



# Pathways and challenges toward a socio-ecological transformation

*of landscapes, livestock and livelihoods in  
the East African drylands*

**FIELD ACTIVITY REPORT: LAND NEGOTIATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF LIVESTOCK CAFÉ IN CHEPUKAT, CHEPKOPEGH LOCATION, WEST  
POKOT COUNTY**



**Reported by**

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**<sup>1</sup>University of Nairobi, <sup>2</sup>Triple L**

## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rangelands in Africa face a serious problem of land degradation, threatening wildlife habitat, grazing lands and pastoral livelihoods. Land degradation implies loss of land productivity through various processes such as erosion, salinization, water logging and nutrient depletion, deterioration of soil structure and pollution. Land degradation manifests in forms of impoverishment and depletion of vegetative cover, loss of biological and economic productivity, wind and water erosion, salinization and deterioration of physical, chemical and biological soil properties, thus the problem of land degradation can be addressed through revegetation to increase the productivity of pastures for livestock from the land and reduce soil erosion. Dryland Transform will address this challenge of land degradation in the project sites through the establishment of Livestock Cafés. Livestock Cafés are experimental sites which are used for forage production and information sharing hubs. The Livestock Cafés will be located within the LDSF sites. Forage productivity and quality will be studied in relation to the communal grazing lands. The Livestock Cafés are managed for forage production where the local communities can utilize them at defined intensities and times, hence the term “Café”. The restricted timing and intensity of grazing is key to the management as opposed to the open grazing commonly practiced. The Livestock Café will pilot value chain improvement activities and orient the communities towards value addition. Groups of local women, men and youth will be trained/familiarized with the possible products from pastures (e.g. hay) and other livestock products (e.g. milk). This will prepare them to take over the operations by the end of the project.

## 2. NAMES OF THE PROJECT PERSONNEL INVOLVED

<b>Name(s)</b>	Dr. Stephen Mureithi		University of Nairobi			
	William Makokha		Triple L			
	Margeret Nyaga		University of Nairobi			
	Alfred Lihanda		Driver, University of Nairobi			
<b>Dates of Assignment</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	7/7/21	<b>End Date</b>	11/7/21	<b>Duration (Days)</b>	5
<b>Destination Counties</b>	West Pokot County					
<b>Wards /Sub County</b>	Chepareria Ward, Chepkopegh Location, Chepukat Village					

### **3. OBJECTIVES/AIM OF THE VISIT**

- To negotiate for user and access rights on land to be used for the establishment of the Livestock Café in an agro-pastoral area in West Pokot County.
- To mark the waypoints and track of the negotiated land for mapping and planning.

### **4. DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

#### **Day 1: 07/07/2021**

Dr. Mureithi and Margeret left Nairobi at 8:00 am and arrived in Kitale at 7:00 pm where they spent the night.

#### **Day 2: 08/07/2021**

They were joined by Mr. William and travelled to Chepareria in West pokot county. They paid a courtesy call to the Ministry of agriculture offices where they received a warm welcome from Mr. Juma. The team introduced themselves and Dr. Mureithi explained the aim of the visit to the officer. Dr. Mureithi explained that the aim of the visit was to get authority and an agreement with the owner of the land together with the area administrative officers, community elders and the ministry of agriculture officers. Mr. Benjamin informed the team that the land is privately owned and the family had no problem in giving out their land to be used as a demonstration site. Later on, the area chief for Chepkopegh location, Mr. Joseph Loree and Madam Evalyn Lialen, the assistant chief for Psurum location, joined the meeting. Dr. Mureithi explained to them in brief the aim of the meeting and the aim of the project in general.



*Meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture offices. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga*

Later on, Dr. Mureithi explained the structure model of how the Livestock café should look like. Mr. Juma commented that the community should be engaged so that they can take care of the site and own up the project.



*Dr. Mureithi explaining the model of the Livestock café site. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga*

### **Day 3: 09/07/2021**

Drylands transform team together with the Ministry of agriculture officers left Chepareria town for Chepukat village in Chepkopegh location where they received a warm welcome from the area chief and community members. The process begun with a walk around the selected site.



*Deliberations at the site. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga*



Dr. Mureithi explained to the community members present the aim of the visit to the site and the benefits that will be derived after rehabilitation. He explained that the area will be a knowledge sharing hub and a demonstration site. All the members present agreed to embrace and support the project's activities. Thereafter, there was the registration of all the members present.



***The Livestock café site at Chepukat village, Chepkopegh location. Photo credit: Dr. Mureithi***



***The land negotiation participants. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga***



***Land negotiation team involving the land owner, neighbors, elders, administration chiefs and their assistants, Ministry of Agriculture Officers and the Drylands transform team.***

***Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga***

Later on, at the Ministry of Agriculture Offices the land owner Mr. Locholiaya Lodite joined the team. Everything was explained to him regarding the period the piece of land will be used. Mr. Juma, the Agriculture officer briefed him of the aim of the visit and the criteria that was used to select the site

Dr. Mureithi explained to him that the land will be used as a demonstration site and a knowledge sharing hub by other community members. He will also retain the ownership right after the exit of the project. The land owner enquired on what he would get as a compensation for use of his land. This question was answered by Dr. Mureithi using a photo showing a bare degraded land like his and another rehabilitated site with abundant fodder representing what he would get at the end of the project. This showed that he would get more worthy present than any amount of cash, since there will be multiple benefits that will be derived from the area.





