WHAT IS A GROUP RANCH

Defined as a livestock production system where a group of people jointly hold title to land, boundaries are demarcated and members are registered.

Most of the group ranches were located in Arid and semi-arid areas of the country. The arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) in Kenya covers approximately 80% of the total 541,416 km² land surface area. ASAL is the habitat of an estimated 35% of the total human population who largely practice pastoralism. In addition, this land supports 67% of the estimated 12.7 million cattle herd, 86% of the estimated 17.9 million national herd of sheep and goats, all the camels and most of the wildlife population except for the limited numbers found in the forested zones of the country.
Settling ethnic groups

• Communities roamed the landscape and had territorial boundaries based on their ethnic groupings.
• The formation of group ranches was a way to legalize land ownership through titling.
• The group ranches are held under the Land (Group Representatives) Act, Cap 287 laws of Kenya. Under Section (8) of this Act, elected representatives hold title to the group land on behalf of, and for the collective benefit of the registered members.
Transition in land tenure regimes

• Before and immediately after Kenyan Independence in 1963, Maasai land which was initially under the hands of tribal communities was held in trust, first by the Crown, then by the Kenyan government.

• But in the mid-1960s, the Kenyan government, with the support of the World Bank, through the structural adjustment programs began to divide Maasai pastoral regions among registered `ranches,' titles to which were held by Maasai `groups' rather than individuals, with the premise of settling the nomads to develop them.
Creating an fair competition

• Finally in the 1980s the biggest tragedy for the pastoral lands happened when the policy of Willing seller willing buyer was introduced that saw a high percent of group rancher turned into individual holdings.
Recognising the boundaries
Times are changing
Status of land tenure

a) Athi Kapiti Plains
- Privatized: 96.6%
- Area: 0.4%

b) Amboseli Plains
- Privatized: 68%
- Protected Area: 11%
- Group Ranch: 21%

c) Central Hills
- Privatized: 68%
- Group Ranch: 32%

D) Rift Valley
- Privatized: 11%
- Public: 0.1%
- Group Ranch: 89%
Opportunities in the Arid and Semi Arid areas in Kenya

• 70 % of Kenya Wildlife is found in his areas
• 80% of beef consumed in Kenya
• Industrial expansion and mining opportunities
• Growing interest in community conservation as a new land use option
Cooping with growing land pressures
Case of Olkiramatian Group Ranch

Multiple production strategies

- Livestock production
- Agriculture
- Conservation and Tourism
Livestock production

- 95% of the community members are livestock farmers
- Cows, Goats, Sheep
- Pastoralism is the production system
Agriculture

• Use of Irrigation for food production
• Every members (1300) have about 10 acres of land for crop farming
• Both food crops and horticultural crops grown by farmers in the ranch
Conservation & Tourism

• Diversification of Livelihoods through compatible production systems
• Increasing value of the Grass Bank by introducing Tourism (Managed in partnership with private sector)
• Income used for community development initiatives
Interaction between the different production units

• The model operates like a company with three share holdings and the members of the company are the same
• The farms used during the drought to safe livestock
• The conservancy is a Grass bank for the drought period
Knowledge Management
Integration of scientific and Indigenous knowledge

1. Lale’enok Resource Centre
   Community knowledge learning centres for information exchange and reflection. Promoting Research Tourism

2. Community Resource Assessors
   The resource owners are the investigators.

3. Livelihood surveys
   Baseline socio-economic surveys and livelihood profiling to investigate impact of interventions

   This has resulted in a better informed community better able to apply information to development
Camera surveys

Vegetation plots

Aerial surveys

Ground counts

Fecal sampling

Livestock monitoring

Water monitoring

Surveys

Collaring and follows/behaviour observations

Mapping

Camera
surveys

Livestock
monitoring

Surveys

Vegetation plots