

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Perceptions of resilience, collective action and natural resources management in socio-ecological production landscapes in East Africa			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
Bioversity International			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
National Museums of Kenya; Arizona State University; National Agricultural Research Organization; Graduate Program in Ecology and Biodiversity; São Paulo State University (UNESP)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
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Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Climate change, natural resources management, socio-ecological production landscapes, biodiversity, perceptions of resilience			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		30 October 2018	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>		https://www.bioversityinternational.org/	

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Uganda, Tanzania									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Central Region, Uganda; Tanga Region, Tanzania									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
-0.716667,31.4 (Uganda); -4.7986111,38.2880891 (Tanzania) https://www.google.com/maps/@-4.7986111,38.2880891,6z									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
The study was carried out in Yamba and Kwang’wenda, two representative villages of the Lushoto district of the Tanga region in Tanzania, and in Kiganda and Gosola, two villages of the Rakai district in the Kyovu Parish, in Lwanda Sub-county of Uganda. Rakai and Lushoto are ecologically similar in many aspects. The Sambia, the dominant tribe in Lushoto, and the Baganda tribe of Rakai are predominantly farmers, with livestock keeping in both cases as a minor occupation.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
Yamba is representative of forest-edge villages with high resource diversity. Around the center of Yamba village, the population density is high, and the land is highly cultivated. Kwang’wenda is representative of villages with relatively fewer resources and with little or no influence on forests. Kiganda and Gosola, in Rakai, are located on the inland part of the western shores of Lake Victoria, Southern Uganda, and share a similar nearly flat landscape interspersed by small hills, forming two highly cultivated landscapes, separated by a straight distance of about five kilometers.									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	04/2014 – 10/2014
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i>)			
As climatic events become more severe, well-managed ecosystems such as forests or wetlands can buffer many flood and tidal events, landslides and storms. However, many of the SEPLS that integrate these ecosystems are comprised by so-called "common-pool natural resources", including forests, pastures, water systems, fisheries and biodiversity. Natural resources are commonly threatened by a number of factors such as population pressure, expansion of agriculture and unsustainable agricultural and rangeland practices.			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i>)			
Identifying local perceptions regarding (a) the contribution of natural resources to local farmers' livelihoods, and how farmers, in turn, contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of these natural resources, (b) landscape threats and resilience, and (c) major causes of the identified threats and possible local solutions for mitigating them, in four study sites located in Uganda and Tanzania.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
A series of participatory exercises aiming at elucidating the range of perceptions of landscape resilience in the four communities were held in May and October 2014. The participants of each community were identified by a local coordinator and gathered at a central location in the village for focus group discussions. In addition, Social network data was collected through personal interviews to identify social ties. Two surveys were conducted: a household survey, and a meso-level expert survey. The surveys were designed to explore farmers' communication with experts and other farmers as well and recorded data on farmers' access to and participation in sustainable natural resources management and their perceptions about related policies.			
Results			
The four studied communities shared similar concerns about the decrease in accessibility to the natural resources and, as a result, to about their increasing dependence on the market. Only one of the communities presented a relatively high level of confidence in their landscape and considered that its status would improve in the future. In the four communities there was very little communication among farmers and the cooperation between farmers and local and district stakeholders was rather limited. Farmers did not seek much information concerning conservation and use of natural resources and very few of them were aware of the existence of government programs regulating natural resources management. The study sites were found to be experiencing a progressive degradation of their natural resources.			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
Despite the widespread concern existing among the members of the four communities, we found the existence of only weak local collective action initiatives related to natural resources management in the study sites. Presumably, the widespread feeling of lack of control over the natural resources of the studied communities, together with the particular institutional settings and the absence of local initiatives, have contributed to a situation in which natural resources are under threat, subject to overharvesting, land conversion and underinvestment.			
Key messages			
The creation of spaces for informed, public discussion aimed at making the institutional context more favourable for the creation and coordination of community groups and at enhancing their interaction, would contribute to a wider movement of knowledge and social exchange. This, in turn, could ultimately result in the creation of local initiatives aimed at the conservation of natural resources.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
This case study originally appeared in the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review v. 4.			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			
The authors are grateful to CCAFS for providing financial support to this research.			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
■				■		■			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
■			■	■				●	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

	■						■	
	■	■			■			