The New Economics of Conservation in Kenya

Mike Norton-Griffiths
Senior Research Fellow
ICRAF, Nairobi
www.mng5.com

World Agroforestry Centre
TRANSFORMING LIVES AND LANDSCAPES

System Response of Kenya's Rangelands over the last 35 Years

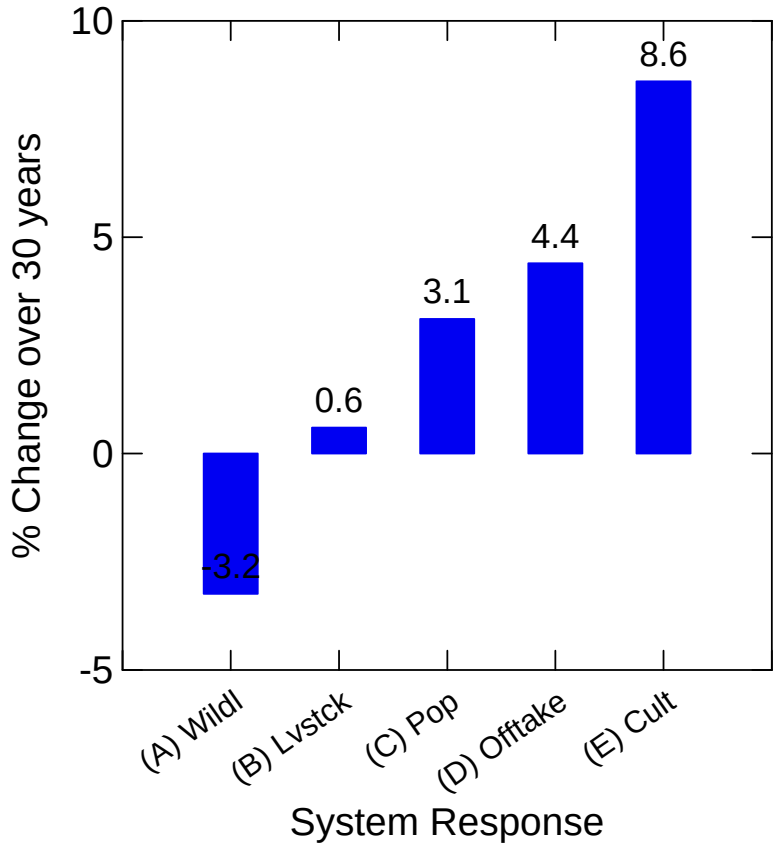
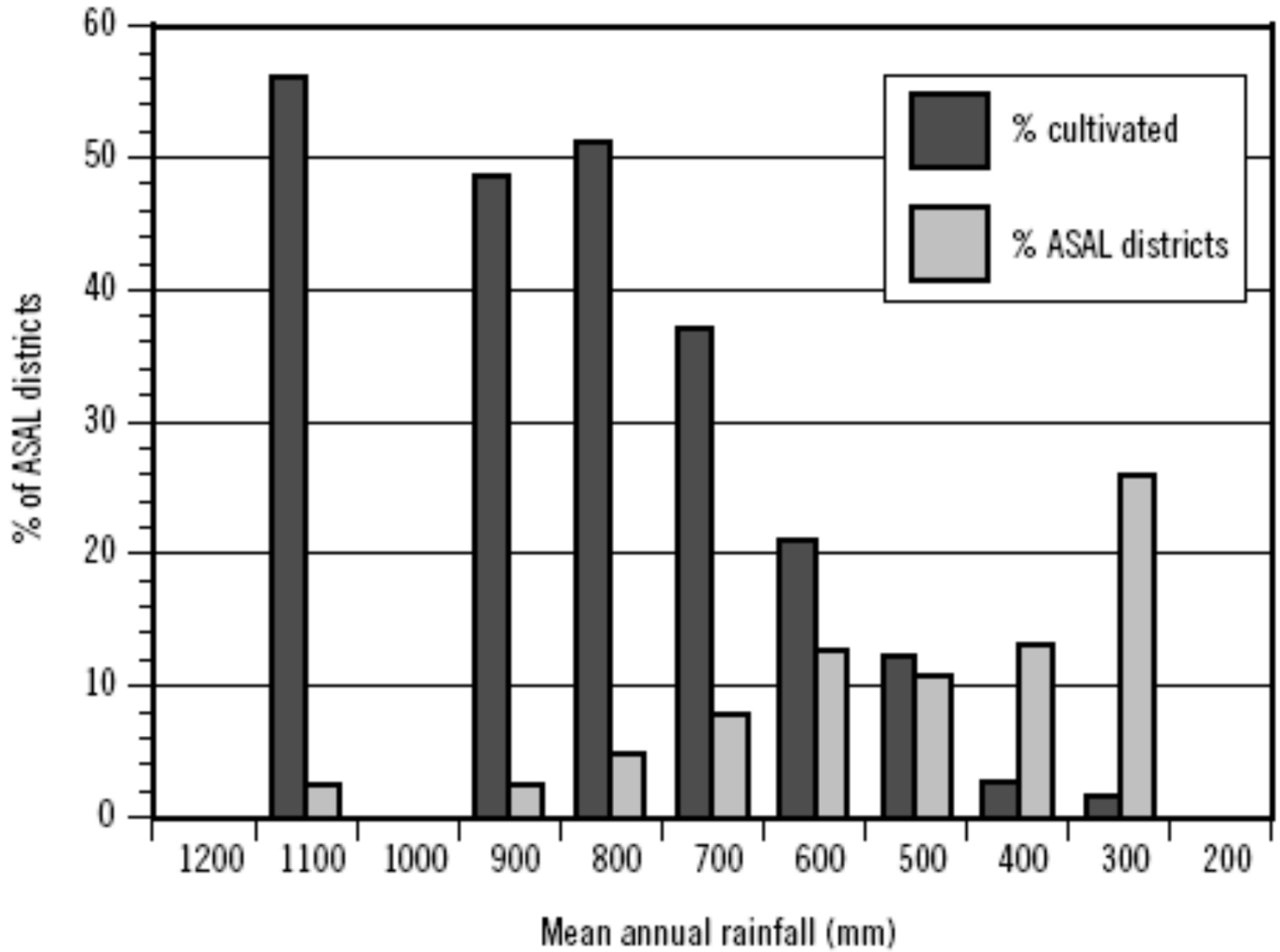


