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The Nature Conservancy

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AFRICA KENYA AND TANZANIA

Eastern and southern Africa's grasslands and savannas have been shaped over millions of years by volcanoes, seasonal droughts and fires, millions of grazing animals, and human activities. Wildlife and people coexist today as they have for centuries. Seventy percent of Africa's wildlife is found not in parks but in lands where people have lived for millennia. Most of these citizens are utterly dependent upon nature for basic survival. Covering more than 60 percent of Africa, communal lands are of paramount importance to both nature and people. They are the connective tissue between national parks and other protected areas that enable movement of wildlife such as elephants and zebras. The semi-nomadic Maasai people have lived in East Africa for hundreds of years. In traditional Maasai society, a man's wealth is measured by the number of cattle he owns, and tilling land for crops is considered a crime against nature. For herders in Kenya's arid rangelands, cattle are both an income and a savings account.

Threats to this region's grasslands include climate change, drought, and conflict. Work is underway, through a strong network of partners, to protect Africa's grasslands and savannas.

Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

OPPOSITE PAGE: AFRICAN GRASSLANDS
Morgan Trimble