

# DEDAN NGATIA

## *Curriculum Vitae*

*Kenyan scientist specialising in ecology and management of infectious disease in wild and domestic carnivores. Working for sustainable coexistence of people and wildlife.*

### Personal Information

**Full name:** Dedan Kabuu Ngatia                      **Nationality:** Kenyan  
**Kenyan Address:** Mpala Research Centre, P.O. Box 555-10400, Nanyuki, Kenya  
**USA Address:** Berry Center, #4304 University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071  
**Tel:** +254 714 291168                                      **Email:** [dngatia@uwyo.edu](mailto:dngatia@uwyo.edu)

### Recent Positions

- 2022-2025: Principal Investigator, Samburu-Laikipia Wild Dog Project.  
2016-2022: Project Manager, Samburu-Laikipia Wild Dog Project. Project lead: Prof Rosie Woodroffe, Zoological Society of London. Role involved monitoring African wild dogs and cheetahs using GPS- and VHF-collars, visual observations, collar deployment, necropsies, and community outreach.  
2014-2016 Project Research Assistant, Kenya Small Carnivore Study “*Anthropogenic disturbance in mesocarnivores: Consequences for disease dynamics across human-wildlife interface*”. Project lead: Dr Adam Ferguson, Smithsonian Institute/Karatina University. Role involved trapping, handling and blood-sampling small carnivores.  
2014: Research Assistant; Kenya Bats Research Project- an inventory of the Bats of Kenya, Karatina University. Project lead: Dr. Paul Webala, Maasai Mara University.  
2014: Research Assistant, Ungulate Herbivory under Rainfall Uncertainty Project, Mpala Research Centre. Project lead: Dr Jacob Goheen, University of Wyoming.  
2013: Intern, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Department of Wildlife and Science, Nanyuki, Kenya. Supervised by: Dr. Mordecai Ogada.

### Education

- 2020 to date: PhD Candidate, Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming. Thesis Title: “*Role of climate change in the general ecology, behavior and disease patterns in the African Wild Dogs (Lycaon pictus)*”. Supervisors: Dr. Jake Goheen and Prof. Rosie Woodroffe.  
2020 to date: Affiliate PhD student, Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London. Supervisor: Prof. Rosie Woodroffe.  
2016: MSc Wildlife Management (by research), Karatina University. Thesis Title: “*Conserving carnivores in Kenya: addressing disease dynamics in domestic dogs in rural communities, Laikipia, Kenya*”. In Kenya MSc by research is not graded.  
2014: BSc Natural Resources Management, First Class Honours, Karatina University. Dissertation title “*Effects of fire on herbaceous vegetation and herbivore visitation of burnt patches at a Kenyan savannah, Laikipia, Kenya*”. I was ranked highest in my year (among 21 students), receiving the highest grades achievable for both my dissertation and my final year examinations.