Figure 4: Spread of cultivation in Kenya's arid and semi-arid rangelands (the ASAL districts)



Livestock Dynamics

- Overall Trend 70s to 00s of +0.6% per annum (not statistically significant, i.e. marked annual variation but no overall trend)
- Offtake: of cattle, growing at +4.4% per annum
- Offtake: of small stock, falling fast
- Seen in all 19 ASAL Districts

Livestock Dynamics

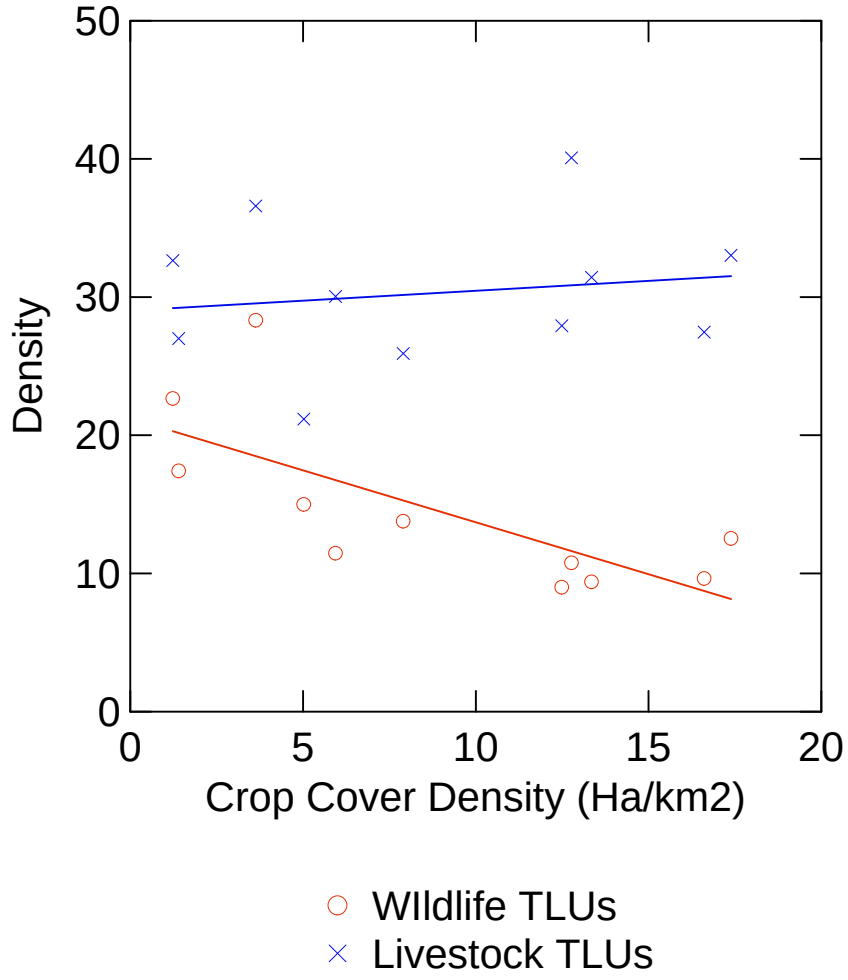
Suggests a switch from extensive to more intensive methods of production, with greater involvement in the cash economy

Wildlife Dynamics

- Overall trend mid ‘70s to mid ‘00s: -3.2% pa
- Western’s recent analyses suggests that the trend has continued unchecked, and is now as strong inside the Protected Areas as outside.
- Joe Ogutu’s recent paper on wildlife losses in the Mara

