



Trip Report

Project: Sustainable Management of Watersheds (SUMAWA)

Travelers Siân Mooney, University of Wyoming

Location (s): Egerton/Eldoret

Dates of Travel: Sept 13, 2005 – Sept 30, 2005

Purpose of Trip: The general purpose of the trip was to meet with the applied economics team. Specific goals were to review activities and progress by the Kenyan and US team members over the past year; identify, discuss and work to resolve any problems or research impediments experienced by team members; plan for future joint research activities.

Dr. Mooney identified several specific objectives that she would like to pursue during her visit to the project. These were:

1. Meet with Dr. D. Ouma to exchange information on current status of project activities within the US and Kenya as well as future work plans.
 - a. In particular discussion of future livestock survey within the Njoro watershed – if possible make this a working meetings to identify goals/objectives of survey; consider draft questions; address survey administration.
 - b. Discuss final GPS needs for household survey
 - c. Resource needs/problems/impediments
2. Visit the pond aquaculture site that was established at Egerton University since her last visit. In addition to a site visit, discuss issues/further steps with personnel involved in the pond aquaculture project. Particular emphasis on identifying any remaining economic analysis needs, as well as becoming familiar with any economic analyses completed or in progress.
3. Re-visit watershed with Dr. D. Ouma to discuss and view current land use land use. In particular identify any major land use changes or trends in land use that are emerging in addition to any new trends in production within the watershed as well as any other issues of importance.
4. Meet with M.Sc students working on projects related to SUMAWA. Discuss project progress, status, impediments and future plans/steps/needs.
5. Meet with Drs. Gideon Obare and Shem Ouma, both Ph.D. economists, to identify interest and ability of either economist to join/continue participating in SUMAWA project.

Travel details:

Travel schedule (generalized)

1. Sept 13th, 2005 leave US and travel to UK
2. Sept 14th, 2005 personal time with my sister and mother in UK
3. Sept 21st, 2005 leave UK (9:45am) –Meet with Scott Miller on Flight – arrive Nairobi 10:45pm
Taxi to Barbie Allen's house 14 Bendera Lane, Westlands
4. Sept 22nd, 2005 – leave Barbie Allen's house, pick up rental vehicle - travel to Nakuru with Scott Miller.



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5. Sept 22nd, 2005 meetings with Semenye, Shivoga, Scott Miller and local water resource personnel in afternoon. Depart Nakuru by car and arrive at Egerton ARC approx 4:30pm
6. Sept 23rd – visit fish aquaculture site; confirm meetings for following week.
7. Sept 24th – Hydrology gauges with Scott Miller, Semenye and Shivoga.
8. Sept 26th, 2005 – visit Njoro watershed w. Dr. D. Ouma.
9. Sept 27th, 2005 - Travel to Moi University – visit pond aquaculture.
9. Sept 29th, 2005 – Return to Nairobi by car and then flight to London
10. Sept 30th, 2005 – Flight from London and return to US.

Specific Details :

1. Sept 22nd – Nairobi – Nakuru - Egerton

a) 8.30am (approx) leave Barbie Allen's house and pick up rental car with Scott Miller

b) 12:30pm (approx) – arrive Nakuru and meet with Akula, Semenye, Shivoga, Scott Miller at Merica Hotel

Activities

- General greetings
- Discussion of meeting later that afternoon with Eng. Matagaro, Water Resource Management Authority.

Outcomes

- Prepared for meeting that followed

c) 2:00pm to 3:00pm (approx) – Nakuru. Meet with Engineer Matagaro (CEO Water Resource Management Authority), Scott Miller, Paterson Semenye and William Shivoga.

Activities

- General introductions
- Provide MOU to Matagaro indicating intention of SUMAWA project and Water Resource Management Authority to collaborate on water resource issues within the Njoro watershed.
- Discussion of SUMAWA project and areas for possible collaboration
- Discussion of new water provision infrastructure/institutional structure within Kenya

Outcomes

- Familiarization of team with capacity available in Eng Matagaro's office and identification of possible sources of overlapping interest.

d) 4:00pm onwards – check in at ARC, settle in room and dinner later with Scott Miller and Steve Hockett.

Friday September 23rd – Trip to aquaculture “ponds” at Egerton, organization of meetings for following week, evening meeting with Mr. GikwaMet with Ouma and Habel – field trip to the watershed (9am-4pm)

Activities

a) 9:00am to 10:30am - SUMAWA office . Worked on meeting schedule for following week.

