



Promoting an inclusive multi-stakeholder design process in northern Kenya

Location:
Kenya
Partners:
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The camel caravan campaigners raising awareness with communities in Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo.
Photo credit: Joseph Ambass Lejeson/ Impact

The camel caravan raises awareness of the importance of conserving the Ewaso-Ngiro river ecosystem
Photo credit: Joseph Ambass Lejeson/ Impact

PfR Kenya team used the local and national media to draw attention to the case and to make sure the issues are kept in the public eye, such as the coverage of the Camel Caravan which travelled through affected areas sharing information on the proposed development.

In many PfR countries we are engaging with the private sector with a view to facilitate risk informed investments that strengthen community resilience. In Kenya, we have become involved in the LAPSSET Corridor Project, a regional infrastructure project aiming to facilitate economic growth between the Eastern African countries, which is being implemented in the three counties where PfR is active - Samburu, Laikipia and Isiolo.

A major concern with the LAPSSET (Lamu Port-South Sudan- Ethiopia Transport) Corridor and related Kenya Vision 2030 projects are its impacts on the lives, livelihoods and ecosystems in the region. Particularly the construction of the proposed Crocodile Jaws mega dam is of concern, as it is meant to supply water to the new resort city (LAPPSET project) in Isiolo. The Government has provided insufficient information and conducted limited consultation forums with the affected communities about the mega dam - despite the fact that the communities will be directly affected by threats such as decreased downstream water flow, displacement, ecosystem degradation, human vs. wildlife conflict, loss of communal land, decreased access to pasture and water and increased resource-based conflicts among the pastoral communities.



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Ewaso Nyiro river basin in northern Kenya which provides water to sustain wildlife, livestock and human population in the area and is the site of a proposed new mega dam as part of LAPPSET project.

Photo credit: Cordaid

We have also developed a MoU with NEMA setting out key areas for collaboration and we continue to facilitate meetings with the community in the hope that we will arrive at a new design of the plans which will work for all the involved stakeholders, and which strengthens the resilience of the surrounding communities rather than undermining it.

PfR's local partners reviewed the social and environmental impact assessment report for the proposed dam and identified a number of gaps, including failure to cover several areas from the impact area in the study, lack of social impact assessment data, and limited information on the Ewaso Nyiro river potential overflow impacts. PfR has conducted several community sensitisation and consultation forums and held several campaigns to raise awareness on the potential implications of the project. We also organised the community groups in airing their views and concerns through a memorandum to the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). PfR Kenya team used the local and national media to draw attention to the case and to make sure the issues are kept in the public eye, such as the coverage of the Camel Caravan which travelled through affected areas sharing information on the proposed development.

This all led to the work on the dam being halted whilst a full review of the impact assessment report is done. PfR is in the process of also commissioning its own research through the University of Nairobi (a university recognised by the government as a credible institution), as well as carrying out investment mapping along the Ewaso Nyiro river in order to screen investments and seek to influence the criteria for selecting them. We have also developed a MoU with NEMA setting out key areas for collaboration and we continue to facilitate meetings with the community in the hope that we will arrive at a new design of the plans which will work for all the involved stakeholders, and which strengthens the resilience of the surrounding communities rather than undermining it.