## Publications

- Ngatia, D. K.**, Woodroffe, R., Ferguson, A. W., Ford, A. T., Lamb, C. T., Lentaam, S., Ngatia S. W., & Goheen, J. R. (*in prep*). Rising temperatures increase risk of pathogen exposure for African wild dogs.
- Odinga, C. O., Thomas, L. F., Wambugu, E., Ferguson, A. W., Fèvre, E. M., Gibson, A., & Worsley-Tonks, K. E. et al. (2025). Integrated Community-Based Reporting and Field Diagnostics for Improved Rabies Surveillance in Rural Laikipia, Kenya. *Zoonoses and public health*, 72(2), 194-199.
- Stiegler, J., Gallagher, C. A., Hering, R., Müller, T., Tucker, M., Apollonio, M., **Ngatia, D. K.**, & Blaum, N. et al. (2024). Mammals show faster recovery from capture and tagging in human-disturbed landscapes. *Nature communications*, 15(1), 8079.
- Daniels, L., Rabaiotti, D., McIntosh, A., Ramage, A., De Lorm, T., Aebischer, T., Becker, M., Beverley, G., Castells, D., Donald, W., Drouilly, M., Elizalde, S., Funston, P., Groom, R., Hanssen, L., Horion, R., Jumbam, K., Kabwe, R., Maude, G., Mooney, R., **Ngatia, D.**, Parsais, S., Poupard, A., Searle, C., Strampelli, P., van der A, R., Watermeyer, J., Wekesa, M. and Woodroffe, R. (*in review*). Coat colour is associated with climate and habitat in African wild dogs.
- Woodroffe, R., Abrahms, B., English, H., Jumbam, K., Linden, J., **Ngatia, D.**, Rabaiotti, D. & McNutt, J. W. (2023). African wild dogs are hot and hungry: Response to Creel et al. (2023). *Biological Conservation*, 284, 110198.
- Jordan, N. R., Golabek, K. A., Marneweck, C. J., Marneweck, D. G., Mbizah, M. M., **Ngatia, D.**, & Watermeyer, J. et al. (2023). Hunting behavior and social ecology of African wild dogs. In *Social Strategies of Carnivorous Mammalian Predators: Hunting and Surviving as Families* (pp. 177-227). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
- Broekhuis, F., Ngene, S., Gopalaswamy, A. M., Mwaura, A., Dloniak, S. M., **Ngatia, D. K.**, et al. (2022). Predicting potential distributions of large carnivores in Kenya: An occupancy study to guide conservation. *Diversity and Distributions*.
- Ngatia, D. K.**, Webala, P. W., Mware, M. J., Butynski, T. M., de Jong, Y. A., & Ferguson, A. W. (2021). Biogeography of the Egyptian mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Africa, with first records for Laikipia County, central Kenya. *African Journal of Ecology*.
- Woodroffe, R., Rabaiotti, D., **Ngatia, D. K.**, Smallwood, T. R., Strebel, S., & O'Neill, H. M. (2020). Dispersal behaviour of African wild dogs in Kenya. *African Journal of Ecology*, 58(1), 46-57.
- Ferguson, A. W., Muloi, D., **Ngatia, D. K.**, Kiongo, W., Kimuyu, D. M., Webala, P. W., & Martins, D. J. et al. (2020). Volunteer based approach to dog vaccination campaigns to eliminate human rabies: Lessons from Laikipia County, Kenya. *PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 14(7), e0008260.
- S. Gold, K. Banda, M. Becker, G. Beverley, P. Blisnston, C. A. Donnelly, B. Goodheart, R. Groom, **D. Ngatia**, L. V. Schalkwyk, & R. Woodroffe (*in review*). Evaluating rabies outbreaks and intervention effectiveness across endangered African wild dog populations with recommendations for future mitigation

## **Advisory positions and teaching experience**

- 2025 – present: Expert Advisory Committee, National Strategy for the Conservation and Management for Cheetahs and African Wild Dogs in Kenya. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI).
- Jan 2025 : Teaching assistant, University of Exeter Field Course, 2025
- 2023 – present: Kenya Wildlife Service Large Carnivore Technical Committee. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).
- 2023 – present: Kenya Wildlife Service National Taskforce for Small Carnivore Conservation, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).
- 2022 – present: Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission, National Species Specialist Group, Kenya.
- 2022 – present: Member, IUCN Species Survival Commission, Canid Specialist Group (CSG).
- 2021-- Spring: Graduate assistant, Behavioral ecology course, University of Wyoming (Prof. Dr. David McDonald).
- 2021-- Fall: Graduate assistant, Mammalogy Course, University of Wyoming (Prof: Dr. Jacob Goheen).
- 2019 – present: Grants Reviewer, Young Explorers Grant, for the National Geographic Society.
- 2017 – present: Kenya National Rabies Elimination Coordination Committee, Department of veterinary Services.
- 2017 – 2018: National Geographic Society – Member, leadership and mentorship Programme.

