



Higher Education for Development Drylands Management Program



A University of Nairobi student on a field trip to the Mpala Research Center.

Presidential Initiative:
Feed the Future

Funding Level:
\$1.67 million

Duration:
March 2011 – November 2014

Activity Goals:

- Ensure the sustainability and productivity of Kenya's dryland ecosystems
- Promote the development of pastoral communities through the increased rate of higher education
- Build capacity of students and faculty to address the problems of dryland ecosystems and societies

Activity Accomplishments:

- Developed new dryland curricula for short-term training on dryland sustainability, including collaborative research methods and socio-ecological research methods
- Collaborated with University of Nairobi and Colorado State University to develop e-learning/distance learning course on sustainable dryland ecosystems
- 30 students enrolled for long-term training programs
- 16 faculty and/or teaching staff, students, and administrative/other staff completed short-term training programs

Implementing Partner:

American Council on Education – Office of Higher Education for Development – and, University of Nairobi and Colorado State University

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Higher Education for Development Drylands Management Program is a USAID-funded partnership between the University of Nairobi and Colorado State University. It is designed to ensure the sustainability and productivity of Kenya's dryland ecosystems and promote the development of its pastoral communities through increased rates of higher education. The Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies graduate degree program in Sustainable Drylands Resource Management opened to students in academic year 2011-2012.

ACTIVITY AREAS

The University of Nairobi and Colorado State University partnership offers a regional Ph.D. program at the Department of Land Resources Management and Agricultural Technology, including courses that address the development and environmental challenges of dryland ecosystems and communities. The activity recruits students from traditionally disadvantaged populations, including pastoralists and women.

Higher Education for Development Drylands Management Program works to build human capacity.

- The Drylands Leadership Learning Program builds the capacity of students and faculty to work with dryland communities, civil society, the private sector, and the Government of Kenya to address the problems of drylands ecosystems and societies.
- The Research-for-Development Fellowship Program provides grants to students to research development and sustainability issues in drylands communities.
- The Drylands Community Outreach Program promotes interest in higher education among pastoral people, especially women and girls.
- A Drylands Knowledge Exchange Platform coordinates knowledge exchange and access to information on Kenya's drylands ecosystems.

Higher Education for Development Drylands Management Program works to build institutional capacity.

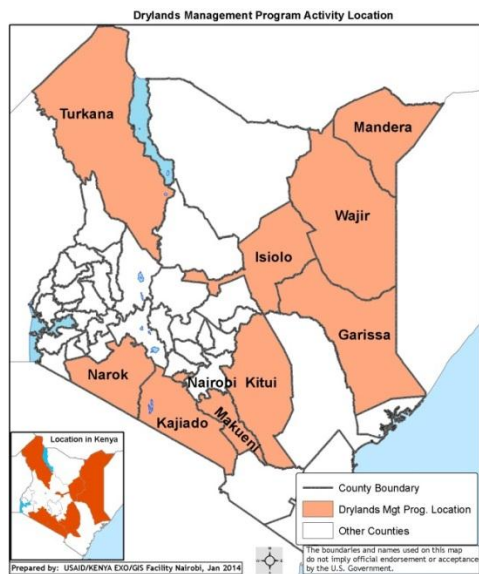
- Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies Advisory Board, comprised of sector

Key Partners:

Ministry of Education; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries; National Drought Management Authority

Activity Locations:

Turkana, Greater Karamoja Ecosystem; Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit counties, Greater Ewaso Nyiro Ecosystems; South Rift, Greater Maasai Ecosystems; Kitui, Mwingi, Makueni agro-ecosystems.



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experts, pastoralists, and women, conducts needs assessments in drylands communities.

- Community Voices Workshops ensure that the real problems of pastoral people are addressed by Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies.
- Partnerships formed with Government of Kenya ministries and key drylands institutions leverage support for higher education for drylands students.

ACTIVITY IMPACT



Students from University of Nairobi, Princeton University, and University of Illinois studying dryland ecosystems at Mpala Research Center.