Laikipia, Kenya
Proposed FA2 Pilot Site

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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 km², 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 km², 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