Interactions

Interactions between cultivation, wildlife and livestock – Mara Area



System Response of Kenya's Rangelands over the last 35 Years

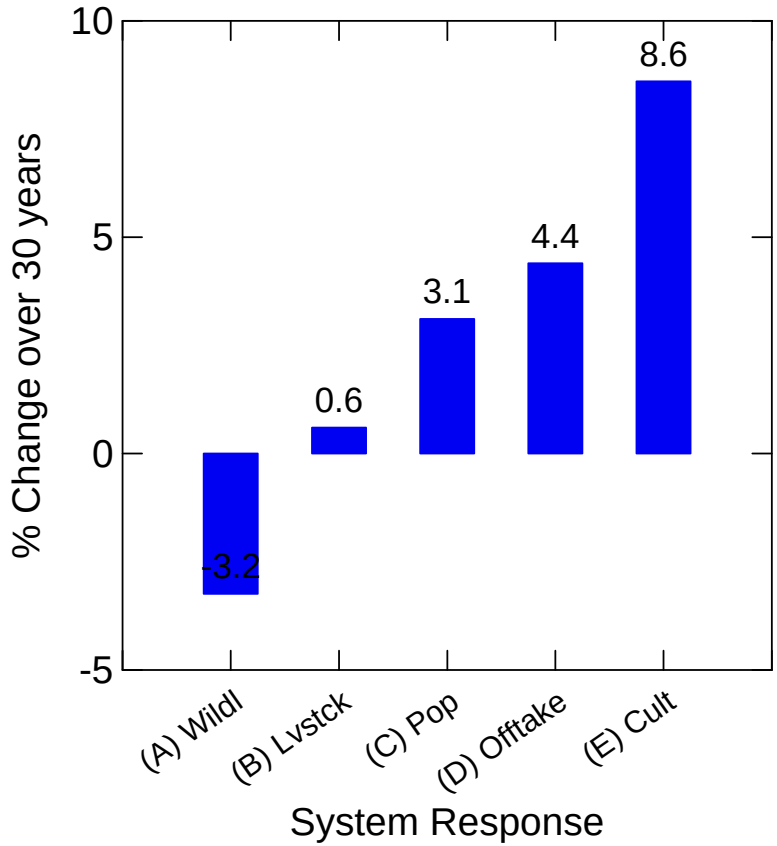
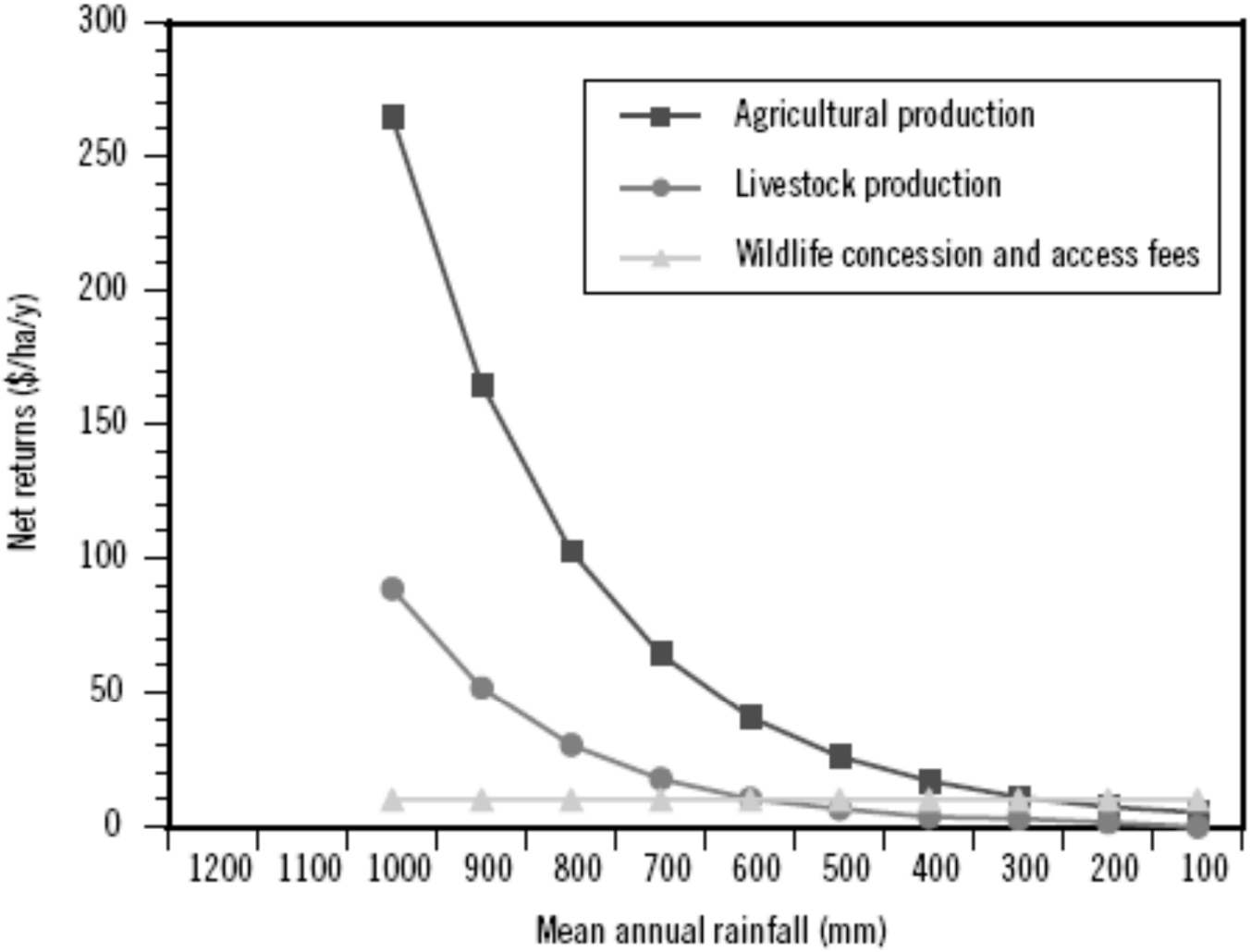


Figure 3: Differential net returns to landowners ($ ha^{-1}y^{-1}) from agricultural, livestock and wildlife production



Why are the returns to wildlife so low?

