
Southern Rangelands Coalition workshop, Sept 28th – 29th 2022

OLTUKAI LODGE – Amboseli National Park

The workshop was made possible through generous support from the institutions below:



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The Southern Rangelands coalition is a collaborative collaborative platform with a grassroots approach that recognizes the power of collective action to address the current and future challenges across the southern rangelands of Kenya and to speak as one voice for the richest wildlife and pastoral area on the continent.

Day 1: September 29th 2022

WELCOMING REMARKS & MEETING PURPOSE

Jackson Mwato the CEO of AET, the host organization, welcomed the Southern Rangelands Coalition (SRC) participants to the Amboseli ecosystem. The meeting included key conservancy regional heads in southern Kenya, county and government agencies, NGOs and local communities. The meeting opened with a prayer.

Dr. Western set the context for the meeting by outlining the critical role communities play in advancing conservation in past years when development partners provided over \$30 million in grants for the establishment of community-based initiatives through the Biodiversity Conservation Programme and the Tourism Trust Fund. Community initiatives have grown since then over 150 recognized community conservancies under the Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Association (KWCA). The southern rangelands stretching from Mara to the Tsavo's spans over 50,000 km² of the richest wildlife populations on earth. The southern rangelands are also the richest pastoral lands in Kenya where livestock and wildlife have coexisted for millennia. SRC provides a forum to collectively assess the current threats and the information gaps needed and to secure the future of the southern rangelands.

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SOUTHERN RANGELANDS REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Lucy Waruingi presented the breadth of wealth of wildlife resources in southern Kenya and adjoining northern Tanzania which represents over 15 parks, protected areas, and community managed wildlife areas over most of the region. Lucy presented maps of previous efforts by the Borderlands Conservation Initiative (BCI) partners to map the key migratory species movements and the pressures of agriculture and settlements

The meeting was then divided into four groups under the regional associations to identify their key challenges and the information gaps for priority actions.



Photos: Group work sessions

The feedbacks from the groups were as follows:

1. Athi-Kapiti group

This is a region close to Nairobi metropolitan area with land sales and land conversion as the greatest threat.

The priority actions and support services needed are:

- a. Land use management and enforcement of land use plans
- b. Local livelihoods support
- c. Strengthening local institutions

2. Masai Mara/Narok group

The main threats are poor natural resource governance and the need to strengthen local institutions. Droughts, climate change, over grazing, charcoal burning and soil erosion are also threats. Gender inequity and lack of effective involvement of local communities is also a challenge.

The priority actions and support needed are:

- a. Restoration initiatives to address the declining grazing resource
- b. An effective research hub to coordinate ecosystem research
- c. An early warning system to alert communities to emerging threats

3. Magadi-South Rift

The region is focusing on an integrated approach to landscape level planning

The priority actions are as follows:

- a. A framework for communicating and sharing information generated through research translated into local action
- b. Landscape planning for livestock production, grazing routes and pasture availability, and opportunities for grassland carbon storage and credits
- c. Connecting information among partners so that there is appropriate action on the ground using accessible language and effective communications

4. Taita Taveta region

The group defined a vision for the region as follows:

- Security of land tenure and ownership
- Reduced natural resource conflicts
- Secure livelihoods
- Coordinated private/public sector partnership.

The generic threats identified are: land sub-division; illegal livestock incursions and overgrazing; small-scale agriculture; infrastructure development and un-planned settlements; loss of wildlife through road-kills; fencing; bushmeat poaching; climate change and drought; illegal harvesting of natural resources such as charcoal; unsustainable mining practices, and alien invasive species.