*Dr. Mureithi explaining to the land owner on how his land will be used. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga*

Later on, the owner signed an agreement form to allow his piece of land to be used as a Livestock café site (Appendix 1). Dr. Mureithi signed the agreement on behalf of the Drylands transform project, Mr. Juma on behalf of the Ministry of agriculture office and Mr. Joseph loree, the senior Chief Chepkopegh location on behalf of the administration and witnessed by Mr. Benjamin Lokorwa.



*Land owner signing the agreement form and Dr. Mureithi on behalf of the project. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga*

**Day 4: 10/07/2021**

There was recording of GPS points around the piece of land to be used as Livestock café to help in the calculation of the land size of the selected site. Dr. Mureithi also demonstrated on how the trapezoidal bunds are done to the local community members and the proposed caretaker of the site. He also explained on their importance as soil and water conservation structures. He also demonstrated a tool that can be used to mark the points to dig the trapezoidal bunds. The materials used were flexible dry cut sisal wood, one vertical and one horizontal, all tied using fresh sisal strings.



*Demonstration on how to dig the trapezoidal bunds. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga*



*Demonstration on how to make the tool. Photo credit: Margeret Nyaga*

**5. WAY-FORWARD**

The land for the establishment of a Livestock Café' in West Pokot County is now available, and the pending activities can continue.



## **6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This field activity was made possible through the financial support of Swedish Research Council (FORMAS) to Dryland Transform Project [2020-00478] 2020-2024. We heartily acknowledge the warm reception we received from the administration officers, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries officers at Chepareria, and the communities in Chepukat Village.

## Appendices

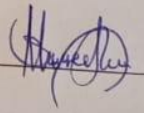
### 1. Agreement for use of land

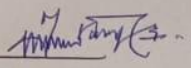
9th July 2021


AGREEMENT FOR USE OF  
LAND FOR ESTABLISHMENT  
OF LIVESTOCK CAFE' IN  
CHEPUKAT, CHEPKOPEGH LOCATION  
WEST POKOT COUNTY.

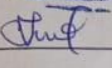
THAT, I Mr. Locholiaya Lodite Yaran, ID No. 11712691  
Phone No. 0715 756832 of Chepukat Village, Chepkopegh  
location have agreed to allow Dryland Transform  
project to utilise ~~my~~ part of my land for the  
establishment of Livestock Cafe for a period of  
five years (5) with effect from Friday 9th July 2021,  
(July 2021 - July 2026).


SIGNED ~~Das~~ DATE 9/7/2021

On behalf of the project  
SIGNED Dr. Stephen Mureithi DATE 9/7/21 

On behalf of MDALF, Chepareria Office  
SIGNED STANLEY W. JUMA DATE 09/07/2021 

Administration Chief, Chepkopegh Location  
SIGNED JOSEPH LOREYARAN DATE 9/7/2021 

Witnessed by Benjamin Lokorwa  
SIGNED BENJAMIN LOKORWA DATE 09/07/2021 



## 2. Participants present at the land negotiation meeting

### LAND NEGOTIATION MEETING AGREEMENT FORM

VENUE: CHEPUKAT

WARD: CHEPARERIA

SUBCOUNTY: POKOT SOUTH

COUNTY: WEST POKOT

DATE: 9/07/2021

NO.	NAME	PHONE NO	POST	SIGNATURE
1.	JOHNSTONE JILANTANG	0780207609	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
2.	DANIEL POIGHISIO	0708701313	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
3.	PETER KEDINGIRO	0714850267	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
4.	TWAZAN LONTANGARENG		COMMUNITY MEMBER	
5.	SAMUEL KOTONGO	07	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
6.	ROTICH LORENG	0780267019	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
7.	TUDONGAR BOAZ	0703322074	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
8.	SAMSON LORIS	0756595152	LAND MEMBER	
9.	LAWRENCE MENACH	0735297385	ASSISTANT CHIEF	
10.	ELIZA LORIS		LAND MEMBER	
11.	JACOB NGOKOK	0713399540	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
12.	LEONARD MENACH	0799275183	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
13.	DANIEL LOKWATUM	0700880346	ACT. CHESRD. CHIEF	
14.	EMMANUEL LOKETO LOKORHIMA	0707965544	ASST. CHIEF CHEPKOPEH	
15.	EVERLYNE RIACEM	0700405055	ASST. CHIEF PSEUM	
16.	LOKORWA BENJAMIN	0716273949	FIELD CO-ORDINATOR W.P	
17.	CHEPOLOSWO LOKOUNGOLE	0706880511	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
18.	SAMSON LOLEM	0726006287	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
19.	NGOKERUK LOPVO	0713399228	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
20.	LORENGERUK MUKEYANK		COMMUNITY MEMBER	
21.	KOMOLEN TOMWAN	0795013907	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
22.	MERCY LETTING	0725429046	WAO - CHEPARERIA	
* 23.	PETER TETER	0729280754	COMMUNITY MEMBER	
24.	STANISLAUS W. JUMA	0725484012	Agrie Officer	
25.	STEPHEN MURETHI	0720401486	RESEARCHER	
26.	MARGERET NYAGA	0723927338	RESEARCHER	
27.	WILLIAM MAKOKHA	0700411593	RESEARCH ASSISTANT	
28.	ALFRED LITANDI	0720701230	DRIVER VON	



## LAND NEGOTIATION MEETING AGREEMENT FORM

**VENUE: CHEPUKAT**

WARD: CHEPARERIA

SUBCOUNTY: POKOT SOUTH

COUNTY: WEST POKOT

DATE: 9/07/2021

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