–Policy Failures

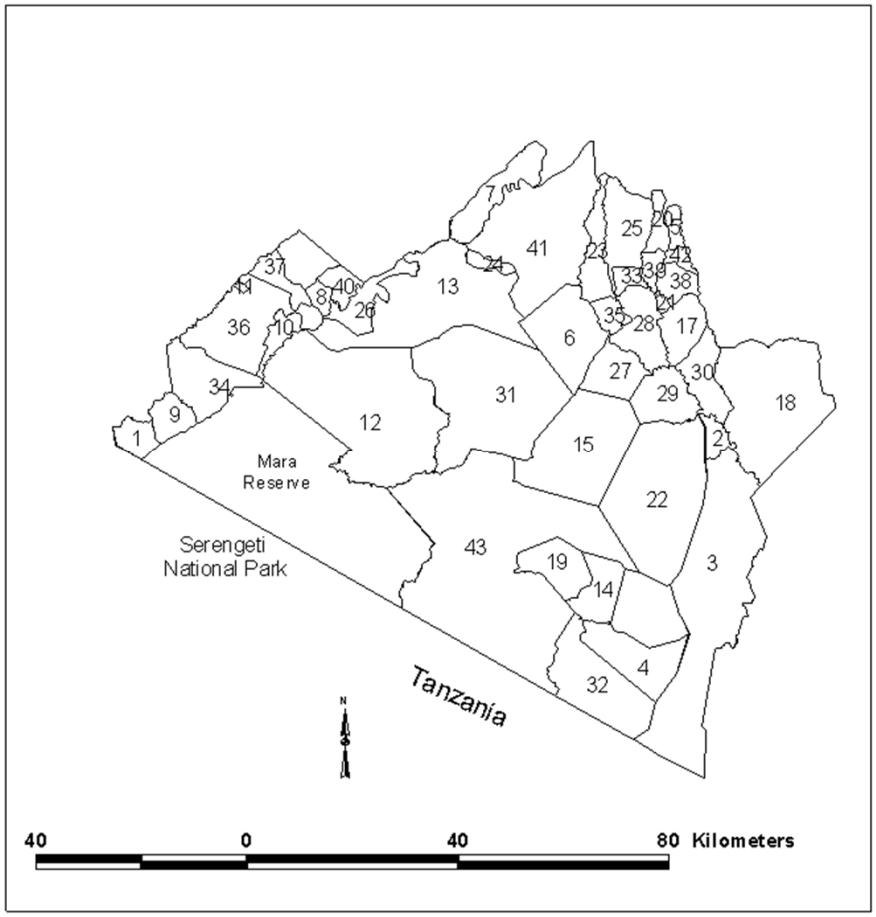
–Institutional Failures

–Market Failures

Evolution of Property Rights

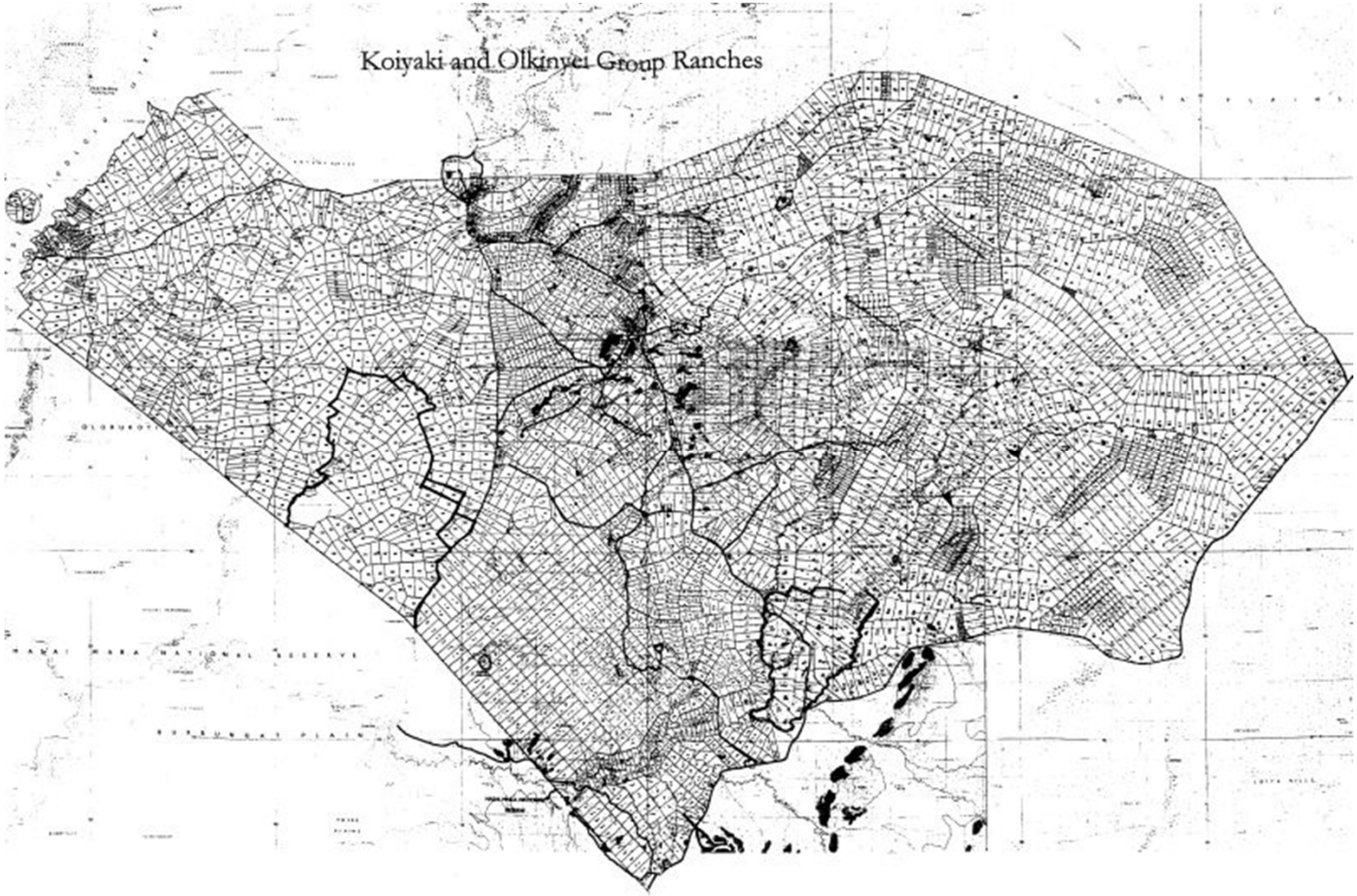
Along with this fundamental change in the pastoral production system we see a rapid transformation of property rights from large parcels of land under Group or Communal ownership to small parcels of land under Private ownership

