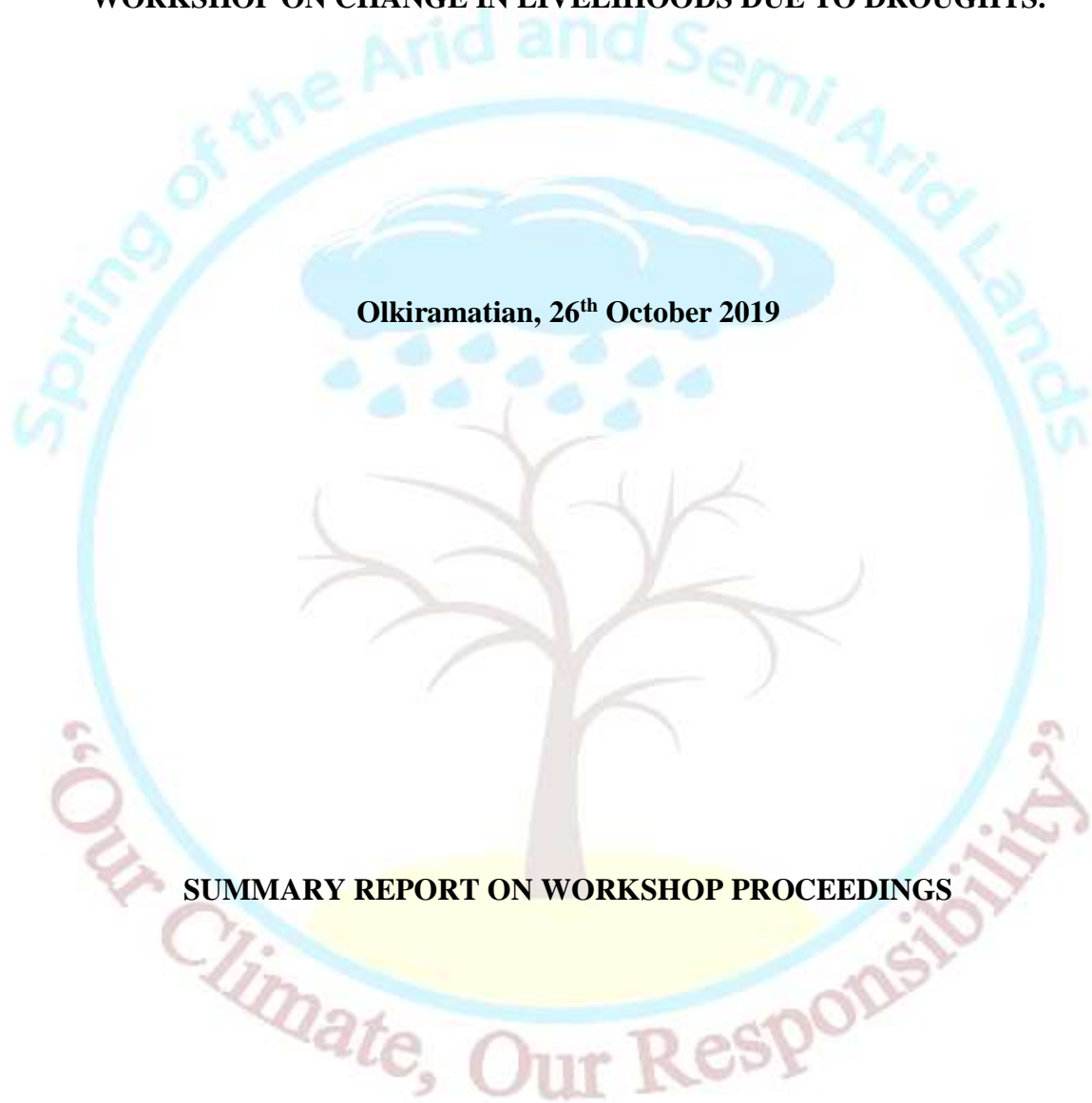


**WORKSHOP ON CHANGE IN LIVELIHOODS DUE TO DROUGHTS.**



**Olkiramatian, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**SUMMARY REPORT ON WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS**

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**(SASAL)**

## 1.0.Introduction

The livelihoods of most communities Living the ASAL regions of Kenya depend on rainfall. Consequently, the effects of climate variability and climate change create both risks and opportunities within these communities. By understanding these changes, creating an open mindset, diversifying livelihoods and adopting other risk transfer options such as insurance, the livelihoods of these communities will greatly improve.

The evidence and impacts of climate change in Kenya are clearly visible today in the form of increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as floods and drought; changes in rainfall patterns; and emergence of new and resistant animal and crop pests and diseases. Therefore, addressing climate variability and change is fundamental for the long-term success of development and its sustainability.

Although weather and climate information is provided by the Kenya Meteorological Department, it is evident that some communities do not have access to this vital information or they do not know how to interpret and apply the information in their day-to-day activities and therefore disasters hit them year in year out due to lack of preparedness. SASAL plans to address this through educational workshops at county and community levels as a means of awareness creation.

