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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – FIFTH SESSION – 2026
PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE



REPORT ON-
CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC PETITION NO. 16 OF 2025 BY THE SPEAKER OF
THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF TAITA TAVETA, HON. ANSELM MWADIME
REGARDING THE RECATEGORIZATION OF TSAVO EAST AND TSAVO WEST
NATIONAL PARKS

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 28 MAY 2026	DAY: Thursday
TABLED BY:	Hon. Maisori Marwa, MP Member, Public Petitions Committee
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	Irene Nduku

Directorate of Audit, Appropriations &
General-Purpose Committees
Clerk's Chambers
Main Parliament Buildings
NAIROBI

MAY, 2026

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ACRONYMS

KWS	-	Kenya Wildlife Service
CWCC	-	Community Wildlife Conservation Committees
HWC	-	Human Wildlife Conflict
NLC	-	National Land Commission
WCMA	-	Wildlife Conservation and Management Act

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

On behalf of the Public Petitions Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, it is my pleasant privilege and honour to present to this House the Report of the Public Petitions Committee regarding Public Petition No. 16 of 2025 regarding the regarding the recategorization of Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks. The petition was presented to the House pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 225 (2) (a) by the Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Speaker of the County Assembly of Taita Taveta, Hon. Anselm Mwadime.

The petitioner prayed that the Committee recommends that the National Assembly amends the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act by recategorizing National Parks and National Reserves in the Eleventh Schedule of the Act so as to enhance conservation efforts

In consideration of the Petition, the Committee collected views from the petitioner, county executive, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and the National Land Commission.

The Committee observed that the Tsavo span across multiple counties and represented one large complex eco system that was indivisible. However, host communities ought to benefit from revenue generated from natural resources domiciled in their localities.

The Committee recommends that the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Wildlife and the County Government of Taita Taveta under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee explore the application of Article 187 of the Constitution to facilitate structured framework of sharing of specific functions, including revenue management, community engagement, and ancillary services.

The Committee is thankful to the Offices of the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly for the logistical and technical support offered during the consideration of the Petition. The Chairperson expresses gratitude to the Members of the Committee and the Secretariat for their devotion and commitment to duty during the consideration of the Petition.

On behalf of the Committee and pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 199, I now wish to table the report before the House.

HON. MUCHANGI KAREMBA, CBS, M.P.
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

PART ONE

1. PREFACE

1.1 Establishment and Mandate of the Committee

1. The Public Petitions Committee was established under the provisions of Standing Order 208A with the following terms of reference:
 - i) considering all public petitions tabled in the House;
 - ii) making such recommendations as may be appropriate with respect to the prayers sought in the petitions;
 - iii) recommending whether the findings arising from consideration of a petition should be debated; and
 - iv) advising the House and reporting on all public petitions committed to it.

1.2 Committee Membership

2. The Public Petitions Committee was first constituted in October 2022 and reconstituted in March 2025 and comprises the following Members:

Chairperson

Hon. Muchangi Karemba, CBS, M.P.

Runyenjes Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Vice Chairperson

Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, CBS, M.P.

Turbo Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Ntwiga Patrick Munene, M.P.

Chuka Igambang'ombe Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.

Mavoko Constituency

Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya

(WDM-K)

Hon. Bernard Muriuki Nebart, M.P.

Mbeere South Constituency

Independent

Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.

Kitui West Constituency

Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya

(WDM-K)

Hon. Paul Byego Kibichiy

Chesumei

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.

Kuria East Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.

Kangema Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.

Baringo Central Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.

Taveta Constituency

Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya

(WDM-K)

Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, M.P.

Dagoreti North Constituency

Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)

Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.

Mwatate Constituency

Jubilee Party (JP)

Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, MP

Makueni Constituency

Wiper Democratic Movement-Kenya

(WDM-K)

Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.

