



COMMUNITY, CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

With three outstanding luxury properties in unique and pristine environments in Kenya, Hemingways Collection puts great focus and emphasis into its obligations towards local communities and environmental conservation and the promotion of responsible tourism.

This guide details our ongoing efforts to support, protect and sustain the local communities and environments we operate in.





Ol Seki Hemingways Mara

Ol Seki Hemingways Mara is a Tourism Partner and participating member of Mara Naboisho Conservancy. The conservancy manages multiple conservation and community programmes with the ultimate aim of conserving the biological resources and the socio – cultural heritage of the conservancy area through a community conservation approach and responsible tourism. Stretching to 200 km² northeast of the Mara Reserve, the conservancy land includes contributions from over 500 Maasai landowners and conservancy fees paid by tourism partners are directed back to the landowners, providing them with a sustainable livelihood. Naboisho limits the number of tourists permitted to enter thereby reducing the crowds of vehicles and leaving the plains free for wildlife to thrive. This responsible tourism model is having great success and research indicates that Naboisho has one of the highest densities of lion in Africa. The conservancy also has impressive numbers of elephant, giraffe, and other plains game in addition to hosting some of the rarest animals in Kenya such as Wild Dog.

Environmental Principles

One of the fundamental requirements of operating a camp in Mara Naboisho is that it must be a semi permanent structure designed to leave the smallest possible footprint on the land. This explains the use of canvas for all of our guest tents and guest areas. A second very important feature of the camp is its total reliance on solar power to provide 24 hr electricity and hot water. The entire camp, including the staff camp, runs on solar with generators on hand purely for backup. In the fight against plastic pollution, we are committed to completely removing single use plastics from Ol Seki and have recently introduced re-usable flasks which we provide to guests on arrival for use during their stay with us. Our waste is managed appropriately with compost being used to support our small herb garden and non compostable items transported back to Nairobi for re-cycling.

Conservation Projects

Big Cat Project – this brings together the community, researchers, NGOs and Tourism Partners in Naboisho in an effort to help secure the future of the Big Cats namely lion, cheetah and leopard. The project has 4 major components: tracking, research, conflict mitigation and community education.

Mara Elephant Project – combining researchers and conservationists to try and secure the future of African elephants. The project’s 3 year plan has two major strands: tracking up to 15 elephants to better understand their movements and engaging the community through anti-poaching education.

Mara Naboisho Lion Project – aimed at reducing conflict between the Maasai and lion outside of protected areas, the project aims to better understand lion populations and their movements in order to educate Maasai people on when and where to graze their livestock.

Community Projects

OI Seki is strong supporter of local communities and approximately 80% of our staff originate from surrounding communities. This employment partnership has forged a strong and long standing bond between the Maasai and Hemingways Collection which will last long into the future.

Along with conserving wildlife a key aim of Naboisho Conservancy is to protect the cultural heritage of the Maasai and improve their access to vital services. In addition to the conservancy fee which is channelled directly to local Maasai communities, there are a number of community projects run by the conservancy designed to empower and strengthen the local communities.

Koiyaki Guiding School – this provides local Maasai school leavers with education and training in guiding and conservation. The programme has been incredibly successful and most guides working within Naboisho Conservancy are graduates of KGS. Not only does this provide local Maasai with the skills to obtain meaningful employment it also benefits the tourism industry by nurturing world class guides who know the land intimately.

Educational Programmes – there are seven schools in Naboisho Conservancy and there are ongoing initiatives to support these schools in the provision of vital infrastructure and services such as dormitories, solar electricity, toilets, clean water, desks and mobile computer training facilities.

Healthcare – there are only three clinics serving the entire community within Naboisho and with a major healthcare challenge of HIV/AIDs, these clinics are very much under resourced. Support has been provided through the funding of voluntary HIV testing, providing supplements to people living with AIDS and constructing a new clinic (Ole Sere)

Access to Water – As a scarce resource one of the major challenges within the conservancy is ensuring enough clean water for the community, the wildlife, the livestock and the tourists. Efforts are ongoing to understand the water resources within the area and once determined a strategy will be formed to ensure all parties have access to clean water.

Women Empowerment – there are ongoing projects to empower female entrepreneurs including mobilising them into microfinance and investment groups. These groups provide useful structures to promote health education, adult literacy, and education about good governance.





Hemingways Watamu

A beautifully quaint fishing village located on the Kenyan coast, Watamu is 120km north of Mombasa and 25km south of Malindi. The area has developed a fantastic reputation for its white sanded, reef protected beaches, which line the Watamu National Marine Park.

Environmental Principles

The recent rebuild of the iconic hotel afforded a great opportunity to upgrade much of our infrastructure to make it more environmentally friendly and less impactful on the surrounding environment whilst maintaining a superior level of coastal luxury. A solar power farm has been added to substantially reduce our reliance on and use of grid electricity, solar hot water facilities have been introduced on the roofs of each block and rain water collection tanks were installed below ground to capture every possible drop of rain. Our bio digester plant treats and recycles grey water for use on our gardens and our swimming pools are filled with natural brackish water (a mix of salt and fresh water) which requires less chlorination to maintain.

As with Ol Seki, we are working hard to reduce, and ultimately remove, the use of single use plastics within the hotel and have partnered with Watamu Marine Association to create and promote an Environmental Awareness experience offering our guests the chance to participate in a beach clean up, visit Eco World Recycling – a flagship recycling centre in Watamu recently covered in Reuters (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kenya-waste-plastic/with-bottle-walls-and-a-recycled-ship-kenyas-coast-takes-on-plastic-waste-idUSKCN1GO0WC>) – and spend time on the Marine Park with an expert Marine Biologist to fully understand and appreciate the impact that plastic pollution is having on our delicate coral reefs.