The priority actions and knowledge gaps needed to address the challenges are:

- a. Lack of data access and data gaps
- b. Capacity constraints
- c. Financial constraints
- d. Governance challenges
- e. Lack of sustainable mitigation interventions

5. Amboseli region

The landscape issues and threats were outlined as human-wildlife conflict, land subdivision and fragmentation, frequent prolonged droughts, land use changes, land degradation and invasive species

The priority actions were identified as:

- a. Benefit sharing, equality and equity
- b. Education and awareness
- c. Creation of more space for wildlife through conservancies
- d. Empowering of the grazing institutions
- e. Restoration of the degraded lands
- f. Land use planning
- g. Enhancing implementation of management plans
- h. Enhancing resilience and addressing droughts and global warming

LONG TERM RESEARCH TRENDS AND OUTPUTS

1. Amboseli Conservation Program ecological monitoring

- Dr. Western presented the main findings from ACP's long-term monitoring programme which found sedentarization, land subdivision, conversion and degradation to be the main threats to wildlife and pastoralism. ACP also found that:
 - Grazing pressure increases with sedentarization
 - Land degradation also caused heavy erosion, resulting in heavy flooding in Amboseli National Park
 - Access to social amenities is the cause of pastoral families settling down and clustering around access points
 - Pasture production has fallen 30% due to heavy grazing, resulting in more frequent grazing shortages and large-scale movements across the southern rangelands in times of drought
 - The biggest challenge facing the southern rangelands is to restore the lost pasture production through seasonal grazing and offtake of livestock through market outlets.

The early warning systems posted by ACP have resulted in the Amboseli community meeting under AET to take stock and alleviate suffering.

2. Pete Tyrell – Analysis of land uses, fencing and settlements in southern Kenya

Pete presented an analysis of his work using LandSat imagery to track the spread and effects of land fragmentation due to fencing, settlement and reduced mobility.

The key messages from his analysis are:

- Consistent with ACP studies, there has been significant decline in grass production without any significant change in rainfall.
- Droughts are more synchronized across the southern region, causing less local adaptability to droughts
- Fences and land degradation are restricting grazing options for wildlife and livestock