Sabatia Constituency

United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

1.3 Committee Secretariat

3. The Public Petitions Committee is facilitated by the following members of the secretariat:

Mr. Victor Weke
Principal Clerk Assistant II

Mr. Benard Kipchumba
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Kafuyai Wamae
Clerk Assistant III

Ms. Nancy Akinyi
Research Officer III

Ms. Roselyn Njuki
Senior Sergeant at Arms

Ms. Felistus Muiya
Public Communications Officer

Mr. Pascal Valerian
Hansard Officer III

Ms. Miriam Modo
Clerk Assistant I

Mr. Clinton Sindiga
Legal Counsel Officer II

Mr. Arkan Mumin
Research Officer III

Ms. Fridah Ngari
Media Relations Officer

Mr. Collins Mahamba
Audio Officer

Mr. Paul Shana
Serjaent at Arms

PART TWO

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PETITION

2.1 Introduction

4. Public Petition No. 16 of 2025 regarding the recategorization of Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks was presented to the House on 1st October 2025 by the Rt. Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the Speaker of the County Assembly of Taita Taveta, Hon. Anselm Mwadime.
5. The Petitioner states that the Eleventh Schedule to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act categorizes the Tsavo East National Park and Tsavo West National Park as national parks with total coverage of 11,747 square kilometers and 9,065 square kilometers respectively.
6. The Speaker of the County Assembly of Taita Taveta avers that the current categorization of the two national parks denies the County Government of Taita Taveta the opportunity to protect and maintain the biological diversity and its associated resources.
7. The Petitioner claims that the current classification of the two national parks is discriminatory to the people of Taita Taveta and contrary to the provisions of Article 27 of the Constitution as other counties collect revenues from their established national reserves.
8. The Petitioner asserts that Taita Taveta County is eager to harness the resources within the Tsavo region, excluding wildlife, whose management and protection it is willing to leave under the exclusive mandate of the Kenya Wildlife Service. Additionally, the county expresses readiness to develop policies and strategies aimed at enhancing the management and revenue generation from the parks.
9. The Speaker of the County Assembly decree that the current categorization of the National Parks has not allowed the County Government of Taita Taveta to benefit from the revenue share collected by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).
10. Further the Petitioners seek the intervention of the National Assembly to amend the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act by recategorizing National Parks and National Reserves in the Eleventh Schedule of the Act so as to enhance conservation efforts.

2.2 Petitioner's Prayers

The Petitioner prayed that the National Assembly, through the Public Petitions Committee –

11. Sought the intervention of the National Assembly to amend the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act by recategorizing National Parks and National Reserves in the Eleventh Schedule of the Act so as to enhance conservation efforts.
12. Make any other appropriate recommendations it deems fit in addressing the plight of the petitioner.

PART THREE

3 STAKEHOLDERS' SUBMISSIONS

3.1. The Petitioner

The Petitioner, the Speaker of the County Assembly of Taita Taveta, Hon. Anselm Mwadime appeared before the Committee 18th November, 2025 and submitted as follows—

13. The petition was passed by a resolution of the full County Assembly of Taita Taveta on Tuesday, 9th April 2024, following a motion by Hon. Jimmy Mwamidi, MCA. The Petition was founded on the constitutional rights enshrined in:
 - i) Article 119: The right to petition Parliament.
 - ii) Article 27: The right to equality and freedom from discrimination.
 - iii) Article 37: The right to present petitions to public authorities.
14. He submitted that the listing of Tsavo East (11,747 km²) and Tsavo West (9,065 km²) as "National Parks" in the Eleventh Schedule of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act is fundamentally discriminatory. He cited counties like Kajiado, which manages Amboseli National Park and thereby benefits directly from its revenues.
15. The petitioner also emphasized that the current legal framework prevented Taita Taveta County from receiving any share of the revenue collected by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) from the Tsavo parks, despite the parks occupying approximately 62% of the county's land mass. This, he argued, severely constrains the county's own-source revenue generation.
16. He further stated that the county was not seeking to manage wildlife, which it acknowledged should remain under the exclusive mandate of the KWS. Instead, it seeks to "tap on the resources in the Tsavo save for the game," referring to other land-based resources like minerals, which they are currently barred from exploiting due to the park's protected status.
17. The petitioner also informed the Committee that numerous attempts and engagements with KWS and the national government on revenue sharing had been futile, thus the petition to Parliament as the only viable recourse to address the matter.
18. Regarding how world-class conservation standards would be maintained under the proposed new management structure. The petitioner proposed a dual-responsibility framework, emphasizing that the Kenya Wildlife Service would retain exclusive mandate over wildlife security, management and protection, while the County Government would focus on land management and non-wildlife resources, thereby ensuring conservation standards remained uncompromised.
19. On the specific revenue-sharing mechanism that the county envisioned with KWS, the petitioners clarified that while the county had studied comparative models such as the case of Kajiado County, the detailed revenue-sharing formula would be developed through subsequent legislation and tripartite negotiations involving the county government, KWS and the national government, with the immediate priority being the legal recategorization that would enable such financial discussions.
20. The petitioner identified mineral resources and tourism infrastructure development as primary non-wildlife resources, while assuring the Committee that any exploitation would be subject to rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment processes as required by law, with strict adherence to environmental sustainability principles.