Property Rights in the Mara Area
≈ 43 large Group Ranches

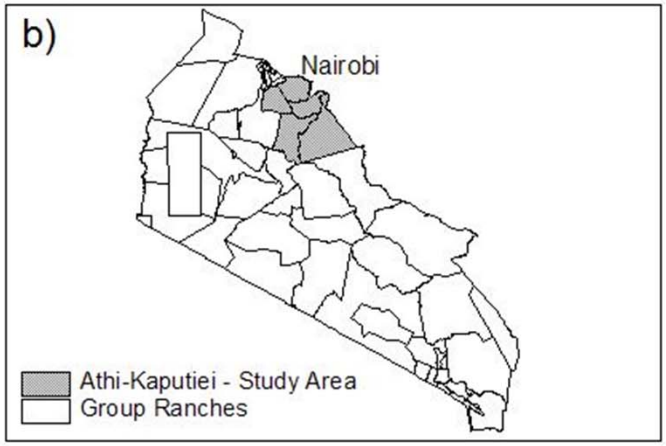


Code	Group Ranch
1	Ang'ata Barrekoi
2	Enatamatishoreki
3	Enkutoto Elang'at' enterit
4	Entakesera
5	Eorr Enkitok
6	Ewaso Ngiro
7	Ilmotiok
8	Intulele
9	Kerinkani
10	Kimintet
11	Kimintet-a
12	Koyaki
13	Lemek
14	Leshota
15	Maji Moto
16	Morijo Loita
17	Morijo Narok
18	Mosiro
19	Naikara
20	Naisoya
21	Narok Township
22	Narosura
23	Nkoben
24	Nkorrkorri
25	Nkareta
26	OlChoro-Oirowua
27	Oldonyo Orasha
28	Oleleishwa
29	Olenkuluo
30	Oletukat
31	Olkinyei
32	Olmesutye
33	Olaimutiai
34	Oloirien
35	Iloisiusiu
36	Oloonkoliin
37	Oloonkoliin
38	Olorroito
39	Oloroito
40	Olosakwana
41	Osupuko-Ololunga
42	Rotian
43	Siana

Property Rights in the Mara Area
≈ 60,000 small private plots



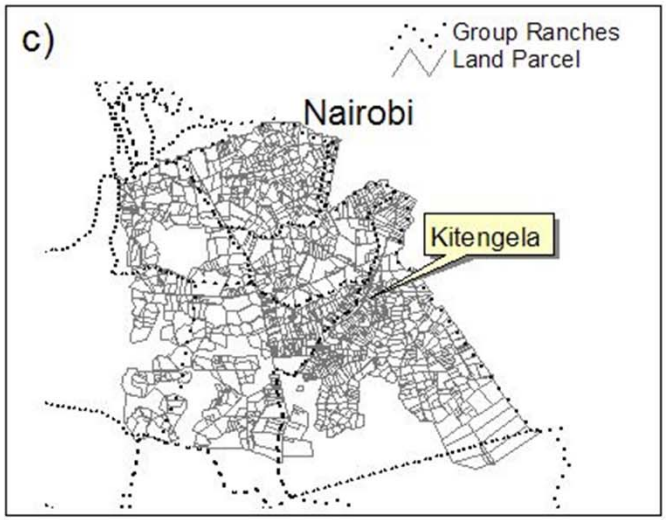
Same process in the Kitengela



Group Ranches .....

In the late 1960s the Group ranches were set up . In Kajiado there were more than 50 group ranches.

