

THE OCCURENCE OF TICKS AND TICK BORNE PARASITES OF CATTLE IN LAIKIPIA COUNTY, KENYA

Msc in Veterinary Applied Parasitology

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9/10/2013

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Background

- In Kenya, livestock production is a major economic and social activity for the communities of the ASALS.
- Over 60 percent of the national herd of cattle is held by pastoralists and it produces 10 percent of the domestic product (GDP) and 50 percent of agricultural GDP.
- **Constraints:** livestock diseases, particularly endemic diseases transmitted by vectors such as ticks and tsetse flies, (Rushton *et al.* 2002), lack of pasture during drought and conflicts with wildlife.
- **Drought** is the greatest cause of livestock mortality.

Background cont'd

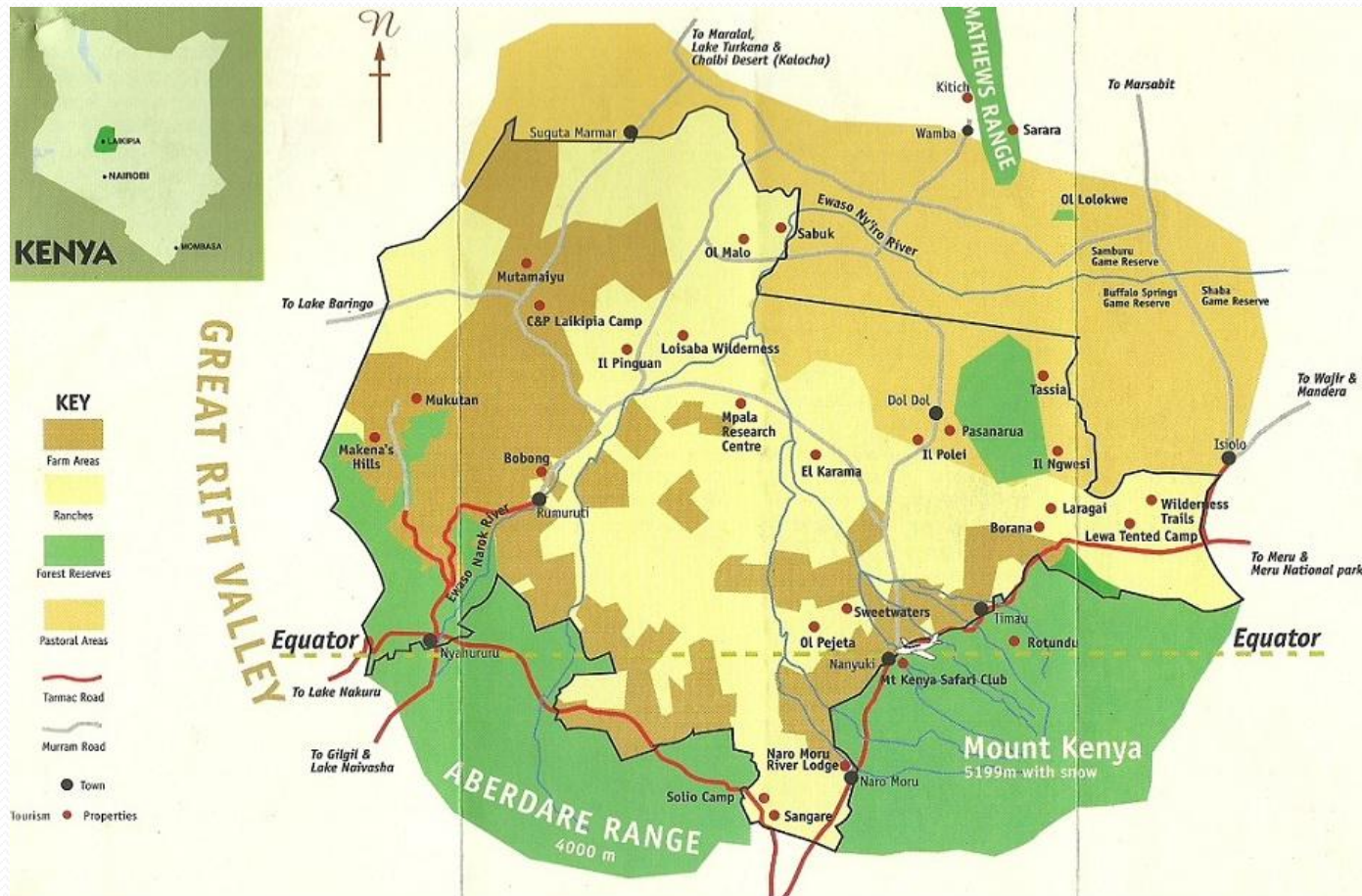
- Laikipia district experienced droughts in the years 1983-84, 1986, 1991-92, 1994, 2000 and 2009.
- Large concentrations of livestock were reported around the remaining watering points and certain locations including the Mt. Kenya forest.
- Movement of animals into the mountains was viewed as a solution to provision of grazing pastures and water, unfortunately this did not prevent many cattle from dying from cold and disease, (Lind and Letai, 2011).
- These naïve pastoral herds usually migrate from areas of low ECF endemicity to high ECF endemicity during drought and it is suspected that this is the major cause of the massive deaths along the migration route and in Mt. Kenya forest

