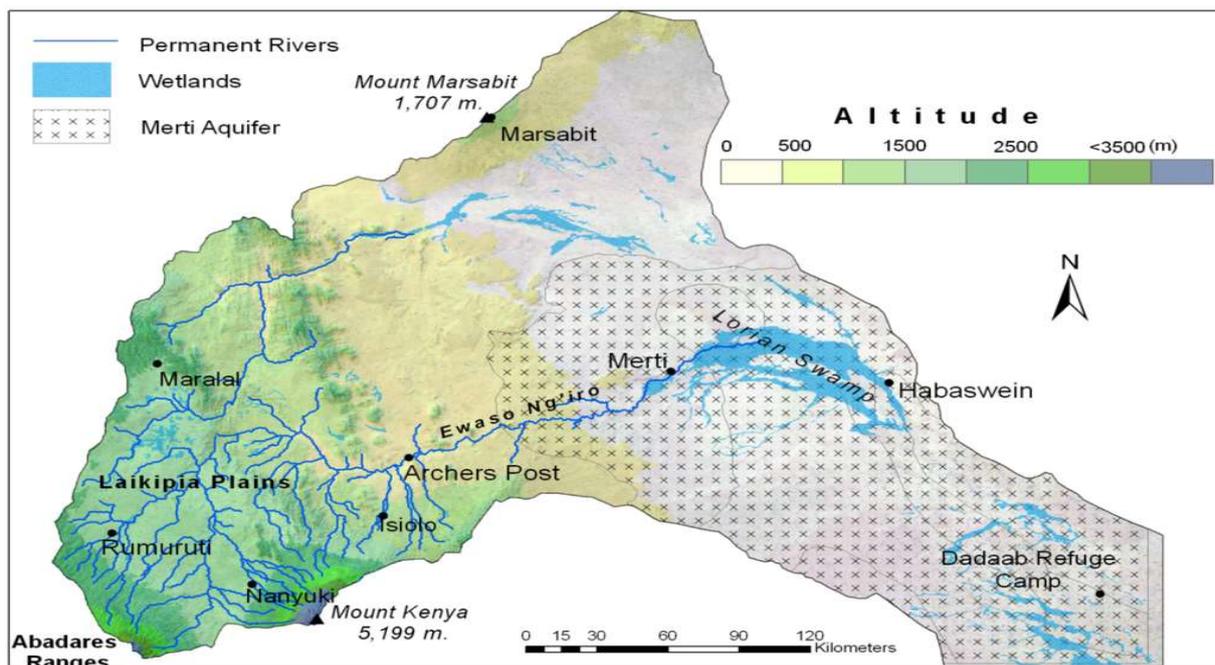


THE CAMEL CARAVAN 2021 EDITION CONCEPT NOTE

Background Information

Ewaso Ngi'ro River is the backbone to the pastoralist communities, wildlife and the entire flora and fauna associated with and within it. The River supports livelihoods of approximately four (4) million people from upstream, middle and downstream.

The Ewaso Ngi'ro River finds its source on the north-western slopes of the iconic Mt Kenya and Aberdare ranges, and flows through Kenya's highlands of Nyandarua, Nyeri, and Meru and through arid and semi-arid lands of Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Garissa Counties into the Merti Aquifer and Lorian Swamp in Wajir County, after which it passes through Somalia, joining the Jubba River. Marsabit County becomes part of the basin by virtue of seasonal Melgis River draining to Ewaso Ngi'ro River.



Source: De Leeuw et al, 2012, Benefits of Riverine Water Discharge into the Lorian Swamp, Kenya.

The river unifies and divides communities in the basin in equal measure. In a period of increasing human population, large scale agricultural activities, infrastructure development, and climate change, The river dries up, get polluted, and contested.

Water users, including communities, livestock & wildlife, the public sector, and corporate entities, both upstream middle and downstream, often lack a shared understanding of the threats facing the river system and fail to effectively collaborate around integrated water resources management. This is leading to conflict and an escalation of the threats facing river systems.

The Ewaso Ng'iro Camel Caravan concept was first initiated in 2014 by Partners For Resilience Program (PFR) led by IMPACT and MID-P. By 2018, Members of Pastoralists Alliance for Resilience and Adaptation in Northern Kenya (PARAN) Alliance - Isiolo Peace Link (IPL), Waso Trust land Project (WTLP), Kivulni Trust and Isiolo Conservationist Trust (ICT) joined the campaign/movement and implemented successful three (3) campaigns.

Ewaso North Development Authority (ENNDA), The lead agency since 2020 has doubled the impact and awareness of the risks facing the Ewaso Ng'iro basin for collective support both nationally and internationally.

The 2020 edition of the camel caravan unlike her predecessor events, was like all events in 2020 organised and actualized with COVID-19 in mind. What used to be a trek of persons and camels across the expanses of Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo, now turned into an all new process.

The advocacy tool that had been the mainstay of previous caravans was replaced by assessments, conservation conversations and tree planting. What would have been a five-day event, turned into a process; partly due to its composition, its leadership and its participants. The evolution from an advocacy tool to a hands-on affair, that was aimed at not just bringing awareness on the need to conserve the Ewaso basin but rather initiate a mode of doing it; based on hard evidence, research and analysis attests to the prestige of the initial idea.

The organising team led by Ewaso Ng'iro North Development Authority (ENNDA), Isiolo Peace Link, IMPACT, ICT & KIVULINI Trust felt that the conservation of Ewaso Ng'iro river had to be wholistic and coordinated along the entire basin. To achieve this, several action points were agreed upon in the follow up meetings that followed after the camel caravan. This note therefore seeks to marry the action points to formulate a model that is both actionable and practicable in sustaining the entire basin and in effect protecting the livelihoods of the communities along it while promoting peace and cohesion.