By 1986 individual ownership of land began with Athi Kaputiei Maasai (grey shaded areas on the map). The allocation of land was between 51 to 298 hectares of land per family.



Changes in Land tenure .....

Land Privatisation continued in 1990s The recent 2004 land parcel map indicates the mean parcel size is about 68 hectares. The largest parcels are more than 1200 and smalllest about 2 hectares

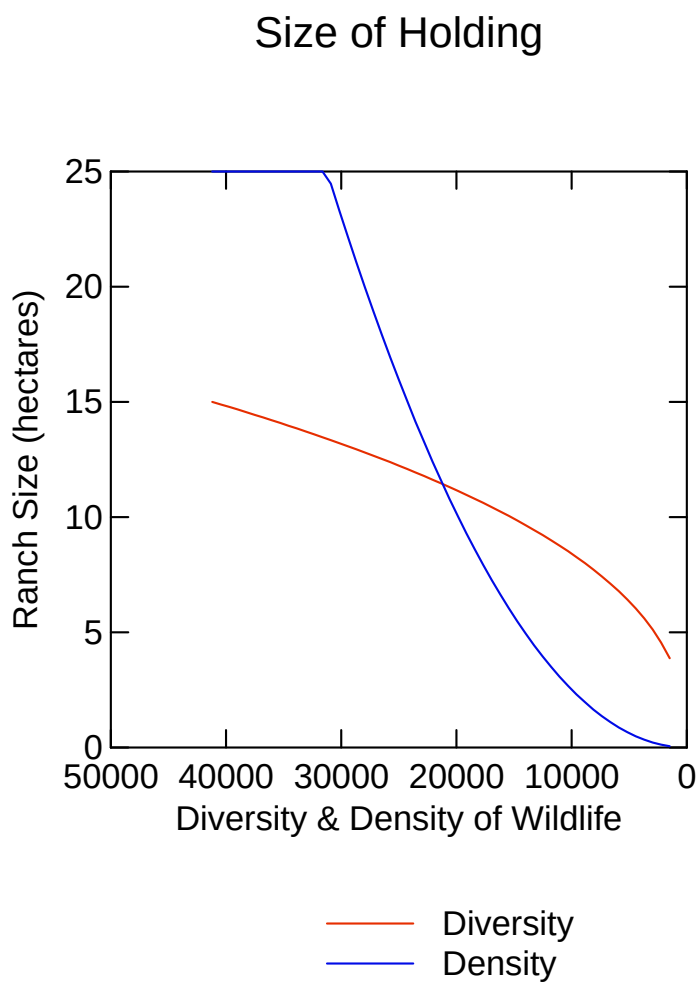
By 2004, many of these parcels were fenced, especially in urban and rural centres and along the highway. Most of the properties south of the park are not fenced purposely to have wildlife free to move. These land are under lease programme.

IMPACTS: Sub-Division

Influences on Wildlife Losses Size of Landholding

- For every % decrease in size of landholding:-

- 0.4% LOSS of diversity
- 2% LOSS of density



Main Drivers of Sub Division

Defensive

- To improve security of tenure
  - from corrupt group ranch committees
  - from political and economic elites
  - from conservation NGOs

- To prevent the further dilution of group or communally owned resources

Opportunistic

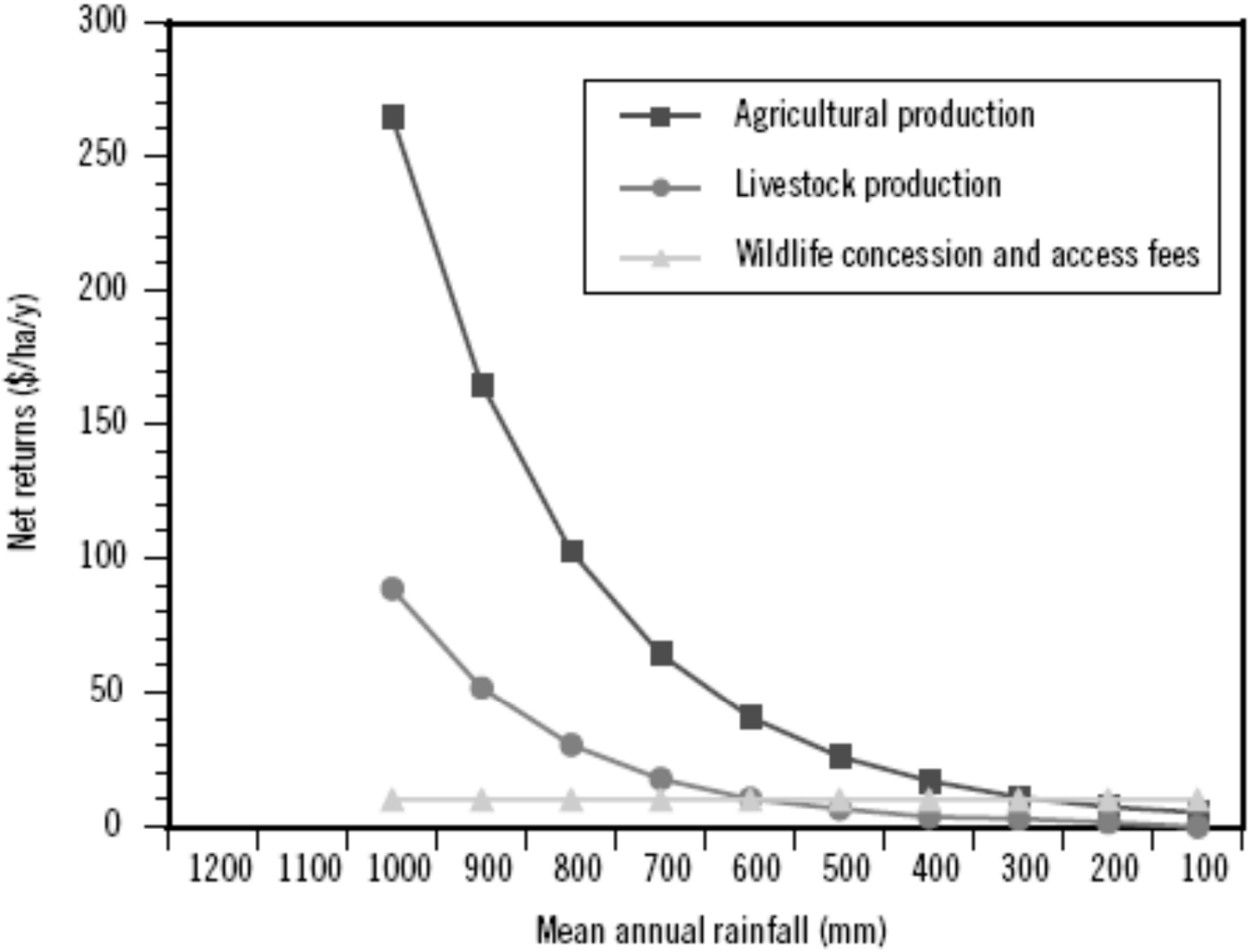
- To capture revenue streams
- To capture rising land values