## **Honours and Awards**

- 2020: Conference Participation Award, Pathways Conference Kenya. National Geographic Society, \$800
- 2019: Travel award, exchange visit on a Bats project with Dr. Paul Webala, Musanze Rwanda. National Geographic Society, \$620
- 2019: Rabies Hero Award, Global Animal Welfare – International Veterinary Health
- 2019: Best Student Presenter, 13<sup>th</sup> African Small Mammals Symposium, Mekelle University, Ethiopia
- 2019: World Rabies Day awards (Shortlisted Candidate), Global Alliance for Rabies Control
- 2018: 2<sup>nd</sup> Best presenter, African annual conference, Rufford Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya
- 2017: Conference travel and participation award, Pathways Conference, Windhoek Namibia. Colorado University, \$2500
- 2016 Pathways Conference; USAID Kenya and East Africa Environment Office and PREPARED Project - support to East African participation in the conference, \$1500

## **Recent Grants**

- 2025-2026: Donation in support of the Samburu-Laikipia Wild Dog Project and the Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign. Footprint Safaris \$40,000.
- 2025-2026: Donation in support of the Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign. Veterinarians International \$3000.
- 2025-2026: Donation in support of the Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign. Katie Adamson Conservation Fund \$2500.
- 2024-2025: Can phenotypic plasticity by African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) reduce the impacts of climate change? Rufford Foundation £14,945.

- 2023-2024: Dr. George Menken's Memorial Scholarship. Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming \$15,000.
- 2023-2024: African wild dog conservation. African Wild dog United \$2,000.
- 2022-2023: Center for Global Studies (CGS) Student International Research Grant, John P. Ellbogen Foundation Endowment for Global Engagement. University of Wyoming \$2,000.
- 2022-2024: Conservation of African wild dogs in the Ewaso ecosystem. People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) £14,840.
- 2022-2024: Research and exploration grant: Recovering African wild dogs in the Ewaso-ecosystem. National Geographic Society \$89,828.
- 2022-2023: Lyman and Margie McDonald Research Award for Quantitative Analysis in Wildlife. University of Wyoming \$4,000.
- 2022-2023: Dick and Lynne Cheney Study-Abroad Grants, Summer 2022. University of Wyoming \$5,000.
- 2021-2025: Principal Investigator, African Wild Dogs and African people – Conservation through Coexistence. Darwin's Initiative UK £393,674.
- 2020-2021: Lyman and Margie McDonald Research Award for Quantitative Analysis in Wildlife. University of Wyoming \$4,000.
- 2020-2021: Dick and Lynne Cheney Study-Abroad Grants, Summer 2022. University of Wyoming \$5,000.
- 2019-2021: Principal Investigator, *Recovering a globally important African wild dog population in Kenya's Ewaso Ecosystem*. SOS-IUCN €200,000.
- 2020-2021: The costs and benefits of domestic dogs for the recovery of the endangered African wild dogs in the Ewaso ecosystem. British Ecological Society £8000.
- 2020-2021: Donation for African wild dog research work and Rabies Vaccinations in Laikipia and Samburu Counties, Private donor, \$20,000.
- 2020-2021: Fund in support of Research (Dedan Ngatia), *Graduate Student Research Support Fund*, University of Wyoming \$15,000.
- 2017-2018: *Assessing Domestic Dog (Canis familiaris) demography and Rabies Disease burden in rural communities, Kenya: Implications for conservation of wild carnivores*. Rufford Foundation £4,997.
- 2018: *Exchange program Grant*, Savé Valley Conservancy, Zimbabwe. National Geographic Society \$3,000.
- 2018: *Field exchange visits* (Hans Ngoteya, Tanzania, and Dedan Ngatia, Kenya). National Geographic Society, Society \$2,560.
- 2016-2017: *Conserving carnivores in Kenya: Addressing disease dynamics in domestic dogs (Canis lupus familiaris) in rural Communities*. National Geographic Society and Rufford Foundation \$12,301.
- 2016: American Society of Mammologists, Early Career Travel Award, USD 300
- 2016: Idea Wild grant for field equipment \$650.
- 2015-2016: *Assessing Domestic Dog (Canis familiaris) demography and Rabies Disease burden in rural communities, Kenya: Implications for conservation of wild carnivores*. NACOSTI \$2,000.
- 2015: Support for an MSc work on '*Ecology of domestic dogs and Rabies vaccinations*'. Private Donor and Meeker Family Fund \$5,000.

