

COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

QUARTERLY REPORT (OCT-DEC 2021)

WESTGATE CONSERVANCY - SAMBURU COUNTY



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the efforts and achievements of the Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) in Westgate Conservancy, Samburu East, since it began operations in October 2021. During the period (Oct-Dec 2021), the project managed to attend to 263 animals (dogs 67.6%, camels 25%, cats 5.3%, donkeys 1%, goats 0.7% and sheep 0.4%). Different cases were handled, including clinical cases (13.7%), population control (35.7%) and vaccinations (50.6%).

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, Ewaso Lions, Animal Care Centre, Vetinwild, 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 three partners (Ewaso Lions, Animal Care Centre and Vetinwild) initiated a Community Animal Health Initiative (CAHI) 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 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 1 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 and (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 Oct-Dec 2021. From the onset it is important to note that without the support of the County Government of Samburu through the able leadership of the Governor and the County Director of Veterinary Services, we would not have achieved this within a very short time.

OVERALL IMPACT (OCT-DEC 2021)

The overall impact during this period since the programme began operations is as follows:

A total of 233 animals attended to	A total of 133 animals vaccinated	94 cases of population control measures (93 castrations and 1 spay)
36 clinical cases attended to	178 dogs attended to	65 camels handled
14 cats attended to	3 donkeys attended to	2 Goats and 1 sheep attended to
54 cases attended to after suspected rabid dog bites	199 homesteads visited	4 cases attended to due to 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. Camels are not a primary target for vaccinations, but they received rabies vaccinations after being bitten by suspected rabid dogs or camels.

A total of 133 animals were vaccinated during the period Oct-Dec 2021. Out of this, 70 (52.6%) were dogs, 10 (7.5%) cats and 53 (39.9%) camels. Vaccination effort map is in Appendix 1.

Species	Males	Females	Total
Dogs	42	28	70
Cats	4	6	10
Camels	13	40	53



Vaccinating dogs in Westgate

DOG POPULATION CONTROL

Domestic dog population control has been shown to be effective as a means of rabies control. However, this cannot be done without consultations and consent from the communities. During earlier rabies vaccination campaigns, we collected data through questionnaires on whether communities required any domestic dog population control. Majority of the respondents answered yes and dog population control (spay or castration) was only done after owner's consent to the population. Communities have been performing dog population control through crude methods eg use of rubber ring and detergents and human hormones to control dog population, so this programme brought in scientifically proven humane methods keeping the welfare of the animal first.

During the period (Oct-Dec 2021), a total of 94 animals were sterilized (89 dogs and 4 cats castrated and 1 dog spayed) upon request and consent from the dog owners. 86/94 (91.4) castrated were above 1 year old and the rest 8.9% between 6-12 months old. A map showing dog population efforts is in appendix 2.



Neutering a dog

CLINICAL CASES/TREATMENT

Thirty-six (36) clinical cases were handled during the period Oct-Dec 2021, accounting for 13.7%. The main focus of CAHI is not to focus on animal treatments but we have a responsibility to attend to domestic animals injured by wild animals as a way of responding to conflicts. A total of 36 animals (12 camels, 18 dogs, 3 donkeys, 2 goats and 1 sheep) were attended to. Clinical interventions map is in appendix 3.

12 camels treated

Reason	Cases
Lion attack injuries	5
Dog bite injuries	6
Donkey bite injuries	1
Total	12

18 dogs treated

Reason	Cases
Coughing	5
Dog bites injuries	6
Incoordination	1
Mango worms	12
Lethargy	5
Venereal tumour	1
Total	18

2 goats treated

Reason	Cases
Diarrhea	1
Dog bite injuries	1
Total	2

3 donkeys

Reason	Cases
Hyena bite injuries	3
Total	3

1 sheep

Reason	Cases
Lethargy	1
Total	1



Treating a camel that was attacked by a lion

CONCLUSIONS

1. Within the first three months of CAHI operations, great strides have been made as we achieved the following: a total of 263 animals attended to (dogs 67.6%, camels 25%, cats 5.3%, donkeys 1%, goats 0.7% and sheep 0.4%).
2. A total of 133 animals were vaccinated; 70 dogs (rabies and canine distemper disease); 53 camels (rabies) and 10 cats (rabies and cat flu).
3. 94 animals were sterilized (89 dogs and 4 cats castrated and 1 dog spayed).
4. 36 animals had emergency treatments due to conflict or rabid animals attack injuries

