



Project Final Report 2023

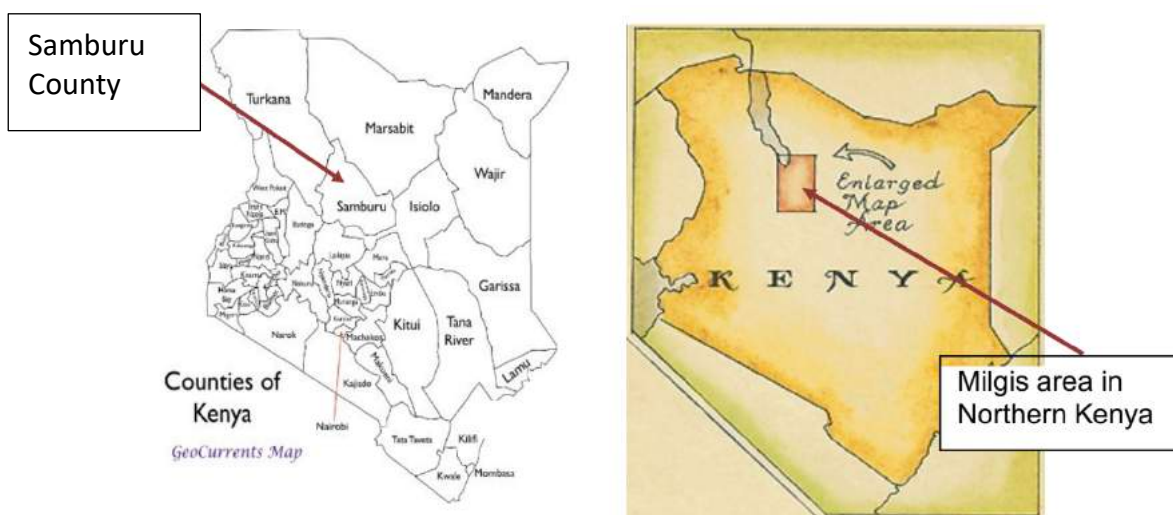
Donor: *Fondation Eagle*
Charity & project name: Milgis Trust – Clean Water Wells
File no: FF 0661
Date: 25th January 2024
Name of File: Medical and Educational Aid to Kenya (MEAK)
Amount requested: USD 10,705
Date of application: December 2022
Date of grant Accepted: December 2022

Type of Project: Funding for separate wildlife friendly wells to prevent wildlife, particularly elephants from destroying and contaminating drinking water wells for communities.

Period of project: One year

Amount granted: USD 10,705 (Ksh's 1,327,420). Rate - (1USD = 124Kshs)

Location: The Milgis Ecosystem. This is an 6000 square kilometre area within the northern rangelands of the Matthews & Ndoto mountains – mainly within Samburu county but also extending into Marsabit County (Population circa 26,000)



Date : 22.02.2024

Signed:

Wildlife wells for clean community water

These wells have continued to make a huge impact during the second half of 2023. Of course, not everybody is fortunate enough to benefit from a water project. And most water projects could not cope with the shear pressure from livestock and people. In these area's people are forced to dig wells in the dry sand rivers. Importantly, the wildlife must drink too! Sadly, wildlife is usually unable to get water from the boreholes because there is simply too much traffic and no water left by the time darkness falls.



The result is very thirsty wildlife! These animals, particularly elephants, are forced to try and drink from the wells and shallow pans that have been hand-dug by people in the sand rivers. Mostly, they cannot reach the water, and often fall inside the wells – sometimes drowning or dying from exhaustion. Shallow wells are safer; however, they end up becoming contaminated or destroyed from wallowing wildlife.

It is a very common issue across the whole of sub-Saharan Africa, yet very few people are doing anything about it.



Thirsty elephants in search of water during October dry season

A small mud puddle, the only accessible natural water source that remained, now the ele's will be forced to drink from human sources



As you can see above, even though there was some rain during the 'long rains', the natural water sources had already dried up by October 2023, and the wildlife was actively sharing wells with people again.

Inevitably, there were elephants dying from thirst and others that fell into the wells. (below image is from a different year but illustrates the issue). This is a slow and horrible ordeal that usually ends up in death. The well is destroyed and the community are forced to go and dig another well. In some places there are no other viable well sites so the only water source is destroyed and people must move their homesteads.



A Juvenile that dies from thirst as could not reach the water in community wells



A youngster from a couple of years ago that fell into a well in the desperate quest for water.

These past six months our teams have worked tirelessly to ensure that all of the ele-friendly wells are maintained on a daily basis. On average, there have been 22 wells, slightly less than in Q1 & 2, due to the 'long rains'. However, the impact was still significant and helped alleviate the conflict and contamination that would be usually found at the wells.

It has been incredibly successful! Communities are now able to keep their own wells undisturbed and clean. There have not been any elephants falling into wells. There has been a lot less human wildlife conflict. Even better, the elephants have not been damaging the water projects as much as they would before.

Despite this the need is still great, demonstrated by the below photographs of predators who have been forced to drink from human sources in areas that we could not reach with the wells program. These images were taken from on one of our M&E trips using the camera traps we brought with the Q1/2 Budget. Thus demonstrating the extended need for opening up more wildlife wells during the next dry year.



