



Living Walls: A Lion Conservation Project of the African People & Wildlife Fund

The African lion is in danger. Over the last twenty years, lion numbers have declined by up to 50%. Habitat loss and conflicts with people are the greatest threats to their survival. APW is working to prevent these threats. Your contribution to build “Living Walls” can help save these magnificent cats.

The African People & Wildlife Fund (APW) has been working in the Tarangire ecosystem (3 million acres) to conserve one of Tanzania’s most threatened lion populations, with only an estimated 450 to 600 lions remaining. Based on research conducted by APW, approximately 40 lions are killed annually in retaliation for livestock-raiding throughout seven Maasai villages bordering Tarangire National Park (2,360,000 acres of village lands). Based on APW’s lion population estimates of 1.5 to 2.1 lions per 10,000 acres, this amounts to an annual elimination of 6.4% to 8.8% of the population.

The Solution: Living Walls

APW’s data show that over 60% of lion attacks on livestock occur at individual homesteads where livestock are corralled at night. So, preventative measures to reduce these nighttime attacks would significantly reduce conflicts that result in active retaliation against lions in the form of spearing, shooting and poisoning.

APW initiated a pilot project to test the unique design of our predator-resistant enclosures called Living Walls at a corral (known locally as a “boma”) that was experiencing a higher than average number of attacks by lions. In cooperation with Maasai herdsman, the corral walls were planted with *Commiphora africana* trees and reinforced with wire mesh fencing. This tree species is widespread throughout Eastern and Southern Africa, resilient and easily grown from cuttings. It is even fire and termite resistant as well as drought tolerant. The use of live trees as fence posts enhances the long-term sustainability of the enclosure by reducing the need to repetitively cut down thorn trees for “boma” maintenance (which contributes to habitat loss). Since the installation of our pilot enclosure, 9 months ago, while attacks continue throughout the rest of the village, there have been **no further losses of livestock to lions or other carnivores at this “boma”** indicating our Living Wall is **100% effective**. The Maasai herdsman reports, “I can now sleep soundly at night!”

Living Wall Installed October 2008.



The Same Living Wall Seven Months Later!

