

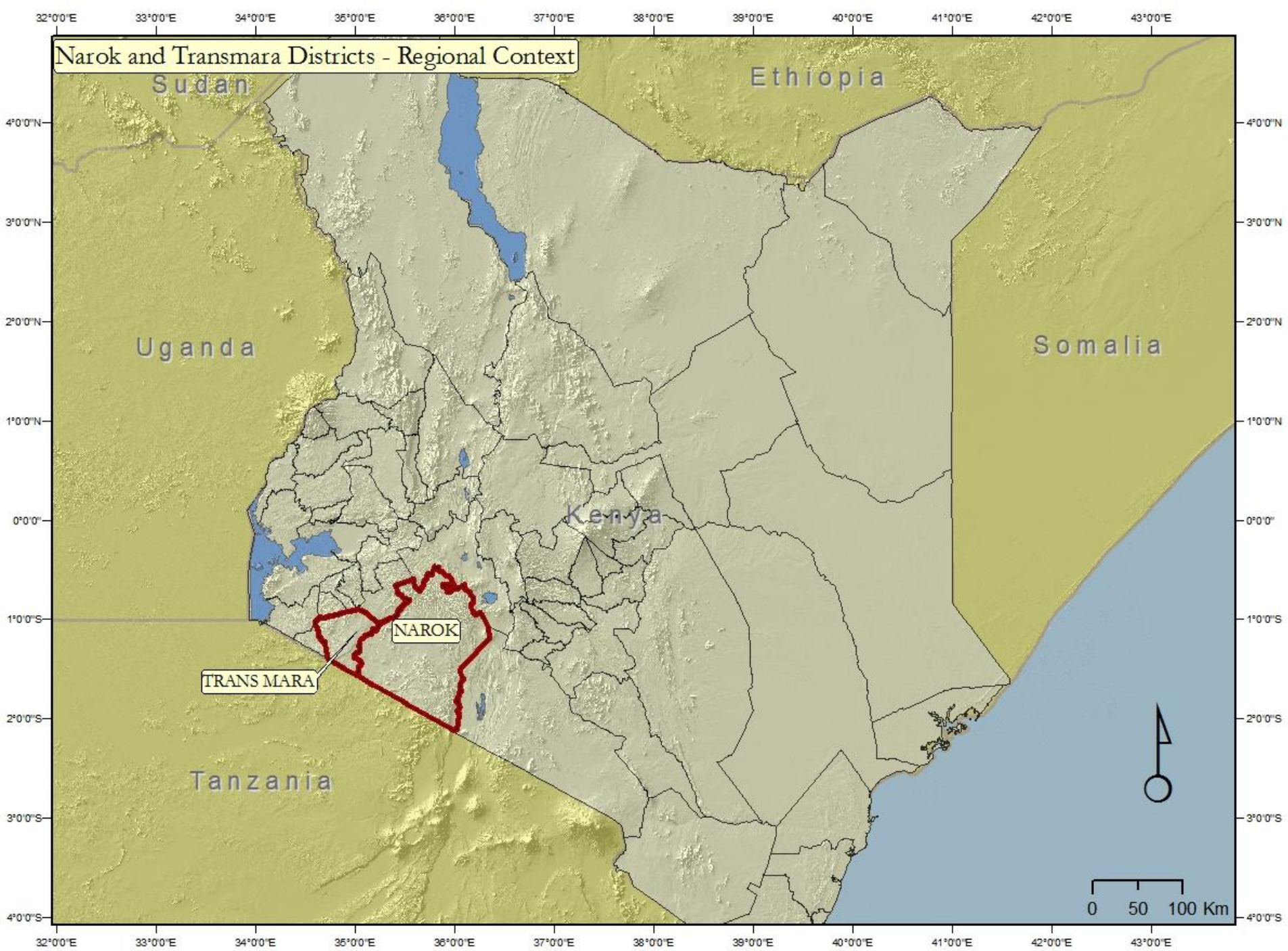
# Mobility and sustainable Pastoralism in Southern Kenya

‘The Future of Pastoralism in Africa’

