

WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN KENYA
Prospects for Rural Economic Development

SPECIAL STUDY
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By

Andre DeGeorges
REDSO/ESA

Environmental
Officer

and

Richard Pellek
REDSO/ESA

Natural Resources
& Policy Advisor

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Based upon a 4-day field trip to the Laikipia District of Kenya and on previous missions to Amboseli National Park and the Hopcraft Ranch in the Kapiti Plains area, the USAID/REDSO investigators recommend the following activities for consideration by USAID/Kenya, under its COBRA (Conservation of Biodiverse Resource Areas) project design:

*Major Policy Reform Issues which will have to be addressed if improved natural resource management programs are to be streamlined include:

- a. Wildlife user rights
- b. Freeing up export market for game meat, skins and trophies
- c. Opening up big game hunting
- e. Land Tenure, especially enforcing laws and or developing laws which prohibit selling off rangeland to small farmers who can only ever hope to eke out an existence or hasten desertification of such areas.

It is possible that these reforms could become part of the conditions precedent to the COBRA Project or that they could be included as part of a Non-Project Assistance Program component.

*Wildlife Management And Development Activities:

- a. Help the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Community Conservation Service become established.
- b. Provide support for an executive director and office to help establish the Laikipia Wildlife Producers Association, as a pilot activity which, if proven successful, might lead to the creation of a country wide association.
- c. Provide seed money for the Laikipia Wildlife Producers Association to undertake various pilot schemes including but not limited to:
 1. Cropping of wildlife for skins and meat.
 2. Canning of game meat.
 3. Development of "luxury tented camps."
 4. Developing big game hunting.
 5. Working with representatives in Samburu tribal lands and small holders in: wildlife, livestock

and range management, to assure that they benefit from the pilot wildlife programs; and encourage them to begin sustainable management of their range on which not only wildlife, but the nomads themselves and their domestic stock so dearly depend upon for survival.

6. Assisting group ranches, where they exist, to set up small business management programs such as basic accounting systems, "share/stock holders" and revenue sharing.

7. Developing an international marketing program in Europe and the United States of "Wildlife Products For Conservation", in order to sensitize consumers that articles such as zebra skins and game meat promote the sustainable management of wildlife through providing economic incentives to the landowners on whose property the wildlife is found.

- d. Consider having an extension component to help organize group ranches into small businesses and to address "Revenue Sharing!!!"
- e. Consider investigating the possibility of getting a private sector-like Livestock Marketing Board started to buy cattle offtake from group ranches and tribal lands in order to control range carrying capacity. This will require contacting the European Economic Community (EEC) project; currently linked to government, to determine what might be done.
- f. Consider a Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) component to determine how to overcome veterinary restrictions in the export of game meat. One suggestion that has been raised is to consider establishing a veterinary laboratory in wildlife research at Lake Nakuru National Park. This lab would operate on funds derived through the sale of wildlife products from a wildlife offtake program. The offtake program itself is deemed necessary to maintain the carrying capacity of this fenced-in park surrounded by small holders. Meanwhile, part of the gate receipts from tourist visitations would go for community development activities in areas surrounding the park.
- g. Begin a field school to train KWS, Group ranch/Wildlife Management Units, professional hunters and croppers, etc. in basic techniques. This could be done on one of the private ranches. Subject matter could include: wildlife censuses, determining carrying capacity and offtake of wildlife and cattle, estimation of trophy

quality and offtake, butchering and preparation of meat, small business management, marketing, etc.

- h. Support part of the impending research component soon to begin on Mpala Ranch, or propose other research topics to address range management issues associated with cattle and wildlife (See Smithsonian and Princeton Paper). This same ranch could also provide the training described in "g."
- i. Work with Kenya Tourism Bureau to begin determining other areas for expansion of conventional tourism.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

From February 19-22, 1991 (and during previous trips to other areas), USAID/REDSO/ESA environmental and natural resources advisors, Andre DeGeorges and Dick Pellek, respectively, visited ranches in the Laikipia plateau area of Kenya to obtain ranchers' ideas on wildlife management and to determine how the knowledge of Kenya's private ranchers, especially regarding range management for both livestock and wildlife, might be used to improve the lives of Kenya's more traditional nomadic herders (e.g. Samburu, Turkana and Maasai), and small holder farmers who are increasingly encroaching upon this rangeland due to the scarcity of suitable agricultural lands in Kenya.