Above: A couple of jackals sneaking a drink form one of the only water sources on the western Kaisut desert
Below: A rarely seen striped hyena also sharing a water source from a homestead, giving a cheeky look at the camera!



Some images summing up the second half of 2023



Another jumbo that succumbed due to thirst in September

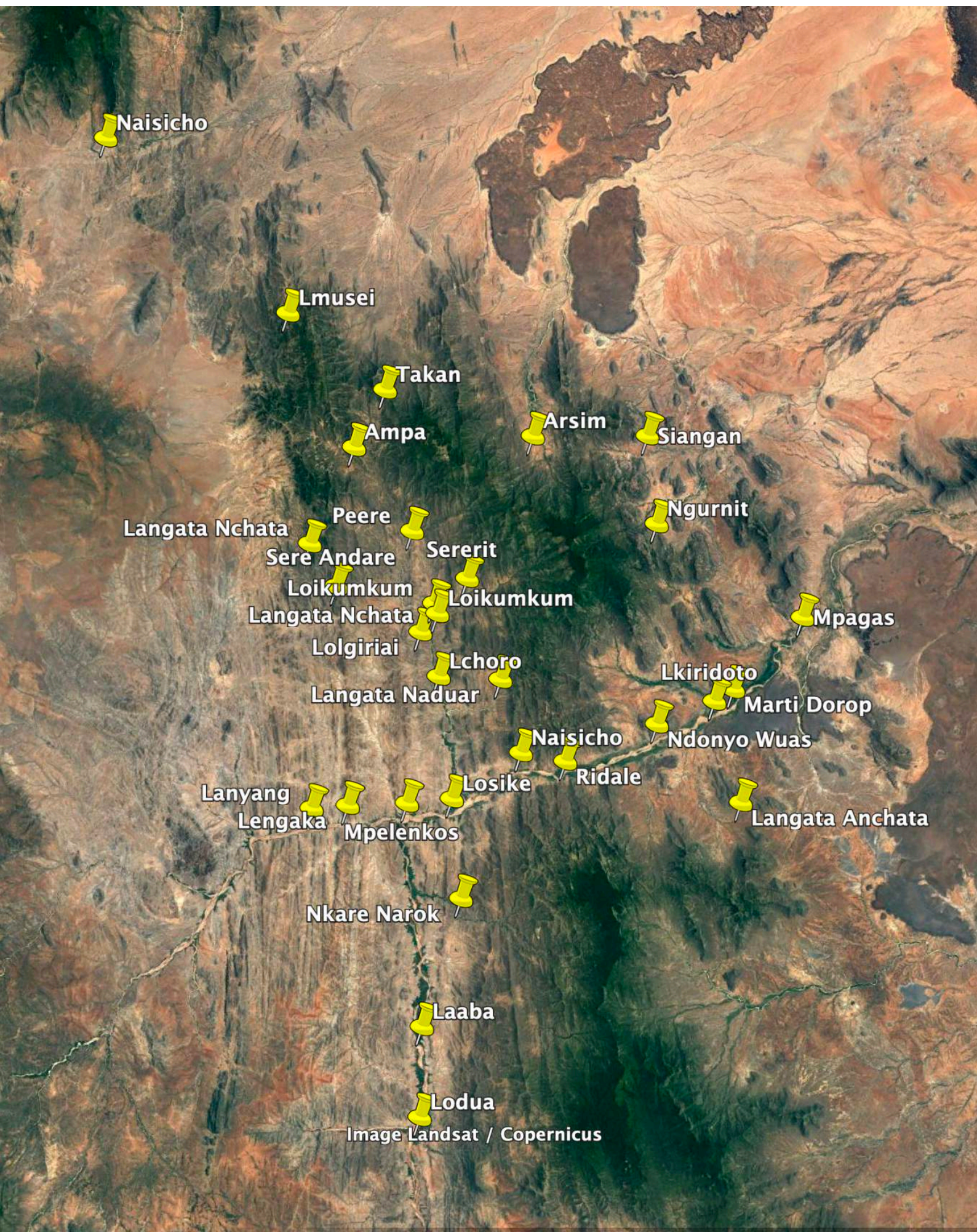


The hard-working warriors digging a wildlife well



Elephants tried breaking these tanks to get at the water because there was no wildlife well

Map of locations that we maintained wells during Q3 & Q4



Summary of expenditure - Periods Q3 & Q4

Currency : USD

Proposed Annual Budget

Elephant Wells					
Item No.	Description	Actual Unit Cost	Unit Type	No. Units	Total
1	Wages / Well	744	Annual wage	10	7440
2	Spade	10	pc	20	200
3	Cable	3	m	240	720
4	Camera Traps for monitoring	250	pc	5	1250
5	Vehicle for monitoring	2.6	m	300	780
6	Motorbike monitoring	0.7	Lump Sum	450	315
				Total	10705

Wildlife Friendly Wells Expenditure 01.07.2023 - 31.12.2023					
	Description	Actual Unit Cost (USD)	Unit Type	No. Units	Total
1	Wages (24 wells)	3505	1	1	3505
2	Vehicle (monitoring)	2.6	KM	230	598
3	Motorbike (Monitoring)	0.7	KM	378	264.6
				Total	4367.6

Many thanks for your support!!!!