Addis Ababa

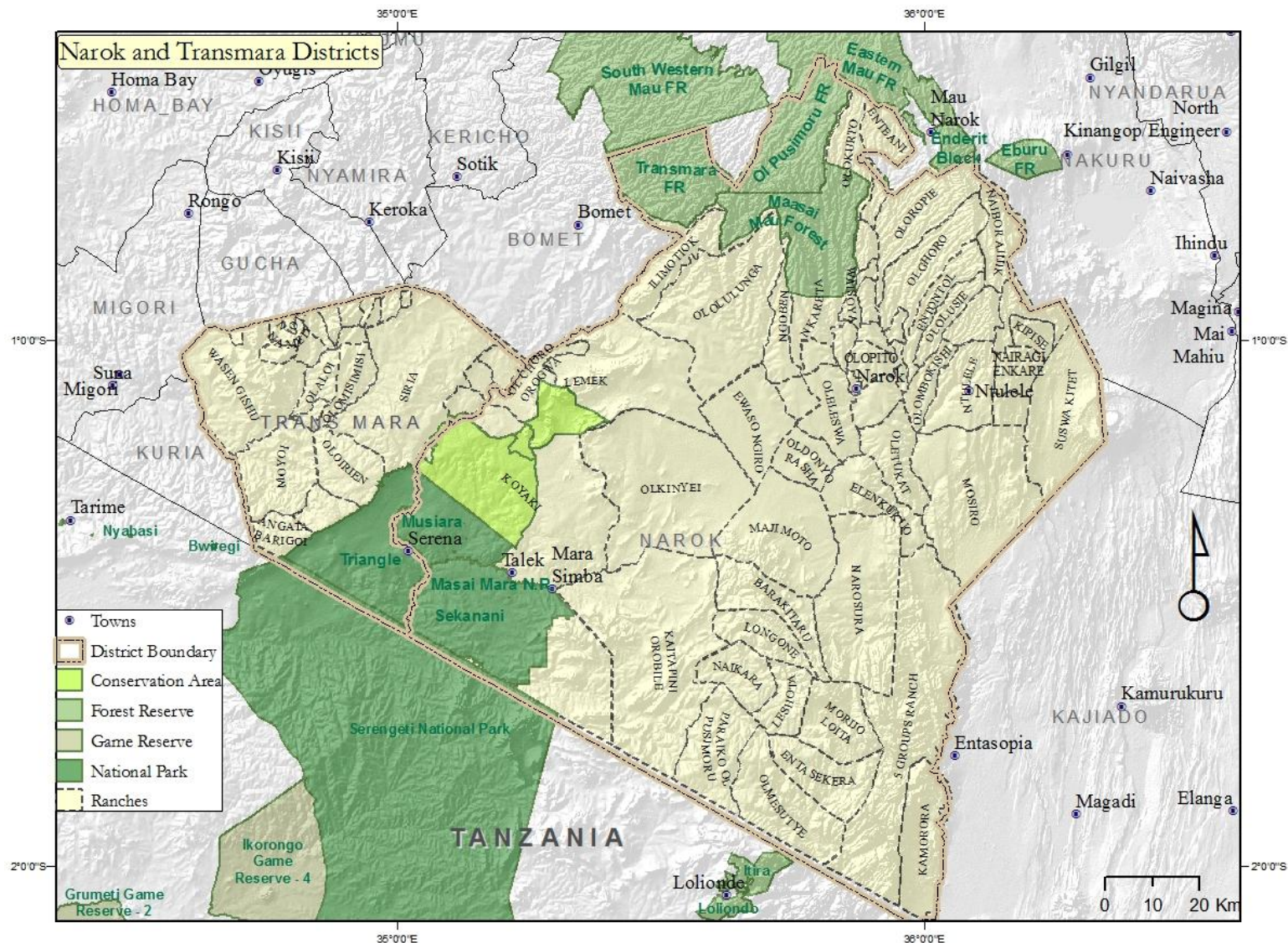
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David Ole Nkedianye, Ph.D.