3.0 CURRENT SETTING

The Laikipia ranch area is unique in a number of ways. This area contains about 31 major ranches ranging from as small as 9,000 acres to as large as 120,000 acres. While black Kenyans own some of the ranches (e.g. General Lenges of the Kenyan Army, the Ol Doiyo Lemboro Ranch, one owned by a Maasai), most are white owned and a number are owned by non-resident Europeans or Americans who do not rely on these ranches for survival. These ranches are bordered by Samburu Tribal Lands, and are slowly being encroached upon by small holder farmers who are being permitted to buy land that should never be put into farming because of the low rainfall and poor soils. The area contains tremendous amounts of wildlife including the second largest elephant herd in Kenya; 2,500 elephants compared to 5,000 in the Tsavo region. The Laikipia area is extremely important with regard to the future of wildlife outside of Kenyan parks and reserves, not only because of the numbers of wildlife found on private lands, but because of the practical knowledge base that ranchers have with regard to wildlife, livestock and range management. The ranchers we met have spent their lives in this area. They also employ large numbers of traditional peoples (e.g. Samburu and Turkana) and appear to understand their culture and ways of thinking. This latter point is very important as it gives them a comparative advantage over most other groups when it

comes to working with these traditional people in wildlife, livestock and range management, all of which must be addressed if northern Kenya is to be kept from becoming a desert. The following ranches were visited and are believed to be representative of the area:

*Ol Maisor Ranch, a 30,000 acre ranch owned and operated by Jasper Evans. This ranch runs 3,000 head of cattle, approximately 2,500 head of sheep and goats, and 500 camel. This ranch also supports his son and his son's wife and children, and Debbie Atkins who runs a camel trekking tourist operation. The ranch is not fenced and contains abundant wildlife, especially zebra, Thompson's and Grant's Gazelle, cape buffalo, impala, etc. Currently, the ranch is having a difficult time surviving on livestock alone. The hope is that wildlife utilization will make this ranch economically viable.

Because of East Coast Fever, they must dip cattle weekly or every 10 days. Soils and forage grasses/plants in the area are deficient in magnesium, iodine, copper, phosphate and calcium. A formula with these minerals is prepared and put into drinking troughs for the livestock. Low calcium and phosphate results in still-born animals and broken bones.

Cattle are managed in the traditional way using a night boma system.

*Kisima Farms Limited, a 44,000 acre ranch owned and operated by J.G.L. (Guilford) Powys. This is one among a number of ranches that Mr. Powys owns. This ranch runs 6,000 Merino Sheep and 2,500 cattle. There are also approximately 200 buffalo, 100 reticulated giraffe and 300 to 1,000 zebra on the ranch. Although some of the ranch is fenced, most is opened.

Mr. Powys was involved as a principal in Gulano Game and Ranching LTD., a high tech ranch on the north side of Tsavo East, at one time called the most efficient, well run ranch in Africa, to which USAID contributed funds in 1985/86. Since then the government has taken it over.

Mr. Powys also owns Birana Farms, a 16,000 acre complex with a tourist lodge. He hopes to have sport hunting and game viewing--broken up seasonally so as not to conflict with each other, bird shooting and fishing. These will be luxury high class safaris. High class safaris have not been hurt by the Gulf War, only the mass tourism (Package deals).

*Kifiuku Farm, a 9,000 acre ranch owned and managed by Clive and George Aggate. Because they can't use wildlife, they have fenced off the entire farm and shot out all wildlife. They have only cattle, sheep and goats. Their view, like

that of many small African landowners, is that wildlife is only vermin. As a result of eliminating wildlife which are intermediate hosts for a number of diseases and also carriers of ticks which transmit diseases (e.g. East Coast Fever, Rinderpest) from wildlife to livestock, they have been able to reduce dipping from two times per week to one time per month, greatly benefitting from elimination of wildlife.

The owners gave the impression that they would return wildlife to their land if they were given utilization rights. This has been the experience in southern Africa, after wildlife utilization rights were granted.

*Col Checcio Limited, a 60,000 acre ranch managed by former professional hunter Peter Faule for an Italian count. This ranch is not operated currently to make a profit and is understocked with livestock. The ranch has tremendous amounts of wildlife including up to 2,000 cape buffalo.

