

LOLLDAIGA CONSERVANCY

STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED ELEPHANT FENCE ON LOLLDAIGA VALLEY (LV)

Lolldaiga Conservancy is a 45,520-acre wildlife conservancy located in Laikipia County that is committed to biodiversity conservation and having a positive impact in its local community. Lolldaiga Conservancy is wholly owned by a Kenyan-registered charitable trust, overseen by a board of trustees.

Our Commitment to Addressing Human-Wildlife Conflict and Promoting Coexistence:

As part of our commitment to having a positive impact in our wider community, Lolldaiga Conservancy is committed to promoting coexistence between people and wildlife in the areas around the conservancy. As Laikipia becomes more densely settled and the available habitat for wildlife shrinks and becomes more fragmented, finding ways to coexist with wildlife becomes more and more challenging. Human-wildlife conflict is a symptom of these wider trends. Since wildlife is a public good in Kenya, managing conflict and promoting coexistence involves the collaboration of many different stakeholders, and we support a broad and inclusive approach to these challenges. A key ongoing challenge is conflict between people and elephants in the community south of the Timau River, where elephants are having a big impact on farmers and their livelihoods. While Lolldaiga Conservancy does not directly border these farming communities, we see them as an important partner in our work and are providing direct support to mitigate conflict incidences. We are making efforts to reduce opportunity for elephants to access farms, are dedicating staff, vehicles, and other resources to mitigating incidences of human-wildlife conflict, including night patrols, pushing elephants out of farms, and ensuring regular engagement with the impacted farmers.

The Elephant Fence on Lolldaiga Valley

One proposed solution that might help mitigate some of this conflict is the proposed construction of an elephant fence by Lolldaiga Valley, a property to the south of Lolldaiga Conservancy that borders the farming areas and through which elephants sometimes access the farms. Lolldaiga Valley is completely separate from Lolldaiga Conservancy and the proposed fence is their project. We are aware that the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) gave initial approval for construction of an elephant fence north of the Timau River on Lolldaiga Valley land, and this is subsequently being reviewed in the National Environmental Tribunal. As this process unfolds, it is critical for all stakeholders to find ways to mitigate ongoing human-elephant conflict in the farms in the area.

Lolldaiga Conservancy does NOT own Lolldaiga Valley

Lolldaiga Valley is 3,750 acres of land to the south of Lolldaiga Conservancy. This land was formerly part of Lolldaiga Conservancy but was sold to Lolldaiga Valley by way of a 99-year lease, which under Kenyan law is title to land. Lolldaiga Conservancy does not own, control, or have any directorship or shareholding in Lolldaiga Valley or any of its proposed initiatives.

All matters related to Lolldaiga Valley and the proposed fence construction should be directed to them through the contacts available on their website: www.lolldaigavalley.com