of the Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) for the period of July to September 2022.

OVERALL IMPACT (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022)

The overall impact during this period is as follows:

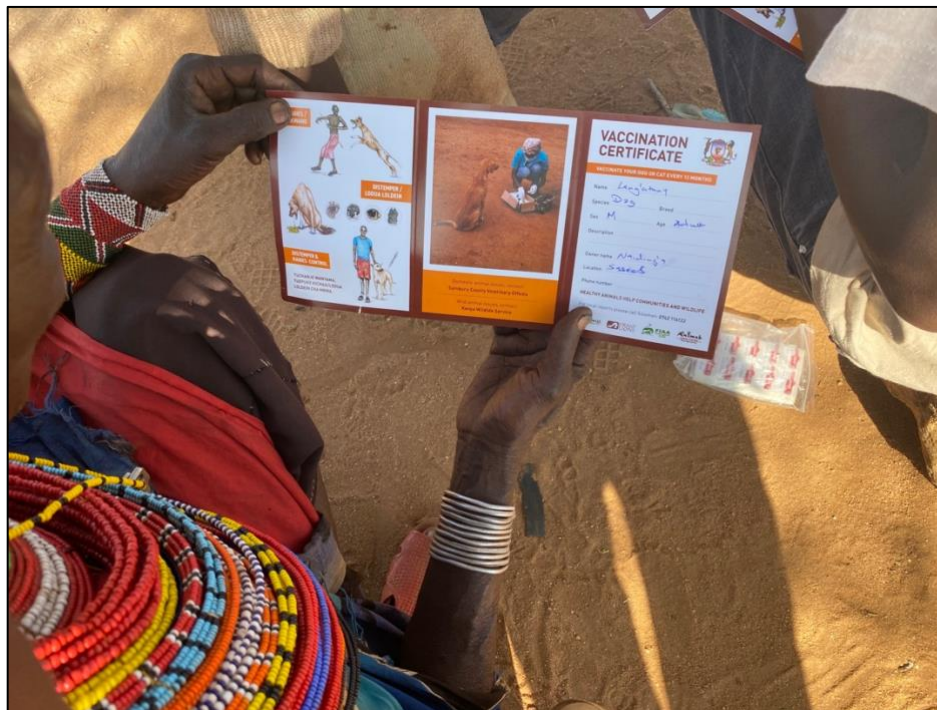
186 animals attended to	109 animal vaccinations administered	11 emergency treatments attended to
165 dogs treated	66 clinical treatment cases	23 canine distemper management cases attended to
15 cats treated	1 case of transmissible venereal tumor management	2 donkeys, 1 goat and 1 dog in wild/ domestic animal conflict attended to
2 donkeys treated	24 deworming procedures	1 camel attended in wild/ domestic animal conflict

VACCINATIONS

One of the objectives of CAHI is providing sustained vaccinations against rabies and canine distemper virus diseases in domestic dogs and rabies and cat flu in domestic cats; for public health benefits and preventing disease spillover to endangered wildlife species.

A total of 109 animals were vaccinated during the period July-September 2022.

Species	Males	Females	Total
Dogs	66	29	95
Cats	9	5	14



An animal owner holds her dog's vaccination certificate

CLINICAL CASES AND EMERGENCY TREATMENT

Sixty-six (66) clinical treatments and eleven (11) emergency treatments were handled during the period July-September 2022. We have a responsibility to attend to domestic animals injured by wild animals as a way of responding to conflicts and promoting coexistence between communities and wildlife. **A total of 11 animals (5 dogs, 3 goats, 2 donkeys and 1 camel) with medical emergencies were attended to.**

Species	Cause of Injury	Number
Dogs (5 in total)	Dog bite (suspected rabid)	3
	Snake/scorpion bite	1
	Suspected poisoning	1
Goat (3 in total)	Wild dogs attack	1
	Snake bite	1

	Puncture wound	1
Donkey (2 in total)	Hyena attack	1
	Snake bite	1
Camel (1 in total)	Lion attack	1



Solomon Lenasalia, Kura's Pride Officer, carries medical supplies across the river as we attend an injured camel

Species	Reason for Treatment	Number
Cat (1 in total)	Squamous cell carcinoma	1
Dogs (41 in total)	Deworming	24
	Ectoparasite control	16
	Otitis	1
Disease		Number of dogs treated
Canine Distemper cases		23
Transmissible Venereal Tumor		1



Mberus receiving medical attention after being bitten by a snake

CONCLUSIONS

1. The project managed to attend to 186 animals between July-September 2022. Of these cases, 165 dogs, 15 cats, 3 goats, 2 donkeys and 1 camel were attended to.
2. The case type distribution comprised of: 58.6% vaccinations, 35.5% clinical cases and 5.9% emergency interventions.

(See Appendix 1: Map showing all efforts).

NEXT STEPS

1. The programme will invest more in disease surveillance (Rabies, Canine Distemper, and Transmissible Venereal Tumor) and community awareness.
2. The focus will be within Westgate Community for the next three years (between 2021-2023).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the County Government of Samburu and more specifically Dr Lekinit, County Director of Veterinary Services and his team, for their unwavering support of this initiative. Many thanks to the Westgate Conservancy and all communities for the support and acceptance of this project. We thank our supporters who fund this critical work. All parties who made this possible are gratefully appreciated.

Appendix 1: Map showing all efforts (vaccinations, clinical interventions, emergency intervention and population control procedures)