21. On whether the petition sought recategorization of the entire Tsavo ecosystem or only portions within Taita Taveta County boundaries. The petitioner clarified that the recategorization would apply only to sections falling within Taita Taveta County, noting that KWS would continue its integrated ecosystem management across the entire Tsavo landscape regardless of the change in categorization status for specific portions of the national parks.
22. The petitioner asserted the constitutional right of Taita Taveta residents to benefit from the natural resources within their territory, on par with the privileges enjoyed by other counties that host national game reserves. Thus, the petition sought to rectify historical economic disparities and ensure fair distribution of resources among all regions.
23. The petitioner prayed that the National Assembly amend the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, Chapter 376, to achieve the following-
 - i) Insert a new schedule to the Act that clearly delineates the categorizations of National Parks and National Reserves based on the definitions in Section 2 of the Act.
 - ii) Specifically, recategorize the portions of Tsavo National Park that fall within the territorial boundaries of Taita Taveta County from a "National Park" to a "National Reserve.
 - iii) Introduce a new section in the principal Act to legally protect the areas listed in the new schedule from arbitrary recategorization in the future.

3.2. Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife

Ms. Rebecca Miano, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, appeared before the Committee on 14th April 2026 and submitted as follows—

24. The Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) provide the legal framework governing the ownership, classification and management of protected areas, including national parks and national reserves, and define the respective roles of the National and County Governments.

Classification of National Parks as Public Land vis a vis classification of National Reserves as Public and/or community land.

25. Under Article 62 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010), national parks and government animal sanctuaries are classified as public land. Article 62(1) (d) and 62 (3) specifically provides that national parks shall vest in and be held by the national government in trust for the people of Kenya and shall be administered on their behalf by the National Land Commission.
26. Section 3(1) of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act Cap 376 (hereinafter referred to as "WCMA") defines a "national park" as an area of land/or sea specially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means whereas a "national reserve" is defines as an area of community land declared to be a national reserve under this Act or under any other applicable law.
27. It therefore follows that an interpretation of the provisions cited above demonstrates that a National Reserve can only exist on community land, whereas a National Park, pursuant to Article 62(1)(d) and Article 62(3) of the Constitution; exists solely as public land vested in and held by the National Government in trust for the people of Kenya, and not for any specific community or county. There is no evidence that the public land on which the Tsavo National Parks are established has been lawfully converted to community land. Consequently, the proposal to recategorize the National Parks as National Reserves would not be consistent with the constitutional and statutory framework governing the classification and management of protected areas in Kenya.
28. The Constitution distributes the management of natural resources between the two levels of government through the Fourth Schedule, futher the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 assigns responsibility for the protection

of the environment and natural resources, including wildlife, to the National Government under Part 1 of the Fourth Schedule. In particular, Function 22 provides that the National Government is responsible for the protection of animals and wildlife with a view to establishing a durable and sustainable system of development.

29. County Governments primarily implement national government policies on natural resources and environmental conservation as provided under Part 2 of the Fourth Schedule. However, the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 376) provides a framework for cooperative governance in wildlife conservation by assigning the management of National Reserves to County Governments while the National Government, through the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), retains responsibility for the management of National Parks and overall wildlife protection.
30. While the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is established under an Act of Parliament, namely the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (Cap. 376), its mandate is fully aligned with constitutional requirements; KWS is a uniformed and disciplined service mandated to enforce wildlife laws and related statutes, and to ensure compliance with conservation regulations.
31. KWS works with county governments and communities to manage wildlife corridors and dispersal lands outside formal protected areas. Section 18 of WCMA establishes Community Wildlife Conservation Committees (CWCC) in each county. The Act already devolves participation. Taita Taveta has a seat at the table through its CWCCC to manage human-wildlife conflict and compensation claims. This demonstrates that the County Government of Taita Taveta is not excluded or discriminated against in the management of the national parks

