



My skills and experiences span academia, research, resource management, project management, community outreach, administration and interrelationships for 16 years postdoctoral. Currently I am the Director

of Earthwatch Institute (EWI) in Kenya. My work entails developing targeted research in environmental conservation, encouraging and facilitating integration of science and policy, researchers and community, and different types of science within and external to Earthwatch Institute, with the aim of improving biodiversity conservation, natural resource management and sustainable livelihoods in Kenya with specific mandate on the dry land landscape of Samburu and Laikipia. The implications are national, regional and global.

My primary interest is in sustainable environments and livelihoods in eastern African dry lands. I have pursued this vision through research and outreach, having undertaken research in biodiversity by interrogating (i) processes that drive rarity and abundance of small mammals in cropped and natural environments, (ii) innovative approaches to managing animal overpopulation, (iii) conservation of endangered species, and (iv) community based conservation programmes. Currently, I work in the Samburu-Laikipia landscape of northern Kenya, an area rich in culture, wildlife and habitat diversities. Major challenges to managing this landscape to sustain life ways, culture and wildlife include growing population density, charcoal burning, poaching, and overstocking with livestock among other threats. My interest here is working with communities, scientists and natural resource managers to conserve the landscape and biodiversity therein while improving livelihoods through diversification of income largely wildlife-based. Through these initiatives, livelihoods are being improved by direct and indirect employment; more children are able to attend schools due to improved earnings within communities. I am also undertaking capacity building at national and local institutional levels through support for scientific field research and equipment to allow for sustainability. In order to achieve my goals, I work closely in partnerships with the government of Kenya, the Kenya Wildlife Service, non-profit groups, the corporate and community groups. Through local level initiatives, I have participated in developing and implementing national and local sustainable development strategies in the Samburu-Laikipia landscape. Globally, I involve researchers, teachers, students, conservation managers and other professionals in our programme to work with communities towards sustainable use of natural resources. In turn, more people are learning about challenges in sustainable environments and acting to support these local initiatives. It is my hope that my efforts will lead to sustained vibrant local economy, reduce poverty and conserve biodiversity within this landscape and good practices therein can be applied in other dry land habitats in the continent.