

# Overpopulation and over-tourism: Effects on Wildlife

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*Promoting the sustainable development of a diverse wildlife tourism that supports conservation*

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Overtourism can also impact animal welfare, and human enjoyment of “the wild”

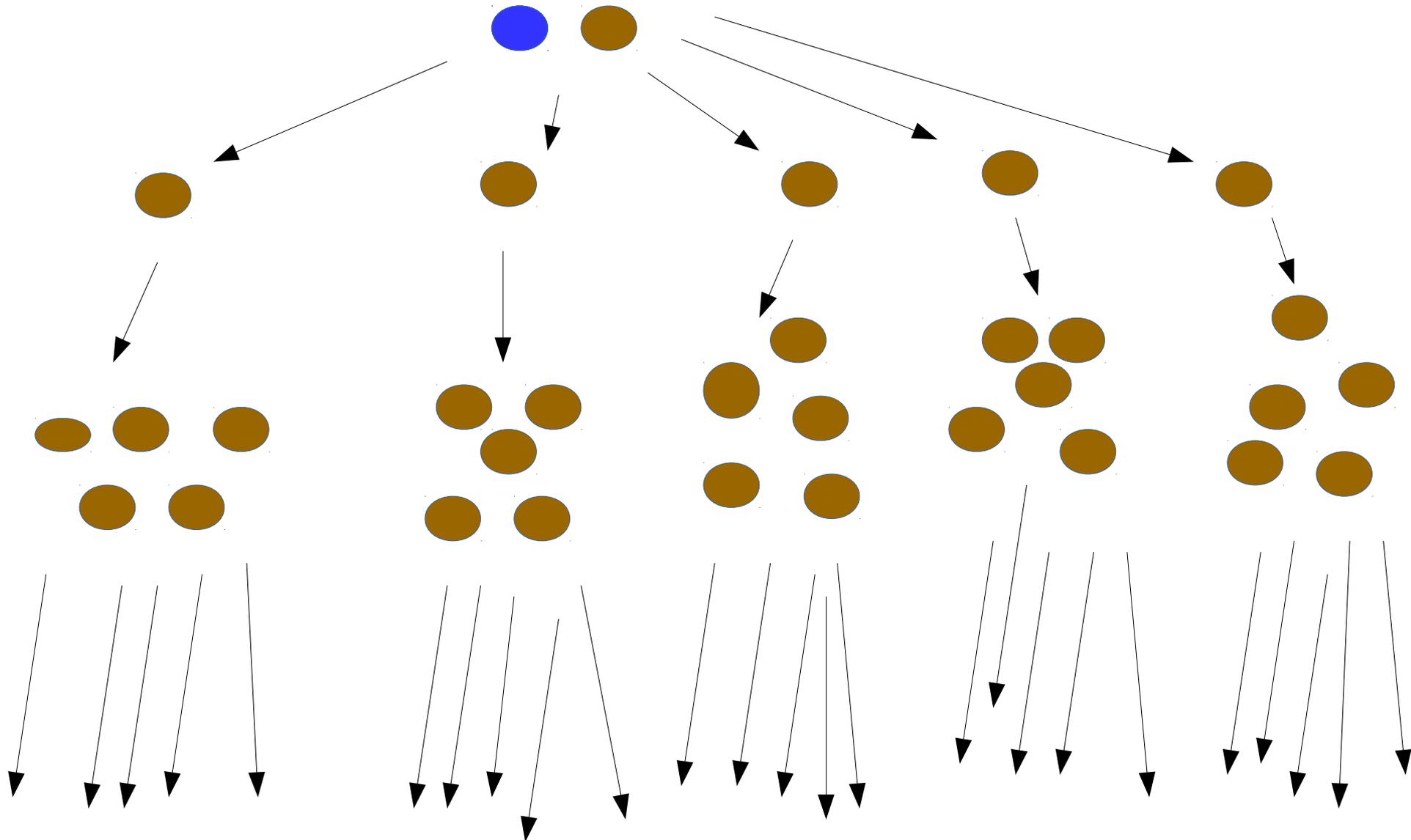
# Malthus 1798

**Malthus** theorized that **populations** would continue expanding until growth is stopped or reversed by disease, famine, war, or calamity

“Famine seems to be the last, the most dreadful resource of nature. The power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race.”