Livestock are managed using a traditional night boma system as described for the Ol Maisor Ranch.

Mr. Faule feels that given wildlife utilization rights, a ranch of this size could support both photographic and hunting safaris without conflict.

Mr. Faule has hunted throughout most of the Samburu area, understands the peoples' culture, their environmental problems; and would be willing to work to see that they benefit from wildlife utilization if a pilot program could be established in the Laikipia area. The area of the Samburu Tribal Lands, stretching from the Karissia Hills to Barsaloi/Baragoi is vast with a multitude of habitats and associated wildlife, ranging from desert to high forest and high plains.

*Ol Doinyo Lemboro Ranch, a 20,000 acre ranch managed by the owner's son, Ivan Tomlinson. He is very interested in sport hunting and other forms of consumptive use on his land. In the past hunters came from other ranches to hunt here. He estimates that on the ranch they have: 200 buffalo, 100 eland, 40 kudu, 150 waterbuck, more than 500 impala, less than 100 gazelle, an unestimated number of bushbuck, 15 lion, an unestimated number of leopard, more than 15 oryx, 150 hartebeest, and 100 zebra. This is a very rugged, bushy, hilly area and appears to support more wildlife than livestock.

*Mpala Ranch, a 48,000 acre ranch managed by John Raifford-Smith, a former game warden, for its non-resident American owner, George Small.

Mr. Small has recently helped to create the Kenya Wildlife Foundation made up of KWS, Smithsonian, Princeton and the Museums of Kenya. Three thousand acres of this ranch will be used to conduct research in the area of range management. Plots will be fenced off and range vegetation assessed based upon plots grazed by cattle only, cattle and wildlife, wildlife only, and no grazing. It will take 6-8 years before data is available, but the knowledge could be crucial in the development of long-term, sustainable management schemes for range in Kenya.

Mr. Raifford-Smith feels that cropping and hunting are important to ranch management. However, it will take a presidential decree to reopen this. Most of his ranch will be operated on a for-profit basis. He feels that wildlife utilization is critical to the economic viability of this operation.

Raifford-Smith says that he has been working with the Samburu, helping them with a dip and acaricides for their cattle. Since then (4 1/2 years), they have helped stop rustling of his cattle. His daughter is also working with the Ndorobo (Makogodo, a Samburu Clan-former hunters and gatherers) to market honey. He seems to know the Samburu and feels that he and the other ranchers would be willing to work with these traditional people to help them better manage their range and to benefit from wildlife.

*Ol Jogi, a 56,000 acre ranch managed by Mr. Nigel Trent for a French millionaire. This ranch is not operated to make a profit but for the pleasure of its owner in viewing wildlife. Mike Webbley, a former professional hunter manages the wildlife.

Mr. Trent feels that wildlife utilization is critical to controlling grazing pressure and to the profitability of ranches in the area. If wildlife utilization is permitted it is likely that the owner will bring business clients to hunt and will crop wildlife such as zebra to sell their skins.

They currently are confronted with an over-population of buffalo that need cropping.

*El Karama Ranch, a 12,000 acre ranch owned and operated by Guy Grant, a former professional hunter and game warden.

Like Jasper Evans, he is having a hard time making ends meet on livestock alone and hopes that wildlife utilization will make the difference. Twenty five years ago, one third of his income was from cropping and hunting. There were 1000 cattle and 2,000 sheep/goats. Hunting was banned in 1977 and wildlife populations increased to the point where he was

obliged to cut the numbers of cattle back so as to not overgraze the area. In the beginning there were 25 zebra but now there are 1,400 zebra competing with 700 cattle. As it is, El Karima is uneconomical unless he can use wildlife.

He is not interested in hunting anymore, but only in cropping wildlife to sell skins and meat. He also has 10 self-help tourist bandas which he promotes through "Lets Go Travel". They provide a minimum of income, renting for 35 KSH/person/night.

He has been granted, by special permission from KWS, the rights to crop zebra on a pilot basis. The hides are salted and sent to a tannery in Botswana. The meat is made into biltong. He believes the meat can provide a source of protein to some starving rural groups where game meat is culturally acceptable such as among the Turkana and the Kamba. He plans to use 5% of gross returns from zebra skin sales to put up an electric game fence between his ranch and the adjacent small holders, and 5% to assist small holders to survive in this harsh environment.

