

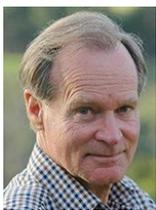
I-CAN News

Newsletter of the Institutional Canopy of Conservation Initiative
Issue 1, May 2015

Foreword, by John Galaty & David Western

Dear I-CAN partner,

It has taken time and effort to initiate the Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN) project, which is part of the International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies (IPaSS) program only launched by SSHRC and IDRC in October 2014.



David Western

We now have hired a dedicated coordinator, Dr. Mordecai Ogada, who has extensive experience in the field of community-based conservation, have initiated the formation of working groups, one focused on research, the other on land and policy, and have initiated two of the baseline studies that were on the agenda as the first activities that should be pursued, one a survey of community-based conservation projects and conservation organizations working in East Africa and a situational analysis for key conservation sites, the other an examination of natural resource governance legislation and policies in Kenya and Tanzania.

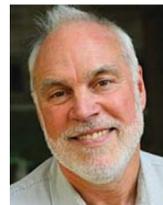
We have also established initial community-based training in participatory video, which we anticipate can be used both as a research methodology and as a tool for knowledge dissemination and policy development. Two graduate students from East Africa have been admitted for MA and doctoral studies, the first in Geography at the University of Victoria, the second in Anthropology at McGill University; we look forward to a second round of graduate applications, under the aegis of the I-CAN project, due at the beginning of next year.

We envision pursuing a research process that will link researchers with NGO's rooted in particular sites of biodiversity conservation, and then to partner organizations focused primarily on knowledge mobilization and/or policy development. ACC and McGill are collaborating in determining appropriate research methodologies and equipment to be used in field studies, in particular tablets that will facilitate data inputting and uploading to a joint system of data management. We will be in touch with each researcher and partner organization in the near future, about how roles and activities can be apportioned and shared throughout the network.

With kind regards,

John Galaty
McGill University

David Western
African Conservation Centre



John Galaty



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Project Overview

The Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN) project is a 7-year, \$2.5M (CAD) research initiative funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) as part of their International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies (IPaSS) initiative. The project officially started on August 1, 2014 and will end on July 31, 2021.

Led by the African Conservation Centre (ACC) and McGill University, this partnership project involves a rich network of collaborators and partners from universities, research institutions and non-governmental organizations in Canada, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, the U.S., Netherlands and Germany. The co-directors of the project are Prof. John Galaty from the Department of Anthropology, McGill University, and Dr. David Western, the Chairman of ACC.

The project will focus on the rangelands, wetlands, and forests in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, a region that is home to Africa's richest concentration of biodiversity and wildlife, with an aim to conserve East Africa's rich biodiversity by strengthening local livelihoods through improving access rights to natural resources, income diversification, and green economic development, such as ecotourism. Researchers will aim to identify the most effective designs for community-based conservation programs by studying the impact of a range of conservancy experiments on local livelihoods, attitudes, and natural resource practices. The major goal of the project is thus to assess the effectiveness of environmentally specific models for and experiments in community conservation in reconciling the imperatives of sustaining biodiversity with the amelioration of the life conditions of neighboring human communities.

The first few months of the project have been used to identify and put in place the resources needed for project management and coordination, the planning and implementation of baseline studies and the governance and organizational structure of the project.

The purpose of this Newsletter is to provide I-CAN collaborators and partners, but also other interested stakeholders, a report of the progress made so far in implementing the I-CAN project, and proposed next steps.

Interview with David Western and John Galaty

David Western and John Galaty talk about the I-CAN project, its importance and potential impact in this interview conducted at IDRC, Ottawa, Canada, in October 2014. Follow the link below to see the video:



<http://youtu.be/ncA1tiEsd8k>
<http://youtu.be/yJmo4yiDNoc> (French subtitles)

I-CAN PARTNERS

- Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), Tanzania
- College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka, Tanzania
- Center for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology, Germany
- University of Victoria, Canada
- Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), Kenya
- South Rift Landowners Association (SORALO), Kenya
- Maasai Visions, Tanzania
- Sauti Moja, Canada
- Sauti Moja, Tanzania
- Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO), Kenya
- Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE), Kenya
- Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), Tanzania
- The Kesho Trust, Tanzania
- Hakikazi Catalyst, Tanzania
- Ugandan Wildlife Authority, Uganda
- Africa SOMA, Canada
- Utrecht Universiteit, The Netherlands
- Institute of African Studies, Carleton University, Canada
- Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT), Kenya

Governance & organizational structure

In view of the complexity of the I-CAN project and the large number of partners/collaborators involved, it is important to put in place an organizational and governance structure that will provide effective leadership and good communication among partners.