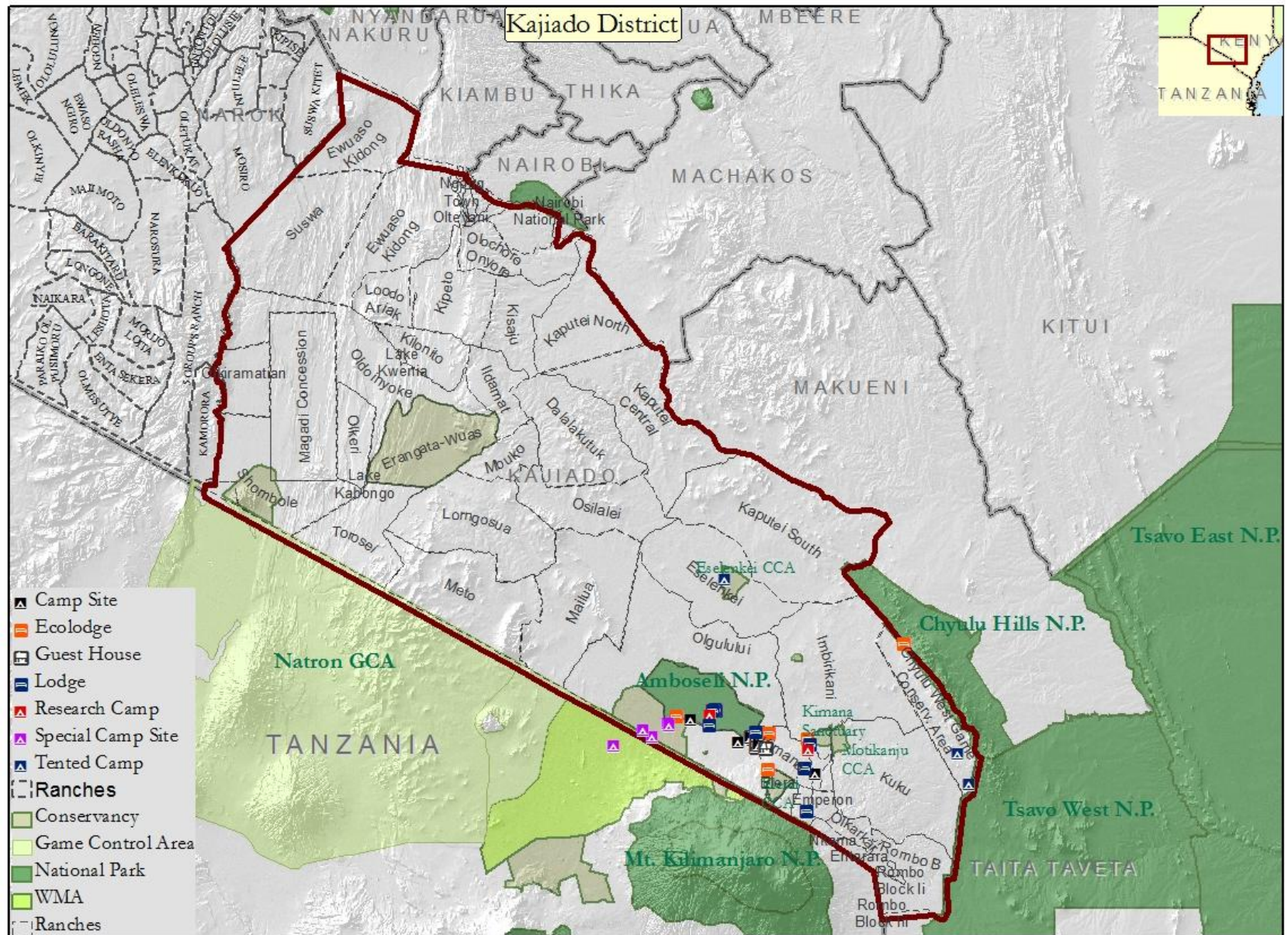


# Narok County

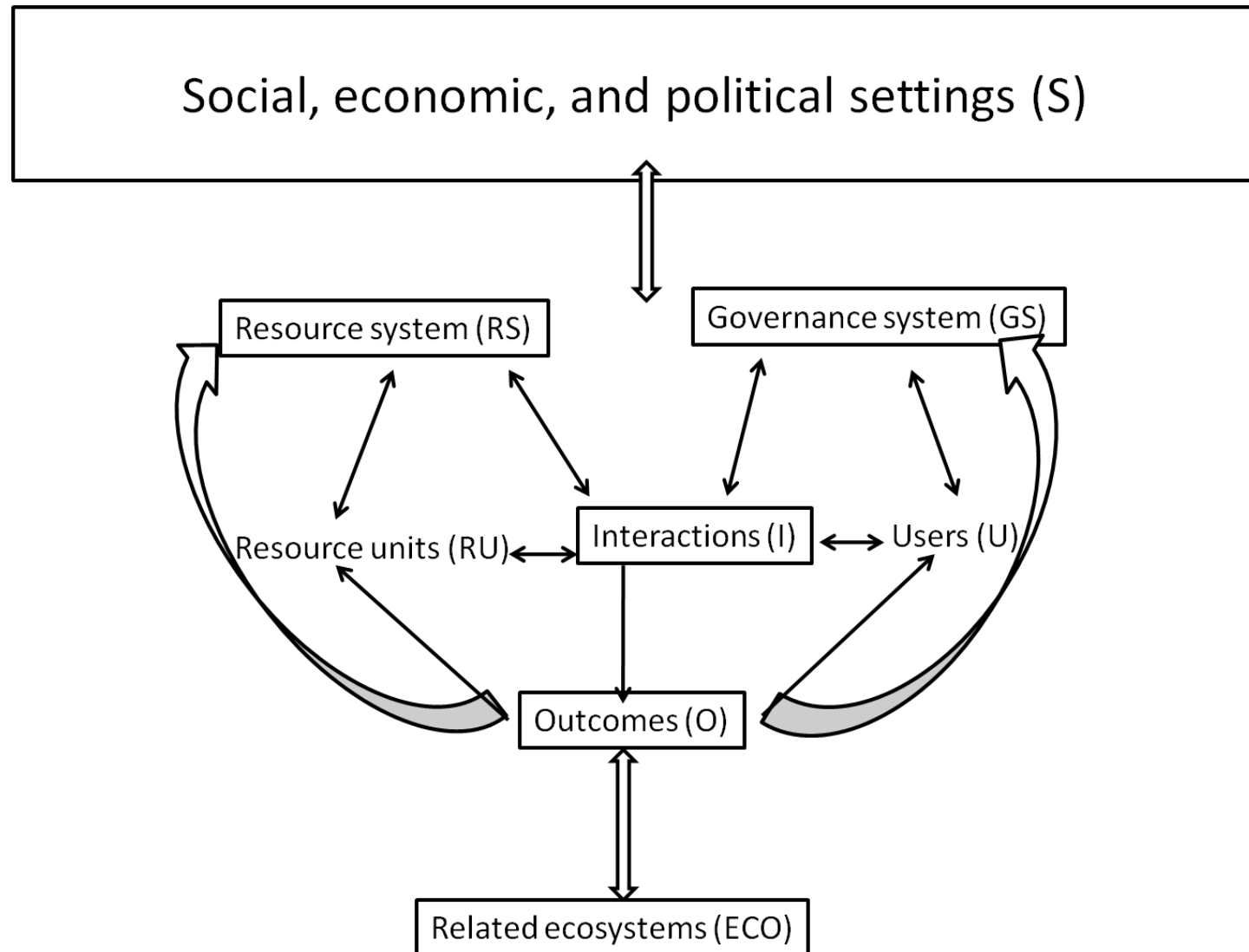




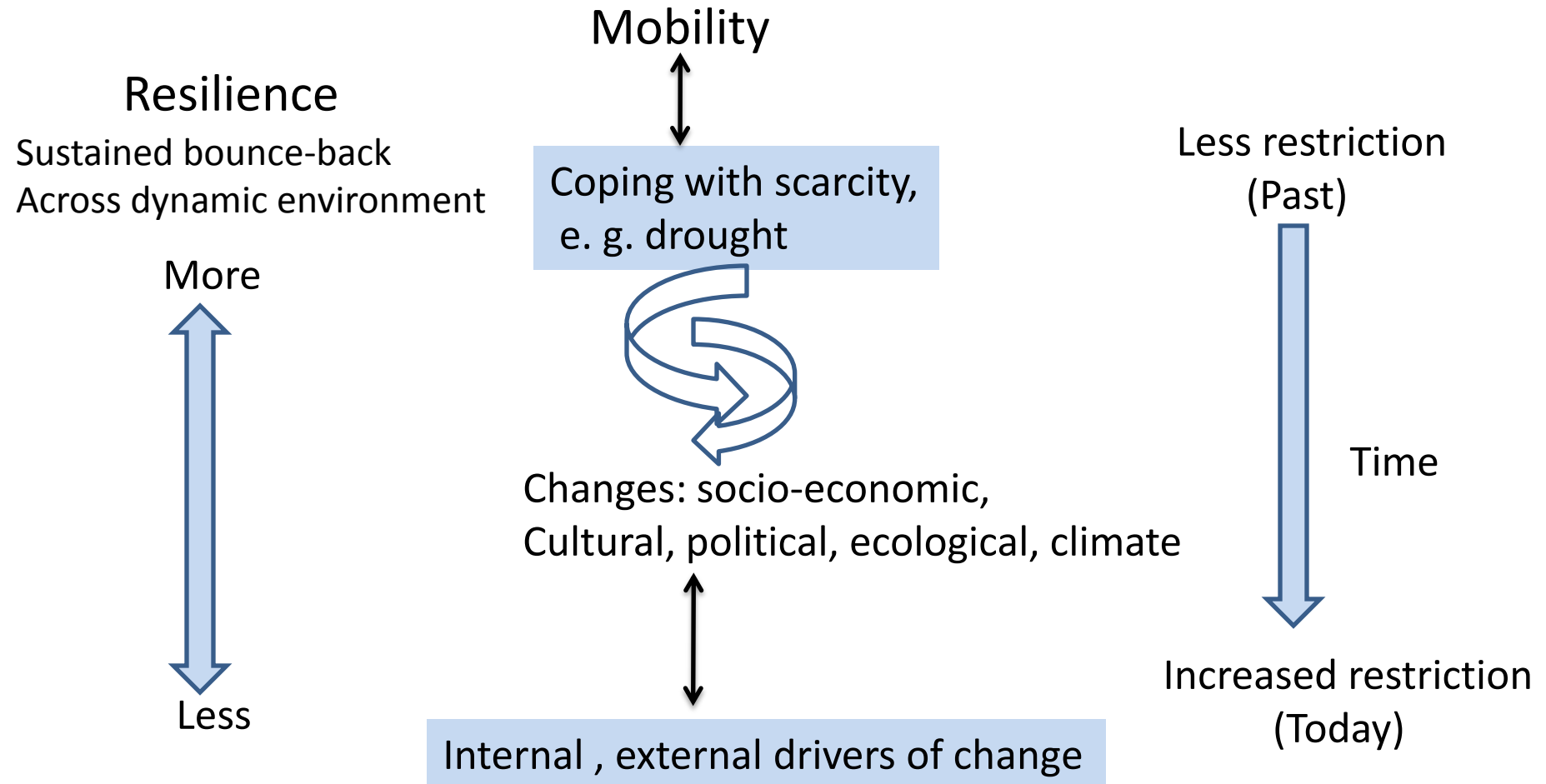
# Kajiado County



# The social, political and ecological interactions



# Complexity in socio-ecological dynamics influencing