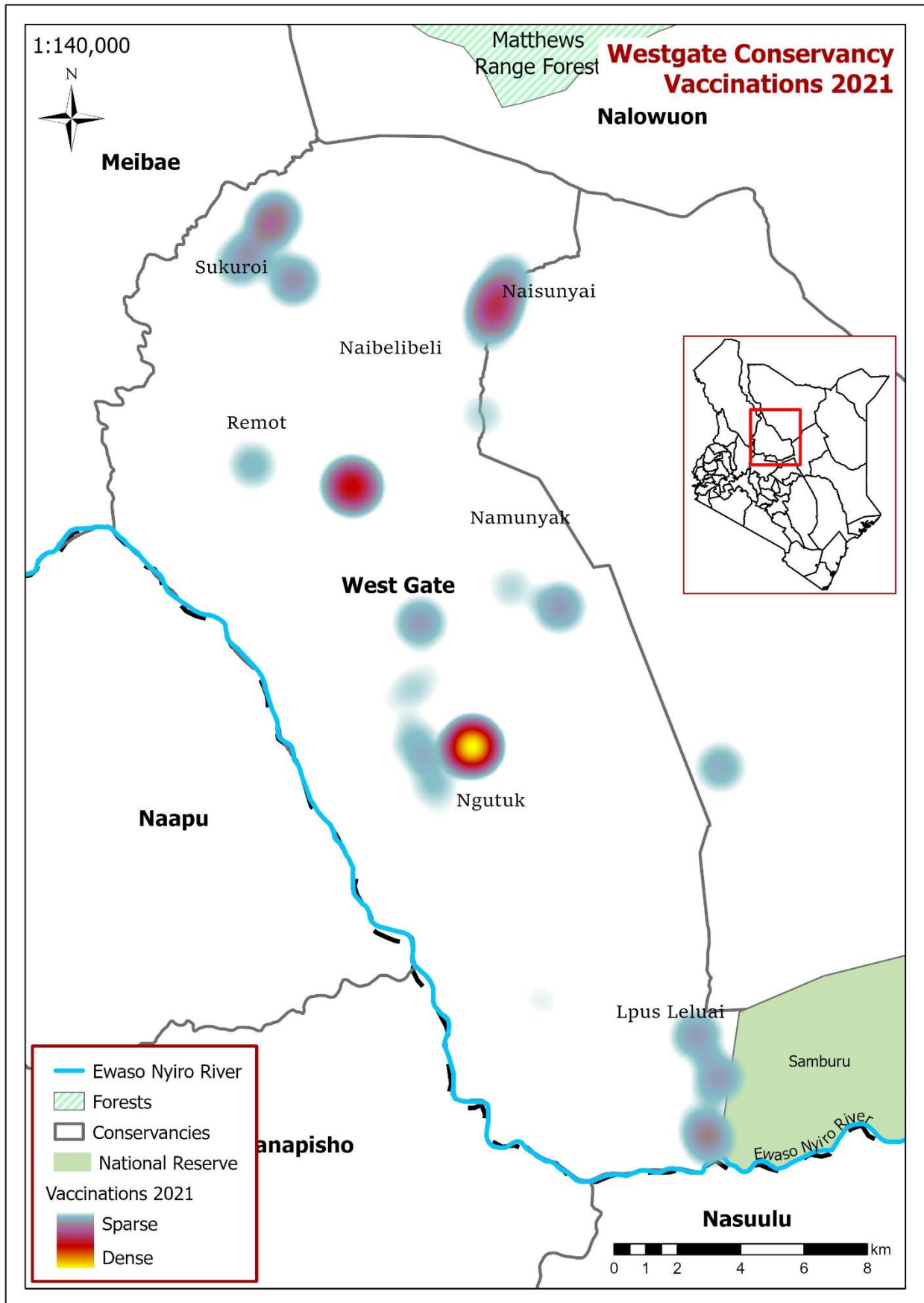
NEXT STEPS

1. CAHI programme will invest more in canine disease surveillance (rabies, canine distemper and transmissible venereal tumour) and community education and awareness.
2. The focus will be within Westgate Conservancy for the next three years (2021-2024), unless there is urgent needs from other areas (dependent on funding).

