

Application of Land Administration in Securing Wildlife Migratory Routes in Kenya: Challenges and Prospects

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SUMMARY

Land is a place of shelter, food, movement, breeding and other functions for human beings and all other living things. Management and administration of land play a critical role in development of both economic and non-economic sectors, including conservation of nature. Numerous thematic spatial plans that have mapped wildlife migratory routes in various parts of the Kenya with the aim of having the same secured for use by wildlife, however these maps have remained unimplemented. Secure wildlife migratory routes mean open, connected, functional, resilient and legally reserved land for use by wildlife for migration. The consequences of not securing wildlife migratory routes include increased human-wildlife conflict, land degradation, and declining wildlife populations.

The paper presents the findings of a study on the role of various land administration disciplines in identification, planning, survey, reservation, gazettelement and registration of wildlife migratory routes. The paper will present the gaps resulting from non-involvement of land administrators, and the prospects for enhancing physical and legal security of wildlife corridors.

The paper proposes the establishment of a land-based resource coordination desk/office at local and national level to integrate the planning, survey and registration of ecological areas. Further, appropriate funding from the government for compensation for diminished rights, and provision of appropriate incentives. Finally, public awareness of the need, implications and benefits of applying land administration to securing wildlife migratory corridors would be required to change the current perceptions on the same.

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