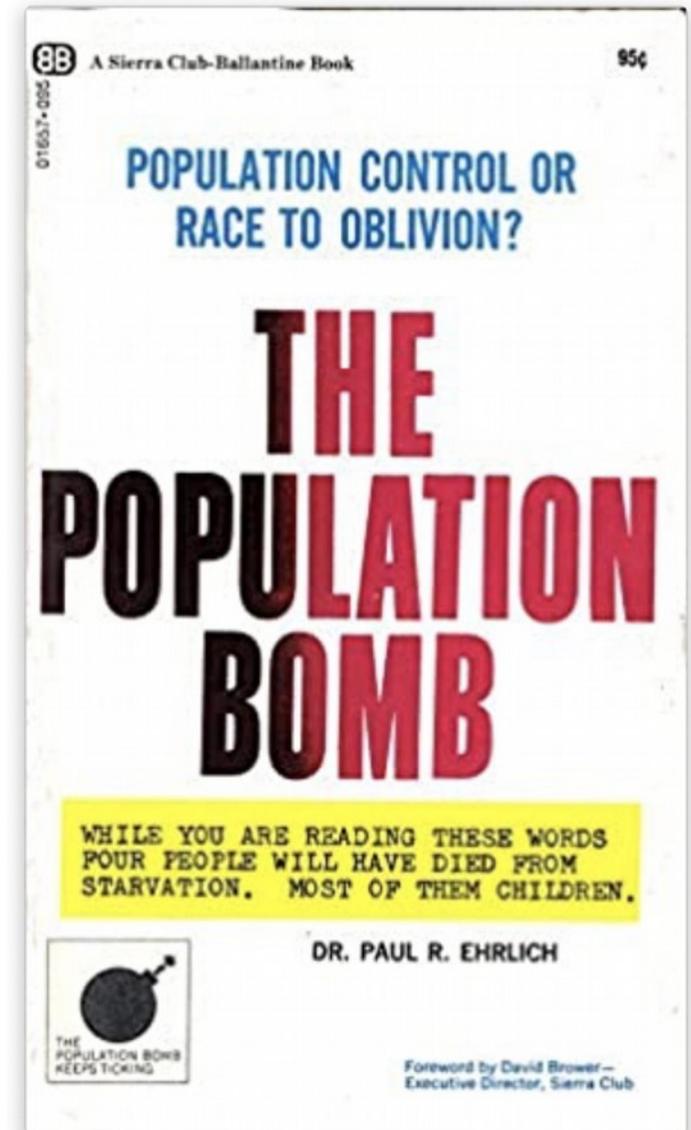
# Population growth

● female



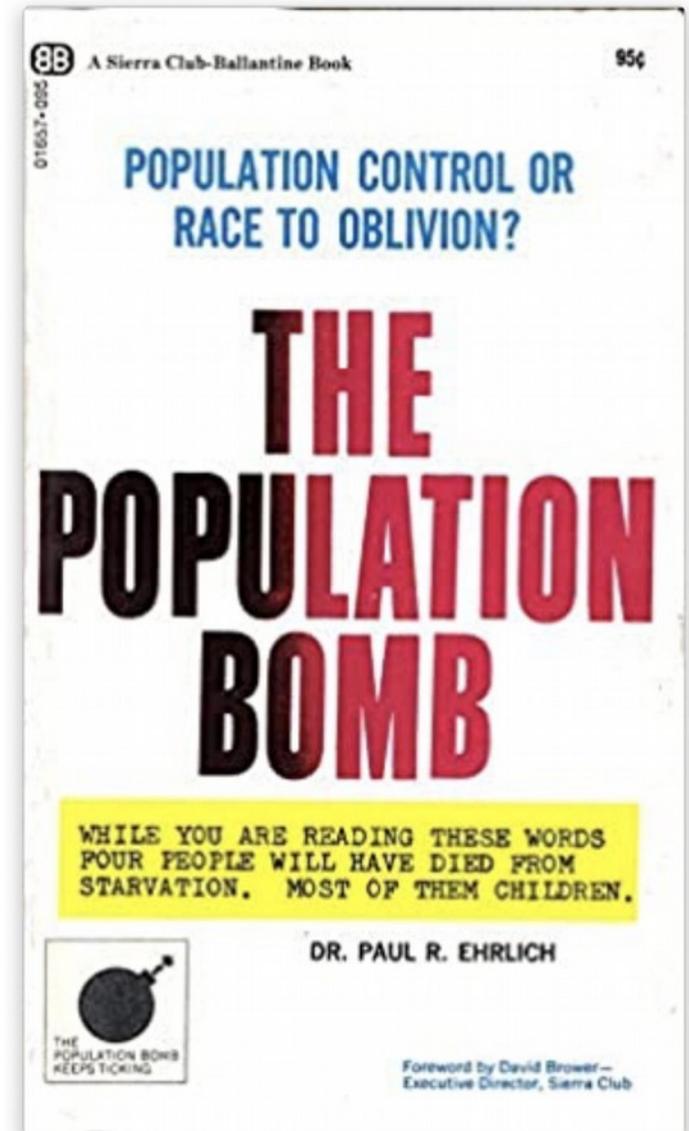
# Ehrlich

**MAIN MESSAGE:** If we don't take better steps to slow population growth we'll face catastrophic famines, even