The theme for this year's event is **'Changes in livelihoods due to droughts.**

This theme was chosen to illustrate the reality of climate change. It highlights the effects if drought and the profound impact it has on livelihoods both negatively of positively.

### 1.1. Workshop Objectives

The workshop's aim was to create a forum through which participants and panelists would exchange knowledge on the effect of droughts to livelihoods and in the process come up with sustainable solutions that will bring evident and tangible change.

The main objective of the educational workshop was to build resilience of vulnerable communities to climate variability and climate change and in particular extreme weather events.

The specific objectives were:

- i) Teach attendees on the crucial nature of climate change
- ii) Provide a platform for attendees to share personal experiences on drought effects
- iii) Inspire attendees, to make their impact on the community in their various roles.
- iv) Work with the community to initiate climate action endeavors

### 2.0. Workshop Proceedings

The above workshop was held at the Assistant County Commissioner's Offices, Olkiramatian, Kajiado county Kenya on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019. In attendance were various stakeholders within the Olkiramatian community including the county administration, Community Elders, representatives from government parastatals, private ranches, among other groups. In detail, the participants were as follows:

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Participant</b>
Chiefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elijah Sereu</li><li>• Daniel Tipatet</li></ul>

Administrative officers	Erastus Buko
Kenya Wildlife Service	David Kirui
Olkiramatian Group ranch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joshua Sereu</li> <li>• Daniel Nteete</li> </ul>
Olkiramatian conservation	David Matayian
Olkiramatian women	60 Participants
Elders	Joseph Sirai Ikayo
SASAL Team	Manasiti Omar
Keynote speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Umulkheir Salah</li> <li>• Cynthia Wacuka</li> <li>• Steiner Sempeta</li> <li>• Anis Ibrahim</li> <li>• Samuel Munyere</li> </ul>

The workshop was facilitated by Samuel Munyere as the master of Ceremony.

## 2.1 Workshop Program

The workshop was split into three main sections namely:

- Exposition of the theme (Changes in livelihoods due to droughts)
- Keynote Addresses

- Group Activities based on the theme

In the first section, the workshop objectives and the theme of the day was introduced. Further, it's during this first part that SASAL, plus other organizations were introduced, and the purpose of their presence shared to the community. From the onset, multilingual communication was facilitated to encompass three languages, Maasai (the local dialect), Swahili and English. In this section, speeches from various participating groups and individuals were delivered including: the area chiefs, group ranch leaders, conservation chairman, district officer, KWS warden and the SASAL team.

In the **Second** section, two keynote addresses were delivered on the topics:

- “Livelihood changes and diversification” by Steiner Sempeta,
- “Mindset change” by Anis Ibrahim

Following these addresses, the community participants were split into 3 groups to facilitate focus group discussions. Within their groups, participants were asked to identify the changes they've experienced due to droughts over the past few years after which, each group also needed to list down the measures they thought needed to be done to rectify the situation and alleviate the effects of drought.

Finally, **third** section entailed a discussion arising from the findings of all three focus groups. Here, all the groups findings were carefully evaluated by all stakeholders, and the viability of each remedy analyzed.

Following these evaluation, two final keynote addresses were delivered by the SASAL team on the following areas:

- Risk Cushioning - Cynthia Wacuka
- Risk Transfer & Governance – Manasiti Omar

After the Keynote addresses, the floor was opened for questions, after which a vote of thanks was offered by the community elder Mr. Joseph Sirai and one of the Keynote speakers, Mr. Steiner Sempeta.

In detail, the workshop program proceeded as follows:

<b>Time</b>	<b>Program Activity</b>
8:20 – 9:30 am	Arrival & Registration
9:00 – 9:30 am	Introduction of the NGO and Workshop Theme
9:30 - 10:00 am	Health Break
10:00 - 10:30 am	Speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Elders</li> <li>• Chiefs</li> <li>• KWS Warden</li> <li>• District Officer</li> <li>• SASAL Team</li> </ul>
10:30 -12:00 am	Focus Group Discussions <i>(Changes in Livelihoods Due to Drought)</i>
12:00 – 1:00 am	Panel Discussions <i>(FGD's Mindset Change – Anis Ibrahim)</i>



13:00 – 02:00 am	<p>Key-Note Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Risk cushioning- Cynthia Wacuka</i></li> <li>• <i>Risk transfer Governance &amp; Meteorological Services – Manasiti Omar</i></li> </ul>
2:00 – 2:30 am	Vote of Thanks, Closing Ceremony

3.0. Workshop Findings

All through the workshop deliberations, various issues arose, from the speeches, keynote addresses and even focus groups. These findings are presented now, in the order through which they came about during the workshop proceedings

3.1. Livelihood changes due to droughts

The very first part of the workshop began with introductions, and a general discussion on what drought is, and how it comes about. The general results of the discussion revealed that drought had an overall negative impact on affected livelihoods, the accumulation of wealth, and alleviation of death.

In the first session, the speaker divided the participants into 3 groups and conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on the various livelihood changes experienced by the participants as well as remedies actionable that have been/or should be put in place to help ease the blow.