Unfortunately the e-mail containing the list of meetings I wished to have arranged and items I wanted to discuss did not make it to the SUMAWA office and no-one had arranged meetings for me. The morning



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was spent working with Mary to set up the meetings I wished to have with project personnel for the following week.

Outcomes

- A meeting agenda for the following week and the remainder of the day

b) 11:00am to 12:30pm (approx) – visit to aquaculture site at Egerton University with Steve Hockett, Akula and Habel

Activities

- Viewed aquaculture pond structures
- Discussed construction/problems with water retention/possible future steps
- Took photographs for future reference

Outcomes

- Understanding of:
 - existing problems with pond aquaculture sites
 - range of possible future steps
- Identified economic costs of implementing pond aquaculture in the region had not been identified/calculated. Study team had stated they would collect detailed cost data as the sites were constructed however no data was formally collected.

c) 2:00pm-4:30pm approx Meeting with Steve Hockett

General purpose of the meeting was to hear about Steve's project, possible future directions and clarify that he could call on me for assistance with the economic aspects of his projects when needed.

d) 4:30-5:15pm Meet with Dr. D. Ouma

Activities

- Discuss dates/times/topics for economics team meetings the following week

Outcomes

- Clarification of tasks, meeting participants and purpose of several meetings with economics team planned for the following week.

e) 7pm onward – Dinner at Merica Hotel, Nakuru with Mr. Gikwa, Scott Miller and Gichaba.

Saturday Sept 24 and Sunday Sept 25 – Personal time

Trip to Masai Mara with Scott Miller, William and Anne Shivoga and Steven Hockett.

Monday September 26

a) Field trip to Njoro watershed with Dr. D. Ouma, Eric Bett and Habel (9am-1pm)

Activities

Travel to different sites within the watershed with view to examining "newer" land use and farming practices that have become more common within the watershed over the last 18 months. In particular I was interested to visit the areas that have seen an increase in land leasing activities for larger scale mechanized wheat production. I also wished to meet with and talk to some of the watershed leaders and local residents to talk about their impressions of changes in farming practices and the factors that were driving these



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changes. Over the course of the morning in the watershed I met with the Chief at the village of Nessuit, the headmaster at Sigeon primary school and a group of field laborers that were hand weeding a wheat crop.

Outcomes

- Saw and documented photographically the expansion of mechanized wheat production within the watershed
- Verbal discussion with Nessuit Chief of how leasing contracts were structured between the entities cultivating the land and the small scale landowners and some of the difficulties involved for local people when contracting (e.g. little experience of contracts). In addition we discussed how some of the entities cultivated as close to the river as possible and did not leave a buffer strip.
- Familiarization with outreach programs undertaken by Sigeon Primary school both at parent/teacher days and on a longer term basis. The school is making an effort to teach parents (and students) about the importance of hand washing, how to build a pit latrine, importance of not defecating in the river and has established a small nursery to provide seedlings to local farmers to help prevent soil erosion (and supply a source of lumber).

b) 2:30pm-4:00pm Meet with Economics team – Dr. D. Ouma, Njeri Muhia and Eric Bett at SUMAWA office

Activities

The purpose of this meeting was primarily information exchange, discussion of progress on different projects, discussion of future livestock survey.

- Dr. Mooney provided an update on data cleaning and re-entry activities that are being undertaken on the household survey data in the US.
- Dr. D. Ouma and Njeri Muhia discussed activities of the Kenyan economics team over the past year
- Discussion of future research activities proposed by the all counterparts of the economics team.
- Discussion of future livestock survey within the watershed (D. Ouma, Mooney, Muhia, Bett and Semenye)
- General discussion on good survey practice, instrument design, structure of code books and data entry (Mooney).

Outcomes

- Mooney made it clear that the cleaned and recoded data set would be provided to researchers at Egerton as soon as data cleaning and re-entry was complete.
 - Mooney indicated that there were some households with missing GPS locations within the dataset and agreed to provide D. Ouma with this list so the households could be re-GPSed.
- Agreement that better communication between US and Kenyan team members would be helpful. With provision of the new wireless modem cards to Kenyan team members, internet access is expected to be more reliable and easier to come by and should facilitate greater communication.
- Mooney discussed status of progress on economic modeling of land use in watershed and indicated that once the household data set was clean that modeling could commence.
- D. Ouma and Njeri Muhia discussed activities of Kenyan portion of economics team over the last year. Essentially no new activities had been undertaken which was attributed to project restructuring



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over the past year. Data had not been collected for an economic analysis of construction and operation of the aquaculture sites.