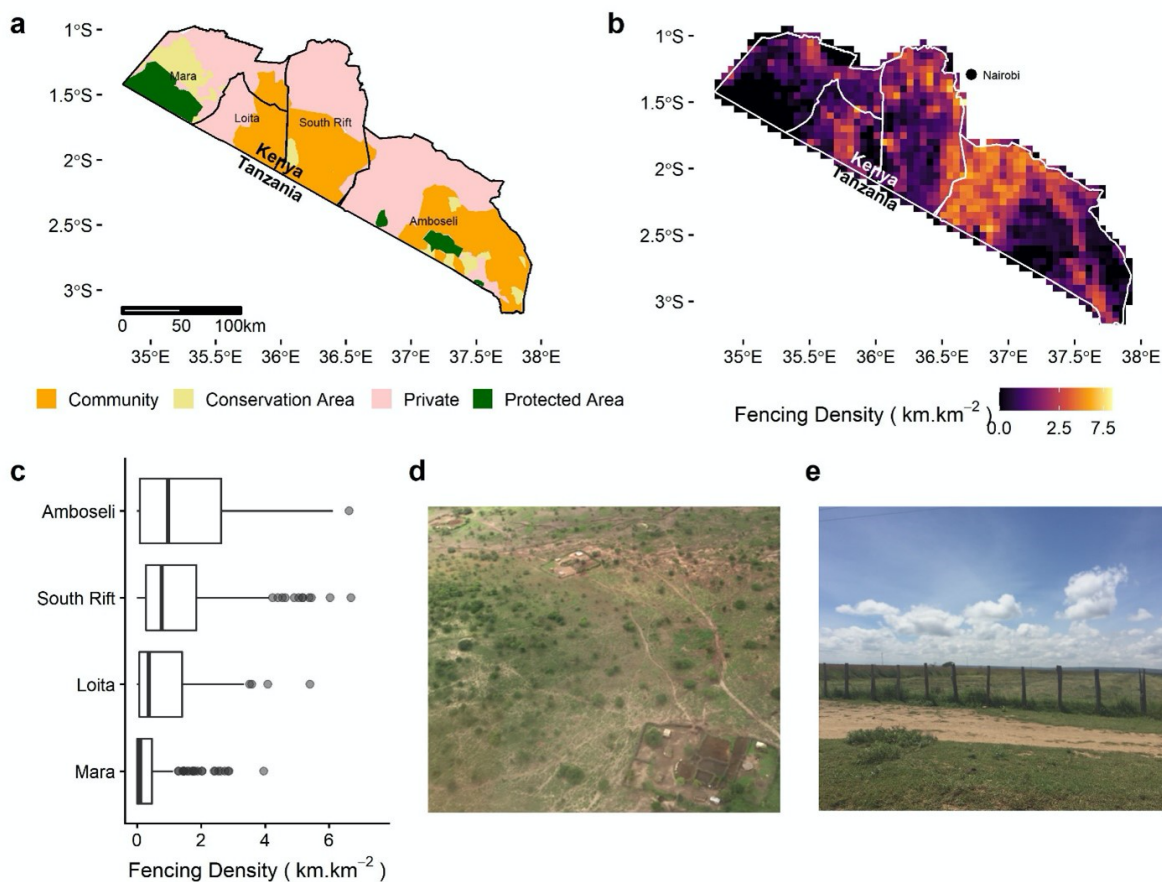


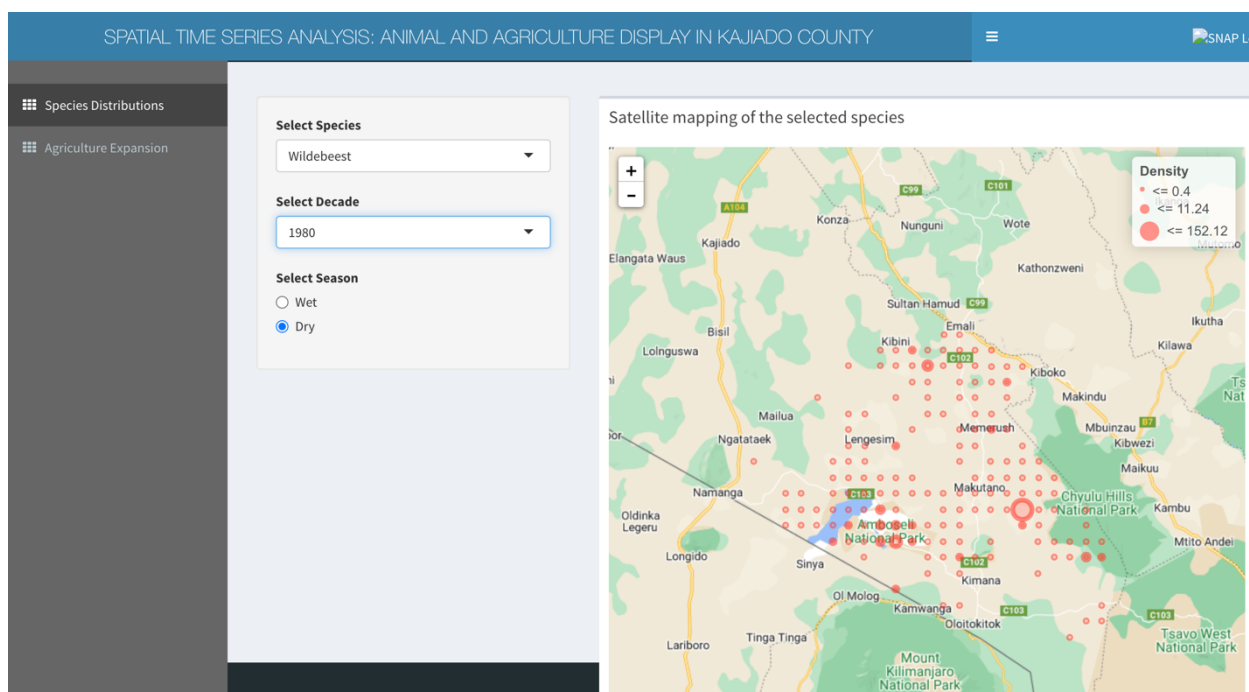
Figure shows four ecosystems in southern Kenya: Amboseli, South Rift, Loita and Maasai Mara. Top right map depicts fence density calculated as the km/km^2 calculated on a 0.05-degree grid (~5 km). Bottom left boxplot of fence density within each ecosystem, with median (line), first and third quartiles (box) and 1.5 times the interquartile range (whiskers); and photos as examples of brush fences around settlements and wire and post fencing to demarcate property in the Loita plains (north-east of the Mara ecosystem)

3. Victor Mose – Amboseli Conservation Program (ACP) Data platform

Victor presented the ACP dashboard housing all the Amboseli data and outputs, explaining that most of the data collection in the field is both in the form of maps and graphs, but also in visual icons for ease of communication to communities.

