

RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO PROPOSED DRYLAND TRANSFORM PROJECT AREAS IN THE GREATER KARAMONJA CLUSTER

18th to 28th January 2021

[Drylands Transform](#) is a new interdisciplinary research project starting up in the Greater Karamonja border region between Uganda and Kenya. The research team –coordinated by SLU – wants to modify the ongoing negative spiral of land, livestock and livelihood degradation into a positive transformation. The project aims to contribute to several of the United Nations global sustainable development goals.

The Kenyan and Ugandan Project Coordinators, [Dr. SM Mureithi](#), and Prof. Dennis Mpairwe from University of Nairobi and Makerere University accompanied by Dereje Wakjira of IGAD's ICPALD, Dr. Alice Turinawe, Agricultural Economist at Makerere University, William Makokha of [Triple L](#), and Margeret Nyaga, project's PhD student from 18th to 28th January 2021, conducted a reconnaissance visit in the Greater Karamonja region where the Dryland Transform Project will be implemented. The aim of the visit is to; 1) introduce the project to the Administration Authorities and Agriculture and Livestock Ministry Officials, 2) Identify sites for laying out the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework, 3) Identify sites for establishing Livestock Cafés in collaboration with the officials and the community Elders, 4) Identify control sites for the impact mapping surveys.

The identified sites are Chepareria Ward, West Pokot County versus Matany in Napak District under agro-pastoral production system, and Rupa in Moroto District and Lokiriama-Lorengkipi Ward in Turkana County under pure pastoralism.



The Dryland Transform reconnaissance team takes a photo with the Chief Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, West Pokot County at Kapenguria after a briefing meeting.



Team discussing and deliberating about the research sites in the field at Nasukuta, Chepareria Ward, West Pokot County.



Elders showing the team a suitable site for establishing Livestock Café in Matany, Napak Distirct.



Team having meeting with the Napak District Veterinary Officer.



Holding a meeting with the Livestock Officials and CAO at Moroto District Offices, Moroto.



The Dryland Transform reconnaissance team engaging a community elder in Rupa, Moroto District.



The Team at Turkana County's Ministry of Agriculture and Pastoral Economy takes a photo after a briefing meeting.



Introducing the Dryland Transform project at Loima Sub-County Offices at Lorugum, Turkana County



The Lokiriama Ward Administration Chief and Elders showing the team suitable site for establishing the Livestock Café.

In Drylands Transform we will investigate the links between land health, livestock-based livelihoods, human well-being, and land management and governance. We will contribute with new knowledge for transformative change and sustainable development of rangelands in the drylands of East Africa.

Through strong stakeholder engagement in interdisciplinary research, we set out to explore the challenges and pathways towards a social-ecological transformation in drylands that optimizes synergies among the sustainable development goals (SDGs) while minimizing the trade-offs. We will use innovative field research approaches focusing on livelihood improvement through rangeland restoration and governance interventions in the border region between Kenya and Uganda.

The entry point of Drylands Transform is the urgent need to identify and enhance synergies between food and nutrition security (SDG2), land and ecosystem health (SDG15) and governance and justice (SDG16) for sustainable dryland development, while minimizing trade-offs between agricultural productivity (SDG2), natural resources management (SDG15) and climate change (SDG13).

In Drylands Transform we will:

1. Assess land health at the landscape scale and explore the links with human health and well-being
2. Co-develop sustainable rangeland management options with local communities, and set-up knowledge sharing hubs ('Livestock Cafés')
3. Study impacts of seasonality and climate variability on food and livelihood strategies, well-being and resilience.
4. Identify innovative land governance mechanisms and practices that effectively address livestock-keepers' dependence on both flexible and secure rights to land.
5. Co-design and evaluate alternative scenarios for sustainable dryland transformation in East Africa with local and regional stakeholder groups.

The projects multidisciplinary team with researchers from Umeå University, Gothenburg University, University of Nairobi, Makerere University, World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is led by Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

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