Community and Conservation

Watamu Marine Park was first established in 1968 and receives thousands of visitors a year. However, not everyone is fully aware of the diverse peoples, cultures and interests that make up Watamu community life. Just beneath the surface there lie conflicts between marine stakeholders,

environmental threats and increasing challenges facing the Marine Park and Reserves' managing authorities.

Watamu Marine Association (WMA), a non profit organisation, was formed in 2007 through a mutual acknowledgement of the problems facing Watamu and a desire to resolve conflicts and show that by working together we can secure the future of Watamu as a natural asset for all and for shared economic prosperity.

WMA is unusual in that its main impetus is derived from a community desire and self-motivation for betterment. Here are some of the projects that help us deal with our problems:

- Lack of education within the community; WMA run computer IT training courses for community group members
- Addressing problems related to poverty and unemployment through developing income generating initiatives: WMA operates a Community Waste Management Project aiming to recycle plastic waste and flip flops for arts and crafts production and provide an income for community groups.
- Bridging the gap between the tourism sector and local community groups to resolve conflicts and identify common areas of collaboration and partnership. WMA hold regular meetings with hotels and community groups to promote good management and business practices on our beaches and provide customer care courses for beach operators and Codes of Conduct for hotels, beach operators and visitors.
- Empowerment of community groups to participate in management and decision making processes related to the marine resources, through regular meetings with the managing authorities, namely, Kenya Wildlife Service.
- The prevention of degradation and destruction of protected coastal habitat.
- Coastal pollution is dealt with through beach clean ups by the Community Waste Management Project.
- Campaigning against illegal and destructive fishing methods and over fishing that threaten coral reefs and sea grass habitats.

Hemingways Collection was a founding partner and member of WMA and we continue to be a major supporter of and donor to this vital association.

An example of our strong and continuing partnership with WMA and other key conservation societies is the promotion of the annual humpback whale migration which occurs between June and October. In August 2018, a team from the Wildlife Conservation Society came to Watamu to physically geo tag these humpbacks as part of an expanded effort to develop a long term Kenyan marine mammal project contributing in a meaningful way towards their conservation.





Hemingways Nairobi

Environmental Principles

The entire hotel overlooks the planted gardens and the natural landscape surrounding the beds of the Mbagathi River with a high degree of the hotel's grounds dedicated to greenery; both indigenous and exotic. The lawn overlooked by the fountain and suites is composed of shade-resistant Zimbabwe grass and the entire landscape is sustained with naturally treated and recycled greywater ensuring prudent management of scarce resources.

Community

Within Nairobi and its surrounding areas, Hemingways Collection supports two primary community groups.

One Horizon

The first of these is *One Horizon* a humanitarian aid organisation based in Kenya. One Horizon operates over 20 rescue centres for disadvantaged women and children in Nairobi and Mombasa structured with a fundraising/financing model based on tourists and their approach is to work with local communities and individuals within these communities so they can determine their own future.

One Horizon exists to change the lives of Kenya's most vulnerable people and the way they do this is through sustainable tourism. Everyone who travels with One Horizon or makes a visit to their centres is making a financial contribution to changing Kenyan lives. Simply visiting and connecting has an everlasting impact on the amazing Kenyan people you'll connect with, but on top of that, a portion of your travel fee also goes towards the One Horizon humanitarian programs that are helping Kenya's women, children and communities build positive, happy and sustainable futures.

Changing Children's Lives

One Horizon's youth programs are all aimed at ending the generational cycle of disadvantage that results in poverty and often tragedy for so many Kenyan families. They include nutrition, health, education, rescue and shelter programs. They work closely with Kenyan communities to partner

with existing schools, orphanages and rescue centres to take their life-changing programs into these places.

Changing Women's Lives

Their Vocational and Lifestyle Training Program helps single mothers end their lives on the streets and start their own businesses. Their Farming Programs help grandmas start their own chicken or pig farms and end their long lives of poverty – in just eight months! Their Masai Jewellery programs helps Masai women start their own jewellery businesses. All the women in their programs are supported by their Microfinance Scheme which helps them establish and then grow their businesses until they are self-sustaining.

Changing Community Life

Their community programs include providing fresh water, electricity and ablution blocks. They also build homes for families who live on the streets and partner with communities to start sporting programs for children and other community projects such as regular movie nights, which in particular support single fathers.

Hemingways Collection is a proud supporter of One Horizon's sustainable tourism programmes. As well as offering our guests the opportunity to join their itineraries and visit their centres we also send a team of volunteer staff to one of their centres on a quarterly basis to help out with the health checks, help prepare lunch and support art and craft activities. This team of volunteers is also armed with donations of food to support their feeding programme.

Community Rugby Association

Our second community partner in Nairobi is the *Community Rugby Association (CRA)*. Rugby in general and specifically in Kenya has always been a true passion of the Chairman and Founder of Hemingways Collection and our support of the grass roots levels of the game in Kenya continues through the Community Rugby Association.

CRA was established by 2 teachers working with children in a slum on the outskirts of Nairobi with the objective of simply engaging these extremely underprivileged children and keep them off the streets. The enthusiasm of the young players soon convinced them that, through providing positive, disciplined activity, rugby could be used to provide a focus and, consequently, an alternative to indulgence in substance abuse and other forms of antisocial behaviour.

Today, CRA supports 5 rugby clubs each of which attract children between the ages of 8 – 16 from some of the most deprived areas of Nairobi. Each club is supported by a local coordinator, a coach and helpers from the rugby fraternity who organise weekly training sessions. A communal tournament takes place once a month with between 400 – 600 children of various ages competing. Hemingways Collection supports these monthly tournaments by providing all the transport for the clubs to attend the monthly tournament as well as through offering prizes for regular sponsors' raffles which take place throughout the year.