Following these group discussions, the groups re-assembled to listen to the findings and submissions for each group, with a representative from each group submitting their group’s deliberations. Some of the findings noted on how livelihoods had changed because of drought included:

- Death of livestock
- Lack of water
- Lack of food
- Human wildlife conflict
- School drop outs
- Increase in temperature

With these effects, all three focus groups also suggested some interventions. Some of these included;

- Tree planting
- Destocking
- Education/knowledge creation
- Well digging
- Diversification of livelihoods
- Water harvesting

### 3.2. Mindset Change

Following the group discussions, there was a keynote address touching on what the group discussions had covered by Mr. Anis Ibrahim. Mr. Ibrahim talked of the workshop's theme with regards to the communities he had interacted with over the course of his field work as a researcher. He, however, that this was his first time interacting with the Maasai community and how great an honor it was.

Anis spoke at length on the need to remain open minded so as to welcome new ideas. Such a mindset would prove invaluable to tackling climate change and its consequences including the recurrent droughts that have become common place. As such droughts continued to put the



Olkiramatian community's main source of livelihood at risk. Mr. Ibrahim noted that it was essential that the community adopt other means of survival engaging in such business.

Some of the main factors noted during this keynote address provided a rich fertile ground for mindset change included:

- The idea that more herds of cattle translated to greater wealth. The Maasai community have continued to associate cattle numbers with wealth, disregarding other factors such as the breed and health of the actual heard.
- Disposing of livestock is considered with getting poor. The Maa community continue to associate selling of livestock with getting poor. Not only is this wrong, but it hampers destocking efforts even when the isn't enough pasture, due to drought, to sustain a larger herd.

These were some of the aspects noted during the interactive session. The need for sensitization seminars to slowly deviate this thinking is much needed.

#### 4.0. The Next Steps

##### 4.1. Risk transfer and Governance

The last part of the workshop centered around identifying the next steps to take to enable better resilience of communities to the effects of drought, even as moves to regenerate the environment and counter the effects of climate change. in this session, under the facilitation of Ms. Manasiti Omar, the community was taken through various measures they could take to immediately counter the risks that come with prolonged drought and better prepare for the same. These measures included;

- Access to meteorological forecasts
- Understanding of the forecasts

- Views on the current forecasts

While traditional weather forecasting measures implemented, such as the identifying of some insects and birds to signify the start of a rainy season, these were no longer reliable due to climate change. With the prevailing shorter rain seasons, and prolonged dry, drought sessions, it was essential that the community make use of the science available through the meteorological services. Ms. Omar explained that these services were readily available, and by understanding the forecast reports they submitted, the community would better anticipate and prepare for each season, come rain, come sunshine.

Further other methods were suggested to alleviate risks associated with drought and these methods included:

- Livestock insurance
- Methods used to transfer risks

Feedback from those participating in the workshop revealed that they were already keen on accessing weather forecasts and their main source of such information was through listening to the local radio station, 'Sidai FM.' According to the community members in attendance, these forecasts, although regular, were often unreliable as they would report, normally did not come to pass. As a result, the community was less inclined to rely on these forecasts to plan for the future, and instead lived in the present, relying more on the previously noted climate seasons despite the onset of climate change.

Furthermore, the distance from Olkiramatian and the nearest Kenya meteorological department offices made access to more detailed forecasts a significant challenge to overcome.

#### 4.2. Traditional vs Modern Risk Management Measures

Currently, the community still makes use of the old ways of risk transfer as passed down by previous generations. These methods often involve the killing weak animals and/or calves to protect the weak and breastfeeding cows. Herd splitting is also practiced, whereby family members split up the cattle with each going in different directions in search of pasture for the herd assigned.

Towards adoption of new ways of risk mitigation, the community was introduced to livestock insurance by Ms. Manasiti Omar. The community participants present noted that this was still a new concept that they still didn't fully understand. This state of affairs was rather unfortunate as the area chiefs noted that the concept had been introduced to the Olkiramatian community previously. The participants, however, expressed willingness to embrace the idea as a drought adaptation measure, should more information be made available to them on how the process would work.

Following the additional questions posed on livestock insurance, and the information gap identified the SASAL team promised to conduct further research and inquiries on the same to determine among other issues:

- The Insurance providers offering livestock insurance
- The Insurance packages available
- The Current penetration rate
- The average premiums charged
- The duration of the cover
- The Claims process
- The Pre-qualifications to be insured

Ms. Manasiti Omar promised to give her feedback on the above as soon as she completed her research including the information gathering and data analysis. She also noted with profound appreciation the community's willingness to embrace livestock insurance as a protection measure against loss of livestock during drought.

#### 5.0. Conclusions

At the end of the workshop the group discussed what they wanted to do next in terms of building climate resilience. Some of the suggestions put forward included:

- More workshops and conferences to help the community understand climate change more
- Tree planting
- Destocking
- Livestock insurance
- SASAL to help the community understand Weather forecasts.

As the SASAL team we remain committed to helping take action along the recommendations given. We are also full of hope that our efforts will bear positive effects in the fulness of time, for the community members present, local administration, and private entity partners are all on board and committed to the cause.

**SASAL**

***Our Climate, Our Responsibility***