Mr. Grant is against mass killing of wildlife at night for cropping. At night it is difficult to select carefully. He hunts in daylight, and takes one animal/day to assure that skin and meat are properly processed. He hunts on foot so that animals do not associate hunting with vehicles and, therefore, are not afraid of tourists. He is careful in taking females, although some must be taken to control the balance of the population.

Guy Grant is starting to construct a cold storage room so that fresh and frozen meat can be properly prepared for export. He has found Jack Wright Butcher, Nanyuki, owned by an Asian, Mr. Butt, who is willing to can game meat.

He is willing to get involved in training people in wildlife and range management, and thinks that Mpala Ranch is the place. This includes range management, game censusing, trophy quality estimates, skinning and preparation of hides and meat, etc. This type of training will be critical in the functioning of the Community Wildlife Service.

4.0 ISSUES

4.1 Land Use and Land Tenure. The backside of the Ol Maisor Ranch, once a private ranch, has been sold off to small holder farmers, at about 1 to 1 & 1/2 acres per small holder family. Because of the poor soils and rainfall, it is believed that these people will not be able to survive on such lands. This land supports only one cow per 10 acres and is only fit for rangeland-

-not farming. The small farmers are already chopping down all of the trees. Desertification is the only thing that can come from such activities. Mr. Evans claims that a law is on the books that prevents the sale of rangelands to farmers (for farming purposes), but because it is not politically acceptable, the law is not enforced. While this provides a short term solution to a problem, providing farms to the ever increasing land hungry farmers, in the long run this land will fail to produce crops. They will also degrade the range habitat, making it unfit for wildlife or livestock. The small farmers will come to see wildlife as a pest and they will possibly jeopardize the nomadic herding cultures of groups such as the Samburu and Turkana, if they are allowed to extend agricultural pursuits into this rangeland area of Kenya.

Likewise, on the backside of El Karama Ranch, three thousand people have moved onto 1800 acres adjacent to the ranch boundaries, in an area where 1 livestock unit per 20 acres is considered good management. This is an area of very low rainfall and nutrient poor soils, and it may be impossible for these people to survive as farmers.

Much of this is happening as a result of outside speculators buying up ranches and then misleading small desperate farmers into thinking that they will be able to produce crops on this land.

Some ranchers believe that after a couple of the years, most people will sell out and the areas will once again be reconsolidated into range units. Others are afraid that the people will stay and destroy the environment, relying on remittances from other family members working in urban areas.

Some ranchers have suggested, as part of a pilot wildlife utilization range management program, that they would work with the small holders to move them into a village setting and then help them learn range management of livestock and wildlife, the comparative economic advantage of the area.

4.2 Range Management. Because of better veterinary medicines and human health care, both livestock and human populations are increasing on the Samburu Tribal Lands. This is resulting in over-grazing and the on-slaught of desertification in northern Kenya. This is also jeopardizing wildlife living in this region. If things continue both man, his animals and wildlife will have a difficult time surviving.

Many of the ranchers use very traditional and appropriate range management techniques which could possibly be transferred to the Samburu and other nomadic groups who are having their traditional lifestyles jeopardized (e.g. Maasai on group ranches).

On the Ol Maisor, El Karama and Col Checchio Ranches, the livestock are managed using a traditional night boma system, combined with the use of appropriate technology rain fed check dams dug out of natural low lying areas using a simple dam scoop pulled by a camel. On the Ol Maisor Ranch, there are about 50 shallow dams. This allows grazing of wet season range during the dry season. Herds are generally broken into 100-200 animals. They are grazed in the area of a given dam for 6-8 weeks and then moved on to another area prior to over-grazing.

Many ranchers believe that they may be able to transfer some of this appropriate technology to the nomadic groups. They also strongly believe that an offtake program is needed to control the size of the herds on the range. During the colonial epoch, the Livestock Marketing Division (LMD), bought livestock from these nomads, quarantined them and then marketed them. It was taken over by the government at independence and has fallen into disarray. Robin Slade, currently funded by the EEC, is working out of Isiola, to rejuvenate the LMD. Rumor has it that he is very frustrated and having little success. Most ranchers believe that there will always be problems until the LMD is operated out of the private sector. Mr. Powys had just such a plan with USAID, but it never materialized. A file exists on this and should be investigated. Likewise, such issues should be raised with the EEC. The LMD could be very instrumental in improving livestock management and marketing among the Samburu and other nomadic groups throughout Kenya. Improved livestock management should also pay complementary benefits to wildlife and rangelands, as herd sizes are regulated.