In addition to these grants for my own research I helped raise over \$100,000 to support the 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaigns.

### Conference presentations and invited talks

- 2025: **Ngatia, D.K.**, Upward dog, downward dog. African wild dog conservation in a human-dominated landscape. Machakos Town, Kenya.

- 2025: **Ngatia, D.K.**, Conservation of African wild dogs in the Ewaso ecosystem. Guest lecture, University of Exeter Field Course, 2025.
- 2024: **Ngatia, D.K.**, Lessons learnt from a quarter-century of wild dog research in Kenya. Katie Adamson Conservation Fund. Denver city, USA.
- 2024: **Ngatia, D.K.**, 20 years of wild dog research in the Ewaso ecosystem. Nanyuki Town, Kenya.
- 2023: **Ngatia, D.K.**, Dissertation progress – African wild dog conservation in the Ewaso ecosystem. SLAM lab, Swansea University.
- 2023: **Ngatia, D.K.** (on behalf of the SSC Canid Specialist Group), African wild dog conservation, African Carnivore Initiative, IUCN. Entebbe, Uganda.
- 2021: **Ngatia, D.K.**, Implementation of a vaccination campaign for grassroot level. African Wild Dog United Conference. Online.
- 2021: **Ngatia, D.K.**, A canine distemper virus outbreak in Laikipia County, Kenya. African Wild Dog United Conference. Online.
- 2019: **Ngatia, D.K.**, T. Butynski, D. Yvonne, P. W. Webala and A. W. Ferguson. Distribution of the Egyptian Mongoose in Africa, with first records for Laikipia county, central Kenya. 13<sup>th</sup> African Small Mammals Symposium, Mekelle University, Ethiopia.
- 2019: **Ngatia, D. K.** Dogs, Rabies and *more Dogs*. Invited talk. Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming, Wyoming, USA.
- 2018: **Ngatia, D. K.** and the LRVC team. The Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign: A brief Summary. National Rabies Elimination Coordination Committee, Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA), Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2018: **Ngatia, D. K.** and R. Woodroffe. Near-extinction of the African wild dogs' population, from a Canine Distemper Outbreak in Laikipia County. 2018 National Geographic Society Explorers Festivals, Washington DC, USA.
- 2017: **Ngatia, D.K.** and A. W. Ferguson. The ecology of domestic dogs and annual rabies Rabies vaccination efforts in Laikipia County. 2017 National Geographic Society Explorers Festivals, Washington DC, USA.
- 2016: **Ngatia, D.**, P. W. Webala & A. W. Ferguson. The spatial ecology of domestic dogs along Kenya's Human-Wildlife-Livestock interface. Department of Natural Resources, Purdue University, Indiana, USA.
- 2016: **Ferguson, A.W.**, A.W. Parsons, D.K. Ngatia, G. Titcomb, and R.W. Kays. Dung dependence: Assessing spatio-temporal overlap of small carnivores at dung sources in Kenya. Symposium: Studying Species Interactions from Camera Trap Data- Analyzing the Space-Time Continuum. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of The Wildlife Society, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA (Invited presentation).
- 2016: **Ngatia, D.**, P. W. Webala, Linus Kariuki, Monica Chege & A. W. Ferguson. Laikipia Small Carnivores Research and Parasites Study, and KWS Small Carnivore Taskforce Kenya Wildlife Service Annual Carnivore Research and Conservation Conference.
- 2016: **Ngatia, D.**, P. W. Webala and A. W. Ferguson. The spatial ecology of domestic dogs along Kenya's Human-Wildlife-Livestock interface; Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogist; University of Minnesota, USA.
- 2016: **Ngatia, D.**, A. W. Ferguson and P. W. Webala. The spatial ecology of domestic dogs along Kenya's human, wildlife, and livestock interface. Pathways Kenya: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fisheries and Wildlife Management, Nanyuki, Kenya.
- 2016: **Ngatia, D.**, A. W. Ferguson and P. W. Webala (2016) Update on the on-going research on dogs. Kenya Wildlife Service's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Carnivore Research and Conservation Conference, October 13-14, 2016, Nairobi, KENYA.
- 2016: **Ngatia, D. K.** 2016. One Health Talk; Co-existence between Humans, Wildlife and Livestock; summer 2016, Turkana Basin Institute Field Class, Stony Brook University, Mpala Research Centre, October 2016, Kenya (Teaching Assistant).
- 2016: **Ferguson, A.W.**, **D. Ngatia**, P. W. Webala and E. Do Linh San. Conflict-benefit

