



Ref: KWS/DG/223/1

15th April, 2024

Kituo Cha Sheria,
Ole Odume Rd, Off Argwings Kodhek Rd.,
P.O. Box 7483-00200,
NAIROBI

Attention: John Mwariri



**RE: DESTRUCTION OF PEOPLE'S PROPERTIES INCLUDING LIVESTOCK
YARDS AND CULTIVATED CROPS**

Reference is made to the above subject and your letter Ref. NKCS/1002/GEN,
dated 27th February 2024,

Kamnarok National Reserve is under the jurisdiction of the County Government of Baringo and managed by Kenya Wildlife Service. Kamnarok and Rimoi National Reserves are separated by Kerio River and together form the Rimoi-Kamnarok Ecosystem. Inside the Kamnarok National Reserve is Lake Kamnarok, an oxbow lake, well known for being home to the second largest population of white crocodiles after Lake Chad. This is also the home range for the elephants that stride between the two aforementioned reserves in Kerio Valley up to Nasalot and South Turkana National Reserve.

Approximately 70% of the Reserve has been encroached through human settlement, charcoal burning, overgrazing, clearing of vegetation for cultivation and subdivision of land. This has led to increased incidences of poaching, loss of wildlife migratory corridors, displacement of wildlife, loss of wildlife species (white crocodiles in Lake Kamnarok) and increased human wildlife conflict. The human activities have caused continuous encroachment into the Reserve endangering key water catchment areas and threatening the entire ecosystem.

In a bid to reverse this trend, Kenya Wildlife Service in carrying out its mandate under section 7 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013 has undertaken various engagements. In conjunction with the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, community barazas were held in the year 2023 and locals

who had encroached into the Reserve were advised to harvest their crops by the month of August 2023 and vacate the areas under cultivation within the Reserve. Starting 20th February 2024, more than six months after lapse of the agreed period, Kenya Wildlife Service officers together with National Government Administration Officers carried out security operations to flush out encroachers carrying out illegal activities in the Reserve.

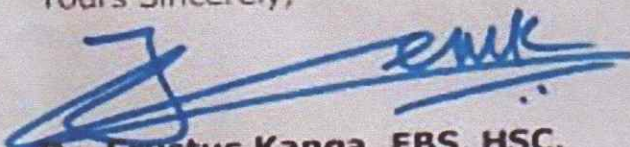
In March 2024, multi-agency led awareness community barazas were held in each of the three locations in Barwessa Division where the Reserve is located. The local communities were informed of the importance of the Reserve and the need for its restoration for the greater benefit of the people of Baringo County and for posterity.

For your information, the actions referred to in your letter, are the security operations to flush out illegal activities in the Reserve. The targeted areas are well within Kamnarok National Reserve, a position confirmed by the determination of the National Land Commission. The area found to have had a boundary overlap, is already under occupation and no security operations were conducted therein. Status quo remains.

You will note that these exercises and activities are well within the mandate of Kenya Wildlife Service in conservation and have been conducted in good faith, in full consultation and involvement of the local community for the restoration of the Rimoi-Kamnarok ecosystem.

Kenya Wildlife Service remains committed to continued consultative engagements with the local communities in execution of its conservation mandate.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Erustus Kanga, EBS, HSC.
DIRECTOR GENERAL