The ranchers suggest that a private entrepreneur be allowed to take over the LMD quarantine and fattening grounds in return for giving a percentage of the profits to the government from the sale and marketing of livestock.

4.3 Non-Consumptive Use, A Key Component Of Wildlife Management. Private landowners have not ignored the possibilities of using the appeal of wildlife on their lands to generate income from nature tourism. Tented camps, self-help bandas, camel-trekking tours and private cottages are all part of the bigger picture. However, due to the distance from well known and popular National Parks and game reserves, lack of improved access, and due to their private status and image as primarily ranching ventures, these lands will likely draw only a small and select clientele as tourist destinations.

USAID/REDSO, in its search for viable ways of generating income from wildlife, has made a preliminary investigation into viable economic options from non-consumptive use of wildlife. All information available to date indicates that the only really economically viable form of non-consumptive tourism occurs when luxury tented camps and tourist lodges are established. It is

believed over much of the 85% of Kenya that is range/wildlife habitat, the options for these high income generating options will be minor. This deems further exploration during the COBRA PP through the solicitation of a Kenyan tourism expert to chart out where and to what degree such tourism facilities may be acceptable.

Tented Camps. Tented camps around Amboseli are leased by group ranchers to tourist operators, who in turn put in all of the investments (e.g., tents, cots, showers, toilets, improved roads, landing strip, etc.). The accommodations are rustic but adequate. The camper generally provides all cooking and camping supplies other than the tent and cot. The group ranches are paid from KSH 7,000 to 60,000 per year by the tourist operator. Estimates for the Kuku Group ranch with 5,000 heads of households, is that this would yield only KSH 16 per head of household. While a start, it is evident that this form of tourism yields very low returns and is only viable as a part of a diversified portfolio of wildlife utilization.

Self-Help Bandas. On El Karama ranch near Nanyuki 10 self-help bandas are marketed through Lets Go Travel. There are two beds per banda. They rent for KSH 35 per head per night. The owner of the ranch explained that he is unable to charge more than this since it would throw him into another tax bracket making this form of nature tourism uneconomical. As with tented camps, this form of tourism appears to be viable only as part of a diversified portfolio of wildlife utilization.

Luxury Tented Camps. These are common around Masai Mara, Amboseli and even on some of the Laikipia ranches. As an example, the current rate for Sweetwaters Tented Camp on Ol Pejeta Ranch near Nanyuki is from KSH 805-976 per night per person, and this is low due to the Gulf War. The Fig Tree tented camp, rented from a Maasai group ranch on the edge of the Masai Mara, in December 1990 cost about KSH 1,250 per night per person. These luxury tented camps provide full board and even box lunches. They are usually closely linked to tour operators who offer package deals to tourists from Europe and North America. It is at this stage that non-consumptive tourism becomes viable. Generally, these camps are located around major parks or reserves with a high diversity and number of wildlife. This is generally not the case on working ranches.

However, there may be some room for these types of camps linked to unique alternatives to viewing wildlife other than out of a matatu. Alternatives such as camel and horse trekking, foot safaris and hot air ballooning on group and private ranches or tribal lands may offer some unique opportunities for tourists to commune more closely with nature and to generate sizable income from such activities. While most of these camps tend to be semi-permanent, they could be made mobile, as with sport hunting

camps, meeting the trekker at a new location each day. This is worthy of further exploration during the project paper design of COBRA.

Tourist Lodges. Like luxury tented camps, these lodges tend to be located in areas with high densities and numbers, or with unique populations of wildlife. They offer the same basic amenities of luxury tented camps, but with the more stately setting of a permanent structure. These include such lodges as the ARC, Tree Tops and the Ol Pejeta Lodge. Charges may run from about KSH 1,200 to about 2,400 per night per person. Though there may exist some options for such lodges in areas well removed from parks and reserves, it is doubtful that they will be large in number.

