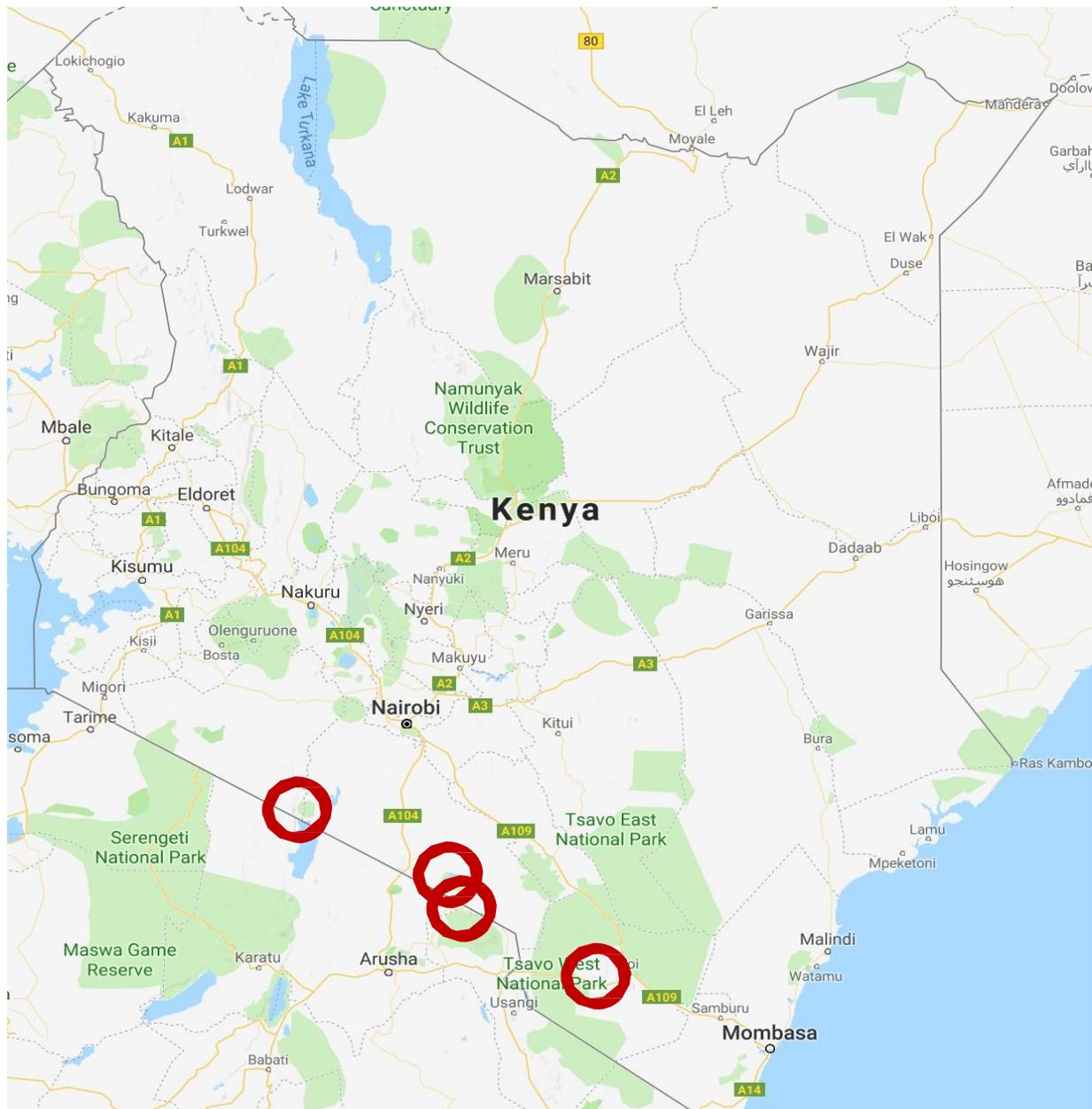**Project Update: October 2018**

Activities

Data collection has been undertaken at four different sites in Kenya: Shompole, Amboseli, on Mbirikani and Olgulului Group Ranches, and in Tsavo. The survey tool was translated into Maasai and kiSwahili, using a group discussion process. On each site, two to three research assistants were hired and trained in social sciences research techniques, to enable them to collect survey data. So far, over 700 surveys have been collected, with at least 200 usable surveys on each site.

Map of Kenya research sites.

Ongoing analysis is promising, indicating that all different psychological components (normative beliefs, control over outcomes, motivation, attitudes) significantly affect quality of livestock management behaviour. All these factors are currently being fed into a model, which will allow me to identify the contribution each different factor makes to overall behaviour, and in turn develop a tool to help improve management decisions.

Research assistant in Shompole, Kenya

Outputs
Progress on a model synthesising data on livestock management and conflict data is encouraging.

Quantitative data collection on Kenya sites is completed, and work will be written up as a report by December 2018. This work has provisionally been accepted for publication.

Work will be presented at two conferences in early 2019 – the WildCRU Geopolitics Conference, and the Cambridge Student Conservation Science meeting.

Ongoing Work
Work is currently underway training research assistants at three field sites in Zimbabwe, in the Hwange/Victoria Falls area. Data collection will be undertaken here until January 2019, when work will move across to Botswana.

Difficulties accessing field sites

Data analysis is ongoing, and Structural Equation Modelling to improve the model is the next priority. This work will help refine the relationship of the variables to one another.

A new branch of data collection is also being explored; unstructured, qualitative surveys, to establish links and causality within the survey results. A large number of collaborative relationships have been developed, with more in progress.

Work is still on track for a move to Tanzania in April 2019, and initial results look likely to have significant practical value. As work moves forwards, I will be revisiting each individual site to explore their results with both the NGOs operating locally and local communities, to ensure this information is translated into practical improvements in livestock management and ultimately a decrease in human-predator conflict.

More difficulties accessing field sites

Me and the car on the way to work.