the end of civilisation as we know it



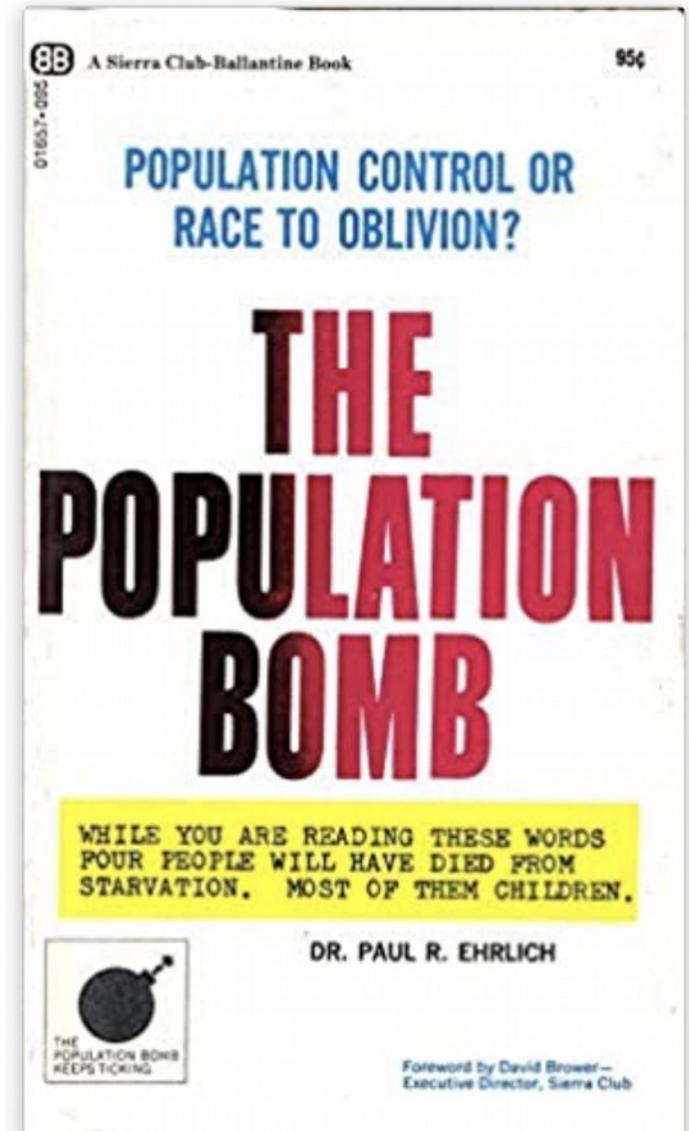
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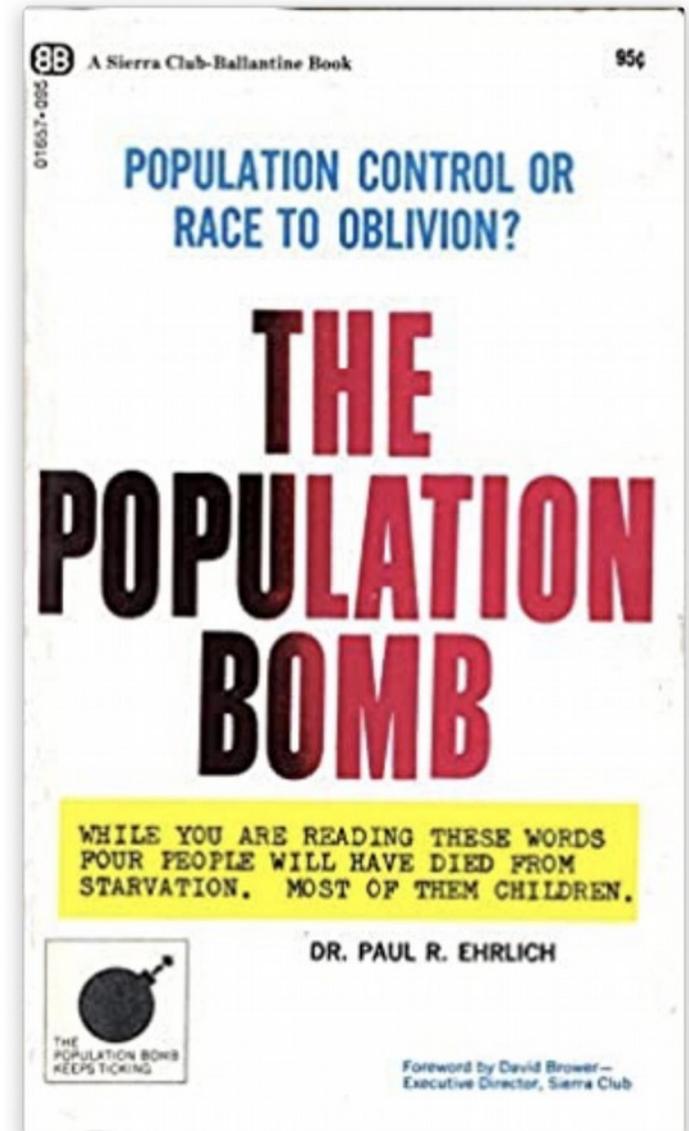
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# Ehrlich