With respect to tourist lodges and luxury tented camps, every indication is that in the two major tourist areas, Masai Mara and Amboseli, they and the tourists associated with them, are at a maximum limit with regard to tourism development and the ecological carrying capacities of these systems to withstand tourists.

4.4 Wildlife Utilization Rights. Mr. Powys along with Cookie Gallman of a neighboring Laikipia ranch, prepared a questionnaire on game utilization which was sent to all Laikipia ranchers in March 1990 (See Attachment). There was a 75% response (22 out of 31 ranchers). This was followed by a meeting between Richard Leaky and the ranchers in October?? 1990 to discuss these issues.

At this meeting, Leaky raised his concern that elephant and buffalo will go from the ranches onto the lands of small holder farmers and destroy their crops. As promised at the end of 1990, Leaky has granted a few ranchers, who submitted plans, permission to crop wildlife including the following ranchers in the Laikipia area: Guy Grant, Gordon Murray and Ian Craig to crop wildlife for the purpose of selling their skins.

As a result of this meeting, plans exist to establish a Laikipia Wildlife Producer's Association. Plans also exist to invite John White of the Zimbabwe Wildlife Producers Association to Kenya to help them follow similar guidelines in establishing this association.

Most importantly, Mr. Powys and the other ranchers realize the importance of involving the more traditional groups, especially the Samburu in their area, in realizing economic benefits from wildlife. The future of the wildlife populations, which know no boundaries, depends as much on Samburu Tribal Lands as it does the private Laikipia ranches.

Depending on the particular ranch, cropping of wildlife for skins and meat, and/or sport hunting were seen by all ranchers

interviewed as not only an important source of income, but a major way of controlling grazing pressure as a part of modern range management. For example, one zebra consumes grasses equivalent to 3-4 cows.

A major problem, which still must be overcome with the marketing of game meat, is veterinary restrictions for fresh and frozen game meat. Some people believe that gamma radiation could resolve this. Other people (Guy Grant of El Karama and Klaus Mortensen of Mugie Ranch) feel that canning of game meat is the solution. In both cases marketing and promotion will be critical, in particular gaining public acceptance throughout Europe and North America for the idea that this is "Game Meat For Conservation," an idea that currently goes against the way of thinking of many "environmentalists."

For both sport hunting and game ranching to become operational within acceptable and sustainable limits, an estimate of the numbers of wildlife populations on the ranches and in the Samburu Tribal Lands would have to be conducted. Then an offtake program would have to be developed, based on the annual production of wildlife by species, and the numbers of trophy quality animals of the various species which can be sustainably harvested. This will have to be determined for the "Wildlife Management Unit" as a whole. Of critical importance will be to determine how revenue from a "Common Resource" is shared between ranches, and between ranches and the tribal lands.

Johnny Weller of Ol Pejeta Ranch has been requested to take charge of organizing a Laikipia Wildlife Producers Association. He may very well become its first executive officer. Ol Pejeta Ranch is owned by Lonrho Hotels; on its boundaries is found the well known Sweet Water Tented Camp.

4.5 Elephants. As mentioned, the Laikipia ranch area has the second largest elephant population in Kenya (2,500 out of about 10,000 elephants). Major concern exists that the sale of ranches to small holders will result in the elephants becoming nuisances as they move in to feed on the farmers' crops. Some ranchers propose running an elephant fence from Isiola west to the Rift Valley, just south of the ranches. The fence would permit other wildlife and livestock to pass but not the elephants. One of the problems is that other animals such as zebra, buffalo, monkey and various antelope may also become crop pests. In the long run, given the infertility of the soils in the area, the best solution may be to work with the small holders to manage their lands for livestock and wildlife and not for crops, as suggested by a number of ranchers. In the long run, it would be wise if this area be declared as "rangeland" land use only!!

5.6 ANALYSIS

USAID/Kenya could make a significant contribution to assist the private sector under COBRA, by supporting the creation of a Liakipia Wildlife Producer's Association. There are at present about 30-40 prospective members who would join and be active. The level of interest is already high. Furthermore, many individuals with whom we spoke are ex-professional hunters and/or former game wardens who have extensive experience in many aspects of resource management. All of them are ranchers, as well. Thus, they have first-hand experience about the diverse aspects of wildlife, livestock and range management issues. Such pertinent and complementary skills within the prospective membership promises to make the group a strong and forceful leader in the private sector; and the association could evolve into a model for other landowners to emulate, in other areas of Kenya. That is not to say that all lands under private ownership would or could apply the recommended or similar practices which might evolve as a result of the Association's deliberations. Urban and strictly agricultural lands have different circumstances and management objectives. They also manifest different realities regarding wildlife habitation.

