

Project Title: Wildlife Conservation in Kenya

2021 - 2022 Branch Statement from IDEAS For Us:

With the success of our Florida based environmental programming, IDEAS for Us is seeking funding to expand our work by supporting a branch in Kenya. This branch will serve to develop sustainable solutions to the climate crisis through educating the community and creating environmental action projects to engage them. Since the early 2000s, IDEAS for Us has expanded its impact to 8 different countries with the help of the international branch leaders that have been developing extensive environmental programming, cultivating global partnerships, and creating detailed budgets to further their investments in their communities upon the aid of donations. These branches have found great success, implementing projects that provide clean water, fresh food, medical treatment and resources to their communities while also improving the ecological health of the surrounding ecosystems. IDEAS For Us seeks to empower community organizers in Kenya to lead innovative environmental development that truly makes a life-changing difference towards the members of the community, advancing sustainability, and slowing the climate crisis.

The focus area of IDEAS For Us are energy, water, food, waste, and ecology. All of the goals and objectives listed below describe how the leaders of IDEAS for Us Kenya will engage their community to create environmental programming that works towards improving sustainability in these focus areas. These projects aim to bring sustainable solutions to satisfy the environmental and humanitarian needs faced globally.

Summary:

[IDEAS For Us \(IDEAS\)](#) is an Orlando-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and accredited NGO of the United Nations. Our mission is to develop, fund, and scale solutions to the world's most pressing environmental and social challenges through our branches around the world. IDEAS for Us is seeking funding to support a conservation project through our branch in Kenya. This project will serve to develop long term sustainable solutions to the climate crisis by protecting elephants, cultivating pollinators, and providing organic honey to rural communities. The designated leaders in Kenya are also involved in [WildNow Foundation](#), a youth led conservation organization with programming in Kenya focusing on elephant conservation. In a partnership with WildNow, IDEAS for Us Kenya is seeking to implement an elephant and pollinator conservation project. By strategically placing Langstroth honey bee hives, elephants will be deterred from that location and therefore avoid dangerous areas (read more about this in [recent research](#)). Their beehives will serve to keep the elephants in protected areas while also making fresh honey for local communities and cultivate more pollinators for farms and gardens. The project will not only prove significant for the elephant

populations, but also for local food production, as pollinators work to create healthier crops, therefore reducing food insecurity. By adding the Langstroth beehives to farms and other communities in Kenya, the project aims to create a healthier and working environment for humans and elephants alike. Humans can benefit from this project as the beehives will protect their crops from elephants while producing a natural and profitable source of honey for the community. This honey is highly sought after and can be exchanged and sold, which in turn brings economic empowerment to those involved. The honey also brings empowerment to the youth of the communities involved. By engaging the youth in sustainable and eco-friendly business practices we can set them up for a bright future of economic development, unity, and knowledge of wildlife conservation. The elephants will benefit from the program as it will lead to less human-elephant conflicts. Farmers will no longer need to endanger themselves and the elephants when protecting their crops from them. Elephants will also be deterred from areas that are typically high in poaching. Preventing human-elephant conflict is another crucial step to protecting one of the few megafauna left here on Earth.

Problem:

Kenya, a nation located on the Eastern side of Africa, has one of the largest populations of Elephants in the world. Sadly, with a high elephant population also comes poaching. The poaching of elephants is a conservation problem, and it will lead to the extinction of the species if the proper measures are not taken to ensure its survival. In addition to poaching, humans and elephants typically run into conflicts due to the elephants eating the crops of many farmers in small communities. In this situation, the elephants are trying to eat and the farmers are trying to protect their crop, so it is easy to see where the problem arises. In addition to this, Kenya's poor crop yield and historic unhealthy agricultural practices make farming in the region already very difficult. This, when compounded with elephants eating the healthy crops that they do have, creates a problem that needs to be addressed for the survival of both human and elephant communities in the area.

Bees are also intrinsic to the agricultural development of Kenya. Bees act as natural pollinators, pollinating the local flora and crops that communities and farmers live off. Without the bees, Kenya's agriculture will suffer from the lack of pollination. Bees also act as a "scarecrow" for the elephants. It has been shown that elephants don't like the sound of bees and often retreat once they hear the sound of them. Keeping bee populations high is intrinsic to the agricultural development of Kenya as well as elephant conservation in the region.

By tethering the problems of elephant conservation and struggling bee populations along with poor crop yield and unhealthy agricultural practices, we can develop a solution that effectively solves all of the problems at once.