Project Coordination

On February 2, 2015, ACC recruited a project coordinator, Dr. Mordecai Ogada, who has extensive knowledge and experience in wildlife conservation in East Africa. (See the side bar on page 3 for more information)

Dr. Ogada will carry out managerial functions, as well as contribute to the organizational leadership of the project. He will regularly visit, coordinate and integrate work being pursued in field sites, as well as oversee the implementation of project plans, budgets, communications, and data inputs and outputs.

At McGill University, V. Corey Wright and Dr. Bernard Pelletier are assisting with project coordination. Mr. Wright is a PhD candidate at the Department of Anthropology, McGill. He brings over a decade of experience in Tanzania to the project, and his research on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Tanzania will help inform the I-CAN study. Dr. Pelletier is a research associate at McGill who previously acted as the project manager of a 3.5 year KARI-McGill food security research project funded by the CFSRF program of DFATD and IDRC, which was implemented in Kenya (2011-2014)

Steering Committee

A project Steering Committee (SC) was put in place in January 2015 that included Dr. John Galaty (McGill), Dr. David Western and Lucy Waruingi (ACC), John Kamanga (SORALO) and Joseph Olila (TNR), representing Kenyan and Tanzanian partners. The new project coordinator, Dr. Ogada, will also be part of the SC. The first meeting of the SC was held on January 13, 2015, when its first order of business was hiring the project coordinator! The SC is meant to be broadly representative of project participants and will meet regularly (every two months) to review progress and advise project management on program activities and directions.

Working Groups/Research Teams

I-CAN research and development activities will address a number of thematic areas – e.g., policy & laws, knowledge mobilization, property rights, organizational aspects, economics, ecosystems and biodiversity. A number of working groups/research teams bringing together researchers from various partner organizations will be created to co-ordinate the work on these thematic areas. In the next few months, we hope to engage partners and collaborators more intensively in establishing these groups. At the moment, one thematic working group has been established.

Working Group on Land Rights & Advocacy

During J. Galaty's visit to Kenya in January 2015, the creation of a Working Group on Land Rights and Advocacy was proposed. This WG, which includes J. Galaty, Stephen Moiko (U. of Nairobi), John Kamanga (SORALO), Johnson Ole Kaunga (IMPACT), and Joseph Ole Simel (MPIDO), was created in response to the rapidly evolving events taking place in the study areas and the need to make sure that the project is in a position to gather the necessary information in a timely fashion, and when possible, take action accordingly.

MEETING UPDATES

Preliminary Meeting at McGill University, Canada

On September 29, 2014, a meeting was organized at McGill University during the visit to Canada of Dr. David Western and Lucy Waruingi from ACC, and Joseph Ole Simel (MPIDO). A number of representatives from Canadian Universities were also present. The purpose of the meeting was to re-visit the objectives of the project and discuss issues related to the planning of research activities, organizational structure, student recruitment, and publications.

Start-up Meetings at SSHRC and IDRC, Ottawa, Canada

On October 1-2, 2014, a two-day meeting was organized for partnerships funded through the International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies. The goal was to provide an opportunity for project directors and partners to meet, network and exchange expertise and knowledge, as well as engage with SSHRC and IDRC representatives. The meeting was attended by Prof. J. Galaty, Dr. D. Western and L. Waruingi.

Introductory Meeting and Regional Launch, Arusha, Tanzania

On December 8, 2014, a meeting was organized by ACC in Arusha, Tanzania to enable partners to fully understand the goals of the project and discuss the agenda of research and action envisioned for the first year of the project. The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the current situation of conservation in East Africa, activities to be undertaken during the first year, and partnership arrangements and organizational structure.



A young elephant in Enduimet WMA, Tanzania—a keystone species of the Amboseli Ecosystem. I-CAN's Co-Director, Dr. David Western has been studying the Amboseli ecosystem for over 40 years; ACC is now engaged in a trans-border study of elephant and lion populations...

(Photo by McGill Master's Student, Alicia Mori)

Research Activities - Where are we at?

Baseline studies

A number of baseline studies are to be initiated during the first year of the project. These baseline studies will provide a description of the conservation situation at the start of the project and therefore help assess patterns of change during the life of the project. The intent is to conduct these studies again at mid-point and at the end of the project.