mobility and resilience over time



# Some Drivers of Mobility

- Herd size: the larger the herd the higher the need for herder to move
- Severity of drought: when there is no better option – ‘move or perish’
- Available, “cost effective” choices, especially if teaming up with friend, relative
- The absence of risks on the way, & destination

## Cont.....Drivers of mobility

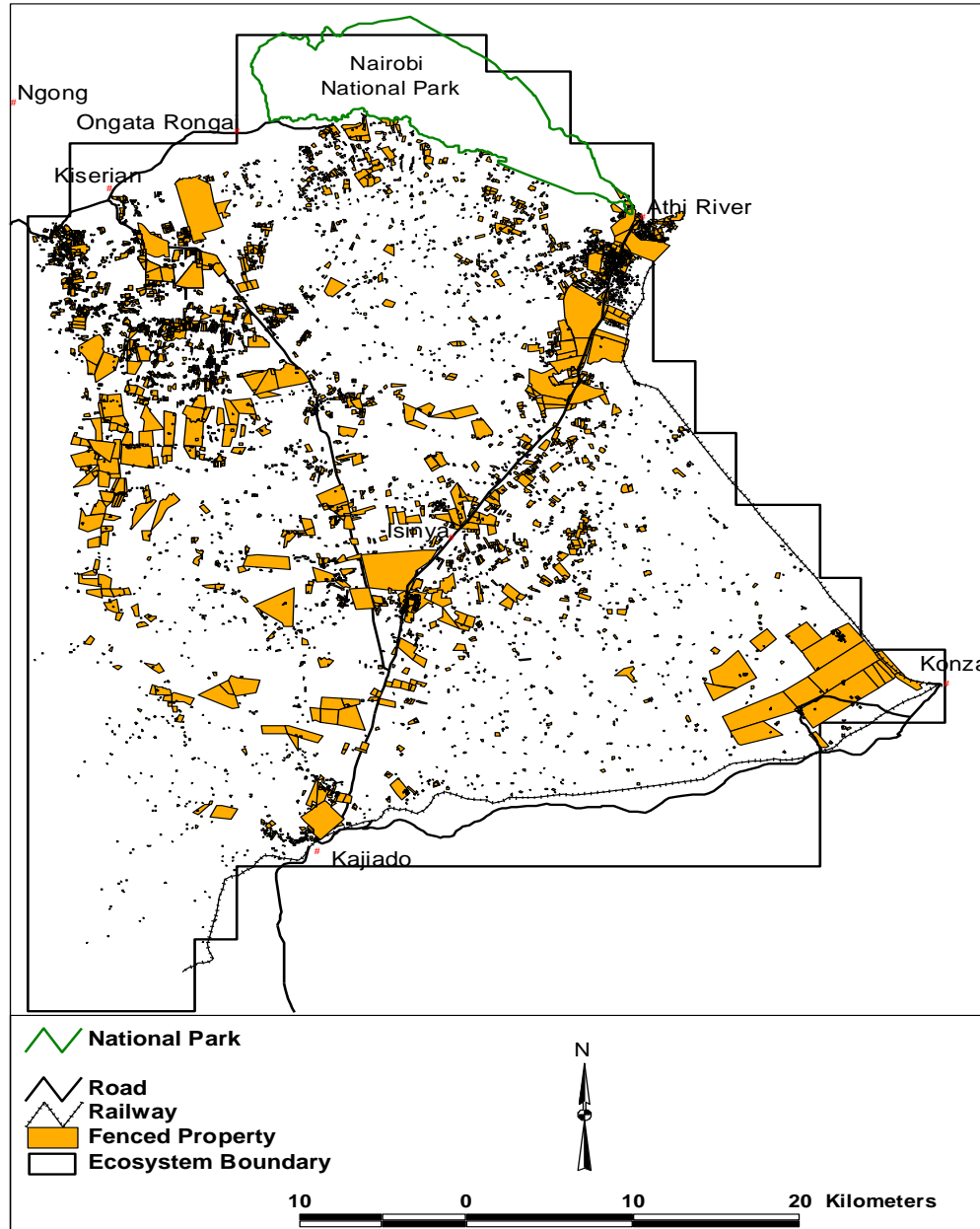
- Availability of labour for herding, finances
- Urgent and choice (regular)
- Rainfall gradient, erratic nature in spread and timing



