



EWASO NYIRO CAMEL CARAVAN CONCEPT PAPER:

Involving the local communities in advocating for intercommunity Peaceful coexistence and Ewaso Nyiro River Ecosystem conservation



Background

IMPACT's mandate [v.] states that strengthening community climate change, adaptation, resilience ecosystem and landscapes management and restoration, camel caravan aims at advocating for peace, conservation and wellbeing of the rights of the indigenous communities. In the past few years, we have been concerned about how best to advocate for peaceful coexistence and conservation of Ewaso Nyiro River. To sufficiently influence policy makers, these indigenous communities need to be educated on the issues and involved in advocating for their rights. The Ewaso Nyiro Camel Caravan is held every year to raise awareness of the challenges facing the communities living downstream, this is a five day trekking along the Ewaso Nyiro Ecosystem interacting with the local communities promoting coexistence and equitable sharing of the scarce resources. As the theme of this year 2nd -9th of August states '**Saving Ewaso Nyiro-Promoting Cohesion and Securing Livelihoods of Communities in the Ewaso Ecosystem**', we aim to raise awareness on the need to conserve Ewaso Nyiro River being the main source of water in

the semi arid region of Kenya mainly occupied by the pastoralists. Water volume has recorded a steady decline and at times dried up completely at some section resulting to bloody conflicts among the herders as competition for the limited resources intensifies. The unregulated extraction of water by the farming community upstream has contributed largely to the drying up of the river.

Objectives of the event

The purpose of this yearly activity is to;

- To create awareness on the importance to conserve water catchment areas.
- To create a platform for the indigenous communities to interact and embrace cultural diversity.
- To bring different stakeholders and other government policy makers together.
- To identify peace strategies that will help in mitigation of conflicts among the pastoralists communities.

The buildup activities

Before the start of the event, we will need to

- ❖ Site visit to identify and engage peace ambassadors from Ewaso, Oldonyiro, Kipsing, Westgate and Archers communities.
- ❖ Formation of peace committee for planning, contact and information sharing.
- ❖ Organize women and youth peace dialogue meetings to promote, encourage their participation and appreciate their role in peace building.
- ❖ Organize all inclusive community awareness meeting.
- ❖ Caravan planning meetings and distribution of roles and responsibilities, route identification and confirmation, security planning etc.

This activity will end on the 9th day of August where all the people converge at Archers Post which is the central position, there will be a cultural activity comprising of people from different ethnic communities showcasing their traditional heritage.

Actual Activities during the 5 days walk;

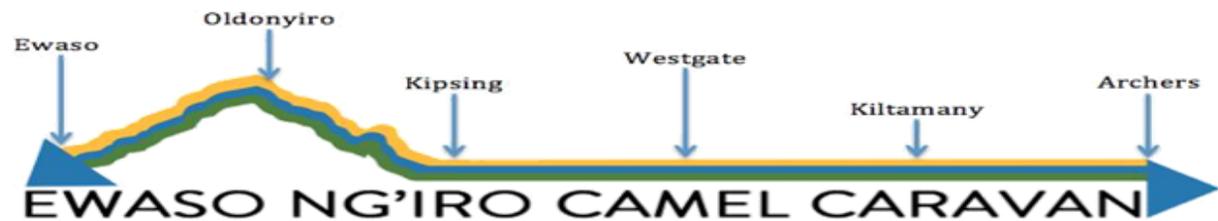
1. To facilitate establishment of a community owned platform where communities can engage, learn and exchange experiences through grass roots inter community dialogue forum, meetings, cultural dialogue and traditional dances;
2. Hire camels from a resident herder/owner –who is also a water and environment champion
3. Enable communities express themselves in their own – in that way , answering - what does the Ewaso Ng'iro River, Basin and Bio cultural landscape mean “us”(Turkana, Maasai, Samburu, Somali, Rendile, Borana)
4. Preaching peaceful co-existence along the main river and its tributaries by organising grassroots meeting with women, youth and men from the Maasai, Samburu ,Borana and the Turkana who all share the Ewaso-Ngiro water as an important resource.
5. Daily Camping Activities: evening discussions, interactions and cultural dances/expressions with the host communities on the history and challenges the community has faced through in regard to protection of Ewaso-Nyiro River Ecosystem.

6. Sharing information about the Isiolo Mega Dam and LAPSSET and their potential impact of ecosystem and livelihoods
7. Produce Information, Education and Communication materials(Caps, Banners, T shirts, post cards) with key messages about the issues of concern.
8. Final Days- Communities meet with government

Output

The collaboration of IMPACT, Isiolo Peace Link, IPL, MID-P, Kivulini (and perhaps other partners) will enable successful planning and coordination. Teamwork will result to attainment of the event's objectives which will directly impact the indigenous people, their families and make a difference in their lives for years to come. The involvement of informed, concerned stakeholders will influence policy makers and help to make needed action in conserving Ewaso Nyiro River as well as ensuring there is serene environment for development to thrive.

Route;



For more information kindly feel free to contact:

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