Technological advances  
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numbers to be fed...

...but the planet's  
resources ARE still finite



# Population growth

There are also questions of:

- Quality of life



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- Suffering of other species



# Population growth

There are also questions of:

- Quality of life
- Suffering of other species
- Extinction of other species



# Controversies

- Technological fixes to the rescue
- Market forces controlling demise of scarce resources

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But:

- Amount of land is still finite
- Other resources are still finite
- What can be survived isn’t necessarily what can be enjoyed

# Controversies

- Technological fixes to the rescue
- Market forces controlling demise of scarce resources

“She’ll be right mate!”

But:

- Market can work in the “wrong” direction if **scarce = highly valuable**
- You can’t put a market value on most species

# Controversies

Unfair attitudes and actions towards:

- The poor
- Other countries/races

Draconian measures

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“The great Malthusian dread was that "indiscriminate charity" would lead to exponential growth in the population in poverty, increased charges to the public purse to support this growing army of the dependent, and, eventually, the catastrophe of national bankruptcy. Though Malthusianism has since come to be identified with the issue of general over-population, the original Malthusian concern was more specifically with the fear of over-population by the dependent poor.” (Wikipedia)

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Draconian measures

“Socialists and communists believed that Malthusian theories "blamed the poor" for their own exploitation by the capitalist classes, and could be used to suppress the proletariat to an even greater degree, whether through attempts to reduce fertility or by justifying the generally poor conditions of labour in the 19th century..”

(Wikipedia)

# Controversies

‘...the English Poor Law implemented by Queen Elizabeth I in 1601 to provide food to the poor was severely curtailed by the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, based on Malthusian reasoning that helping the poor only encourages them to have more children and thereby exacerbate poverty. The British government had a similar Malthusian attitude during the Irish potato famine of the 1840s, Ridley notes, reasoning that famine, in the words of Assistant Secretary to the Treasury Charles Trevelyan, was an “effective mechanism for reducing surplus population.”‘

Michael Shermer, Scientific American, 2016

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Some have suggested war, famine and pandemics are useful, BUT they cause:

- Extreme human misery
- Extreme environmental problems (forests poisoned to expose enemies, endangered species being eaten, nuclear fallout ...)

