



DR. WINNIE KIIRU

RESEARCH SCIENTIST | WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

As an accomplished research scientist with over 25 years of experience in wildlife management, environmental policy, and global environmental advocacy, I have demonstrated my skills in organizational leadership, strategic planning, resource mobilization, and financial management in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. I have held corporate governance and board leadership positions in various organizations, and I am a recognized coach and mentor of women in conservation leadership.

I am also a thought leader in the wildlife and environmental space, with a focus on the complex, dynamic, and vital politics surrounding protected areas and broader conservation across the African continent. In recognition of my contributions to conservation, I was awarded the Order of the Grand Warrior in 2022, one of the highest civilian honors in Kenya. Additionally, in 2016, I received the Woman of Excellence Award from the Kenya Association of Women in Tourism. I continue to drive innovative research, promote sustainable development, and foster cross-sectoral partnerships in East Africa.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director

Mpala Research Centre | February 2023 to date | Nanyuki, Kenya

Mpala Research Centre is one of the leading ecological research centers in Africa and a partnership of Princeton University, the Smithsonian Institution, Kenya Wildlife Service, and the National Museums of Kenya. Princeton is the managing partner of the Mpala Research Centre (MRC).

Director of Government Relations

Elephant Protection Initiative (EPI) | 2019 to January 2023 | Nairobi, Kenya

EPI is an African-led initiative that brings together 21 African member states committed to securing a future for African elephants, habitats and the people who share space with them.

Founder

CHD Conservation Kenya | 2012 to date

A grassroots organization working to promote education and community participation in conservation.

Member of the Board of Trustees and Acting Chairperson of the Board

Wildlife Research and Training Institute

Trustee

Amboseli Trust for Elephants

The Amboseli HEC project was developed to address the escalating Human-Elephant Conflict around Amboseli National Park.

Lecturer, School of Biological Sciences

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology | 2016 to date

Courses taught: Principles of environmental science,

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Lecturer –| Technical University of Kenya, School of Physical Sciences and Technology (January 2013-2016)

Head of Country Liaison | Stop Ivory (April 2015-2018)

Member of the Board of Trustees and Chairperson of the Board Conservation Committee | Kenya Wildlife Service (December 2011 to December 2013)

Regional Representative for East Africa | Born Free Foundation – (2000 to 2005).

Africa Representative | Species Survival Network – (2000- 2005)

Research scientist – Elephant Management Program | Kenya Wildlife Service - (1992 to 1997)

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

PhD, Biodiversity Management

University of Kent, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (2005 to June 2012)

Research topic: Understanding the spatial, temporal and socio economic factors affecting human-elephant conflict around Amboseli National Park in Kenya

Masters degree in Tropical Resource Ecology

University of Zimbabwe (1994 to 1995)

Title of thesis: Human-Elephant interaction around Shimba Hills National Reserve, Kenya

Bachelor of Education (Science) in Zoology, Botany and Education

Kenyatta University (1987-1990)

Second Class Honors-Upper Division

CONSULTANCIES

- ♦ International Conservation Caucus Foundation to develop and support the Parliamentary Conservation Caucus in the National Assembly, Kenya. January to June 2014.
- ♦ Environment and Development Group, UK, to convene and conduct regional workshops across Kenya to collect and collate views from communities. Part of the process in the development of the Elephant Conservation and Management Strategy for Kenya Wildlife Service. Report completed in June 2007.
- ♦ Zoo Check, Canada to review the status of captive elephants in Canada. The report, The Sad State of Captive Elephants in Canada, submitted in November 2006.
- ♦ Contracted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); A Country Report on the Status of Sustainable Development in Kenya. The report was submitted in July 2005.

TRAININGS ATTENDED

- ♦ **Executive Program in Women's Leadership**, Stanford Graduate School of Business, USA May 2022.
- ♦ **Women for the Environment Fellow**- 2020. The WE Africa Fellowship is a one year leadership program for women in conservation leadership. www.womenforenvironment.org
- ♦ **Stakeholder Relationship Management training**- Sheena Thomson Inc. London, UK, November 2019
- ♦ **Sustainable financing for nature, development finance training** - Geopolicity Inc. London, UK, November, 2019
- ♦ **Global Environmental Facility; How GEF Works**- Conservation International. Nairobi, Kenya. May, 2019
- ♦ **Five-Day Corporate Governance Training Course for Directors** - Center for Corporate Governance. Mombasa, Kenya June, 2013
- ♦ **Audit Committees Seminar**- Institute of Directors. Mombasa, Kenya, November 20-22, 2013.
- ♦ **Risk Management and Corporate Governance** - Institute of Capacity Development, KCA University, 19th-20th November, 2012