Sustainability, Economic Viability and Ecological Integrity

32. The National Government is incurring high cost of managing massive ecosystems like the Tsavos. It bears the full cost of security and infrastructure especially to manage and conserve the endangered wildlife species which was near extinction in the country and now recovering. To demonstrate the high cost of wildlife management, KWS receives government subventions and further leverages support from conservation partners to supplement funding for the protection and management of wildlife resources.
33. In support of black rhino recovery and enhanced conservation outcomes, over USD 4.7 million (approximately KSh 606 million) is currently being invested in Tsavo West National Park by the National Government through a partnership with the Kenya Rhino Range Expansion Program. This investment is directed towards advanced security systems, including AI-enabled surveillance cameras, drones, upgraded fencing, and improved ranger housing within the Tsavo sanctuaries. These interventions are aimed at strengthening protection measures and securing sustainable conservation of Kenya's wildlife heritage.
34. The petition by Taita Taveta appears to treat the Tsavo Parks as localized asset belonging to a single county. In reality, Tsavo is a trans-boundary ecosystem shared by four counties. Re-categorizing it would necessitate splitting the park into three different management regimes, creating ecological instability and inevitable inter-county disputes over the resource. The current status as a National Park is the only way to ensure equitable benefit for all host counties and all Kenyans, as per Article 62 of the Constitution.
35. The Tsavo National Parks covers a total area of approximately 2,291,800 hectares, comprising of Tsavo East, Tsavo West, and Chyulu Hills National Parks. These three parks span across four counties, namely Taita Taveta, Makueni, Kitui and Tana River. The table below presents the distribution of the total wildlife area attributable to each county.

County	Approx. Area (HA)	% Area of the park in the county
Taita Taveta	1,062,800	46
Makueni	118,800	5
Kitui	801,300	35
Tana River	308,900	13

36. The Tsavo ecosystem is a single, indivisible ecological unit, if the park is re- categorized to satisfy Taita Taveta, the other shared counties (Kitui, Makueni and Tana River) would legally be entitled to demand their "slice" of management and this would trigger a boundary and resource dispute between the counties. By keeping the park under National Government (KWS) management, the state acts as a neutral arbiter, ensuring the resource is managed for the national good rather than becoming a source of inter- county conflict over boundaries and tourism entry points.
37. **The Impact:** This would lead to the fragmentation of the ecosystem. Wildlife does not recognize county boundaries. Managing one park under four different county laws/revenue systems would create a bureaucratic nightmare, disrupt migration corridors, and weaken anti-poaching efforts.
38. **Summary/ Conclusion:** The Tsavo Parks being an asset under the constitution and WCMA, the revenue accrued supports not only these parks but other paper parks and reserves that plays key role in biodiversity conservation of the country and do not generate any revenue.

These paper parks and reserves include:

- i) Arabuko Sokoke National Park
- ii) Kora National Park
- iii) Laikipia (Eland Downs) National Park
- iv) Malka Mari National Park
- v) Arawale National Reserve
- vi) Bisanadi National Reserve
- vii) Boni National Reserve
- viii) Chepkitale National Reserve
- ix) Dodori National Reserve
- x) Laikipia National Reserve
- xi) Mwea National Reserve
- xii) Ngai-Ndeithiya National Reserve
- xiii) Mwingi National Reserve
- xiv) Nyambene National Reserve
- xv) Ondago Swamp Sanctuary
- xvi) Rahole National Reserve
- xvii) Diani Chale National Reserve
- xviii) Nasolot National Reserve
- xix) Rimoi National Reserve
- xx) Kanyaboli National Reserve
- xxi) lake Simbi Sanctuary
- xxii) Losai National Reserve
- xxiii) Maralal Sanctuary
- xxiv) Naivasha Wildlife Sanctuary