The plan is now to recruit key researchers from the region to spearhead these studies and with whom researchers from McGill and other universities would be happy to work. The four studies initially described in the proposal included:

A) Inventory of the network of conservation organizations; B) Conservation policies, legislation and regulations; C) Community livelihoods and revenues; and D) Conservation attitudes and practices. The baseline studies will also include a broader Situational Analysis aimed at providing an up-to-date picture of the social and political conditions bearing on biodiversity conservation at project sites, as perceived by key stakeholders. The following steps have been taken regarding the implementation of these baseline studies:

Study A (Institutions) and Situational Analysis: Dr. Philip Osano, a Kenyan who completed his PhD at McGill on conservation and payments for ecosystems services in Narok and Kajiado, has been identified to spearhead the implementation of both Study A and the Situational Analysis. Terms of reference regarding the work have been drafted and Dr. Osano is currently preparing a first draft of the research protocol to be circulated shortly for feedback.

Study B (Policies): Preliminary contacts have been established by ACC with a researcher to conduct Study B. We should be able to make an announcement shortly.

Studies C (Livelihoods) and D (Attitudes): At the moment, we are thinking of addressing Studies C and D primarily through the administration of a household survey and various community level investigations.

Household Survey

A working group (WG) has been struck at McGill to help design and coordinate the development of a household survey that would be administered across the study area. The HH survey would be used to assess the effect of various community-based conservation initiatives on status of household well-being, conservation knowledge, attitudes and practices, and perceptions about environmental changes. We intend to compare CBCs in terms of proposed incentives and levels of devolution and democratization. At the moment, the WG includes Dr. Caroline Archambault, V. Corey Wright, Prof. Jon Unruh, Dr. Bernard Pelletier, Prof. John Galaty, and Dr. Joost de Laat, with inputs from other researchers for different aspects of the survey. We intend to administer the survey electronically and are currently examining various options. We invite other interested parties to inform us if they wish to participate in the work of this Working Group, perhaps by Skype.

PROJECT COORDINATOR



We are very excited to welcome Mordecai Ogada as the new Project Coordinator of the I-CAN project. Mordecai will be based full time with ACC in Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to joining ACC, he was the executive director of Laikipia Wildlife Forum, a membership organization supporting community-based conservation in Laikipia, Kenya. Dr. Ogada's training and educational background is in carnivore ecology, the subject of his MSc and PhD studies at Kenyatta University, Kenya. Through his engagement in addressing carnivore conflicts with humans over the years, Dr. Ogada has gotten more involved in the human dimensions and policy arguments around wildlife conservation in East Africa and beyond. The strong anthropological component in the I-CAN project therefore fits well with his experience and background.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

A research committee was convened in Canada whose members have been discussing the I-CAN research program, including setting out proposed terms of reference for several baseline studies aimed at tracking changes over the life of the project. At the moment, the Committee includes Prof. Galaty, Prof. Tim Johns, Prof. Jon Unruh, Dr. Colin Chapman, Dr. Nicolas Kosoy, V. Corey Wright and Dr. Bernard Pelletier, all from McGill, and has met twice so far (November 13, 2014; February 23, 2015). We expect other researchers to join the committee.

Introducing I-CAN students

V. Corey Wright

PhD candidate, McGill - Corey has worked and lived in northern Tanzania since 2003, wherein he began to witness the dramatic changes in land tenure that were occurring vis a vis conservation initiatives in Longido District. His research explores how Maasai communities are engaging with Tanzania's latest schemes, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). He's interested in the cultural politics that are emerging at the interface of global neoliberalism, conservation, and indigenous social movements.

Jennifer Glassco

PhD candidate, McGill - Jennifer's research compares the strategies that youth use to find work and become socially and politically established as adults in two southern Kenyan sites of interest to the ICAN project. She is particularly interested in natural resource management politics and the innovations youth are bringing to animal husbandry practices.

Alicia Mori

MA candidate, McGill - Alicia's research explores the varying relationships between key stakeholders (i.e. political, corporate, civil society, and local actors) in Tanzanian Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and the power dynamics that animate the relationships and processes of devolved, democratic community engagement and decision-making in the conservation process. She is working in the Lake Natron WMA, Longido District, Tanzania

Nicholas Barber

PhD candidate, McGill - Nicholas conducts collaborative research with a participatory video project in Baka indigenous communities in southeast Cameroon. He will be assisting with the participatory video aspects of the I-CAN project. In Fall 2015, Nicholas will be the Archie Malloch Graduate Fellow in Public Learning at the McGill Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas.

Graham Fox

PhD candidate, McGill - Graham's research examines the politics of land management in Kenya's Ewaso basin. Prior to arriving at McGill, Graham studied international development at Dalhousie University and was a research associate at the British Institute in Eastern Africa in Nairobi.