Opportunistic Drivers of Sub-Division

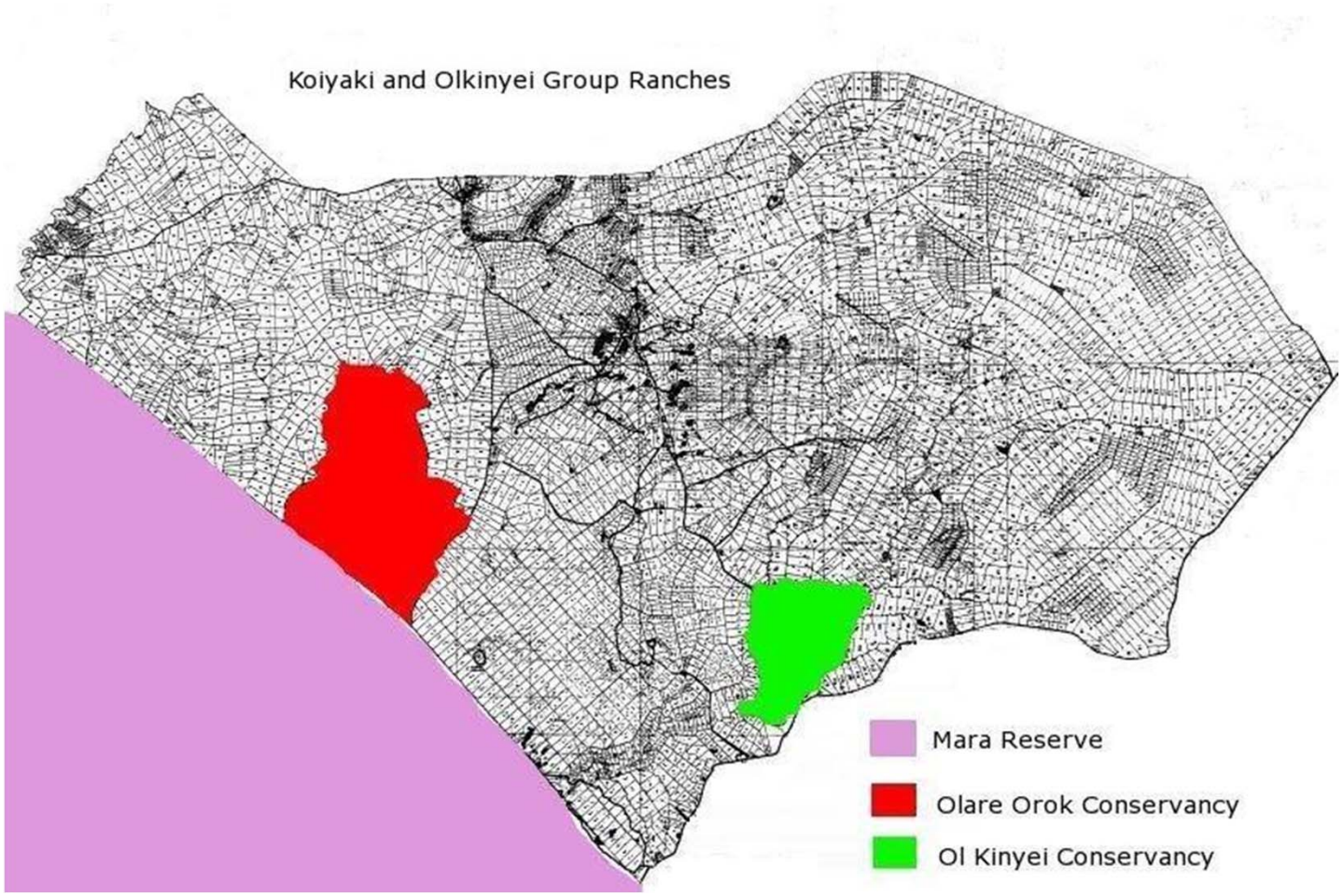
- **Opportunistic (1) - Capturing Revenue Streams**
  - To capture revenue streams from agricultural, livestock and wildlife production directly at the household level rather than through local institutions such as group ranch committees.
- **Opportunistic (2) - Capturing Rising Land Values**
  - Sub-divided land immediately acquires value to the owner and is now worth investing in.
  - Growth of urban markets creates a burgeoning demand for greater quantity and higher quality of production.
  - Sub-division requires production to be intensified: owners respond by investing in methods of higher intensity production, land values rise with such investment.
  - In peri-urban areas, the near exponential growth in the demand for land for domestic and commercial use triggers precipitous rise in land values, and land becomes completely dislinked from its agro-ecological potential.

