



ECO – TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

**(With special reference to Amboseli National Park-
Republic of Kenya)**

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Introduction & Background

Kenya is the Africa of everyone's dream. The country has broad horizons, wide spaces with a tropical moderated climate friendly people

**and above all, the chance to view
an abundance of wildlife in their
natural habitat, beautiful
heartlands and culture of the
Maasai people.**

Conservation Area

However, these protected area systems are facing immense challenges and have been reduced to ecological islands and, Amboseli Park is no exceptional.

Location map



KENYA
WILDLIFE
SERVICE



This park is therefore
fondly referred to as
“Kilimanjaro’s Royal Court”

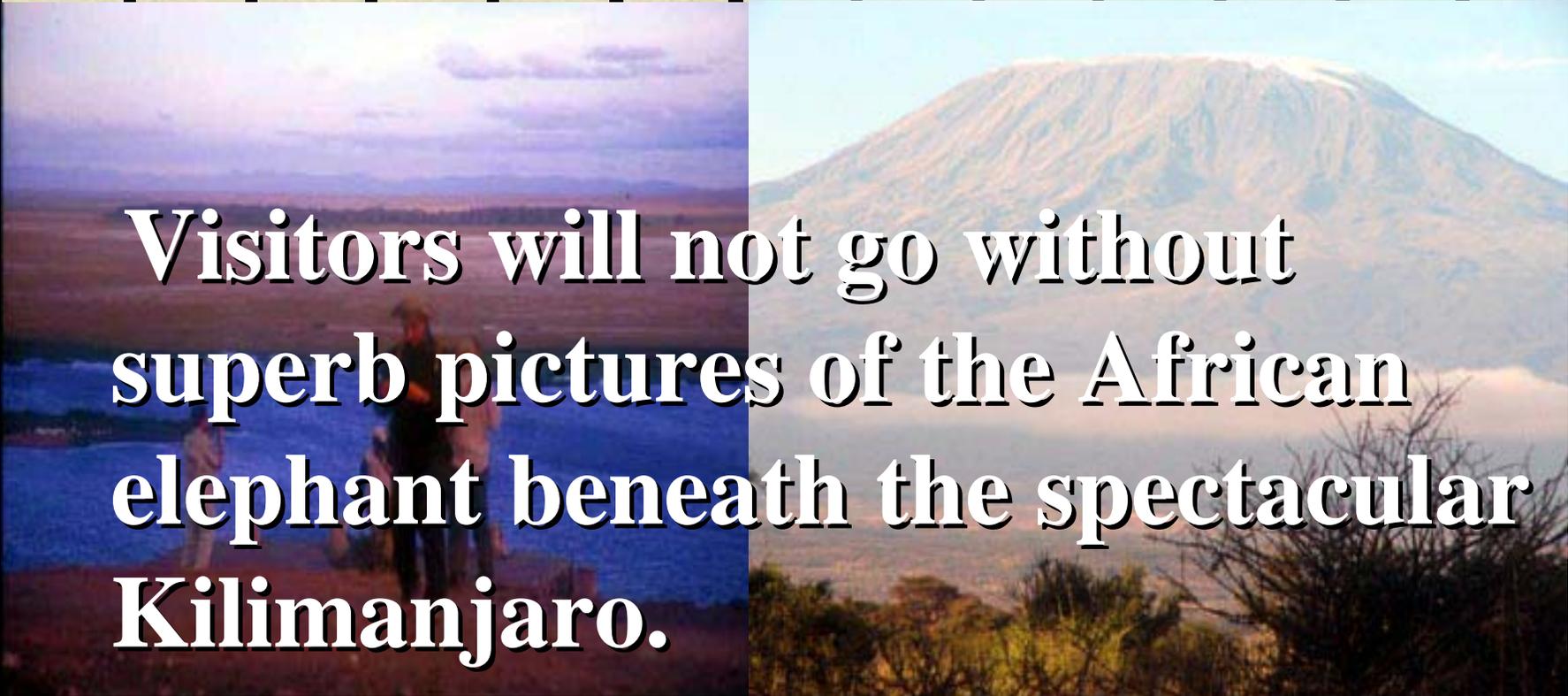
Size and Composition

The Amboseli National Park covers 392sq km, and whose larger ecosystem is slightly more than 5000sq km.

Attraction

Over 80 different animal species are found here ranging from the minute, hardly seen spectacled elephant shrew to the huge bulk African elephant.

Attractions



Visitors will not go without superb pictures of the African elephant beneath the spectacular Kilimanjaro.

Species

This park has about 400 different species of birds watchers and over 300 species of plants. The key species here are the cheetahs, elephant, lion, and the rare and hardly seen wild-dog.