The Camel Caravan 2021 Theme: THE CAMEL CARAVAN 2021 - Saving the Ewaso Ng'iro River: Restoration of the ecosystem through climate change actions, securing livelihoods and peaceful coexistence.

This year's event is an opportunity for all stakeholders to learn first-hand about the various threats to the river and aims to show users how these threats variably affect people along the river, and are cumulatively contributing to poor river health, environmental degradation along river basin and water availability. It will facilitate direct face-to-face interaction between upstream, middle and downstream

communities and allows for the sharing of experiences, skills, information; addressing the risks faced by upstream and downstream users and agree on ways to reduce these risks thus leading to equitable sharing of the scarce resources and enhancing peace and harmony among the beneficiary communities. This year's event is envisaged in a build activities in the months of July and August 2021 and during the period, groups in the ecosystem will get an opportunity to experience the threatened ecosystems and reflect on the sustainable ways of protecting and restoring the ecosystems in a participatory manner.

Through the campaign, The secretariat anticipate to strengthen capacities of the communities living along the river basin on disaster risk reduction measures, climate change adaptation information and actions, ecosystem management and restoration initiatives which will be aimed at building their resilience to various hazards. The event will further facilitate structured dialogue between the affected communities, County and national Government and private sector on issues around ecosystem management for the resilience of the vulnerable communities especially the downstream users.

The organizers will also embark on a vibrant initial campaign to fence Lake Olbolossat in Nyandarua County – the source of Ewaso Ngi'ro River.

The 2021 camel caravan edition will put extra emphasis on peaceful co-existence in the bordering communities in the ecosystem. These are mainly conflicts over natural resource (pasture and water) between different ethnic groups, which has turned into armed violence likely to escalate as we approach general elections in the coming year 2022. These communities will not only be sensitized on issues of risk reduction measures related to their livelihoods but also the importance of promoting and maintaining peaceful coexistence for their own prosperity.

NB - Since new covid 19 variants and mutations are experienced in 2021, the 2021 camel caravan edition will be conducted in adherence to covid 19 measures and protocols.

COMPONENTS IN THE 2021 CAMEL CARAVAN EDITION

The tree planting along ewaso Ngi'ro River

The initiative has several impacts on the aspect of Ewaso Nyiro river conservation and restoration of ecosystem and biodiversity. As a long term impact, the problem of soil erosion, desertification, floods, drought, bareness and high water evaporation is reduced restoring the river flow. Ewaso Nyiro river conservation and restoration will be a sigh of relief to social-economic part of the communities as well as peaceful-coexistence among different pastoral communities solely depending on the river.

Strengthening water governance in the ecosystem

The absence of the set of systems that controls decision making with regard to water management has led to conflicting and competing interests among water users, weak decision making structures resulting to fragmented management approach.

An effective water governance needs to start with good policy and legislative frameworks that protect water resources against over exploitation and ensure that there is water for social and economic development, as well as water for the future. Institutions for water management must facilitate participation by all water users in a climate of trust, where there is joint responsibility for protecting and controlling water resources in an open and transparent manner. Water governance systems are critical to achieving sustainable development, particularly since water is key to development. Water governance needs to achieve a balance between socioeconomic development and ecological sustainability. This requires the right mix of stakeholders, informed decision making, and an environment where water laws and regulations are enforced.

Promote peace and security in the context of climate change and address gender/sexual based violence.

Climate change has led to an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, natural resource scarcity, and environmental degradation, which in many contexts has contributed to the exacerbation of conflict in the Ewaso ecosystem. These has resulted to inter-communal and pastoral violence over natural resources, including access to land, water and minerals. More specifically, changes in weather patterns have affected women's lives more as they walk further in search of water and fuelwood. It has also affected their capacity to earn income and feed their families. For pastoralists, climate change has brought drastic changes to everyday life, including long and sometimes treacherous journeys in search of water and greener pastures. The distances women and girls walk to get basic needs to sustain their families puts them at risk of sexual violence, and then increases their vulnerability to conflict when there are cycles of revenge attacks.

COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN PASTORAL CONTEXT

COVID-19 is a global pandemic that continues to spread around the world, including pastoral areas in the ecosystem where cases are steadily increasing. The conditions unique to pastoralists such as inherent mobility and limited health and service infrastructure with ongoing shocks and vulnerabilities in the region (e.g. desert locusts, livestock disease outbreaks, floods, conflict, and development displacement will influence the dynamics of COVID-19.

Given that the full impact of COVID-19 on pastoral areas is unknown currently, a contextualized approach for the COVID-19 public health response in pastoral areas, including how the pandemic will interact with existing shocks and vulnerabilities, is required for an effective response, while protecting pastoral livelihoods and food, income, and nutrition security.

MODALITIES;

The 2021 camel caravan build up activities(both joint and organizational levels) are scheduled in the months of July and August 2021 and include:

1. Establishment of Friends of Ewaso Ngi'ro River
2. Engagement of Lake Olbolossat Community

3. Springs Protection
4. Restoration Committees Training & Climate action dialogues
5. Previously planted trees inspection
6. Route Mapping
7. Procurement of tree seedlings
8. Cohesion dialogues

The events starting 16th September to 21st September includes:

1. Tree planting
2. Stop over meetings - conservation conversations (Inter-generational) and peace dialogues.
3. Main event at Camp Simpire in Gotu - Isiolo – celebration of International Day of Peace – 21st Sept Under the theme:

TARGET GROUPS

This year's camel caravan will target communities and like-minded organizations from the counties of Nyandarua, Nyeri, Meru, Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Garissa and Wajir.

BUDGET