



Conférence Internationale AGRICULTURE, PASTORALISME ET AIRES PROTEGEES

**TENSIONS ET SOLUTIONS POUR L'AVENIR
DES TERRITOIRES RURAUX EN AFRIQUE
CENTRALE ET AU SAHEL**

NGO -Led Community-Based Conservation: A New Frontier of Territorialization with Implications for Pastoralists' Land Tenure and Climate Change Adaptation

Jackson Wachira, UON, CRDD

Joanes Atela, UON, ARIN

Paul Stacey, Roskilde University

George Outa, TUK, UON

Summary

- In recent years, many community-based conservancies (CBCs) led by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been established on land inhabited by pastoralists in Northern Kenya.
- Based on an analysis of primary data collected in Samburu County, Kenya, we show that NGO-led CBC involves resource enclosures that aggravate conflicts over land rights and pastoralists' vulnerability to climate change and variability by constraining their mobility.
- In relation, the legal and institutional environment promoted by NGO-led CBC leads to increased control over ecologically vibrant lands, which erodes pastoralists' land tenure security and climate change adaptation.
- Although NGO-led CBC plays an important role in enhancing access to external finance and incentivizing diversification, governance mechanisms remain opaque and overshadow local institutions.
- Overall, we highlight the need for actors to carefully consider the implications of this conservation/development model for already hard-pressed land-dependent communities.





1. Introduction

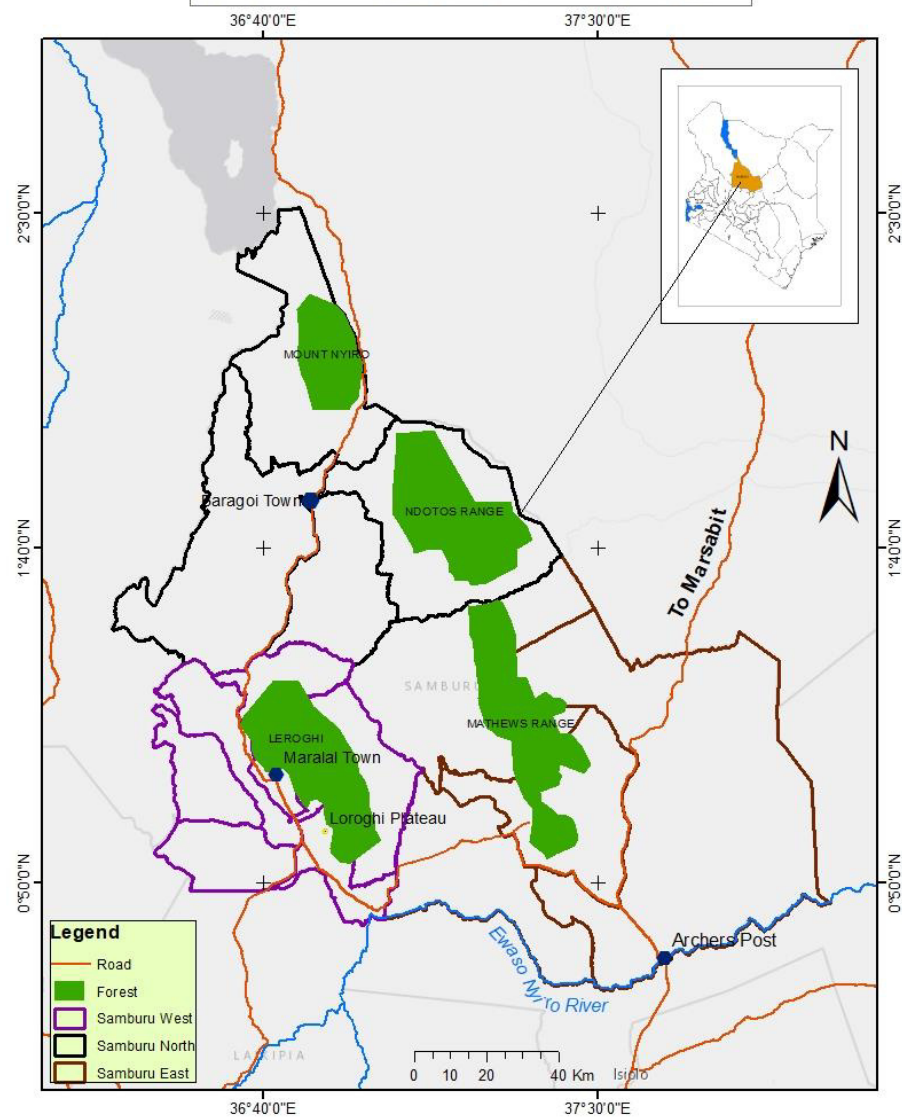
- Pastoralists are among the communities most affected by global climate change and variability
- The effects of climate change and variability on pastoral systems include reduced pasture, animal productivity, and reproductivity
- Over the years, pastoralists have developed diverse adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate, as well as other socioeconomic and environmental changes
- Adaptation is highly contextual and contingent process
- In the pastoralist-inhabited arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of northern Kenya, the initiation and subsequent growth of NGO-led community-based conservation (NGO-led CBC) constitutes one of the most profound land use and developmental changes in recent decades
- Between 2000 and 2019, thirty-nine community-based conservancies covering a considerable 4.7 million hectares of land were established, representing a 700% growth in CBC numbers