- D. Ouma and Njeri Muhia discussed potential RAPs for the following year – however it was unclear whether they had submitted them in time for funding in the budget (further discussion with Scott Miller suggested that none of the RAPs had been submitted prior to the budget deadline).
- Mooney discussed with entire economics team possible ways to streamline survey instrument design, development of code sheets and data entry for future surveys based on her experience cleaning the previous household survey data set and implementing several recent survey for other projects.
 - Provided materials that discussed instrument design and general good practice guidelines for surveys as well as a copy of a survey instrument developed for a recent livestock producer survey in Wyoming to the rest of the team.
- Discussed future livestock survey – stressed importance of identifying objectives of survey before developing questions and survey instrument. Team could not clearly articulate objectives of survey – recognition that discussions with other component teams were required.
 - D. Ouma identified that Kibichii (one of the former students on the project) had offered to provide contact with persons that had experience or anecdotal evidence of activities of transient livestock within the watershed.
 - D. Ouma indicated he would follow up with Kibichii.

Tuesday September 27 – All day visit to Moi – courtesy visit Drs. S. Miller, S. Mooney, P. Semenyé and Sangam

Activities

- Meet with Mucharia for discussion of SUMAWA project
- Courtesy visit with Dean of Forestry at Moi University – general introduction of SUMAWA project, personnel, reiterate commitment and interest to work in a collaborative role with the University.
- Visit with Dr. Leti – general discussion of pond aquaculture program at Moi and discussion of aquaculture activities at Egerton and ways to mitigate problems of ponds not holding water.
- Visit to hatchery
- Site visit to aquaculture ponds at Moi university

Outcomes

- Familiarization of activities at Moi (I had not visited Moi previously)
- Dr. Leti agreed to make previous economic analyses of pond aquaculture available to me.
- Photographic record of hatchery facilities and aquaculture ponds.

Wednesday September 28

a) 9:00am-11:30am Meet with students Anthony Murithi and Eric Bett

Activities

- Meet with each student individually
- Ask each student to summarize project, status of project to date, future steps, identify and impediments to progress that each student has encountered.



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Outcomes

- Better idea of what each student student was working on and how each project related to SUMAWA
- Got to know each student better
- Impediments the students identified were lack of computer facilities, lack of internet, inadequate access to faculty time.

b) Remainder of day worked on additional materials concerning questionnaire design etc to give to the economics teamActivities

- Summarized main points of several reports/papers dealing with survey instrument design and good practice for questionnaire design.

Outcome

- Summary paper that could be provided to economics team

Thursday September 29th – Morning meetings then travel to Nairobi to catch plane back to USa) 9:00am -10:00am Meet with D. Ouma and Njeri Muhia to tie up loose ends

Unfortunately Njeri Muhia was unable to attend meeting.

Activities

- Discussed future steps for livestock survey with D. Ouma and need for greater communication between team members
- Provided D. Ouma with document on questionnaire design and good survey practice that was prepared the previous day
- Discussed equipment/software needs for the team

Outcomes

- D. Ouma indicated that lack of software and hardware were problematic
 - Mooney was tasked with discussing needs with S. Miller
 - SPSS 13 was subsequently bought for the team – no additional hardware purchased at this time.

b) 10:00am -11:00am – meet with Dr. Gideon Obare (Head of agricultural economics program)Activities

Dr. Obare had been contacted last year and agreed to participate as an economist on the SUMAWA project – however since his agreement the project had been on hold and no contract was put in place to formalize his participation. The purpose of this meeting was:

- Poll Dr. Obare as to his time availability and willingness to join the SUMAWA project this year.

Outcomes

- Dr. Obare has taken on a greater administrative burden over the past year and agreed that it was unlikely he could commit to playing an integral role in the SUMAWA project. This is very unfortunate as he is an individual with a good skill set well suited to the project.
- Dr. Obare agreed to work with me to provide advice on local economic conditions etc to the extent that he was able.



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c) 2pm- onward – travel to Nairobi - Meet with Dr. Shem Ouma in Nairobi to solicit his degree of interest/availability in continuing to work on SUMAWA project

- Unfortunately an electrical problem with the hire car slowed the journey to Nairobi and we were unable to meet.

d) Evening – arrival at Nairobi airport and catch flight to US.