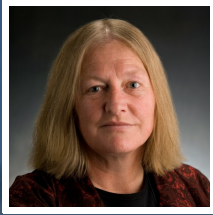


# Wildlife Conservation Matters



## Kay Holekamp

University Distinguished Professor, Department of Zoology  
Director, Interdisciplinary Program in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology & Behavior

## CURRENT RESEARCH

Protecting the welfare of both animals and humans by analyzing and building relationships

The species ranges of most large carnivores in Africa have shrunk considerably in recent decades, due mainly to habitat conversion associated with growing human populations. Carnivore numbers are also declining rapidly due to their active persecution by local ranchers and pastoralists on whose livestock the carnivores sometimes prey. Dr. Kay Holekamp of Michigan State University aims to decrease or eliminate carnivore persecution by reducing livestock depredation, documenting the resource needs of large carnivores residing in the Masai Mara National Reserve, and teaching pastoralist children about the importance of the persistence of large carnivores for the long-term welfare of their own communities.

Conservation of large mammalian carnivores is a top national priority in Kenya; most tourists come to Kenya specifically to see these animals in their natural habitat, and tourism is Kenya's second most important source of foreign exchange after agriculture. Large carnivores thus effectively represent a critical source of revenue and employment in Kenya. The long-term welfare of all Kenyans is closely tied to the successful conservation of Kenya's large carnivores. Furthermore, when large carnivores are removed from ecosystems, cascades of worrisome events start to occur, indicating that nature is out of balance. This is precisely where Dr. Holekamp's research makes its greatest contribution; her research team is uniquely positioned to learn more about the demography, movements, and conflict with humans of the carnivore species in most urgent need of protection in eastern Africa so that we as a society can conserve these extraordinary animals for future generations.

Dr. Holekamp's areas of impact...

[Read More at benefunder.com/](https://benefunder.com/)

## AFFILIATION



Michigan State University

## EDUCATION

- Postdoctoral research, in Endocrinology, 1987, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Ph.D., in Psychobiology, 1983, University of California, Berkeley
- A.B. (Cum Laude, with High Honors), in Psychology & Biology, 1973, Smith College

## AWARDS

- Elected member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2015
- Elected American Association for the Advancement of Science fellow, 2013
- Recipient Smith College Medal, 2013
- Named University Distinguished Professor, Michigan State University, 2009
- College of Natural Science Distinguished Faculty Award, Michigan State University, 2007
- and 1 more...

## RESEARCH AREAS

Environment, Ecology, Anthropology, Global Policy

## FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will support the annual \$300,000 required for the continued research of Dr. Kay Holekamp at Michigan State University. Donations will help cover airfare, personnel, research equipment, and maintenance of two research camps and vehicles. Protecting wildlife is lifelong work that requires dedication, not only to the animals directly involved, but ultimately also to the people who live around them. Please help conserve our environment by contributing to this important cause.