39. As National Parks (Public Land), the benefits from the revenue generated are currently shared equally by all Kenyans through the National Treasury. Giving it to one county would create a "privileged class" of county, which is exactly what Article 27 prohibits.
40. Because the resource is trans-boundary (crossing multiple counties), it loses its "local" character and becomes a "national" resource. The Constitution mandates that such resources be managed by the National Government to ensure standard protection levels across county lines and coordinate across these borders effectively. Further, it would lead to Ecological Fragmentation; wildlife migration doesn't stop at county lines. Splitting management between Taita Taveta, Kitui, Makueni and Tana River would lead to uncoordinated policies, making it impossible to manage these parks as a single, functional ecosystem.
41. Recategorization would down grade its premier status (value) of being national parks, this might then affect its ecological integrity, and tourism value.
42. The ecosystem borders other counties such as Kwale Kilifi which are experiencing high human wildlife conflict (HWC) due to Tsavos. The recategorization may affect the management of HWC in these areas and beyond.
43. The Tsavo ecosystem has employed staff from all over the country in a spirit inculcate regional balance and equitable sharing and responsibility towards these National assets. The recategorization would mean loss of jobs for other Kenyans.
44. The Tsavo ecosystem encompasses critical national water catchment areas, including Mzima Springs and the Chyulu Hills, which supply water to a significant portion of the Coast region. Any transfer of management of the Park to a county government could undermine the National Government's constitutional mandate to protect critical water sources, as provided under Section 22(c) of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution of Kenya. Given the strategic importance of these water towers to national water security, their protection remains a matter of national interest.
45. Reduced Security & Anti-Poaching: National Reserves often allow for human settlement or grazing. This "diluted" status increases human-wildlife conflict and makes anti-poaching operations significantly harder to enforce compared to the strict "no-entry" rules of a National Park.
46. On benefit sharing with the county of Taita Taveta, the Government through KWS have conducted a number of Corporate Social Investments (CSI) to communities in Taita Taveta county.
47. The Service has cumulatively constructed 457.4 kilometres of electric fencing across identified human-wildlife conflict hotspot areas within Taita Taveta County to mitigate conflict between people and wildlife, at an estimated cost of Kshs 914,800,000.00.

3.3. TAITA TAVETA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

On 27th April, 2026 H.E Andrew Mwadime, the Governor, Taitata Taveta County, submitted as follows;

48. The Petition seeks the recategorization or restructuring of Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks (Taita Taveta portion) to enable equitable sharing of benefits with the host community. Taita Taveta County hosts a significant portion of the Tsavo ecosystem but does not receive a structured share of the revenue generated.
49. The County Government stated that while the current classification supports conservation objectives, it excludes the County and its residents from meaningful economic participation, despite bearing the costs of conservation such as human-wildlife conflict and loss of livelihoods.
50. This raises a key legal issue as to whether the current framework aligns with constitutional principles on equitable resource sharing, public trust in land, and benefit sharing under Articles 174, 62, 69, and 187.
51. The County Government found that there is no transparent or enforceable revenue-sharing mechanism, resulting in economic exclusion and weakened community support for conservation. The law, however, provides viable remedies including recategorization to a National Reserve, transfer or sharing of functions under Article 187, or a hybrid model supported by an intergovernmental framework.
52. The Governor, therefore recommended a review of the current classification, amendment of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act to provide for structured revenue sharing, establishment of a Joint Revenue Account for accountability, and development of a national policy on benefit sharing. Addressing this imbalance is necessary to align conservation with constitutional principles, enhance community participation, and ensure sustainable management of wildlife resources.

3.4. NATIONAL LAND COMMISSION

On 30th April, the Secretary/Chief Executive officer, National land Commission, Ms. Kabale Tache Arero, MBS submitted as follows;

53. National Parks are public land under the trusteeship of the National Government, administered and managed on behalf of the National Government by the National Land Commission in line with Article 62(3) of the Constitution.
54. Constitutionally, the protection of wildlife is a national government function under paragraph 22 (b) of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution. Currently, Wildlife management or protection is performed by the Kenya Wildlife Service, a National Government agency with clear mandates and functions provided under Section 7 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013,
55. including inter alia: Conserve and manage wildlife in Kenya (both within and outside protected areas), enforce wildlife laws and regulations, including anti-poaching efforts, Protect endangered and threatened species, Manage national parks, national reserves (in some cases), and sanctuaries.

