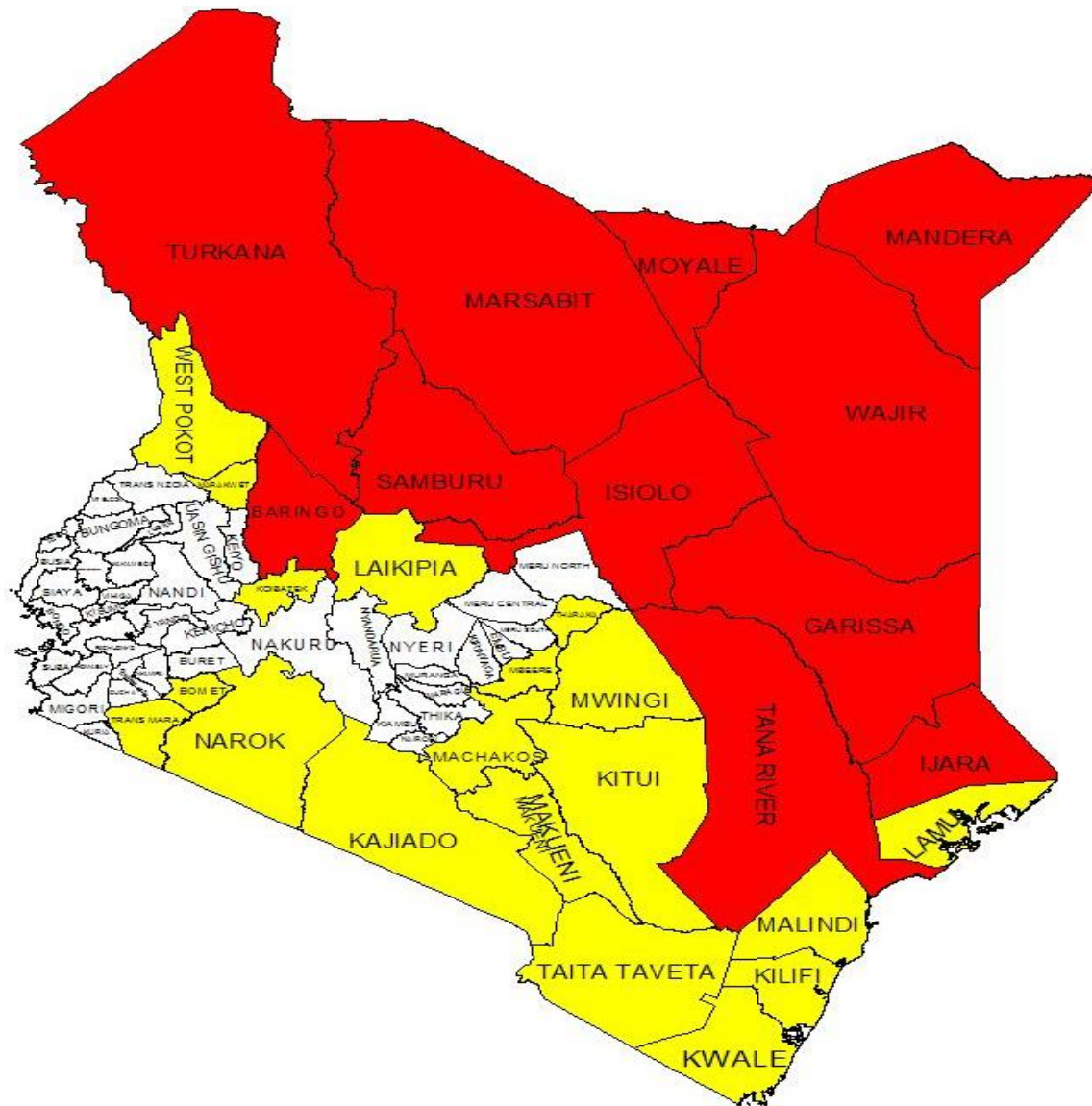




# Biocultural Protocols (Kenya)

By

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# Introduction

- Kenya is a reservoir of AnGR with considerable diversity between and within species.
- The environments where AnGR are kept as well as production systems are equally diverse
- Only about 14 mammalian and avian species used for food and agriculture.
  - Cattle, Camels, Sheep, goats, Chicken, pigs, honey bees, rabbits etc.
- Other than Pigs and Rabbits, most of these species are indigenous to Kenya

# Contribution of livestock

- AnGR Contributes significantly as the main source of livelihoods, poverty alleviation and overall socio-economic development in the country
- 12% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP);
- 40% to the agricultural GDP. Meat production leads other products in agricultural GDP.
- 50% of agricultural labour force;

## Cont.

- 80% of the country is ASALs where 60% of livestock is found, supporting over 10 million people as the only source of livelihood.
- Main Challenge today is to enhance the management of the AnGR in order to achieve sustainable increases and self sufficiency in animal products
- Key feature of sustainable mgt is appropriate utilisation practices that would naturally conserve the resources for posterity

## BCP in Conservation

The Biocultural protocol assist the communities in the following ways:-

- Increase of awareness on issues affecting livestock keepers and their breeds especially.
- Inspire the livestock keepers to start thinking of what to do in order to continue playing their role as custodians and engage with the other stakeholders

## Cont.

- The BCP is serving as an example of a tool for the outside world (researchers, policy makers) to engaged with the local livestock keepers in issues affecting the conservation and sustainable utilization of local livestock breeds
- Use of the BCP as a learning tool for young people to appreciate the indigenous breeds
- Use of the BCP to inform the world of their (community) existence and their contribution global biodiversity.
- To scale up the protocol to other indigenous groups who keep the indigenous breeds

# Samburu Cultural Protocol

This has enabled the Samburus to

- Understand the role of breeds in Samburu culture
- Establish significance of their way of life and value of their indigenous breeds
- Understand that they have a right to maintain their way of life
- What terms they will permit activities to be undertaken with their resources – land, I AnGR and TK
- Understand their challenges
- Pass a message to the government and researchers



## Earlier government policies

- Emphasis on productivity – The government for a long time only emphasized on crossing of indigenous breeds with exotic breeds to increase productivity of local breeds. This is changing as the approach is to help the communities have conservation programmes even if they are upgrading.

## Current initiatives

- National advisory committee on AnGR has been established in the country- coordinates AnGR activities
- Proposals have been developed to help in promotion of indigenous breeds– Red Maasai sheep, Indigenous chicken- submitted to FAO and other possible donors-

# Conclusion

- Documentation of indigenous knowledge on livestock breeds and breeding practices in the different communities is paramount
- Identification and characterization of all existing livestock breeds, with particular emphasis on the respective environment in which these animals are kept should be undertaken.
- Provision of incentives to the local livestock breeders especially pastoralists and the marginal farmers.

## Cont.

- The development, by governments, of strategies for utilizing local breeds in cross breeding programmes, in environments where such genotypes can be sustainably used.