



Community-based prioritization and conservation planning of wild edible plants: Insights from Turkana County, Kenya



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INTRODUCTION

Wild Edible Plants (WEPs) play a crucial role in diets in Turkana:

- provide 12–30% of dietary intake
- average of 76% of micronutrients to consumers' diets.

WEPs face multifaceted threats endangering their availability and sustainability.

Study aimed to:

- Investigate stakeholders' perceptions of WEP tree status, trends, threats and conservation challenges.
- Co-develop a community led strategy of Turkana's WEPs.



METHODOLOGY

Mixed-sequential qualitative study approach:

- Nine two-day participatory community workshops.
- Eight in-depth validation interviews with local experts.
- Deductive thematic analysis of data



RESULTS



"If we are not careful, like the animals, the WEPs will disappear from our community and expose us to more hunger than even now."

[Workshop participant, Kamarese, 22 February 2023].

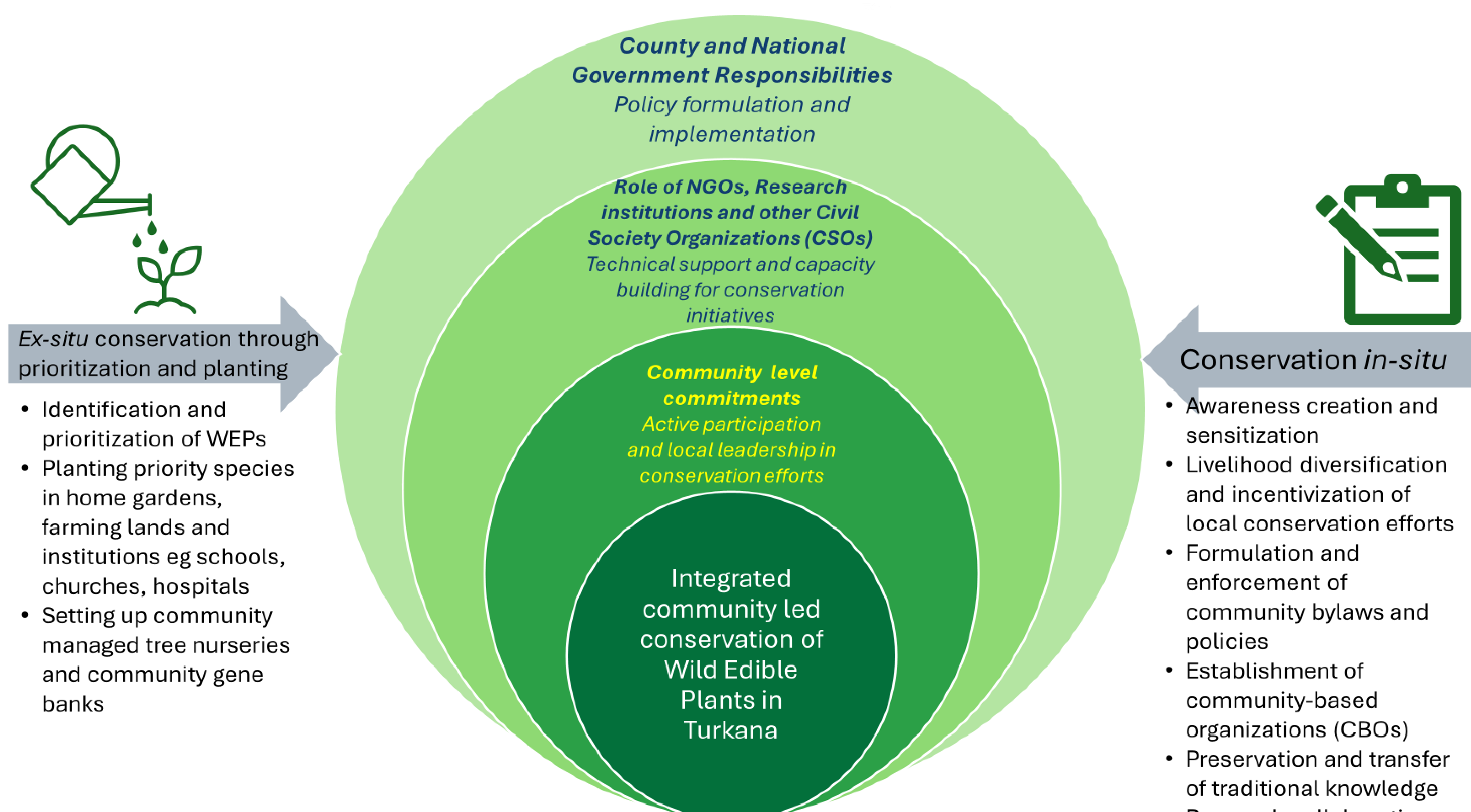


Figure 1. An integrated community-led conservation strategy for WEPs in Turkana County, Kenya.



CONCLUSIONS

- Urgent need for concerted WEP conservation efforts in Turkana County
- Community-driven approach aligns with established conservation models while introducing Turkana-specific elements
- Potential model for sustainable WEP management in similar arid environments

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