Lest USAID be taken to task for suggesting support for a relatively small handful of seemingly well-to-do ranchers whose holdings are much larger than the national average in Kenya, it should be remembered that large land holdings devoted to ranching are required by law, and constrained by the carrying capacity of livestock and wildlife, to retain their dedication as range. Under present law whereby hunting has been officially banned for more than 15 years, the problems of maintaining profitability as livestock ranches and even productive capacity of the land have been exacerbated. By a steadily increasing imbalance in the populations of wildlife which inhabit the land, livestock raising is less and less profitable. A prudent rancher must reduce his herd size in direct response to the increase in the size of the wildlife population, over which he has no direct control and from which he derives little or no economic benefit. Predators and problem animals may be eliminated, but it is not permitted to use the meat, hides, skins, horns or other byproducts without special permission.

Current Kenyan law does not provide landowners with sufficient incentives to manage wildlife, because this plentiful and renewable natural resource does not belong to them--it belongs to the State. Even though the vast herds on private lands may exceed the numbers which can be found in National Parks and preserves, most landowners view the wildlife resource in a negative way. Some have taken the bold step in shooting everything in sight in order to protect their crops and domestic animals; but mostly landowners have suffered the presence of unwanted herds as net deficits in their ranching operations.

5.1 The Economic Value of Wildlife. All ranchers in Kenya deal with wildlife on a daily basis, simply because the uninvited animals are there. Without clear, consistent and unfettered proprietorship rights to the wildlife resources, however, ranchers attempt to maintain economic viability of their operations and, simultaneously, the carrying capacity of their range by factoring in all of the options available to them. Cattle, sheep and goats are sold when it is profitable to do so, but wildlife are not part of the management formula in a comprehensive way because the landowner is not the proprietor in the same way.

If and when the law permits free use of wildlife resources on private land, the attitude of ranchers toward wildlife will change and so will the implied value of the wildlife itself. Rather than see an accelerated extermination of African wildlife, future generations of Kenyans will see a resource that is more valued, better tended and better managed than it is at present. The CAMPFIRE experience in Zimbabwe is an example on the record. In fact, many countries in Southern Africa have progressive wildlife utilization codes. In order to see those changes in Kenya, however, laws and attitudes must be changed. There is a small but dynamic group willing to effect those changes, but they will need the help and support that USAID/Kenya could provide under a pilot program of COBRA.

5.2 National Application of Landowners Rights. If laws relating to landowners rights to the utilization of wildlife are changed, then other individuals and groups facing similar problems in similar habitats will be better able to prosper from association of livestock with wildlife (when the numbers are in balance), and to profit from past lessons learned. Individual landowners, tribal groups and group ranches ostensibly would be interested in considering how changes could benefit them, and would likely do something about it.

5.3 Sustainability: Key to Resource Management. If sustainability of the ecosystem is as important as development agencies claim it is, then we all have little choice but to include proper management of wildlife on the land as part of the development agenda. If sustainability of the economic health of the rural peoples of Kenya is to be assured, the net deficit impact of wildlife-related operating losses must be minimized. If quantity and quality of rangeland is to be sustained, ranchers must have a greater say in what the total herd composition should be, and how it should be managed and marketed. USAID, for its part, recognizes that sustained economic growth of nations is critically dependent on the protection of renewable resources. Fortunately, both rangeland and wildlife are renewable resources. The prospects for true sustainability of rangeland can be enhanced if the carrying capacity of range is approached from the standpoint of both forage/browse and the animal populations which use it.

Although budgetary constraints have prevented many central governments from realizing their potential to fully implement environmental and natural resource policies, this is one area where the implementation of sound environmental AND natural resource policy would be eagerly enforced, and in the private sector at little cost to the Government of Kenya. Of course, any landowner who chooses to ignore the wildlife situation may do so, so long as they have freedom of choice.