Research

Elephants in this Park are the longest studied in Africa, and fairly habituated and almost each is known by name

International Recognition

Due to the importance of serving the maasai pastoralist, their livestock and wildlife in utilizing the natural resources especially water and grazing in the park.

International Recognition cont'd



Amboseli National Park was given recognition as biosphere reserve under UNSECO's Man and Biosphere programme in 1991.

Challenges

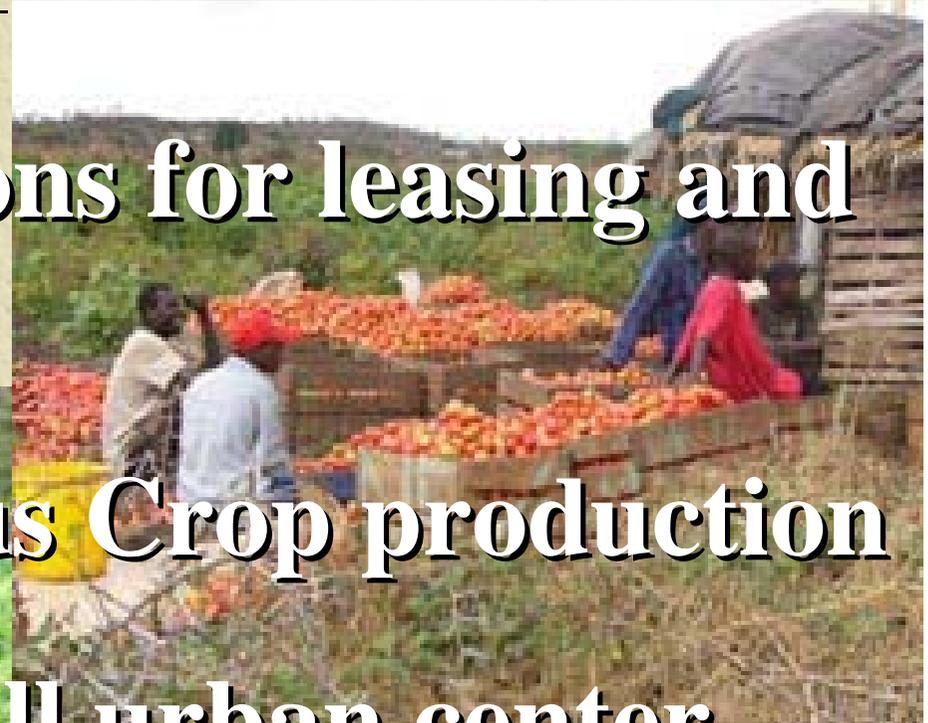
As a unique Park, Amboseli faces formidable challenges due to its dependence on a much larger dispersal and migratory areas outside the park boundaries.

Challenges cont'd

The community group ranches which form the major dispersal areas are currently undergoing land use changes which are not compatible with conservation.

Challenges cont'd

- Land subdivisions for leasing and selling
- Cultivation, thus Crop production
- Unplanned small urban center development



Challenges Cont'd

As a result of the uncoordinated and unplanned land use practices, myriad issues have emerged which are threatening habitat and environment management and therefore causing:

Challenges Cont'd

- **Human/Wildlife conflict**
- **Reduction of habitat range for both game animals and livestock**
- **Environmental degradation due to poor land husbandry methods**
- **Pollution because of chemical use in crop production**

Challenges cont'd

These issues coupled with human population growth, poverty, resource and conflict and inadequate economic benefits to members of the community, group ranches are posing serious challenges to the larger Amboseli ecosystem

Management Action

To ensure that the fragile Amboseli eco-system survives with its aesthetical value for the enjoyment of mankind globally, the critical issues are being addressed through

Management Action cont'd

Eco-tourism development activities have been initiated as a form of conservation enterprise in partner participation by communities, investors, and Kenya Wildlife Service as the lead conservation agency.

Amboseli Eco-System

In Amboseli Eco-system there are four (4) lodges with larger bed night capacity (700 bed nights).

This makes an average rate of US\$250 with a total of US\$ 175000 (pp).

