

Project Update: September 2016

Studying lion-hyaena interactions alongside cattle depredation by large carnivores in Samburu County, as originally proposed, was found not to be feasible after actual reconnaissance surveys on the ground. Lions generally seem not to occur in prides in Samburu, but as loose coalitions and occur mainly within the Samburu Reserve and its immediate environs. Hyaenas in Samburu on the other hand, tend to occur more on community conservancies and less within the Samburu Reserve. Therefore, trying to focus on limited and/or rare actual encounters between the two carnivore species, gathering enough data, and making credible conclusions concerning their interactions within a backdrop of human-carnivore conflict and within limited time and field resources, is not pragmatic for Samburu County. To that end, the ongoing study shifted effort and resources to focus on assessing key ecological determinants of depredation by large carnivores in relation to community practices and perceptions in Samburu, northern Kenya.