

# Laikipia, Kenya

## Proposed FA2 Pilot Site

Jason Sircely  
Richard Conant  
Mohammed Said  
Lance Robinson  
Richard Hatfield



# Agents, Focus, & Objectives

- Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF)
  - Consortium of pastoralists, ranchers, & farmers
  - Rangeland Rehabilitation & Management Programme began 2008
    - Goals: Reduce bare ground/Increase vegetative cover – to reduce conflict & competition, improve land productivity
- Specific case study: Il Ngwesi group ranch & LWF
  - Technical demonstrations
  - ‘Eco-literacy’
  - ‘Future-visioning’

# Il Ngwesi group ranch & Laikipia County

## - Laikipia County

- Semi-arid savanna, ~500 mm rainfall per year
- 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>, population 400,000
- Mix of private ranches, group ranches, government lands, open grazing
- Livestock systems: Wildlife, pastoralism
- Maasai pastoralists have long faced restrictions on movements

## - Il Ngwesi group ranch

- 200 km<sup>2</sup>, 550 resident Maasai families (~3000 total population), dry season migration from drier areas of Isiolo & Samburu
- Group ranches in Kenya: Collective, durable, unrestricted use rights
- Livestock systems: Pastoralism; 7,000 ha dry season reserve
- Participants & beneficiaries: Elders & community leaders, herders & community members

# Overview: Il Ngwesi

## - Technical demonstrations

- Illustrated how planned grazing can improve rangeland conditions
- Capacity building: 'eco-literacy', e.g. plant water use, stocking density & plant mortality
- Led to implementation of planned grazing & improved rangeland quality
- Stimulated group ranch members' interest in long-term planning

## - 'Future-visioning'

- Planned grazing decisions by elders & community leaders led to conflict with herders & community members
- LWF took on a facilitative role in management decision-making
- Herder engagement led to devolution of management decisions to 'Village Forums'
- Herder 'buy-in/ownership' enhanced implementation of planned grazing, rangeland health improvement, reduction of livestock mortality

# Monitoring & evaluation, Outcomes

- Biophysical

- Rangeland health, especially bare ground cover and vegetative cover
- Standard rangeland surveys

- Social

- Improved community engagement and herder contributions to long-term management plans, leading to greater inclusion of and ownership among herders
- Methods vary; center around semi-structured interviews

# Lessons: Il Ngwesi

## - Technical demonstrations

- Technical demonstrations confirmed the ability of planned grazing to improve carbon sequestration
- Direct examples of how planned grazing can improve rangeland health enhanced communities' interest in long-term planning

## - 'Future-visioning'

- Hierarchical, top-down, decision-making alienated herders
- Generating buy-in among herders enhanced the ability of planned grazing to improve rangeland health, and thereby improve livestock health and reduce livestock mortality
- Technical knowledge was insufficient for scalable gains in rangeland health, and therefore also carbon storage
- Addressing management planning processes may be the best chance at catalysing sustained, scalable land management change

# Knowledge exchange

- Coordinated actions, FA2:
  - Planned grazing, livestock grouped into fewer, larger herds
  - Reduced bare ground → improved livestock health, reduced mortality
  - *Facilitative* approach to improving institutional context
  - Common pool resource management characteristics: Local technical knowledge, management rules, inclusivity, devolved natural resource governance
- LWF Knowledge exchange:
  - Exchange of knowledge among pastoralist communities
  - Facilitates pastoralist/rancher/farmer interactions
  - Learning materials
  - Formation of pilot groups for action research