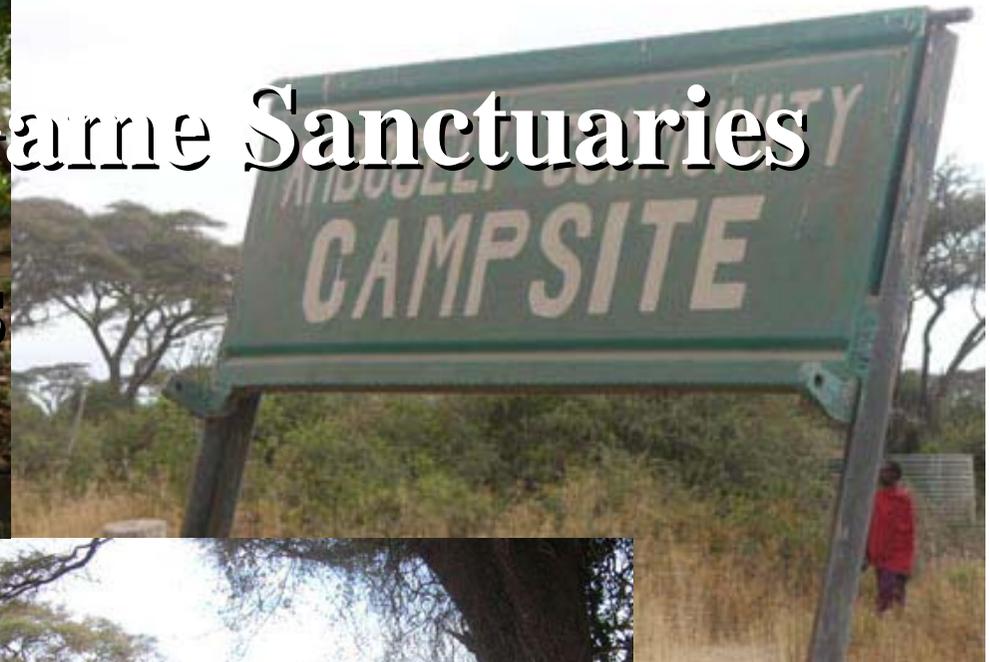
Amboseli Eco-System cont'd

Outside the Protected area, there are fourteen (14) small lodges which are environmental friendly with bed capacity of 500 bed nights and yield a higher return of about US\$ 250,000

Amboseli Eco-System cont'd

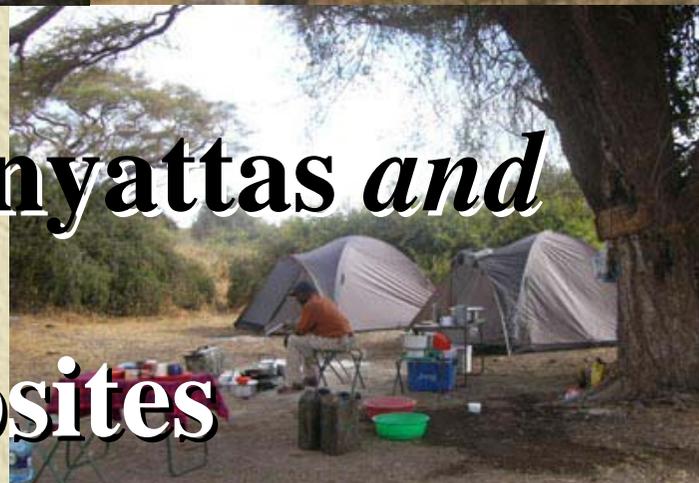
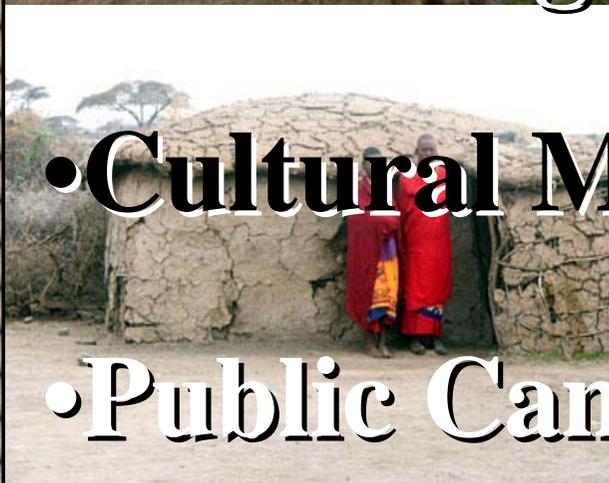
These Includes

