

Earthwatch  
Institute engages  
people worldwide  
in scientific field  
research and  
education to  
promote the  
understanding  
and action  
necessary for  
a sustainable  
environment.

An international  
nonprofit organization  
founded in 1971

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## Proceedings Summary

A workshop in Nanyuki, Kenya, was held to identify how Earthwatch Institute can best contribute to the local management efforts toward a sustainable environment and sustainable livelihood in the Samburu-Laikipia bioregion. These proceedings present research priorities and end users as discussed by stakeholders and scientists. The results of the workshop will provide a basis for Earthwatch to develop its strategic plan for the Samburu Conservation Research Initiative while prioritizing research, education and public engagement towards sustainability of the Samburu-Laikipia bioregion. Based on the primary outcome of the workshop, Earthwatch will develop a program at the Samburu CRI that will assess costs and benefits of different land-use tenure systems for the ecoregion.

## Background

In April 2003, Earthwatch convened two workshops to determine the research needs for a sustainable Samburu-Laikipia environment. The first workshop held in Nanyuki brought together key stakeholders to prioritize pertinent issues they identified as important to a sustainable environment. The second workshop held in Nairobi brought together scientists and research organizations to formulate research questions that addressed the issues identified by stakeholders in the previous workshop. The proceedings of these workshops can be found at the Samburu CRI website. Following the workshop, Earthwatch reviewed the list of potential issues and research questions identified by April workshop participants and narrowed down the list to those Earthwatch felt it could support with its model.

In July 2003, 52 individuals representing 30 organizations were invited to participate in a stakeholder and scientist research-prioritizing workshop for Earthwatch Institute's Samburu Conservation Research Initiative (CRI), Kenya. The workshop was held on August 1, 2003 at the Sportsman's Arms Hotel, Nanyuki and targeted local researchers, managers, landowners, community representatives, universities, governmental agencies, research institutions, non-governmental conservation agencies, and international experts in conservation research. Although not all invitees were able to attend, the 40 attendees were affiliated to various communities, county councils, Kenya Wildlife Service, research organizations, local and international universities, and non-government conservation organizations (see Appendix 1).

## Workshops Aims

The aims of the workshops were to work with local community leaders, local and international researchers, conservation workers, and government management representatives to determine how Earthwatch Institute (EWI) can best:

- Use its model of support for scientific field research and engagement by members of the local and global community at the CRI, and
- To realize the Samburu CRI's aim to contribute towards the sustainability of the unique but fragile Samburu-Laikipia eco-region and sustainable livelihood of the local people.



### Agenda

The workshop began by a word of prayer from Mr. Daniel Letoyie of the Ngutuk Ongiron Community. This was followed by three presentations by Earthwatch representatives: Dr Marie Studer provided participants with an understanding of the goals, philosophy, and model of Earthwatch-supported research and education programs. Dr. Mark Chandler then gave an overview of Earthwatch's new initiative, the Conservation Research Initiative, and the background for the choice of Samburu as a focus of an EWI CRI. This was followed by a review of the first two workshops and way forward by Dr. Nick Oguge. Following these introductory remarks, Dr. Mark Chandler spelt out the objectives of the workshop and procedures. He emphasized need to narrow down number of research questions from 30 developed during the second workshop to a manageable ten focusing on issues pertaining to human-wildlife conflicts. Dr Chandler further advised that acceptable research questions need be able to fit in the Earthwatch model that allow for use and recruitment of volunteers. Further, research outcomes must have end users.

Following the formal presentation phase, a group session was held where research questions identified during the April 16 2003 workshop were prioritized. Participants were divided among three groups and asked to provide their lists of top ten research questions that address priority identified threats; groups were moderated to increase open participation by all participants. Following lunch, all three groups reported their findings, and after a lively plenary discussion presided over by Prof. Dan Rubenstein of Princeton University, a focused list of eleven research priorities was drawn (see appendix 2). The next stage of the workshop reviewed the research priorities and identified individuals and institutions to lead the research projects, and also identified end users and communities that wanted to participate in the projects.

The next part of the workshop described the fellowship opportunities on upcoming projects and requested nominations of community fellows to participate in the Grevy's zebra research in Wamba area. Before concluding the workshop, participants reported what expectations they would have of Earthwatch's involvement in the Samburu-Laikipia districts, and how they desired to remain engaged with the EWI CRI. The President of Earthwatch Institute, Roger Bergen, who thanked the participants for their contributions, provided parting words. He also said that success in conservation comes from groups of individuals like the workshop participants who care deeply about conservation. They provide the driving force in conservation enabling success that could not be achieved by large organizations or governments alone.

### Outcomes

Eleven priority research questions were developed during the workshop (see appendix 2). Researchers were then encouraged to submit a preliminary proposal to Earthwatch within two weeks of the workshop. Over the next two months, Earthwatch will work with scientists to develop two-three proposals for funding in 2004 in Wamba area. Other proposals developed will be funded in subsequent years. EWI is now working on a strategic plan for the Samburu CRI.

A list of 19 potential fellows was presented for possible fellowship support, and a short list has been contacted for participation on an Earthwatch research project in November 2003. Others will be considered for future support.

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## Appendix 1

List of participants in Earthwatch Institute's strategy planning meeting of August 1 2003 held at the Sportsman's Arms Hotel, Nanyuki

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## APPENDIX 2

# Research Priorities Samburu Conservation Research Initiative Workshop August 1, 2003

1. What are the effects of barriers to resource access by wildlife, livestock and humans?
2. What are the critical habitats inside and outside protected areas and are these habitats successful in maintaining populations of target species?
3. What is the current spatial distribution of human-wildlife conflict, and, how does this compare to past distributions and conflicts?
4. What are the effects of encroachment on known wildlife corridors?
5. What is the temporal and spatial distribution of water (e.g. springs, rivers, pools and dams) in terms of quality and quantity, as a habitat for biodiversity and human use, including potential for conflict?
6. What are the diurnal patterns of water point use in competition by livestock and wildlife in various communities?
7. What is the status use of indigenous plants and the effects of utilization?
8. What are the indigenous conservation management techniques and valuation of wildlife resources in terms of economic, cultural and aesthetic benefits?
9. What is the relationship between wildlife and livestock health?
10. What are the effects of different strategies of land-use tenure on human-human and human-wildlife conflict, both past and present?
11. What are the socio-economic and conservation impacts of various wildlife management enterprises?