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Human-Lion conflict around Nairobi National Park: Lion (*Panthera leo melanochaita*, Hamilton Smith, 1842) Population Structure, Landscape Use and Diet, in a Semi-Fenced Park

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Finally, I would like to dedicate this work to daughters and sons of “*Mugure-Serima*” and may this journey inspire many.



Curriculum Vitae



Francis Longory Lesilau (SS) was born on 9 September 1966 at the Laisamis sub-county in Marsabit County, Kenya. He attended the Laisamis primary school between 1977-1983 and Marsabit boys' secondary school between 1984-1987.

He worked with the Christian Children Fund (CCF) between 1988-1990 to monitor and evaluate children's education and sponsorship. This programme covered landscape restoration, planting trees and environmental advocacy. He briefly worked as a teacher with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) during 1990-1991.

In 1992, he was employed as a cadet officer by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). He was among the first cadet officers to attend and successfully complete paramilitary training at the Kenya Wildlife Law Enforcement Academy at Tsavo West National Park, Kenya. He was among the pioneer game wardens deployed to different protected areas in Kenya to combat escalating poaching of endangered species during 1992 to 1994.

He was awarded a scholarship by Internationalis Weiterbildung und Entwicklung (InWEnt), Germany to attend the College of African Wildlife Management-Mweka, Tanzania during 2001-2004 where he obtained a Diploma and Certificate in Conservation and Management of Wildlife. He also obtained several diplomas and certificates related to conservation, finances, human resources and general management. He was granted a Master of Science degree in Sustainable Management of Natural Resources from the University of Leicester in UK (2007-2008), which was sponsored by the East of England Agricultural Society (Marshal Papworth). In 2015 until 2019, he was awarded a scholarship by the Louwes Fund for Resources on Water and Food through Leiden University (CML) for a PhD on Human-Lion Conflict around Nairobi National Park Kenya at Leiden University (Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) in The Netherlands.

In 1996, Mr. Lesilau was decorated with a Silver Star (SS) of Kenya by His Excellency the President of Republic of Kenya, in recognition of the outstanding and distinguished services he rendered in the Republic of Kenya for wildlife protection, conservation and management. He was also awarded a Wildlife Conservation Heroes Award in 2000 and a Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through the Species Survival Network (SSN) for extraordinary courage and commitment to wildlife protection, conservation and management.

Mr. Lesilau is a career wildlife conservationist with over 27 years' experience gained in diverse and dynamic work environments of wildlife protection, conservation and management. Currently, he works with the Kenya Wildlife Service as a Senior Assistant Director, Head of Wildlife Protection Department in Nairobi, Kenya. He has initiated and supported some of most successful wildlife conservation, park management and community work projects in Kenya. He is a member of Kenya's species introduction, re-introduction and translocation committee, which has developed a conservation, protection and management strategy for the most endangered species such as Black Rhino, Carnivores, Grevy Zebra, and Mountain Bongo among others.

He is also a member of the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) with a Level 6 Certificate in Management and Leadership (QCF) (UK) acquired in 2010. Lesilau is a member of Species Steering Committee in Kenya and the African Lion Working Group (ALWG) and World Congress on Protected Areas.