

SUMMARY OF I-CAN PARTICIPATORY VIDEO SCREENING & DISCUSSION
“Land Use and Challenges in Olkiramatian”
JULY 2016



BACKGROUND

In January 2015, Nicolas Barber—a doctoral student at McGill University—facilitated a participatory video (PV) workshop at the Lale'enok Resource Centre in Olkiramatian group ranch in the South Rift of Kenya. With the help of John Kamanga and Albert Kuseyo, seven staff members (five men and two women) from Lale'enok volunteered to participate in the workshop as a part of the Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN) project. The goal of this workshop was to teach participants how to produce a short film about land and conservation issues in Olkiramatian group ranch. The video (on this private link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xq1A3qzIU>) was intended to inform I-CAN researchers and project partners, in addition to government officials and the broader public, about community perspectives on land issues. A number of 'next steps' following the workshop were outlined in a summary report written by Nicolas. These steps included the distribution of the film to a variety of stakeholders upon approval of the South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO) and the African Conservation Centre (ACC), as well as a film screening for those involved, both the participants and interviewees.

In May 2016, I-CAN interns and graduate students Kathleen Godfrey (McGill University, Anthropology) and Christina Puzzolo (The New School, International Affairs)—working with SORALO and stationed at Lale'enok—followed up on the status of the I-CAN short film in a conversation with Nicolas Barber.

SCREENING

As a result of this dialogue, on Monday, July 11th 2016, Kathleen and Christina organized a community screening of the I-CAN short film at the Lale'enok Resource Centre. The screening was followed by a discussion and lunch. I-CAN funds set aside for knowledge dissemination were used to pay for food and transport for the attendees. KSH 15,000 was approved by John Kamanga of SORALO and distributed by Jacque Macharia of the ACC to Kathleen and Christina. Albert Kuseyo, a participant of the PV workshop, was integral to the planning and facilitation of the screening. The event took place in the Main Office of the Lale'enok Resource Centre using the projector and audio equipment that I-CAN provided Kathleen and Christina in a PV "kit". Using the above link (version with English subtitles), the film was screened

to an audience composed of SORALO and Lale'enok staff, a KWS warden, local community elders, and general members of the Olkiramatian group ranch. The total number of attendees was 25.

DISCUSSION

Albert facilitated a discussion after the film with those present. The overall feedback was very positive. Most attendees were thankful that the issues addressed in the film were brought back and presented to them. A variety of people (men, women, elders, and youth) participated in the discussion and a number of questions were raised:

- Where has this film gone since being made?
- Who do we want to share it with?
- Can there be follow-up films made on individual issues?
- How can the community make more videos themselves?
- Can the Olkiramatian Reto Women's Group (who run and manage the Resource Centre) have their own film to help expand their market access to sell beadwork and other products?

A few attendees expressed the film covered a wide range of issues at varying scales. The issue of boundaries was emphasized as having great importance to the community.

Samantha du Toit, the Outreach and Research Coordinator at the Lale'enok Resource Centre, expressed that the decisions of what to do next and who to share the film with were in the hands of the community and that SORALO would occupy a supportive role.

OUTCOMES

The screening was successful in stimulating a conversation between community stakeholders regarding common land-related issues in Olkiramatian. As a mode of information sharing, the benefits of PV were discussed and many were interested in continuing to document community challenges and initiatives in this way. Participants identified a need to continue this conversation and collectively decide what to do with this film.

NEXT STEPS

These next steps are based on the questions and comments of screening attendees, as well as the original goals of the PV workshop.

- Public distribution and promotion of video (Kathleen and Christina will make 10 DVDs and leave them with Albert Kuseyo; waiting on approval from SORALO and the community to make the YouTube link public).
- Screening(s) of the film to stakeholders and community members as determined by the Olkiramatian community (e.g. Shompole leaders and community, government officials)
- Facilitating another PV workshop at Lale'enok so more videos can be made about individual challenges or programs (i.e. women's beadwork).
- Leaving the I-CAN PV "kit" at the Lale'enok Resource Centre so those trained can continue to strengthen their skills and produce films.