



Promoting resilience by influencing water infrastructure development in community managed rangelands of Northern Kenya



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Content of Presentation

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- Challenges and issues of concern
- Result areas and project approaches
- Results
- Conclusions and implications

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Overview of project sites

- Located in Arid and semi arid lands
- ASALs cover over 85% of Kenya land mass
- 70% of livestock domicile in ASALs
- Account for 36% of the population.
- Heterogeneous landscapes providing multiple benefits
- Mobile pastoralism main livelihood
- Contribution to GDP (4.5 billion USD)
- Rich biodiversity (90% of gazetted national parks and game reserves)
- Other ecosystem services



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Challenges and key issues

- Exclusion from decision making processes
- Inappropriate development policies
- Sectoral approaches in natural resource management
- Multiple players operating under non coherent systems
- Lack of appreciation of communal governance in the drylands and value of these systems
- Land grabs and competing land use
- Under developed infrastructure
- haphazard water development



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Result areas and project approaches

- Heavy focus on hardware and technical delivery at expense of institutional development
- Water for Livestock in Isiolo and Garissa Counties, Kenya - Enhancing water resource and rangeland management community capacity through training and strategic water development
 - Improve access to water through strategic water development
 - Strengthen capacity of the local institutions
 - Document and share overall learning and lessons on project approaches
- Build up from IUCN natural resource governance project

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Result areas and project approaches

Approaches

- Strategic water development: Sub-surface dams
- Multi-stakeholder dialogues
- learning event

Project outcomes

- Community validation process demonstrated in water development:
- Duration of grazing prolonged temporarily (2-3 months) to ensure sustainable and efficient utilization of pasture and browse resources in targeted areas



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Result areas and project approaches

- Appropriate siting and consideration for vulnerable community members
- Capacity development initiatives in forms of trainings, dialogues and participatory planning on integrated water and land management in drylands
- County and inter-county dialogues platforms to discuss and explore ways of fostering coordination and enhance resource governance
- Outcomes and lessons learned documented and shared



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Key issues

Assessing the suitability of the project interventions

- Context: mold towards community dynamics
- Validation: equivalent of 'free, prior and informed consent'
- Institutions: supports the strong rules that are required to achieve effective use of water and range resources in a manner that enhances community resilience



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Conclusions and lessons learnt

- Appropriateness: Needs, governance arrangement and capacity of the local community
- Engaging institutions supports the strong rules that are required to achieve effective use of water and range resources
- Strong rules automatically imply strong and coordinated institutions.
- 'Water-Pasture balance' is critical for the resilience of rangeland communities.
- Too much water for too long can lead to population increases, permanent settlement, conflict and degradation

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Conclusions and lessons learnt

- Need to understand and build on traditional grazing patterns as managed by traditional institutions
- Greater importance needs to be given to the governance and ecological considerations of range management, compared to a focus on individual water technologies.
- Shared vision among different actors critical
- Formulation of flexible multi-disciplinary teams that includes community leadership, and that demonstrate a willingness to understand each other's perspectives
- Facilitate uptake of the outcomes through structured approach: dialogue and policy influencing processes

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Thank you

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