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# Controversies

Most would agree family planning is far preferable BUT:

- Some draconian measures have been used to enforce sterilisation, abortion etc in some regions, against basic human rights
- Some human rights groups have been so horrified at unfairness and callousness, and so have opposed the whole idea of growth being a problem
- Religions oppose some measures that seem reasonable, such as contraception
- Some (not all) economists insist a shrinking, stable or aging population would be disastrous

# So where to now?

How do we:

- Slow population growth while not causing human suffering?
- Adjust our economies to aging populations
- Protect wildlife - and biodiversity generally – from ever-increasing demands from our species
- Maintain wilderness areas for their own sake and for human enjoyment well into the future

# **Human/Wildlife Tourism & Conflict Management Paper**

**By Paul Kilelu ,**  
Enkusero Sampu Community Conservancy,



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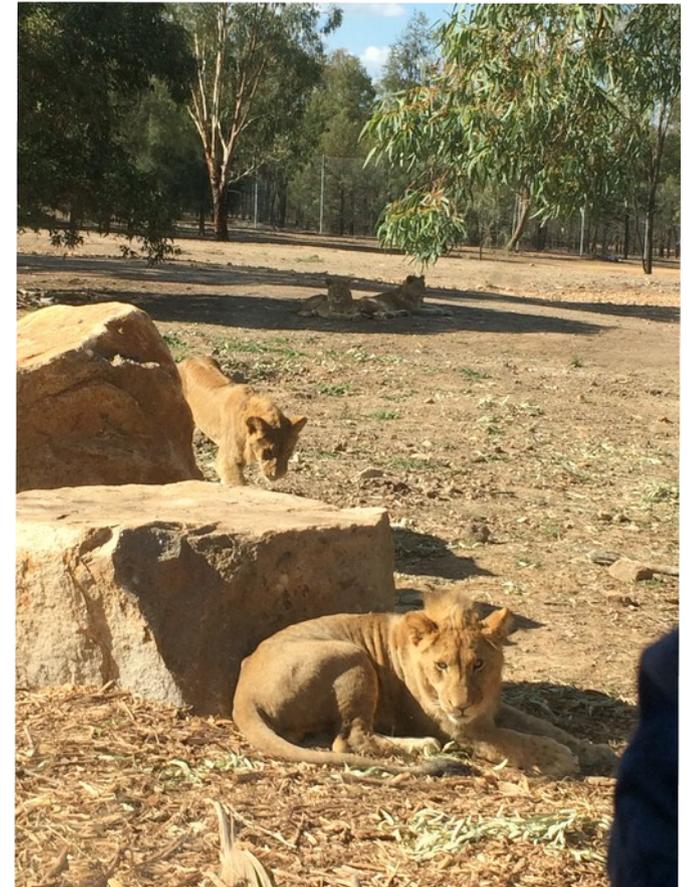
Due to improved livestock husbandry, the number of livestock has generally increased over the years, in turn increasing the demand for more grazing space, pasture, water and natural salt licks.

At the same time, the human population has increased dramatically arising from longer life spans and immigration. Land subdivision and fencing off for farming and near zero grazing purposes has significantly constrained available roaming space , free pasture, salt licks and water for wildlife and free range grazing of livestock.

This has created pressure on the land and conflict between herders and farmers on one hand, and between farmers and herders and wildlife on the other.

Wildlife needs to roam in search of pastures, water, salt licks and rejuvenation. Carnivores and herbivores tend to live separately within the same larger ecosystems while scavengers clean it. While herbivores depend on plants and grasses, the carnivores depend on the herbivores, thus both need the conducive environment to survive.

In the absence of adequate herbivores, farmers face great losses of their livestock from predator carnivores such as the leopard, cheetah, hyena, lion, jackal, wild dog's and large snake's. Similar, farmers' crops are threatened by both herbivores wildlife and pastoralists herds if not fenced off properly, meaning increased costs livelihood threats for farmers.



Some communities like Enkusero sampu community have come together to create a community conservancy of about 30,000 acres from their parcels of land to conserve both the wildlife and plants in their natural habitat while earning a living from ecotourism as an alternative to pastoralism and farming. The earnings from tourists gate fees, learning trips, sale of local artefacts, dance troupes, employment of game rangers provide alternative livelihood to the land contributing families. The profits from the conservancy are also used to improvement the community school, water sources and roads.

Need to observe science when dealing with both wildlife and livestock by avoiding fencing of wildlife habitats and corridors. This helps to prevent inbreeding of wildlife important wildlife species. This is possible creation of more community conservancies and ensuring through community agreements to live open known wildlife migratory corridors.



