

In recent months there has been a flurry of media coverage around the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic, and particularly the loss of millions of dollars of tourism income, on key conservation initiatives in eastern and southern Africa. Maliasili has assembled some of the key coverage of these issues, and a number of Maliasili partners working on the ground to find creative solutions to the crisis, in this summary, which we will update on a rolling basis.

[Conserving Africa's wildlife & wildlands through the COVID-19 crisis and beyond](#)
by Peter Lindsey, James Allan, Peadar Brehony, Amy Dickman, Ashley Robson, Colleen Begg, Hasita Bhammar, Lisa Blanken, Thomas Breuer, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Michael Flyman, Patience Gandiwa, Nicia Giva, Dickson Kaelo, Simon Nampindo, Nyambe Nyambe, Kurt Steiner, Andrew Parker, Dilys Roe, Paul Thomson, Morgan Trimble, Alexandre Caron & Peter Tyrrell | *Nature, Ecology & Evolution* | July 29, 2020

A new article in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* looks closely at the conservation impacts of COVID-19 in Africa. The authors provide a number of recommendations for ways to address key challenges, one of which highlights the importance of supporting African civil society conservation efforts.

[Covid-19 ecotourism collapse could spell disaster in the Masai Mara](#)
by Emma Ledger | *The Independent* | July 20, 2020

The pandemic has resulted in the collapse of the tourism industry and the subsequent increase in wildlife poaching. Dickson Kaelo of Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association discusses the rise in commercial bushmeat due to high rates of unemployment. The Independent announces the launch of its Stop the Illegal Wildlife Trade campaign in partnership with Space for Giants.

[Coronavirus is crushing tourism — and cutting off a lifeline for wildlife](#)
by Max Bearak | *The Washington Post* | July 17, 2020

This piece looks at how coronavirus is crushing tourism and why community conservation is at risk. Dickson Kaelo of Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association discusses how “thirty years of hard work building this ecosystem is being undone.”

[Audio: Conservationists find opportunity and community amidst current crises](#)
by Mike Gaworecki | *Mongabay* | June 10, 2020

Leela Hazzah, Lion Guardians' Executive Director, was interviewed by Mongabay's conservation podcast. She highlights the importance of local and grassroots organizations in supporting communities during the covid-19 crisis.

[Invest more in complementary conservation](#)

by Dickson Ole Kaelo and Tom Lalampaa | Daily Nation | June 5, 2020

Dickson Kaelo, CEO of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, calls for greater investment in community conservation by the Kenyan government in response to the crisis, in an op-ed in the Daily Nation.

[Conservation in crisis: ecotourism collapse threatens communities and wildlife](#)

by Patrick Greenfield and Peter Muiruri | The Guardian | May 5, 2020

Another piece that examines the impact of the collapse of international wildlife tourism on African conservation. Dickson Kaelo, CEO of [Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association](#), discusses the setbacks that wildlife conservation is now facing as well as the increased threat of bushmeat poaching due to the pandemic.

[The Future of Africa's Wild Places—and Why Safaris Matter](#)

by Jennifer Flowers | AFAR | May 5, 2020

This piece looks at the role that safaris, and the tourism industry as a whole, play in funding parks as well as conservation efforts across Africa. AFAR explores the threats that wildlife conservation is currently facing due to the pandemic and presents a number of initiatives that travelers can contribute to in a response to COVID-19.

[With Safari Tourism on Hold, Locals and Animals Are at Risk](#)

by Mary Holland | Conde Nast Traveler | April 29, 2020

Ecotourism gives travelers the opportunity to contribute to conservation efforts that sustain local communities; however, the collapse of the wildlife tourism industry has left many communities in Africa with little income. Conde Nast Traveler has outlined a number of initiatives that people can contribute to from home that address urgent needs such as community aid and education as well as wildlife conservation and anti-poaching efforts.

[Could the pandemic threaten the survival of Africa's wildlife?](#)

Presenter: Nick Clark; Guests: Daniel Sopia, Craig Millar, Kaddu Sebunya | Al Jazeera | May 18, 2020

Al Jazeera's Inside Story discusses how the global pandemic has affected the wildlife tourism industry in Africa and how it could have repercussions on local and regional economies. In the video interview, panelists include: Daniel Sopia - Chief executive officer of [Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association](#); Craig Millar - Head of security of Big Life Foundation; and Kaddu Sebunya - Chief executive officer of the African Wildlife Foundation. The panel talks about how the impacts of COVID could not only result in an increase in organized illegal wildlife poaching, but also a serious increase in unemployment.

[From crisis to solutions for communities and African conservation \(commentary\)](#)

by Dickson Kaelo, Daniel Sopia, Damian Bell, Richard Diggle & Fred Nelson | Mongabay | May 20, 2020

A new commentary in Mongabay by [Maliasili](#) CEO, Fred Nelson, and several other partner organizations and colleagues working in eastern and southern Africa examines at the major challenges created by the collapse of international tourism- and the loss of billions of dollars in wildlife revenue at the local and national scale- across the region. The article also highlights opportunities for new solutions, and how those are starting to be developed by conservationists in the region, in response to the crisis. The article was first developed based on discussions held online through the African Conservation Leadership Network amongst the co-authors and other colleagues.