SAVING AFRICA'S WILDLIFE:

BASECAMP EXPLORER'S PLEDGE

The Mara-Serengeti ecosystem is a unique place with outstanding wildlife. The Masai Mara National Reserve is globally unique and famous for the great wildebeest migration, but also has a rich diversity of other wildlife.

The Mara land is, for historical reasons, fragmented. Wildlife species need continuous land in order to live and thrive as they move in search of water and food. Without enough safe and securely managed land, sustainability is very difficult.

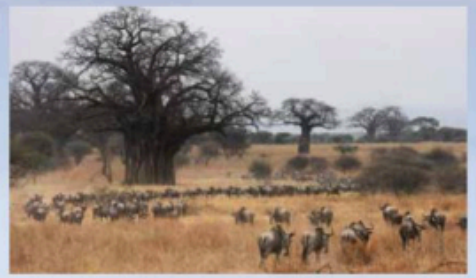
In 2010, Basecamp Explorer initiated the Mara Naboisho Conservancy, protecting 20,000 hectares of pristine wildlife in the Masai Mara. Naboisho is the leading private Conservancy in Kenya, based on an innovative partnership model between Masai landowners and ecotourism operators with equitable decision rights and income generation.

Naboisho's model aims to protect and preserve the biodiversity and socio-cultural heritage of the Masai Mara, whilst generating income and creating jobs for the local population, with tourism being the economic driver. The Conservancy combines natural resource management with the empowerment of local people and protection of wildlife. Naboisho allows the Masai to continue their traditional way of life as it enables controlled grazing within the Conservancy during periods of drought. This limits overgrazing and maintains the longevity of livestock farming which is a significant aspect of the Masai culture.

When it comes to wildlife protection, Naboisho's model encourages co-existence between local communities and wildlife, thus reducing human / wildlife conflicts. Since the formation of the Conservancy there has been a dramatic increase in wildlife, with Naboisho now believed to have one of the highest lion densities in Africa and be home to over 320 bird species.

Today, the Naboisho model has been scaled across the northern part of the Masai Mara. There has been an incredible increase in wildlife populations beyond lions, proving nature's strong ability to bounce back when given a chance. The variation in topography and vegetation allows a wide variety of species, including cheetah, leopard, and elephants to thrive.

Basecamp Explorer has also taken the decision to stop traditional safari vehicles within this area and provides the alternative of a walking safari in the Naboisho Conservancy. Within this area they monitor the number of tourists, reducing the number of vehicles and human impact on the environment to create an authentic safari experience. In 2016, Naboisho was awarded "Africa's Best-Managed Wildlife Conservancy" by Responsible Tourism Africa. The jury put special emphasis on the Conservancy's fruitful cooperation with the Masai community as one of its greatest strengths.



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