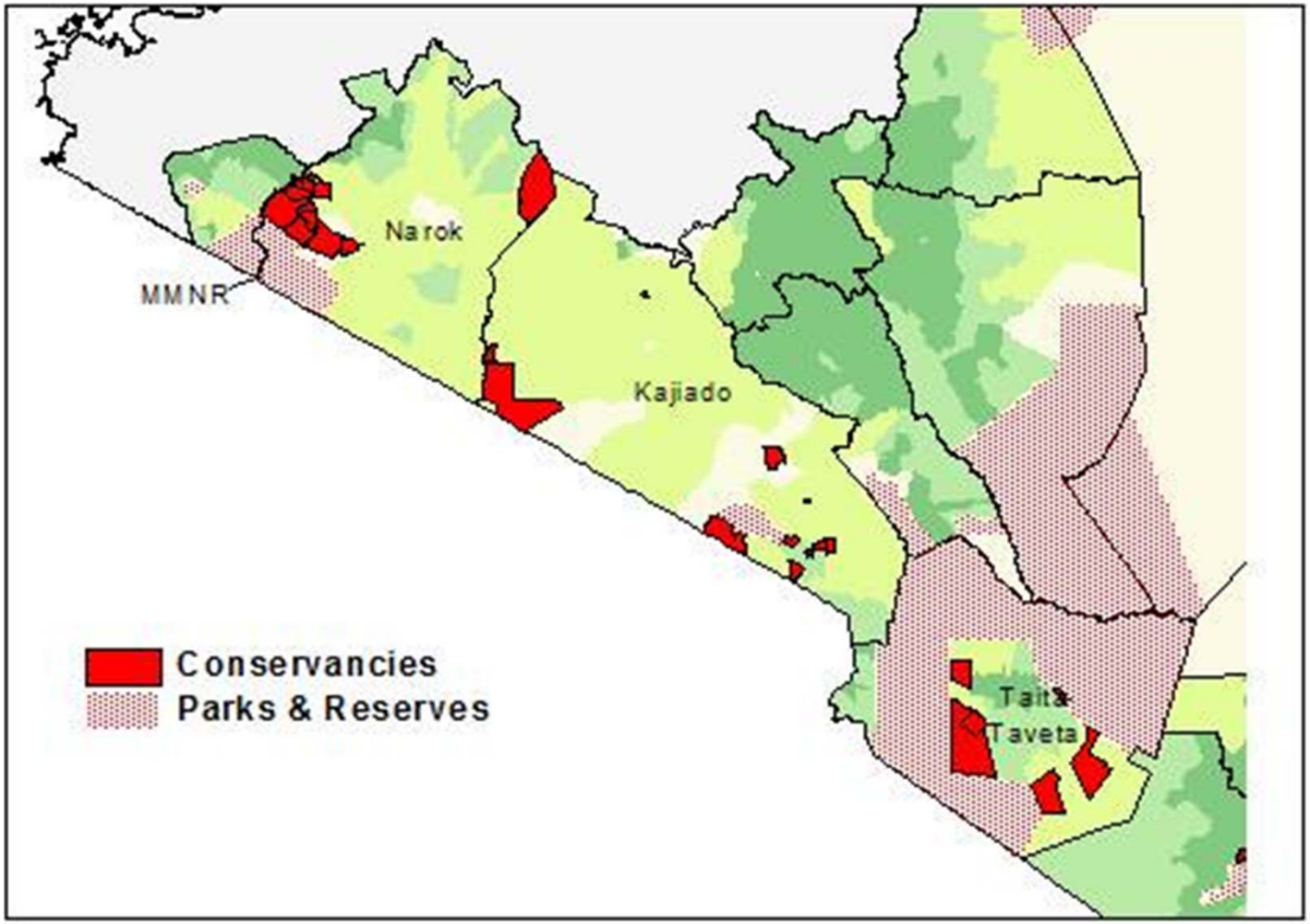
The New Conservancy Movement

Figure 3: Differential net returns to landowners ($ ha^{-1}y^{-1}) from agricultural, livestock and wildlife production



Property Rights




Narok
MMNR
Kajiado
Taita
Taveta
Conservancies
Parks & Reserves