

Community Perspectives of Inclusive Conservation

A case study of the Inclusive Conservation Initiative in northern Kenya



WHAT DOES INCLUSIVE CONSERVATION MEAN TO YOU?

- Focusing on what pastoralists already do
- Connections between the environment and our culture
- How we are interdependent with everything in our land
- Bringing back the relations that people had with wildlife
- Using our Indigenous knowledge
- Making our own decisions communally
- Including and empowering women
- Finding ways to balance tradition and modernisation
- Capacity and peace building
- Ensuring our children have something to inherit

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DOCUMENT THROUGH ICI?

Rivers, water sources, boreholes
Sacred places, hills
Crop farms
Churches
Wildlife corridors
Livestock resources (pasture, water, salt licks)
Schools
Conservancies

HOW DO YOU WANT ICI TO BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY?

- Reviving knowledge and respect
- Passing knowledge to the young generation and giving credibility to our knowledge
- Preserving and documenting the culture for future generations
- Reviving parts of the culture as it was before
- Promoting unity
- Reminding us of our connections with the environment

HOW DOES ICI COMPARE WITH EXISTING METHODS FOR CONSERVATION?

- ICI focuses on our cultural roots and documenting our culture, whereas conservancies are not interested in pastoralism or our ways of conservation, they bring their own methods
- Instead of taking control of our land and separating people from wildlife, ICI allows us to conserve according to how we are living, what we have always been doing

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

- There is a potential for mapping to lead to land disputes, if boundaries are not dealt with carefully
- The word 'conservation' in ICI makes people think of the conservancy approach to conservation
- Competing with conservancies bringing carbon credit money

METHODOLOGY

19 INTERVIEWS in
10 COMMUNITIES involved in ICI
ISIOLO, LAIKIPIA, and SAMBURU



KEY FINDINGS

- Getting rights and recognition for our communities
- Securing land tenure and understanding our boundaries
- Strengthening our capacity on conservation
- Peacebuilding between communities
- Integrating our knowledge with formal education
- Changing the narrative about pastoralism
- Creating a long-term, sustainable, future plan
- With ICI, we are not doing it because someone else is telling us to
- Conservancies train communities on grazing and designate grazing areas, but they do not teach us anything new
- The conservancy methodology is based on financial and educational opportunities, but they do not always help the community
- ICI focuses on everything in the land
- ICI and conservancies both tell people how to conserve the environment and culture
- Focusing on ICCA establishment, as it is not an Indigenous concept and its differences from mainstream conservation are unclear to us
- People outside the community not respecting our grazing restrictions, or acting out of self-interest
- Insecurity impacting dry season migrations