

## CASE STUDY

### Kitengela Wildlife Conservation-Land Lease Program

Kitengela is the 450 square kilometer rangeland that stretches south from Nairobi National Park. The area is a wet-season wildlife dispersal corridor from the park to grazing and calving grounds. Many of the park's animals spend much of their time outside the protected area which is fenced on only three sides. Kitengela is therefore vital to maintaining wildlife populations in Africa's oldest wildlife park, only 7 km south of the city. Until recently, Kitengela was predominately occupied by Maasai pastoralists who held the land communally and used it seasonally for livestock grazing. But in the last two decades, population pressure, land privatization, fragmentation due to fencing for agriculture, and industrial activities have reduced the ability of animals to migrate, and also increased human-wildlife conflicts.

In 2000, The Wildlife Foundation and the Friends of Nairobi National Park (FONNAP) together initiated a land-lease program to improve the ability of the Kitengela corridor to fulfill its traditional role of dispersal area for wildlife. The program wishes to arrest the process by which Maasai switch from pastoral land use to cropping activities, or sell their land to non-Maasai agriculturalists, which inevitably leads to fencing and grassland degradation. The primary environmental goal is to keep the land as open grassland, free from fencing/subdivision, thereby maintaining the area available to wildlife for foraging and migration to calving areas. Landowners sign a Wildlife Conservation-Land Lease Agreement in which they agree not to "fence, quarry, cultivate or subdivide a designated area of land, and to actively manage their land for wildlife and sustainable livestock grazing." In return for this performance, landowners are paid ~US \$4 per acre per year, in quarterly payments. The price was determined to fill the gap between what typical land in the area could generate from grazing livestock versus crops. Payments are timed to the school year calendar to encourage households to use the cash to send their children to school, which appears to work well. Contracts are for one year, and are renewable.

Funding has come from: FONNAP, The Wildlife Trust Fund, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), and recently, Kenya Wildlife Service, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), and The Nature Conservancy. Technical support has been provided by AWF, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and the African Conservation Centre.

By 2007, the program had grown to include 11,500 acres held by 160 households. Another 140 households with more than 11,000 acres are on a waiting list (waiting for additional funds to support contracts). According to a study by ILRI, 54% of the landowners that do not participate in the program live on less than \$1/day (<\$365/year). An average landowner (who conserves ~75 acres) receives a guaranteed income of ~\$300/yr, plus they are permitted to continue with wildlife-compatible livestock grazing, which has cultural value to most Maasai.

The program hopes to eventually include the entire 60,000 acres estimated to be necessary to maintain the annual wildlife migrations to and from Nairobi National Park. As of March 2007, the program was awaiting US \$1 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to be used to cover the cost of expanding the area under lease to about 30,000 acres, for 4 years.

#### Case Study Questions:

1. Is the Kitengela Wildlife/Land-lease program a "true PES" program or "PES-like"?
2. Who are the environmental service *sellers* in the lease program? *Buyers?*  
*Beneficiaries?*
3. Is the program *pro-poor*? How might this aspect be improved?

4. What *problems* would you anticipate from the description provided? *Solutions*?