Access to the various products is through the ACP website where the Amboseli ecosystem interactive data portal enables one to access the wildlife data trends.

This is accessible in the link below: <http://www.amboseliconservation.org/the-amboseli-ecosystem.html>



Map: Image of online interactive map interface of ACP long term ecological monitoring

NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES:

▪ KWCA

The KWCA representative, Joshua Ayuo gave an overview of the spread of KWCA membership and identified some of the cross-cutting issues in the conservancies as:

- Cohesion and collaboration
- Effective county engagement
- Inadequate knowledge
- Research to inform action

The aim of KWCA is to improve the services to and collaboration among conservancy members, and to improve joint monitoring, learning and communication.

▪ County based biodiversity portal

ACC has been supporting the establishment of a biodiversity portal for Kajiado county which is a repository to avail all biodiversity relevant information in Kajiado to support decision makers and county planners. The portal is in form of a web-interface with access to available data from various agencies and it is accessible on the links below:

<https://biodiversityatlaskenya.org/data/county-biodiversity/kajiado-county/#kajiado>. The website includes information on the species found in Kajiado by taxonomic group.

<https://biodiversityatlaskenya.org/analytic-tools/species-analysis/>. The site includes maps of wildlife distribution and densities from DRSRS and ACP counts.

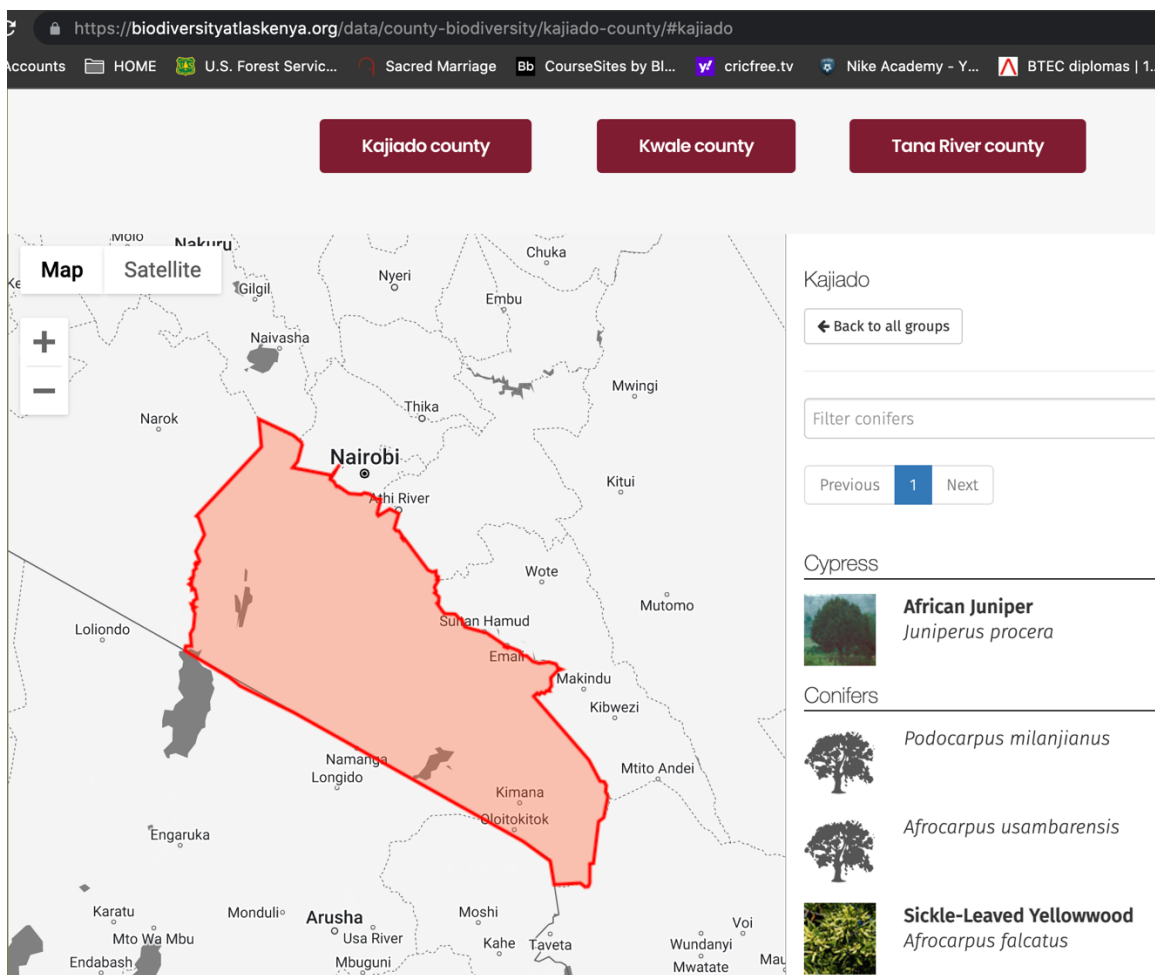


Image: This web interface collates data from existing sources and is already enabled for Kajiado and Kwale counties and can be expanded to include a decision support tools for other counties.

FIELD TRIP:

In the afternoon, the group took a field trip into the park to look at the impact of the current drought and its causes seen in historical perspective. Dr. Western with the Snr. Warden Kosgey led the group on site at Longinye Swamps where the group covered the following issues:

- Restoration is a priority in Amboseli N.P. and environs if we are to prepare for the future
- Managing the water system in the park is important to avoid flooding
- Amboseli is MAB but these principles are not fully applied in its management
- An open mind is needed that incorporates indigenous knowledge in managing various species – plants and animals
- The current drought is causing a large number of wildlife and livestock deaths. It was agreed in principle the drought response should not prioritize feeding of wildlife unless:
