Pastoralists and conservation - who benefits?

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Pastoralists and conservation in East Africa

Pastoralist poverty: Widespread + deep
Rangelands biodiversity: high / in sharp decline
Potential for +ve synergy?
Conservation <-> poverty reduction?
Conservation contribution to poverty reduction

• Positive:
  » Ecosystem services protected
  » NR-based livelihoods enhanced
  » Tourist revenue to protected areas
  » Diversification -> livelihood security

• Negative:
  » Inequitable distribution of benefits
  » Displacement/Loss of access

Pastoralists and conservation in East Africa

• Conservation
  - Considerable land conserved
    » High earning PAs sited in pastoral areas
    » PAs more than 30% TZ land area;
  - Competition for space and resources
  - Wildlife/tourist impact on key resources
  - Loss of mobility

• Tourism revenue
  - ~USD 1 billion/yr each (Kenya and Tanzania)
  - Pastoralist areas = fastest growing destinations
  - Distribution of costs and benefits?
Pastoralists and conservation in East Africa

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What does conservation contribute to households?

- **Household livelihoods activities/income**
  - PA-adjacent Maasai communities
  - Comparative cross-border Kenya/Tanzania
  - 5 sites/ Long-term studies
  - >1000 households

- **Relative contributions**
  - Livestock
  - Farming
  - Off farm
  - Conservation/tourism-based

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**Homewood, Kristjanson and Trench 2009 (eds) Staying Maasai. Springer**
Maasai incomes and poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total gross income $/h/yr ± sd</th>
<th>Mara</th>
<th>Kitengela</th>
<th>Amboseli</th>
<th>Longido</th>
<th>Tarangire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$/person/day</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Immense within- and between-site variability
- Means skewed upwards by a small number of high incomes
- Median < 1/2 mean = truer picture of poverty levels
Livelihoods of PA-adjacent Maasai

- Livestock remain central
  - 91-100% hh own livestock
  - ~/> 50% income, all sites
  - Households across all wealth categories buy livestock

- Off-farm income
  - 2nd most important income stream
  - Diversification despite difficulties

- Cultivation despite low returns
  - Food security
  - Commercial investment
  - Tenure strategy

- Conservation income:
  - ~20% for Mara households
  - minimal (<5%) in 4/5 sites
  - Few households (3-14%) in 4/5 sites

Mara vs Longido:

scale and equitability of conservation income

- Wealth quintiles
- Mara:
  - wealthiest site
  - Livestock > 60% income
  - Conservation >20%, all quintiles
  - Top quintile: 75% cons income
  - Conservancy guarantees income
  - Few farm/off-farm

- Longido:
  - poorest site
  - Livestock + off-farm
  - All farm but low returns
  - Conservation <3%, few hh
  - 90% land of 7 villages -> WMA
Conservation and poverty in pastoral communities

Five problems

1. Tourist sector shares revenues badly
2. Problems of governance locally and nationally
3. Histories founded on suspicion and loss
4. Conservation lobbying
5. Faith in conservation enterprise