Introduction-Cont'd

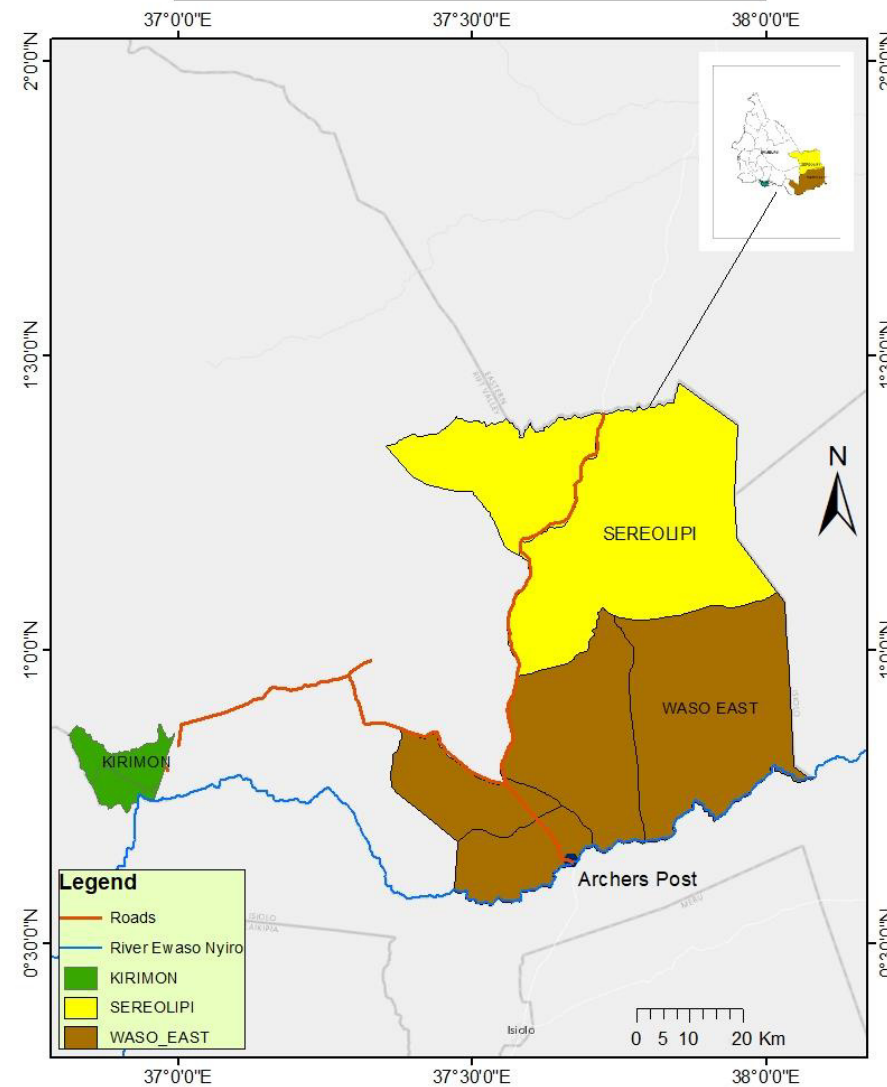
- Although there is a growing body of research on market-based conservation in general and NGO-led CBC in particular, little attention has been paid to the effects on pastoralists' climate change adaptation and land tenure
- Some studies suggest that NGO-led CBC results in improved socioeconomic well-being for pastoralists and enhanced ecological conditions
- Community-based conservation is also conceptualized as ecosystem-based adaptation
- Critical agrarian scholars argue that such approaches lead to new forms of territorialization that partition resources and alienate local land-dependent groups
- Inspired by critical agrarian studies, we characterize NGO-led CBC as a new frontier of territorialization and examine the implications for pastoralists' climate change adaptation strategies and land tenure
- **New frontiers of territorialization involve new cycles of unilateral or collective control of people and land by emergent, more powerful actors, which alienate pre-existing owners and users and rework systems of tenure**