Therefore, jurisdictional markings in relation to land and functions are clearly established under the Constitution.

56. While national parks are public land, national reserves are situated on community land, with the latter trustee being the relevant county governments (not national government) although KWS provides technical support and backstopping in terms of wildlife protection within national reserves.

Consequently, the Commission does not support the proposed recategorization of Tsavo National Park due to the following reasons:

57. The proposal contravenes Article 62(3) of the Constitution, which provides that all national parks are public land, that are held in trust by the National Government, and administered on its behalf by the National Land Commission. In addition, national parks are the highest protection that can be accorded to ecosystems hosting unique and substantial biodiversity resources such as wildlife and recategorization undermines this authority, and portends serious risks and threats to wildlife and biodiversity resources.
58. Kenya's national parks are indeed a symbol of unity and equity. Resources accruing from conservation of national parks are equitably shared through the exchequer to support even counties that are less endowed with (or completely lack) wild resources and therefore do not feel left out (excluded) from mainstream development or starved of funds. Recategorization will automatically contribute to inequality and discrimination – result in benefiting few counties rather than the nation.
59. The National Government has inherent capacity that is tested and proven over time, contrary to counties – which still require capacity building by the national government in accordance with Fourth schedule (paragraph 32 of the National Government functions).
60. Further, Wildlife management and protection is a specialized field requiring unique skills, knowledge and experience to effectively execute and realize sustainable outcomes. It will require more time to build capacity for the intended recategorization to enable uptake of knowledge, technical skills and ability to management and protect Kenya's wildlife under the proposed regime.
61. While the Constitution envisages transfer of functions from one of government to another under Article 187 of the Constitution, there are critical conditions that must be met to fulfil this provision and this includes the fact that the recipient government must demonstrate capacity to effectively perform the function better than the donor government.
62. The National Government has established strong and reliable networks and partners and is able to surmount budgetary challenges required to protect wildlife through leveraging on the partners resources and opportunities therein. It is critical and noteworthy to state that Wildlife conservation is a very resource intensive venture, requiring a 'big picture' vision as protecting the country's

heritage beyond revenue since most times, more input revenue is pumped to conservation rather than collected.

63. Recategorization undermines biodiversity conservation and reduces Kenya's visibility in the global conservation map, contrary to what it is known for at the regional and global spaces. This will therefore hurt Article 2(5) and 2 (6) of the Constitution since Kenya is a signatory to many international treaties and conventions governing wildlife conservation including the convention on biological diversity (CBD), Convention on Internationally Threatened and Endangered Species (CITES), among others.
64. Recategorization sets a wrong precedence and promotes social and environmental chaos– since there are many similar requests and agitations by several counties such as Meru, Nakuru, Nairobi, etc. It will open a Pandora box that will not be easy to close.
65. Public lands including national parks must jealously be protected and safeguarded for future generations in line with the Constitution and parliament has a duty under Article 68(c)(v) to protect, conserve and ensure equitable access to all public land including our National Parks. Recategorization goes against this provision and spirit since it will require conservation and reduce public land size for all citizens' equitable access in line with Article 60(1(a) of the Constitution.
66. In summary, this petition is in bad faith, sets wrong precedence and perpetuates inequity in relation to access to public land and goes against the doctrine of public trust. Parliament is duty-bound with the responsibility of protecting and safeguarding public resources including public land under the Constitution and it must stamp its authority in discharging this solemn duty for, and behalf of, all Kenyans