 - There is an endangered species on the threshold of extinction
 - The population numbers of a certain species are too low for recovery after the drought
- There is need to relieve the pressure on the park at an ecosystem scale and address degradation in the wider county scale using early warning systems and responses such as early livestock off-takes
- There is great opportunity to develop, quantify and promote biodiversity credits in the southern landscape
- There is need for more harmonized land use practices promoting the coexistence of people and wildlife. This should become the signature feature and point of action for the Amboseli ecosystem.

The day-1 activities concluded with the field trip.



Photos: *Field trip to understand the ecosystem and the impacts of the current drought*

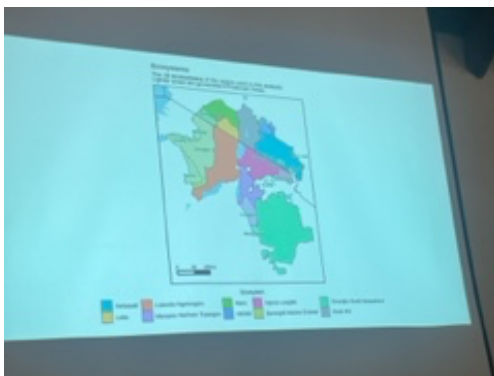
Day 2: September 30th 2022

REFLECTING ON THE PURPOSE AND ROLE OF SRC:

Lucy Waruingi and John Kamanga led the participants in reflecting on the discussions of the previous day to distill to key points as follows:

- There is need for the coalition at the beginning of each dry season to take stock, of range conditions to define the priority actions needed to sustain pasture production and avoid disasters such as the 2009 and present drought
- The SRC forms a useful collective team speaking with one-voice on key issues and the actions that need to be taken across the southern rangelands
- There is need to process information at scale and share the findings among members and partners to ensure effective and timely responses to threats
- An example was given of the US Dust bowl and the initiatives taken to relieve suffering and restore the rangelands
- A Southern Hub for information communication and dissemination should be set up as an immediate priority to bring information needed for land planning and range management
- Common issues around which the partners can coalesce, cooperate and develop common actions should be defined by:
 - The common key issues
 - The identification, collection and dissemination of key indicators
 - Datasets required to address the threats
 - Identifying who needs what information for what purpose
 - Establish common data platforms and sharing protocols to address the common threats to sustainable land use and management plans

WWF presentation: Martin Mulama



Martin shared the synergistic opportunities between the aspirations of the coalition and the WWF UNGANISHA program which will be implemented in Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania.