- relationships between humans and small African carnivores: A continent-wide perspective. Invited talk for Symposium H1: Carnivore Conservation Worldwide: A holistic review of conflicts versus benefits. Pathways Kenya: Integrating Human Dimensions into Fisheries and Wildlife Management, January 10-13, 2016, Nanyuki, KENYA (Invited presentation).
- 2015: **Ngatia, D.**, A. W. Ferguson and P. W. Webala. The spatial ecology of domestic dogs along Kenya's Human-Wildlife-Livestock interface. Kenya Wildlife Service Annual Carnivore Research and Conservation Conference.
- 2015: Ferguson, A. W., **D. Ngatia**, P. W. Webala and E. Do Linh San, 2015. Kenya's small carnivores: what we do, do not, and need to know. Kenya Wildlife Service's 9th Annual Carnivore Research and Conservation Conference, October 28 – 30, 2015, Nairobi, KENYA.
- 2015: Ferguson, A. W., **D. Ngatia**, D. Muloi, P. Muinde, M. K. Murungi, J. M. Nyagucha, S. Strelbel, H. O'Neill, D. Martin, and D. J. Martins. 2015. Laikipia County Rabies Vaccination Campaign: A Pilot Study for Kenya's Human-Wildlife Interface. Kenya Veterinary Association World Rabies Day Conference, September 26, 2015, Malindi, KENYA.

### Workshops and symposiums

- 2025: Expert Committee workshop, National Strategy for the Conservation and Management for Cheetahs and African Wild Dogs. Machakos Town, Kenya
- 2025: Workshop to update the Kenya's National Strategy for the Conservation and Management for Cheetahs and African Wild Dogs. Machakos Town, Kenya.
- 2025: Regional carnivores' projects workshop, Wildlife Research and Training Institute and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Nanyuki Town, Kenya.
- 2024: Data sharing workshop Wildlife Research and Training Institute, Nanyuki Town, Kenya.
- 2023: African Carnivore Initiate Workshop, IUCN, Entebbe, Uganda.
- 2022: African wild dog disease management workshop for the Ewaso ecosystem, Nanyuki Town, Kenya.
- 2022: IUCN SSC, Kenya National Species Specialist Group Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2019: CAS-NGS International Conference/symposium on Biodiversity Sciences, China Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.
- 2019: KVA Wildlife branch workshop on Rabies and Canine Distemper, Kenya Veterinarian Association. Nanyuki, Kenya.
- 2017: National Geographic Leadership and Mentorship Programme, Washington DC, USA.
- 2017: National Rabies Elimination planning workshop, Nairobi Kenya.
- 2016: Work-life balance in Mammalogy; University of Minnesota USA (Under the American Society of Mammalogists).
- 2016: Dig Bio Geometric Morphometric, University of Minnesota (Under the American Society of Mammalogists).
- 2016: Effective peer-review, University of Minnesota USA (Under the American Society of Mammalogists).
- 2016: Kenya National Science Week, National Commission for Science Technology and Information, KICC Nairobi Kenya (Poster presentation).
- 2016:** DAAD (German Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) PhD Proposal Writing Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya (Kenya-Germany PhD applications 2016).
- 2016: International Max Planck Research School for Organismal Biology PhD Selection Symposium 2016, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Konstanz, Germany.
- 2016: Kenya Wildlife Service Small Carnivores Workshop Nairobi, Kenya- Aimed at coming Up with a National conservation strategy for small carnivores.
- 2015: National Museums of Kenya Carnivores Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya. (Bones/teeth Identification and Morphology; Aging of Animals).
- 2015: Ticks identification and analyses-Tick Day, Mpala Research Centre, Nanyuki Kenya

