The Economic Revolution On Kenya's Rangelands

Mike Norton-Griffiths Mohammed Said

We observe

A transformation from traditional nomadic pastoralism (as described, for example, by Neville Dyson Hudson, David Western *et al*) to a more sedentary, agro-pastoralism with settled cultivation and livestock embedded within the emerging agro-pastoral matrix.

Specifically we see

- A significant increase in the areas under cultivation;
- The intensification of livestock production;
- The near total eradication of wildlife; and
- The rapid evolution of Property Rights from large parcels of land under Group or Communal ownership to small parcels of land under Private ownership.

Spatially and temporally this process of transformation is cascading down the rainfall gradient....

- Progresses faster, and is more complete, in areas of higher agricultural potential compared with areas of lower agricultural potential;
- BUT can "jump" down the rainfall gradient where agricultural potential is high, e.g. along rivers, and in swamps (Loitokitok basin).

The economic drivers for this process of transformation are

- Macro- (national) and micro- (local) economic changes;
- Population growth, especially in urban areas; and
- Marked differentials in the returns to agricultural, livestock and wildlife production

This analysis

Combines these observed parameters of change with the economic drivers to provide a model for the continuing transformation of rangeland production from a system based on traditional nomadic pastoralism to one based on economic and market forces.

System response: mid '70s to mid '90s



Spread of Cultivation -1

- Overall rate of increase of +8.6% per annum
- From District reports mid '70s to mid '90s
- All ASAL Districts show same pattern of increase

Spread of Cultivation – 2 Narok District



Spread of Cultivation – 3

Cultivation in Kajiado District



Spread of Cultivation – 4 % ASAL Districts receiving different rainfalls



Spread of Cultivation – 5 % cultivated by rainfall



Livestock Dynamics - 1

- Overall Trend 70s to 90s of +0.6% per annum (not statistically significant, i.e. marked annual variation but no overall trend)
- Offtake: of cattle, growing at +4.4% per annum
- Offtake: of small stock, falling fast
- Seen in all ASAL Districts

Livestock Dynamics – 2 sales of cattle and small stock in Narok District



Livestock Dynamics – 3 sales of cattle and small stock Kajiado District

Kajiado District, Livestock Offtake



Livestock Dynamics - 4

- Suggests a switch from extensive to more intensive methods of production, with greater involvement in the cash economy
- ?? BUT -- How much of the increase in cattle sales is due to stock coming in from Tanzania, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia??

Wildlife Dynamics - 1

- Overall trend mid 70s to mid 90s: -3.2% pa
- Western & Agatsiva recent analysis suggests trend has continued unchecked

Wildlife Dynamics – 2 Western, Agatsiva & Russell 2007



System response: mid '70s to mid '90s



Interactions – 1 % change in livestock with cultivated area (mid 70s to mid 90s)



Interactions – 2

% change in livestock and wildlife with cultivation (mid 70s to mid 90s)



Interactions – 3

Interactions between cultivation, wildlife and livestock – Mara Area



Property Rights - 1

 Rapid transformation of property rights from large parcels of land under Group or Communal ownership to small parcels of land under private ownership

Property Rights – 2 Map of the Mara Area



Property Rights - 3



Specific changes of policy – case example Kitengela







Historical land use change.....

In 1911, the northern reserve was closed to Maasai and a single extended southern reserve was created. It extended from south Kenya to northem Tanzania. The Maasai lost about 60% of their best land to white farmers.

Further, in 1940s more land was curved to set up Nairobi NP, part of Tsavo East and Amboseli was created in Kenya and Serengeti NP and Ngorongoro Conservation Area in Tanzania

Group Ranches

In the late 1960s the Group ranches were set up . In Kajiado there were more than 50 group ranches.

By 1986 individual ownership of land began with Athi Kaputiei Maasai (grey shaded areas on the map). The allocation of land was between 51 to 298 hectares of land per family.

Changes in Land tenure

Land Privatisation continued in 1990s The recent 2004 land parcel map indicates the mean parcel size is about 68 hectares. The largest parcels are more than 1200 and smalllest about 2 hectares

By 2004, many of these parcels were fenced, especially in urban and rural centres and along the highway. Most of the properties south of the park are not fenced purposely to have wildlife free to move. These land are under lease programme.



Property Rights - 5



IMPACTS: Sub-Division Influences on Wildlife Losses Size of Landholding



- For every % decrease in size of landholding:-
- 0.4% LOSS of diversity
- 2% LOSS of density



Property Rights - 7

- Main drivers to sub-division are
 - Security of tenure: from political and/or economic elites; from conservation NGOs wishing to expand extent of protected areas; and from in-migration
 - From dilution of the value of communal resources following population growth and in-migration
 - To capture benefits of agricultural, livestock or wildlife production at the household level rather than through local institutions (e.g. group ranch committees, ranch management committees)

Property Rights – 8 Socio-economic impacts of sub-division

- Value of land increases
- Easier to raise capital for development
- Switch from extensive to intensive methods of production
- Easier to alienate land

- Macro- (national) and micro- (more local) economic developments
- Population growth
- Differential returns to agricultural, livestock and wildlife production

- Macro- (international → national) and micro- (national → local) economic developments which scarcely existed 25 years ago create incentives to develop land and increase productivity
- Macro-economic changes:
 - Expansion of both international and domestic (primarily urban) markets, real gains in producer prices, ever increasing opportunities for off-farm jobs and investment, wider availability and choice of goods and services.
- Micro-economic changes:
 - improved market and transport networks, improved information networks on market conditions (e.g. mobile phones) transforms price taking, improved access to financial services, improved and wider availability of technology.

- Population growth
 - Mid 70s to mid 90s: population growth in the ASAL Districts was +3.1% pa
 - More up-to-date data clearly required
 - Population growth in the rest of the country, especially in urban areas, creates burgeoning markets for agricultural and livestock products of every higher quality

Economic Drivers of Change – 4 Differential returns to agricultural, livestock and wildlife production





And to summarise

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It's really very simple