2. Study area

MAP OF SAMBURU COUNTY



SAMBURU STUDY LOCATIONS

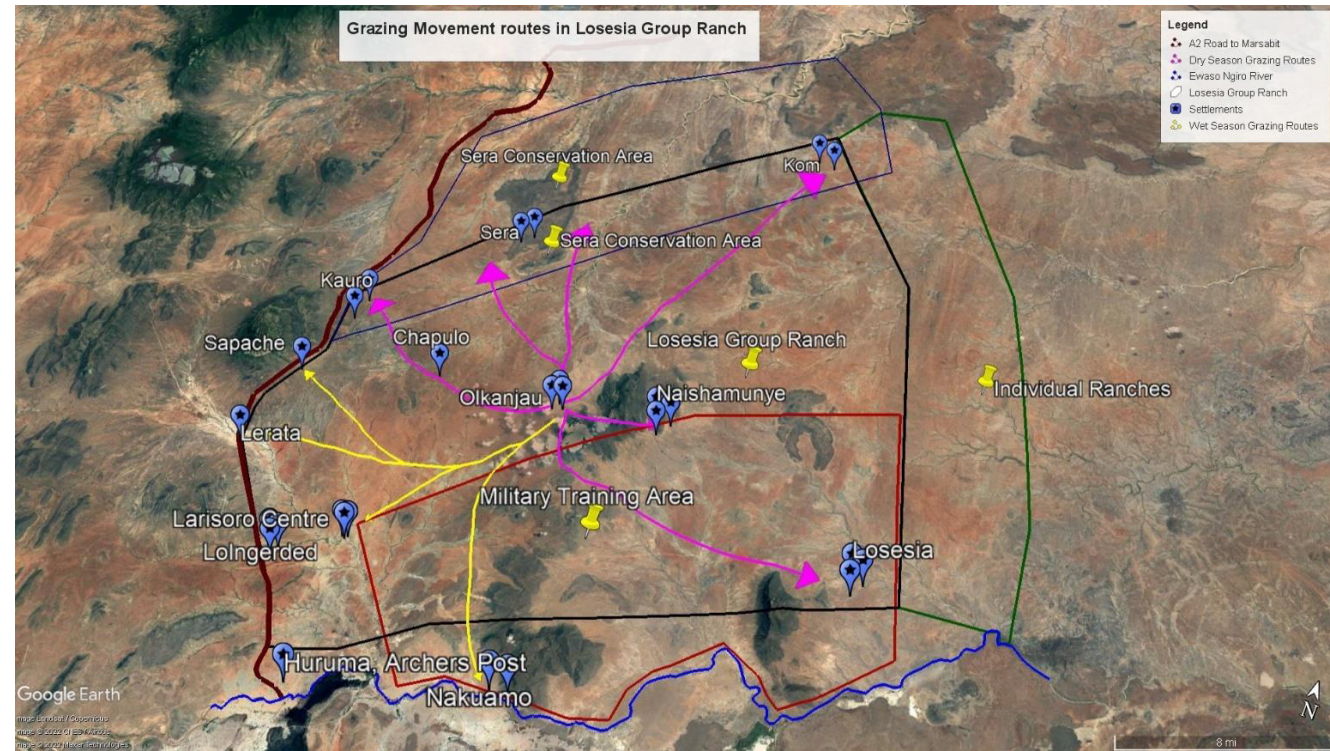
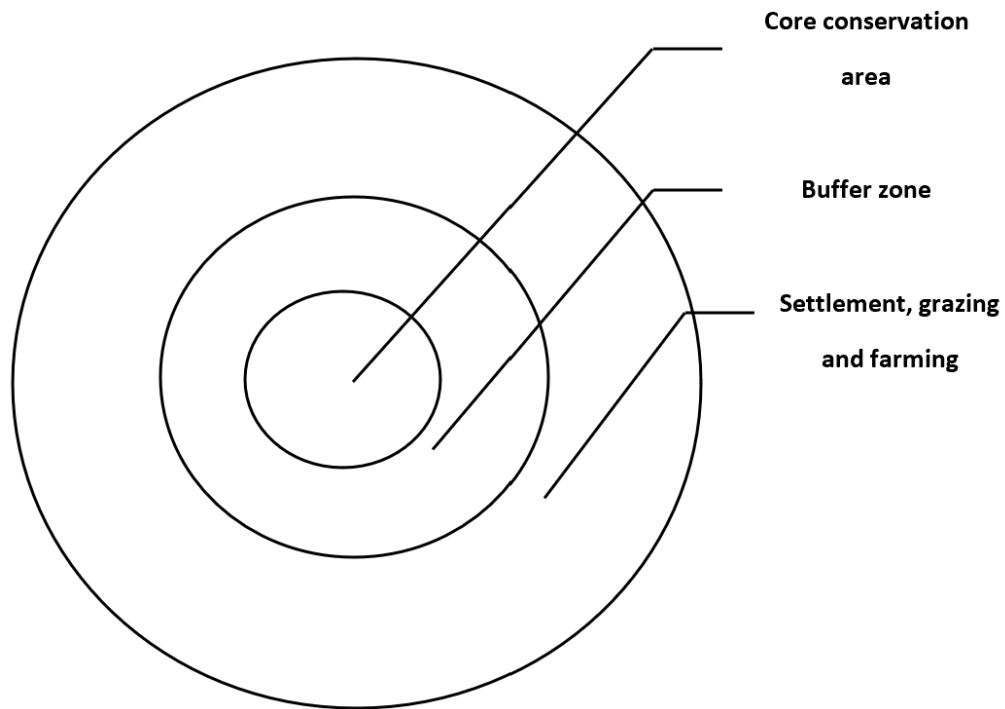


AGRICULTURE, PASTORALISME
ET AIRES PROTEGEES

TENSIONS ET SOLUTIONS POUR L'AVENIR
DES TERRITOIRES RURAUX EN AFRIQUE
CENTRALE ET AU SAHEL

3. Key findings

a. NGO-led CBC and Pastoralists' Mobility



Key findings

b. NGO-led CBC and Pastoralists' pooling

- Access to enclosed conservation lands may occur through negotiations with the management of community-based conservancies but may still involve the **use of force as pastoralists assert their customary right of ownership, use, and access**
- Although pastoralists have historically owned and utilized these lands for grazing based on variable climatic and weather conditions, **NGO-led CBCs do not readily allow pastoralists to graze in core conservation areas.**
- The result is **multi-dimensional conflict**, as **pastoralists and conservation promoters pursue divergent visions for land**, and **different pastoral communities assert their rights to utilize pastures in core conservation areas.**
- To **ameliorate this**, NGO-led CBC promoters advise pastoralists to **reduce livestock appropriately**, rather than address the root cause of the problem, which is the **growing enclosure of rangelands by outside interests**