(University of Illinois).

- 2014: Nature Club awareness and Training Day, Karatina University, Kenya.
- 2014: Nyeri Workshop and Exhibition, Karatina University stand, 2014.
- 2013: Nanyuki Workshop and Exhibition, Karatina University stand, 2013.
- 2013: CFAs Participatory Forest Management Plans Workshop, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Nanyuki Kenya.
- 2013: Maintenance of Elephants Electric Fences, Lolldaiga Hills Conservancy Ranch, Nanyuki, Kenya under the aegis of Laikipia Wildlife Forum

### **Committees and membership**

- 2021 to date: Member, National Geographic grants review committee.
- 2020 to date: Member, British Ecological Society.
- 2017 to date: Member, National Geographic leadership and mentorship programme.
- 2016 to date: Member, National Rabies Elimination Coordination Committee (NRECC).
- 2016 to date: Student Member, American Society of Mammologists (ASM).
- 2016 to date: Student Member, **Wildlife Diseases Association (WDA)**.
- 2016 to date: Student Member, East African and Middle-East Chapter- Wildlife Diseases Association (WA).
- 2016 to date: Member, Kenya Wildlife Service- Kenya National Taskforce for Small Carnivores Conservation.
- 2014: Chairman, Nature Club Constitution Review Committee, Karatina University.
- 2014: Member, Nature Club Strategic Plan Drafting Committee, Karatina University.
- 2013: Member, Karatina University Red Cross Society Constitution Review Committee, Karatina University.
- 2010-2014: Member, Nature Club of Karatina University.
- 2010-2014: Member, Red Cross Society of Karatina University.

### **Leadership and community outreach**

- 2022 to date: Principal Investigator, The Samburu-Laikipia Wild Dog Project.
- 2016 to date: Project leader, The Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Project.
- 2015: Initiated Laikipia Rabies Vaccination Campaign during my MSc research, leading to vaccination of 800 domestic dogs over 7 of community ranches.
- 2013-2014: President, Nature Club of Karatina University
- 2012-2013: Organizing Secretary, Nature Club of Karatina University
- 2012-2014: Vice-Secretary, Karatina University Red Cross Society
- 2012-2014: Organised multiple town clean-up days and tree-planting events in Karatina, Kenya.

### **Media Coverage**

My rabies vaccination work has been covered on [national television news](#), as well as [national newspapers](#). My African wild dog work has been featured in [international newspapers](#), and I have also been asked to [comment](#) on related news stories.

### **Referees**

Dr. Jake Goheen, University of Wyoming, Email: [jgoheen@uwyo.edu](mailto:jgoheen@uwyo.edu)

Dr. Rosie Woodroffe, Zoological Society of London, Email: [rosie.woodroffe@ioz.ac.uk](mailto:rosie.woodroffe@ioz.ac.uk)