- Community Game Sanctuaries
- Tented Camps
- Eco – lodges



- Cultural Manyattas *and*

- Public Campsites



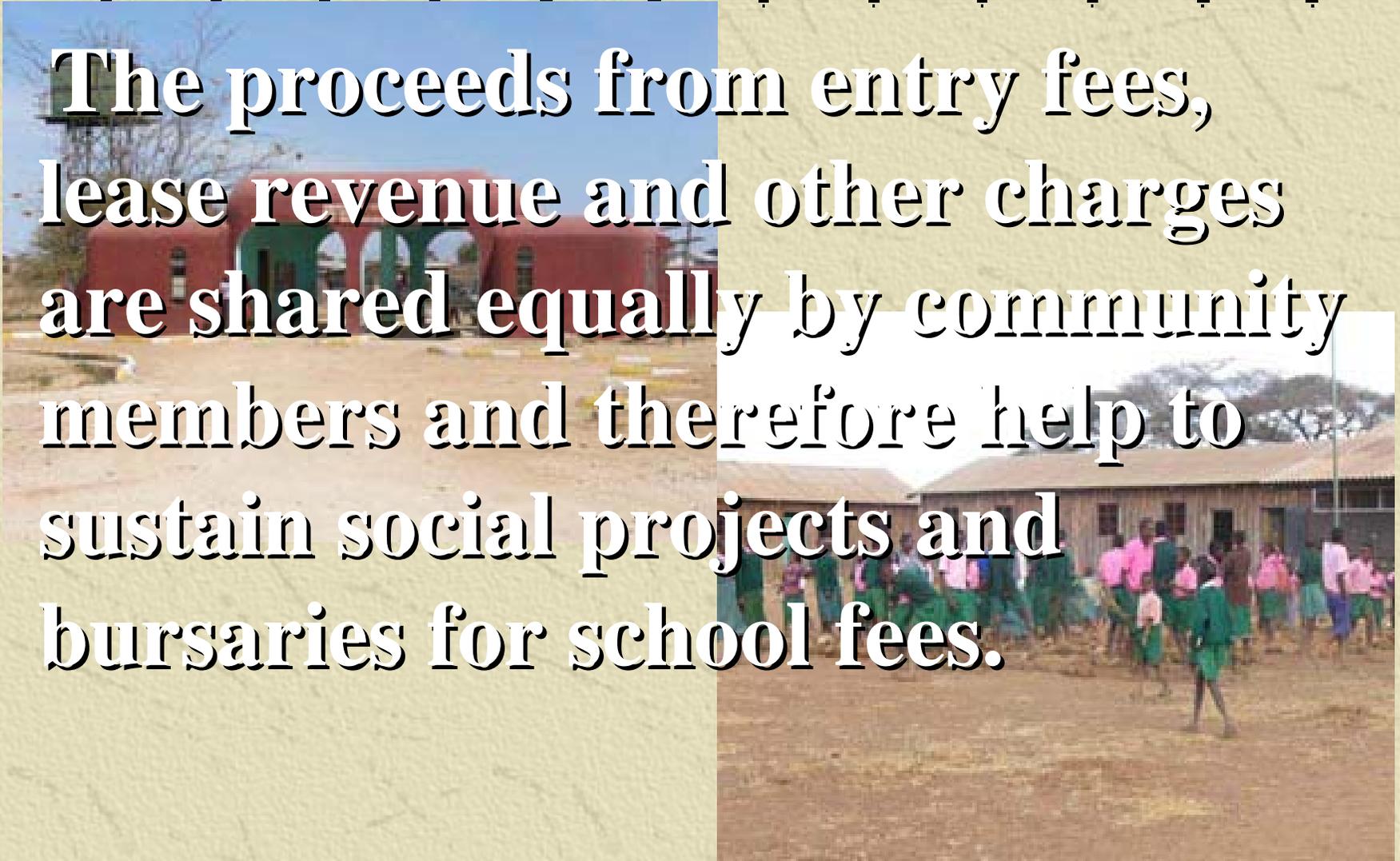
Management Action

Visitors are encouraged to tour the community wildlife and tourism projects and learn how the maasai pastoral community eco-exist with wildlife.



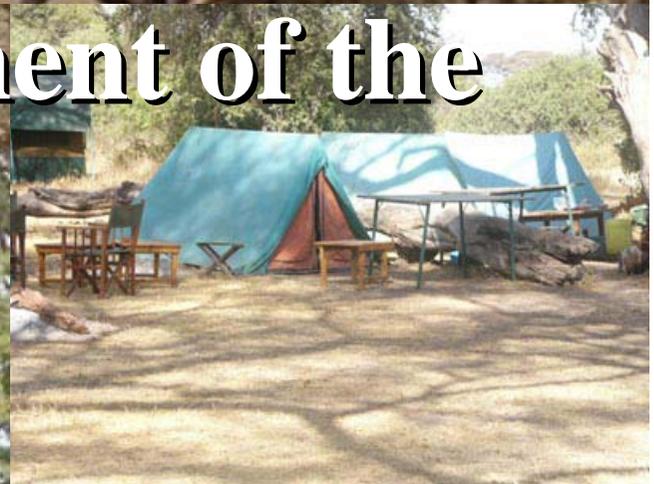
Management Action cont'd

The proceeds from entry fees, lease revenue and other charges are shared equally by community members and therefore help to sustain social projects and bursaries for school fees.



Conclusion

These initiatives activities and Eco-tourism development are enhancing wildlife conservation as a form of land use towards sustainable management of the Amboseli Ecosystem.



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Thank You
for
Listening