5.4 Is an Association Necessary? It is reasonable to assume that an association of interested parties can be formed without an expenditure of money. Student organizations and church groups exist and frequently operate without rigid membership requirements, and may collect merely token dues, if any at all. Yet, what is envisioned for Kenya is an authoritative body that will be empowered to lobby on behalf of dozens of ranchers who are scattered throughout the Liakipia Plateau. The elected or appointed Executive Director would be expected to travel throughout the region; be in face-to-face contact with association members; represent their interests to the KWS, maintain communications with individuals and groups (e.g. the Samburus and Maasais) having similar problems and opportunities for deriving benefits; assist the KWS, and in particular the Community Wildlife Service of KWS, in determining a benefits distribution arrangement for revenue sharing, as anticipated by KWS for proceeds from National Parks, etc. Other functions may include mediating with Association members when there are disputes, articulating to non-members the pros and cons of various land management practices on communal lands and contiguous ecotones and/or agroecological zones; assisting members in various wildlife product utilization ventures and marketing schemes... The list could go on. It seems evident that a professional Association which is envisioned will require the services of a full-time employee, with the office facilities which may be required. USAID can advance the interests of private sector development and sustainable natural resource management by supporting the establishment of an Association office and by funding an Executive Director, at least for the first year, as suggested by one of the interested ranchers with whom we met.

Since COBRA and the KWS have national agendas, it might well turn out that the Liakipia Wildlife Producer's Association will evolve into a national association. In any case, every organization needs a headquarters, and a pilot program usually start with one test in a limited way. Enlargement and sophistication of the Association's activities will be up to the membership. One thing is certain, the Liakipia area hosts a vocal, dynamic community that is ready, willing and able to act when they are empowered to do so.

6.0 ADDRESSES OF MAJOR CONTACTS

All ranches belong to the Laikipia Security Network-a radio communication system.

- 6.1 Ol Maisor Ranch, P.O. Box 9, Rumuruti
- 6.2 Kisima Farms Limited, P.O. Box 20139, Nairobi, Tel: 25853 and 332363-Nairobi
- 6.3 Kifluku Farm, Box 2 Rumuruti
- 6.4 Col Checchio Ltd. Box 50 Rumuruti
- 6.5 Ol Doinyo Lemboro Ranch, Box 16 Rumuruti
- 6.6 Mpala Ranch, P.O. Box 92 Nanyuki
- 6.7 Ol Jogi Ranch, P.O. Box 259 Nanyuki, Tel:0176-22695, 22685, FAX:23097/98, Telex: 28035
- 6.8 Guy Grant, owner, El Karama Ranch, P.O. Box 172, Nanyuki.

7.0 OTHER FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS

- 7.1 Johnny Weller, Ol Pejeta Ranch, prospective executive director of Laikipia Wildlife Producers Association.
- 7.2 Palo Lavateli, Marula Ranch, Naivasha interested in wildlife utilization.
- 7.3 Ian Craig, Lew Downs on Isiola Road.
- 7.4 Collin Franklin and Cookie Gallman, important Laikipia ranchers, Tel: 520048 Nairobi.
- 7.5 Klaus Mortensen, Mugie Ranch LTD. P.O. Box 30 Rumuruti, Radio call 2058, has put in to USAID request to can zebra meat.
- 7.6 General Lenges, Kahawa Barraks, Laikipia rancher.

- 7.7 Robin Slade, EEC Project with Livestock Marketing Division, Isiola.
- 7.8 Robin Hurt, professional hunter and photo safari expert, could possibly help with PP. Interested in pastoralists. and recommended by Powys.
- 7.9 Dieter Rottcher, German in KWS, specialist at immobilizing wildlife. Tel:882225, Karen.
- 7.10 Mike Rainy, botanist looking at range vegetation and wildlife livestock competition. P.O. Box 45541 Nairobi.
- 7.11 Mike Littlewood, Tel: 22097 Nanyuki, Penta Agencies, Cattle Exporters.
- 7.12 Mark Genders P.O.Box 17951, Nairobi, Tel:545037, Photo Safaris, helping out Guy Grant.
- 7.13 Maurizio Dioli, Italian Veterinarian sponsored by GTZ, Marasabit Development Programme, P.O Box 47051, Lenana Road, Nairobi, Tel:02-562820-3, 02-568519, FAX:02-562671, Tel:0183-2455 Marsabit.