## Some salient challenges

- Land fragmentation: For example Group Ranch sub-division in Northern Kajiado, Southern Kajiado
- Dry-season refuges being sub-divided: high potential north-eastern areas, slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro
- High rate of land sales, rampant land speculation, unsustainable plot sizes

# Land fragmentation: the Kaputiei open plains, Kajiado County



# Climate change, water and forage issues

- Over-extraction of water from swamps and rivers, springs, and siltation
- Higher temperatures will make water less available
- Pastures will dry up faster
- Frequent movement may become a necessity
- Unsustainable extraction of water (flower farms, eucalyptus trees...)

# Demographic pressure

- Rapid population pressure from surrounding areas: urban, other agricultural areas
- Population density relatively low in Maasailand, but growing
- More of the dry season grazing areas getting settled on, fragmented and degraded
- Livestock mobility increasingly hampered



# Droughts and other natural calamities

- Frequent droughts are pushing pastoralists to move more frequently and farther away
- Livestock mortality issues, off-take, costs
- Drought mitigation strategies
- Spread of diseases, vet. extension services
- Timely and reliable early warning on droughts

# Reversing the tide: Land use planning

- Group Ranch protection against fragmentation
- Planning for dry and wet season grazing
- Delimitation of water sources e.g. springs, swamps, forests and salt licks
- Internal regulation of numbers through education on land holding dynamics and profitable off-take
- Sustained quality education to ensure meaningful diversification options

## ...Reversing the tide..Land use planning

- Strict planning of urban areas to delimit urban sprawl
- Clear zoning of rangelands with land subdivision limits clearly outlined
- A paradigm shift on land ownership and use
- Strong, consistent political support for long-term plans & economic empowerment of pastoralists
- A master plan for pastoral lands

# Strengthen pastoral civil society and leadership

- Exert consistent pressure on policy makers
- Help to set the agenda for problem-oriented research
- Information and education for communities on challenges, opportunities, & emerging alternatives
- Empowerment of women and the youth - information, education, to build resilience



# Some key terms and readings

- **Resilience**
- The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity and feedbacks
- (see Walker *et al.* 2004; Berkes & Turner 2006; Armitage & Johnson 2006)
- **Fragmentation**
- The isolation of habitat by creating barriers to movement like fences, roads or other hindrances that restrict the interactions between consumers and resources.
- (see Reid *et al.* 2008; Behnke 2008)
- **Diversification**
- The process by which households construct increasingly diverse livelihood portfolios, making use of increasingly diverse combinations of resources, assets and activities
- (see Niehof 2004; Homewood *et al.* 2009b)

# Acknowledgements

- The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) for the Kajiado and Narok County maps
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