

Project Update: January 2015

In September, October November and early December 2014 the following activities were undertaken:

September, October and November 2014: a visit to the identified conservancies and game ranches was undertaken by the principal researcher and the two research assistants. Data on indigenous Maasai knowledge on climate change and migration patterns of the wildebeest was collected. An interview schedule was used to collect the data. Challenges experienced during data collection included language barriers, (most old Maais from whom the best data could be collected do not speak English or Kiswahili.). The other barrier was the distance between the conservancies, the Maasai Mara is vast and enormous distances had to be covered these called for resilience and extra unplanned expenditure. Traversing of the game reserve also gave us an opportunity to observe the general habitat and land use systems in the area and ask questions about the previous land uses and the current land use changes. A lot of data was collected. The data collected is now being analysed.

Early December 2014: data on precipitation was collected. Collecting this data also proved to be a bit challenging because the local Narok county office did not have it and a visit to the metrological department in Nairobi had to be made from where a lot of useful data though bulky was obtained.

Because of the trans-disciplinary nature of this project a lot of time and effort will have to be invested to analyse the data. A summary of the findings will be given in the February and March 2015 project report.

Below are some pictures taken during this period



Left: Maasai Mara Mara Conservancy entrance. Middle: A Maasai manyatta within the conservancy. Right: The principal researcher (right) at the Mara conservancy entrance.