- ♦ **Good Practice Stakeholder Dialogue** - A good practice approach to stakeholder participation with focus on the Environment- Dialogue Matters Inc. November 2011, Wye, Kent

Awards and Scholarships:

- ♦ United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Research Grant towards research in Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategies around Amboseli, Kenya | 2004-2005
- ♦ Synchronicity Foundation UK - Research grant towards PhD research on Human-Elephant Conflict Resolution | 2005-2007
- ♦ Born Free Foundation UK - Scholarship towards completion of PhD at the University of Kent, UK | 2005- 2011
- ♦ Kenya Association of Women in Tourism – The KAWT Woman of Excellence in Tourism Award “In recognition of your amazing contribution to the wildlife conservation.” | 2016
- ♦ Presidential honors and awards - Order of the Grand Warrior. State honor for contribution to wildlife conservation in Kenya| 2022

SELECTED PAPERS, REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- i. Isaac, M. M., Muya, S. M., Kiiru, W., & Muchai, M. (2020). Avian Abundance, Diversity and Conservation Status in Etago Sub-County Kisii County Kenya. *Journal of Biodiversity, Conservation and Bioavailability*, 14(2), 75-84. doi: 10.21608/jbcb.2020.41125.1014.
- ii. Mutugi, M., & Kiiru, W. (2019). Biodiversity, local resource, national heritage, regional concern, and global impact: The case of Mau Forest, Kenya. *Journal of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development*, 5(2), 30-45.
- iii. Nowak, K., Dobson, A., Poole, J., Granli, P., Kahumbu, P., Lee, P., Kiiru, W., Joram, P., Malima, C., & Moss, C. (2013, February 8). Elephants are not Diamonds. *The Ecologist*.
- iv. Kiiru, W. (2013, January 18). China is fuelling Elephant Poaching. *The Star*.
- v. Kiiru, W. (2013, January 11). Kenya: It is time to act on elephant poaching. *The Star*.
- vi. Kiiru, W. (2008), People-elephant conflicts in Africa: Who has The Right of Way? In C. Wemmer & C. A. Christen (Eds.), *Elephants and Ethics: Toward a Morality of Coexistence* (pp. 73-81). John Hopkins University Press.
- vii. Kiiru, W. (2007), *The Sad State of Captive Elephants in Canada*. A report commissioned by Zoocheck, Canada. Retrieved from <http://www.zoocheck.com/Reportpdfs>
- viii. Kiiru, W., Kibe, D., & Oduor, W. (2005). *Country Report on the Status of Sustainable Development in Kenya*. A report commissioned by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa. Ethiopia.
- ix. Kiiru, W. (2003). Human elephant conflict mitigation measures in Kenya. In J. Jayewardene (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Symposium for Human-Elephant Relationships and Conflicts* (pp. 139-148). Biodiversity and Elephant Conservation Trust.
- x. Kiiru, W. (1996). *The Golini-Maluganji Community Reserve. A Kenyan experience in community conservation*.
- xi. In N. Kristofferson, B. Campbell, & J. du Toit (Eds.), *Communities and Sustainable use. Pan African perspectives, proceedings of the Pan Africa Symposium on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Community Participation*, Harare, Zimbabwe, June 1996 (pp. 127-134). IUCN Regional office for Southern Africa.
- xii. Kiiru, W. (1993). The current status of human-elephant conflict in Kenya. *Pachyderm*, 19, 15-19.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECTS

*Founder and member of the leadership council- [Women for the Environment, Africa](#) (2019 to Date) ♦Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, [Friends of Karura Forest](#) (2018 to date) ♦Appointed by the Governor, Nairobi County Government to chair the Committee for the *Restoration of the Nairobi River Ecosystem* (2014) ♦ *Member-Urafiki Carovana Charitable Trust* (2012 to date) ♦Appointed by the Minister for Education to the Board of Governors:hika Garrison Secondary School ♦ 2000-Climbed Mt. Kenya to *Raise Funds for the Colobus Monkey Conservation Trust**

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Hiking and mountain climbing. I have climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Kenya (three times) and Ruwenzori Mountains. I am a regular hiker around Kenya.

Travelling - I am fascinated by religious buildings and their intricate architecture. I have visited numerous church buildings around the world.