Emmanuel Ole Kileli

MA candidate, University of Victoria - Emmanuel will begin his Master's program in September at the University of Victoria. He will be working with I-CAN Co-Applicant, Dr. Phil Dearden, studying the impacts of conservation on pastoralists in Tanzania. He's interested in how "public interest" discourse is being employed, reparation schemes where communities have been dispossessed, the integration of traditional knowledge in conservation planning, and the status of local participation. As a Maasai of northern Tanzania, his knowledge and experience will greatly benefit the I-CAN study.

Evans Kirigia

PhD candidate, McGill - Evans is due to commence the PhD program in September 2015 at McGill University. He will be conducting ethnographic research in his home country of Kenya, looking into community-based biodiversity conservation and related impacts on livelihoods and environmentality among pastoral groups. Evans completed his Masters and has continued to work with I-CAN Co-Applicant, Dr. Annelise Zoomers of Utrecht University. He will continue to help us build connections between McGill and Utrecht.

POST-DOCTORAL VACANCY

The Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN) initiative is recruiting a Post-doctoral fellow who will contribute to achieving I-CAN's study objectives in East Africa.

The position will be based at McGill University, but will involve travel and research in Kenya and Tanzania, and close liaison with McGill's partner organization, The African Conservation Centre in Nairobi, and the project's Co-Director, Dr. David Western.

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to Prof. John Galaty at McGill University, Department of Anthropology: john.galaty@mcgill.ca. Please indicate "I-CAN Post -doctoral Fellow" in the subject line. Candidates should include the names and contact details of two references who are familiar with the candidate's academic and professional experience, especially in regards to the candidate's international research and field work experience.

Submissions should be received by **May 31, 2015**. The chosen candidate is expected to begin no later than September, 2015. The duration is 2 years, contingent on good progress.

An advertisement describing in more detail the responsibilities of the position and the required skills and experience is being circulated among project partners and other relevant institutions, and can also be obtained by contacting Prof. Galaty at john.galaty@mcgill.ca

Communication Strategy & Knowledge Mobilization

The I-CAN Research Committee is working on a communication strategy that will help coordinate communication, manage findings, and ensure an effective flow of information among project partners. A few dimensions of this are illustrated below. Additionally, a formal knowledge mobilization strategy will be compiled in the coming few months. As indicated previously, maintaining an action-orientated program is essential to I-CAN objectives in East Africa.

Project Website

An important component of the communication strategy will be the establishment of a project website that will include information for all stakeholders but also a Login section to be used by project members to share information. Preliminary discussions have taken place between ACC and McGill to design and prepare the website, which we hope will be operational within the next two months or so.

Data Management

Discussions are also currently taking place between ACC and McGill regarding the design and implementation of a policy for data management. This policy will provide guidelines regarding the access and use of the data generated during the lifetime of the project. We are also discussing the more technical aspects of data storage and sharing to identify the most appropriate systems.



PARTICIPATORY VIDEO IN OLKIRAMATIAN

In January, McGill PhD candidate, Nicholas Barber, in collaboration with John Kamanga, Albert Kuseyo and others of I-CAN partner organization SORALO conducted a participatory video training at ACC's Lale'enok Resource Centre in Olkiramatian, Kenya. Following the training, a group of residents and leaders produced the following video, which will be used to affect policy on land concerns and conflicts in their community: <http://youtu.be/oxq1A3qzIU>

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

First Annual Rangelands Congress of Kenya, Nairobi (August 11-12, 2015)

The Rangelands Association of Kenya, in collaboration with the ACC, Centre for sustainable drylands ecosystems and societies - University of Nairobi and the International Livestock and Research institute (ILRI), will host the First Annual Rangelands Congress in Nairobi on August 11-12, 2015. The congress brings together the voices and views of land owner associations, invited speakers, government and county governments, and national and international agencies to highlight the status, threats and opportunities in the rangelands and chart the way forward.

CICADA Conference at McGill, Canada (October 23-27, 2015)

Under the leadership of Prof. Colin Scott, McGill is developing the "Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives" (CICADA) that includes researchers and partner organizations concerned with indigenous resource rights on a global scale. To gain and share inspiration with work in the Americas and Oceania, participants in I-CAN can highlight challenges of indigeneity, natural resource governance and conservation within this initiative. CICADA will be convening a Conference from October 23-27, 2015, which will provide opportunity for I-CAN participants to share with all participants the results of the first stage of work on Baseline Studies, to assess the current situation of biodiversity and conservation in the Kenyan/Tanzanian setting, and plan further steps. Keep Posted!