PART FOUR

4 COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

67. The Committee observes that the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) provide a clear and unambiguous framework on the classification and management of protected areas. In particular, Article 62 explicitly designates National Parks as public land vested in the National Government, while National Reserves are established on community land.
68. The Committee notes that there exists a clear legal distinction between National Parks and National Reserves. National Parks, including Tsavo East National Park and Tsavo West National Park, are exclusively public land under the National Government, whereas National Reserves are community land managed at the county level.
69. The Committee observes that under the Fourth Schedule (Part 1, Function 22), the National Government bears the primary responsibility for the protection and management of wildlife resources. This mandate justifies the continued management of National Parks by the Kenya Wildlife Service.
70. The Committee notes that County Governments play a complementary role in implementing national policies and managing National Reserves. Further, mechanisms such as Community Wildlife Conservation Committees ensure that counties, including Taita Taveta, actively participate in wildlife governance. The Committee therefore finds no evidence of exclusion or discrimination against the County Government.
71. The Committee observes that the Tsavo ecosystem is a single, interconnected ecological unit spanning multiple counties. Reclassification would result in fragmentation of this ecosystem, disrupt wildlife migration corridors, and undermine coordinated conservation efforts.
72. The Committee notes that the Tsavo ecosystem extends across Taita Taveta, Kitui, Makueni, and Tana River counties, thereby qualifying it as a national resource rather than a localized asset. Its management at the national level ensures neutrality and prevents potential inter-county disputes.
73. The Committee notes that revenues generated from National Parks are pooled and redistributed nationally, supporting conservation efforts across the country, including non-revenue generating protected areas. Reclassification would undermine this equitable sharing framework.
74. The Committee notes that reclassification could trigger competing claims among counties sharing the ecosystem, leading to boundary disputes, revenue conflicts, and governance challenges.
75. The Committee however notes that host communities ought to benefit from income generated from natural resources domiciled in their localities.

PART FIVE

5 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS


27. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 227, the Committee responds to the petitioner as follows -

On the Prayer that the National Assembly amends the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act by recategorizing National Parks and National Reserves in the Eleventh Schedule of the Act so as to enhance conservation efforts; **The Committee rejects the prayer.**

However, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife initiates engagement with the County Government of Taita Taveta (and other counties within the Tsavo eco-system) under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Relations Technical Committee to explore the application of Article 187 of the Constitution to facilitate structured framework of sharing of specific functions, including revenue management and sharing, community engagement, and ancillary services, within ninety (90) days of tabling of this report.

Signed:  Date: 28/05/26.

THE HON. KAREMBA MUCHANGI, CBS, M.P.
CHAIRPERSON, PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 28 MAY 2026	DAY: Thursday
TABLED BY:	Hon. Maisen Marway MP Member, Public Petitions Committee
CLERK AT THE TABLE:	Irene Nduku

ANNEXURES

Annexure 1:	Adoption List
Annexure 2:	Public Petition No. 16 of 2025 regarding the recategorization of Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks
Annexure 3:	Minutes of Proceedings

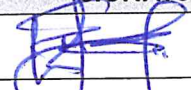

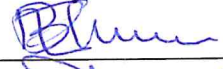

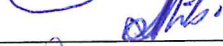
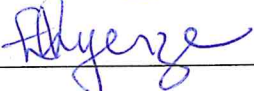
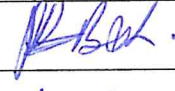
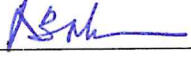
PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

ADOPTION LIST

(i) Consideration and adoption of the P/No.16 of 2025 regarding recategorization of Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks by Speaker of the County Assembly of Taita Taveta, Hon. Anselm Mwadime.

We, the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

DATE: 015/2025

	HON. MEMBER	SIGNATURE
1.	Hon. Muchangi Karemba, CBS, M.P. (Chairperson)	
2.	Hon. Janet Jepkemboi Sitienei, CBS, M.P. (Vice Chairperson)	
3.	Hon. Patrick Makau King'ola, M.P.	
4.	Hon. Beatrice Kadeveresia Elachi, CBS, M.P.	
5.	Hon. Joshua Chepyegon Kandie, M.P.	
6.	Hon. Maisori Marwa Kitayama, M.P.	
7.	Hon. Edith Vethi Nyenze, M.P.	
8.	Hon. Patrick Ntwiga Munene, M.P.	
9.	Hon. Paul Biego Kibichy, M.P.	
10.	Hon. (Eng.) Bernard Muriuki Nebart, M.P.	
11.	Hon. Peter Mbogho Shake, M.P.	
12.	Hon. Suzanne Ndunge Kiamba, M.P.	
13.	Hon. John Bwire Okano, M.P.	
14.	Hon. Sloya Clement Logova, M.P.	
15.	Hon. Peter Irungu Kihungi, M.P.	