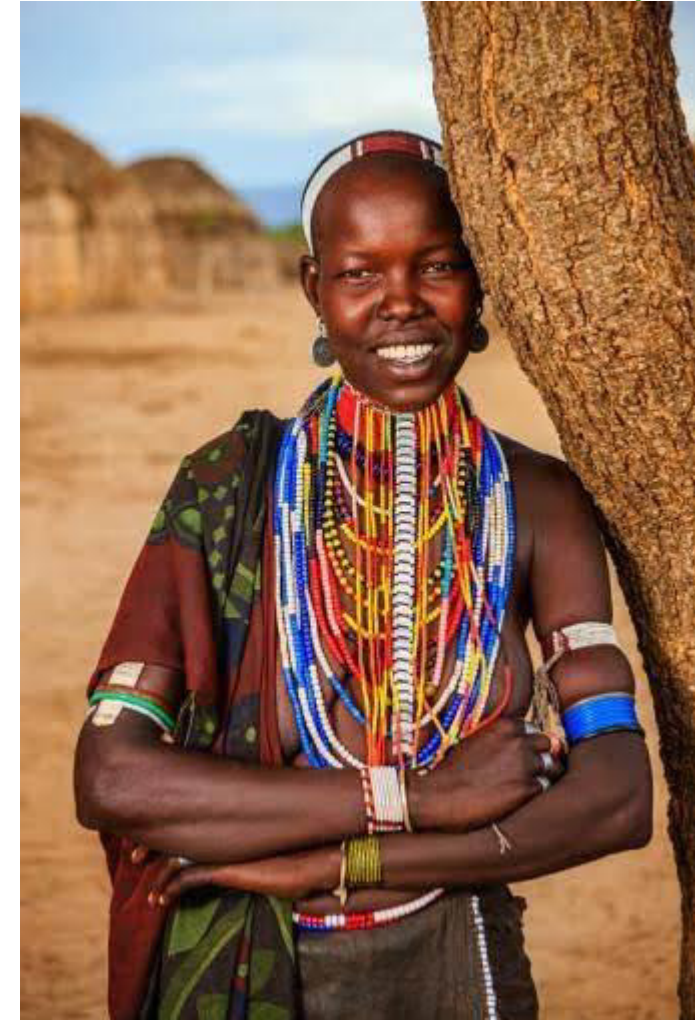
Key findings

c. NGO-led CBC and Pastoralists' diversification

- NGO-led CBC **shapes pastoralists' diversification** strategies through the **promotion of tourism** and the **provision of short- and long-term employment opportunities**.
- NGO-led CBC promoters also play a key role in tourism by **linking investors to community-based conservancies...but,**

*(...) if there is any investor who wants to invest in a conservancy, that person will have to come to **NGO**, which then makes me wonder what the role of the Conservancy Board is when the **NGO** manages the conservancy. If an investor wants to work directly with a conservancy, the **NGO** will not be comfortable. The question then is, what happens when **NGO** no longer exists? What happens to these conservancies, because they have not been equipped to be on their own? I do not think the conservancies are sufficiently polished to fundraise, partner, or collaborate with other partners; they are sharpened to think and work with the **NGO** (key informant interviews with former **NGO** worker)*

- Many respondents were discontented with the **transparency and accountability processes involved in managing community conservancy resources (including tourism and employment)**.



https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP_4b9817jsT0_C3Rgelt14wAAAA?w=340&h=510&rs=1&pid=ImgDetMain





4. Conclusion

- NGO-led CBC **may best be understood** as a new phenomenon in a **continuum of colonial and post-independent Kenya conservation practices** that sought to shift the control of land from **pastoralists towards market-orientated conservation and tourism businesses**.
- This has **deleterious** implications for **pastoralists' capacity to respond to the adverse effects of climate change and erodes their land tenure security**.
- Notwithstanding these detrimental impacts, national and international policy and politics **continue to support NGO-led CBC**.
- We therefore highlight the need **for actors to carefully consider the implications of this conservation/development model for already hard-pressed land-dependent communities**.

Email: jackson.wachira@crdd-kenya.org /
j.wachira@outlook.com

merci