Fig 1: Study area- Laikipia County, Kenya



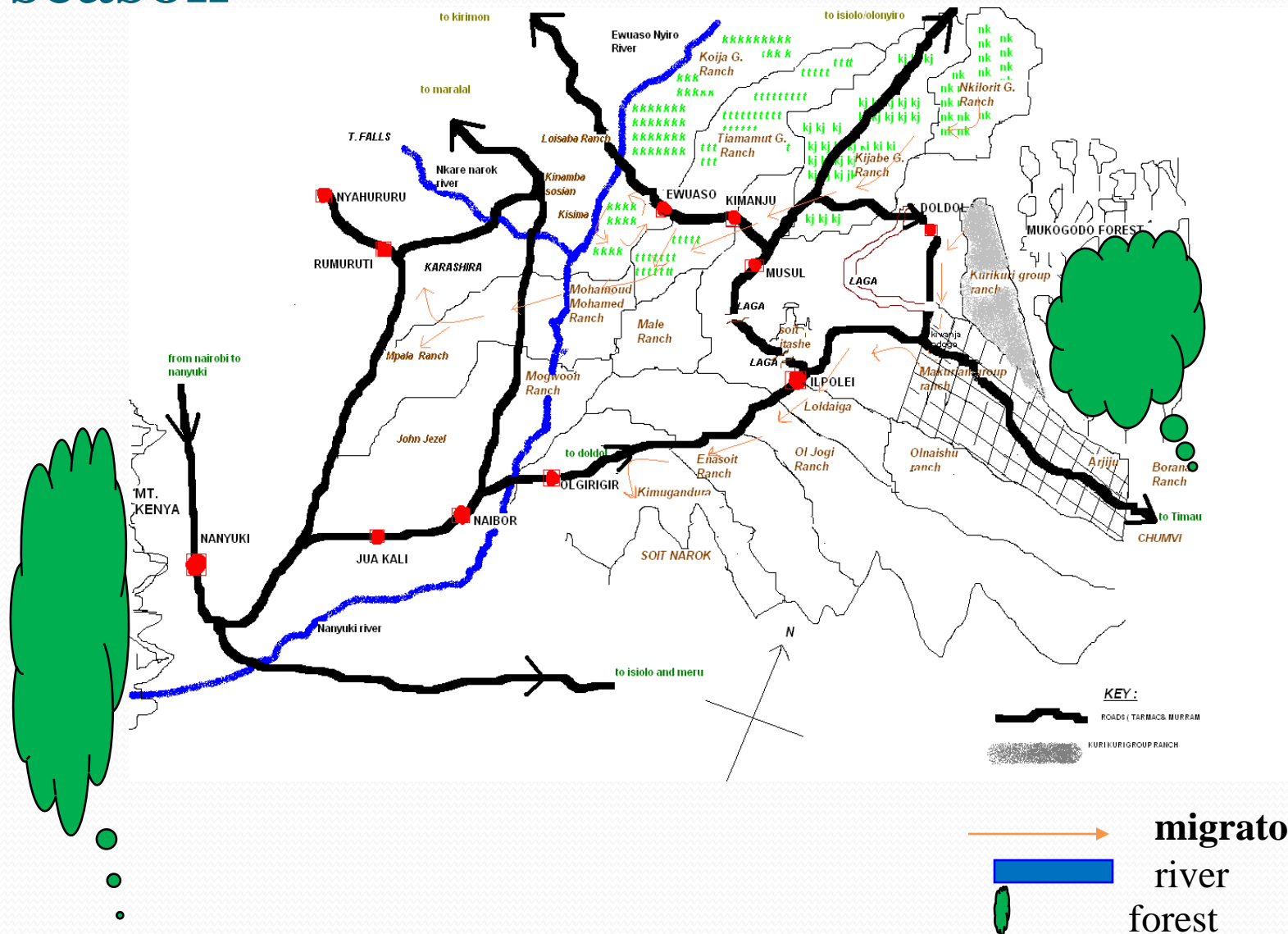
(Source: Letai, 2011)

Fig 2: Map of Laikipia County



(Source: Expert Africa, 2012)

Fig 3: Cattle migration routes during dry season



(Source: Dr. Turasha G. K ,VETAID, 2012)