



International Dialogue on Land and Security

Enhancing land and water governance for resilient communities in the dryland regions of the North Rift

Rift Valley Hills Resort, Kabarnet, Baringo County, Kenya

12th-15th April 2016

in partnership with



with special thanks to:

Coffey Kenya (funded by DfID)

National Drought Management Authority (funded by European Union)

The Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project (funded by IGAD)

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

World Vision

for sponsoring participation





The Caux-Kabarnet Vision Statement

In 2030, the lands of Kenya's dryland counties are hosting thriving communities living in prosperity, dignity and harmony on soils that have fully regenerated their natural capacity to bring forth the bounty that God intended His children to receive.

The people are tending the land with skill and care, informed by the insights of science and tradition, secure in their ownership and enabled by the blessings of peace.

The landscapes of the dryland have been healed. Tall, diverse grasses dance across the drylands in the rainy seasons, dotted by carefully managed trees offering firewood, timber, medicines and honey. Prosperous farms grow fine produce on soils made rich by the manure of cover crops, animals and trees.

All those plants lock the soil in place, dramatically reducing erosion. They also help the rains to percolate into the soils, recharging the aquifers. Old springs are gushing again. Rivers bring clean waters to the villages and townships.

Proud warriors meet to plan their grazing with care. As they recall the stories of their fathers – stories of hardship and sorrow, of hunger and war – their hearts swell with pride and joy: it is their careful management that is turning these barren, dusty landscapes into a land of plenty.

The markets are bustling with fine, nutritious produce. Happy farmers gaze upon fields dotted with the carefully pruned trees they allowed to grow back and chose to plant. They know their trees do more than bring fertility: they shelter their thriving crops from the inevitable droughts and the strong rains. Their young children have never known hunger. Their husbands, humbled by their successes, are strong, equal partners.

Wildlife is thriving, too. Increasingly, tourists are leaving the overfilled parks of the south for the vast, rich landscapes of the North, attracting new hotels and other tourism operators. The thriving grasslands are not just sustaining the cattle and the wildlife. They are bringing in good jobs.

Enlightened assemblies and local governments, informed by a constant interaction with researchers, have encouraged this transformation through wise policies. The schools and higher education institutions have become among Kenya's best, teaching the youth the secrets that make lands green and lives prosperous. More and more young women and men, secure in their rights to their bountiful lands, are taking the plunge and choosing to become entrepreneurs.

Investors, encouraged by this revolution, are coming in. The fine meats, milk and crops of the north are increasingly being transformed into valuable products in the north for the wider market. Trade is thriving. The extraordinary diversity of the North's landscapes, wildlife and peoples are attracting ever more visitors.

Delegations from other drylands areas near and far, from Kenya and beyond, are regular visitors, sharing their experience, and learning from Kenya's successes. Africa's drylands are weaving strong bonds with one another. Across Africa, the careful management of their lands by newly enabled



communities brings forth new wealth. Informed by tradition and science, communities thrive, escaping the awful trinity of hunger, war and exile.

The world is taking notice: all that grass and all those trees are capturing a lot of carbon from the air, mitigating climate change. The renaissance of wildlife is helping biodiversity thrive. And the new wealth is bringing order and peace, denying extremists the anger and misery from which they draw sustenance.

The drylands have found their way, and now they are blazing a global trail. A couple of decades ago, welcoming a delegation of Americans from degraded West Texas keen to learn how to manage their lands better would have astonished NOREB's leaders. Not in 2030.

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About The International Dialogue on Land and Security

The International Dialogue on Land and Security, the first national-level dialogue deriving from the global Caux Dialogue on Land and Security held annually in Switzerland since 2013, was held successfully in Kabarnet, Baringo County, on 12th-15th April 2016.

Over 120 participants engaged in intense discussions on issues of land management, land-based livelihoods, environmental sustainability, climate change, conflict, peace-building and governance.

The Dialogue was opened by HE Governor Cheboi, of Baringo County, and the first plenary session was launched by HE Governor Tolgos, of Elgeyo Marakwet County.

The conclusions to the Dialogue were drawn by HE Deputy Governor Lagat, of Elgeyo Marakwet, and the event was drawn to a formal conclusion by HE Deputy Governor Tuitoek, of Baringo.

The Dialogue endorsed both a Caux-Kabarnet Declaration and a poetic Vision for the Northern Rift 2030. It also produced a cluster of Action Plans, with an over-arching Action Group to drive these and ensure synergy between them.

More information about the International Dialogue on Land and Security is available on <https://landlivespeace.org/kenya/>