Solution:

Overall project goal: Provide local sustainable solutions to human wildlife conflict that will improve the ecological health of Kenya.

By combining the issues presented by Kenyans about agriculture, bees, and elephants, we can successfully develop a solution to mitigate these problems. The solution that best solves both problems is to implement a system of interconnected Langstroth beehives that surround the farmer's crops. By surrounding the crops with a system of interconnected Langstroth beehives, we can effectively deter elephants from interfering with the people's crops. It has been shown that elephants are deterred from the sound of beehives, and the solution uses this to its advantage. When an elephant stumbles into an area surrounded by the system of hives, it triggers the beehives to shake, therefore releasing the bees into the area where the elephants are. Elephants are scared of these

beehives because often the bees will target the elephants trunk and ocular regions, leaving them in immense pain. The system of beehives can also be used to deter elephants from areas that are high in poaching. By deterring the elephants from these hotspots, we can protect them from the poachers that bring down their population levels. The bees will also provide more pollination for the farmer's crops. Bees are natural pollinators, and the effect that they can have on agriculture would be great in terms of overall crop yield.

In all, the beehives are important to the survival of both the elephants and humans. The bees deter elephants from crops and other areas where they could run into human-elephant conflict, effectively reducing the number of potential harmful situations that elephants can find themselves in. The honey is also highly lucrative for the farmers and communities alike as it provides a sense of economic empowerment for those involved. The honey produced in these hives is rich and highly lucrative for the farmers. So, not only will the implementation of Langstroth beehives benefit the elephants and farmers, but the honey that it provides will fuel economic growth for generations to come in Kenya.

Proposal Objectives and Goals:

- Support long term conservation solutions in Kenya.
- Implement Beekeeping programs to direct the Elephants from harm and cultivate pollinators.
- Empower established organizers in Kenya to lead and mobilize other leaders for the environmental movement through WildNow and IDEAS for Us.
- Community empowerment in Meru County
- Sustainability of the bee keeping initiative for the community affected by human wildlife conflict
- To increase productivity of crops in the State by providing honey bees to the farmers for pollination.
- To maintain ecological balance in nature by way of domestication of honey bee species.
- Provide the branch with the funding to advance their community.
 - Fund the WildNow organizers with a start up solutions fund of \$15,000 to purchase supplies needed for the project implementation and educational aspect (more detail in the budget).
 - Track their progress in environmental and humanitarian activities through metrics collecting and frequent meetings.
 - Share their story online through WildNow and IDEAS For Us media and marketing department.
 - Ensure on-going environmental action with support from International Director in training and leadership skills.
 - Provide full reports on the success of a minimum of 5 projects in one calendar year.

Desired Outcomes:

- Cultivate sustainable practices through the educational events that take place when educating the community on wildlife conservation.
- Save hundreds of elephants from being killed yearly, serving to keep high levels of biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- Decrease the number of elephant poachings in Kenya.

- Advance long term conservation efforts around the world by helping people organize for environmental action.
- Provide local communities with a sustainable source of organic honey.
- Improve agricultural productivity by improving the number of pollinators active in the ecosystem.
- Stimulate the economy by increasing the level of income to the communities and groups involved, by providing a market for honey selling.
- Provide capacity building to the youths and community groups by providing; support for establishments, technical, and financial management of Beekeeping.
- Nurture a culture of conservation through environmental education.
- Through our engagement with the youth through training, capacity building and production honey, the youths become occupied with economic development and hence reduces crime levels and teenage pregnancy in our youth. Our partnership and activities also builds community spirit and unity with wildlife conservation.

Work Plan:

- Determine the optimal elephant conservation regions in the following counties; Meru County, Narok County, Isiolo County, and map out an area to restrict the elephant roaming area and guide them away from cities and dangerous areas.
- Construct Langstroth Bee Hive along the restricted area and place a wire between them, forming a fence.
 - Post the beehives 8 meters apart from one another.
 - Form a wire barrier between the bee hives

Impact of the project to the community:

Economic Empowerment - This project will increase the level of income to the communities and groups involved, by providing a market for honey selling.

- Community Capacity Building - Our project will provide capacity building to the youths and community groups by providing; support for establishments, technical, and financial management of Beekeeping.
- Environmental Awareness - Nurturing a culture of conservation.
- Social Benefit and National Pride - Through our engagement with the youth through training, capacity building and production honey, the youths become occupied with economic development and hence reduces crime levels and teenage pregnancy in our youth. Our partnership and activities also builds community spirit and unity with wildlife conservation.