He looks forward to WWF supporting the SRC initiatives to advance the common interests of the southern landscape.

ACTIONS FOR FOLLOW UP – QUICK WINS

The following were identified as potential quick wins for SRC:

1. Develop a common information platform building on what exists in the One-Mara Hub, the Lalee'enok Centre, the Noongotiak Centre, and Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association.
2. A communication strategy for information sharing, building on successful collaborative case studies
3. Develop and/or share tools and products that can be easily be upscaled, define the key issues and influence policy and decision making at regional, county and national levels
4. Develop Lale'enok/Noongotiak resource centres for each regional association to provide a common meeting point for taking stock, communications outreach, planning and managing at a landscape level. A toolbox of relevant and sustainable restoration measures and options should be compiled by partners working at various levels
5. The Kajiado County representative Anne Nashipae indicated the county wishes to develop a drought-mitigation strategies within County Integrated Development Plans for planning and budgeting, and to learn about the causes of failures in response to previous droughts. Participants were invited to prepare inputs/data and information for the county planning departments over the next two months

WAY FORWARD

1. Establish an SRC dashboard for information sharing on key biodiversity and ecosystem indicators across the Narok, Kajiado and Taita-Taveta landscapes. The dashboard should build on existing systems to include key maps of the entire region, identify information gaps and provide early warning information. Action: ACC/ACP to share its current framework
2. A broadsheet of outcomes of this meeting and future key outputs of SRC
3. Plan for an SRC meeting in late November 2022 to take stock of the drought impact and outlook
4. Engage the county governments in sharing the information and for an annual meeting of SRC with representative county officials

CLOSING REMARKS

Having agreed on the key immediate actions, the workshop was brought to a close with the following remarks:

- There is need to expand the constituency of key actors in the southern rangelands.
- The group was set up to have a rotating chairmanship, of which Dr. Western is the current interim chair. The chairmanship will be determined at the next meeting of the core SRC team.

The AET chairman, Leturesh, thanked all participants and cautioned that many well-meaning discussions produced no action and hoped that SRC would act on the decisions reached.

The meeting was closed in prayer at 1:00pm

ANNEX

List of participants Southern Rangeland Coalition Stakeholders Meeting, Held on 29th – 30th September 2022 at Oltukai Lodge.

Name	Gender	Organization
Adriaan Kauffman	M	Justdiggit
Christine Mwinzi	F	Wildlife Research Training Institute
Purity Mwende	F	Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
Lucy Waruingi	F	African Conservation Centre
James Mutua	M	Taita taveta
Josphant Naanyu	M	Committee EGR
Daniel Kipkosgei	M	Kenya Wildlife Service
Bernard Tulito	M	IFAW
Joshua Suyianga	M	Imbirikani Group ranch
David Maitumo	M	African Conservation Centre
Daniel Ole Sambu	M	Big Life Foundation
David Manoa	M	Born Free
Victor Mose	M	Amboseli Conservation Program
Joseph Kipaipai	M	Olgulului Oloorashi Group ranch
George Lupempe	M	Chief
Johnson Sipitiek	M	African Conservation Centre
Dickson Oloiptip	M	ORT
Koikai Oloiptip	M	Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
Kenneth Sokoine	M	Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
David Western	M	Amboseli Conservation Program
Jackson Mwato	M	Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
Tobias Nyumba	M	University of York, ACC
Anne Nashipae	F	County Govt of Kajiado/COG
John Kamanga	M	SORALO
Daniel Leturesh	M	OGR/AET
Phoebe Odhiang	F	Born free
Maurice Nyaligu	M	IFAW
Peter Tyrell	M	Consultant
Martin Mulama	M	WWF
Alfred Mwanake	M	Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association
Bernadate Naanyu	F	Narok Kajiado Economic Bloc (NAKAEB)
Samwella Lerno	F	Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
Joshua Ayuo	M	Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
Jackson Sereka	M	OGR