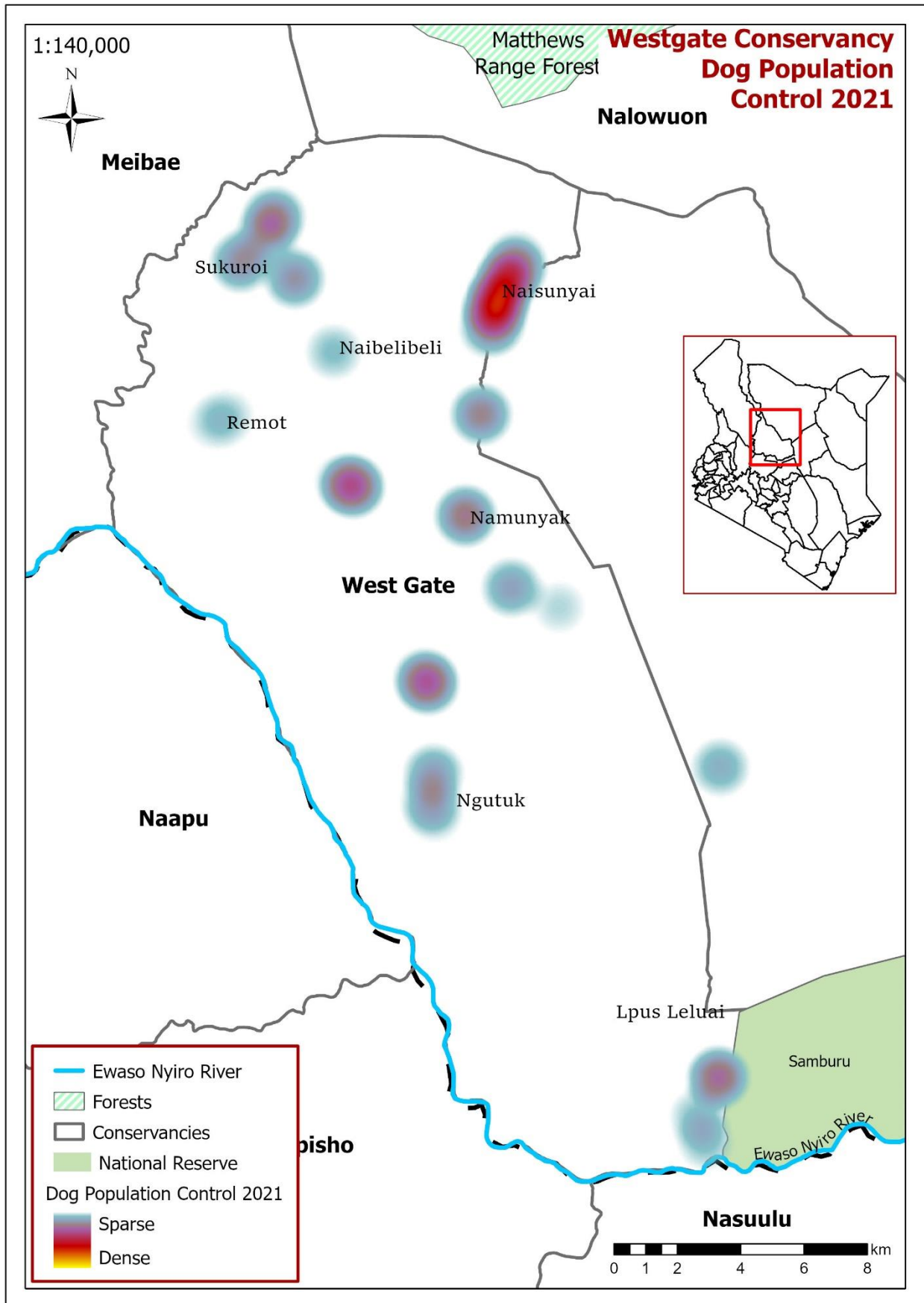
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1: Map of CAHI vaccination efforts Oct-Dec 2021



Appendix 2: Map of CAHI Dog Population efforts Oct-Dec 2021



Appendix 3: Map of CAHI Clinical interventions efforts Oct-Dec 2021

