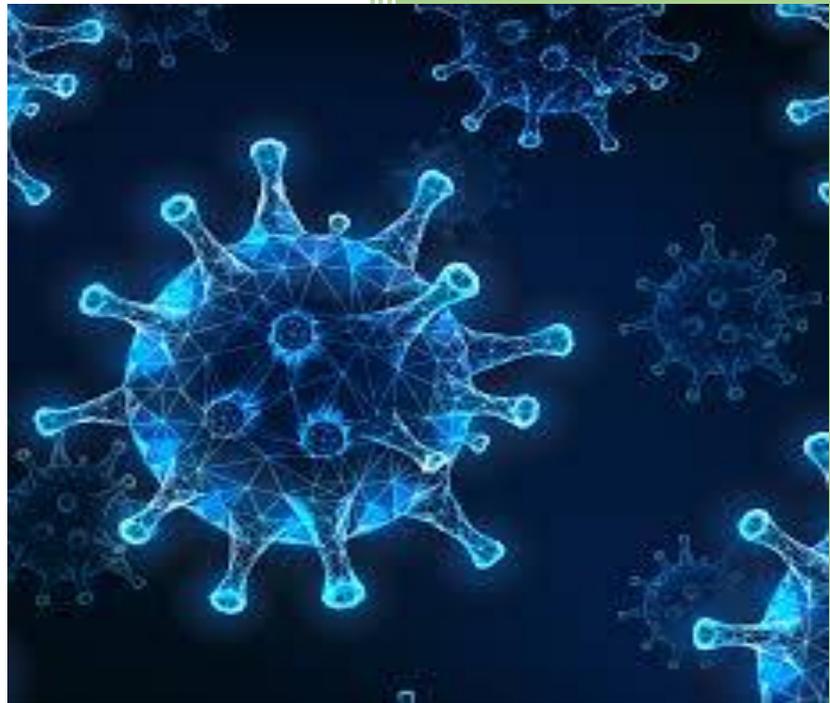


2020

Impact of COVID19 on Landowners of Mara Conservancies



A Survey report of Basecamp
Foundation Kenya
Prepared by Sustainable Travel &
Tourism Agenda (STTA)
8/18/2020

Executive Summary

The economy of Mara and conservancies at large is built around tourism, conservation and livestock husbandry. All these activities were affected following the WHO announcement of a pandemic in March 2020. Travel was crippled bringing tourism to its knees. In country movement was curtailed with lockdowns and curfews affecting ability to trade across counties. Conservation programs revolve around face to face activities, wildlife monitoring, and protection services. Except for protection services, all other services were stopped. The Masai Mara economy literally came to a standstill between April 2020 and June 2020 except for relief activities.

Before any studies were done, there is every indication that without activity in predominant economic activities, lives of landowners would be affected in some way. The extent of the impact was not clear. This necessitated this survey by Basecamp Foundation Kenya. To find out the nature, extent and severity of impact of COVID19 on landowners. This COVID19 crisis is the first significant test on the resilience of the conservancy model as a social, economic and environmental safeguard.

This report demonstrates the strength of multi income sources of income for landowners, the threat of dependence on tourism income as key household income, the vulnerability of tourism jobs from seasonality and weak contracts and the need to safeguard the principle of guaranteed incomes in the conservancy leases. Without the fixed/ guaranteed lease income, many households would have been in dire straits. Even though the lease fees were reduced, they reduced amount remained guaranteed.

The significance of livestock to landowner households is clear in the data on changes in household incomes pre and during COVID19. This income remains reliable alongside lease fees, making it the top and most reliable source of household income and lease fees the most regular household income.

Another encouraging result of this survey is the finding that conservation was not at much risk from COVID19. This is contrary to several international media reports that wildlife was at risk from hunting, poaching and conflicts. The landowners did not perceive these as high risks. However, they note that without adequate income some landowners could consider selling land or using land for more grazing.

Not to be lost is the place and role of community empowerment organisations like Basecamp Foundation Kenya. Apart from a few lodges, COVID19 household relief programs were undertaken by empowerment organizations. Even this was not sufficient because the number households in need were many. The conservancies did not provide any direct relief except to negotiate with banks to revise landowner loan repayment plans because of reduced lease payments. Notable, one conservancy on Mara was able to provide relief and pay full lease fee throughout the crisis through donor support.

Women, school going children and teenage mothers remained the most vulnerable both economically and in terms of health. They use communal water collection points where there was possibility of infection and those who were dependent on small trade could not engage in their trade and therefore lost income. The young girls, being away from school,

were at risk of early pregnancy and/or marriage. It is not by coincidence that these risk areas form a large percentage of Basecamp Foundation Kenya programs.

The report also reaffirms the long observation that voices of women remain subdued in conservancies, particularly when it comes to land issues. Of the 100 respondents in this survey, only 7% were women. They responded as wives and not landowners.

Last but not least, whereas the conservancies are models of community empowerment through effective land management (conservation) and ecotourism, they still mimic the national park model which are conservation models dependent on tourism. Future program to support conservancies should establish an identity that resonates with landowners first and then with all interest groups.

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Background on Study Area

The study was conducted in the Mara Ecosystem, Narok Kenya and targeted Community Conserved Areas or conservancies as they are popularly known. It is more than a decade since the concept of Community conservancies was introduced in Masai Mara, post the sub-division of group ranches. The threefold objective of conservancies was to include landowners in conservation and redistribute conservation benefits, to equitably share conservation benefits among the landowners, and to secure the Masai land as a means of safeguarding their pastoral lifestyle and livelihoods to build resilient prospering communities. The overriding goal was to sustainably use/ manage land and its resources for sustainable development. Tourism became the preferred economic driver for the conservancies because of its compatibility with wildlife conservation.

Basecamp Foundation Kenya played a significant role in development of early models of conservancies in Masai Mara through the design of the Mara Naboisho Conservancy. Using a participatory model and the engagement framework, Basecamp worked with the Naboisho conservationists to design a model that delivered on the three objectives of social justice, economic empowerment and environmental. The model became the preferred model by most conservancies in Masai Mara as it appeared solid in social justice, economic empowerment and environmental (wildlife) conservation.

This assessment of impact of COVID19 on conservancies, targeted private conservancies in Masai Mara with a focus on Mara Naboisho Conservancy. It aimed at establishing the resilience of conservancies to risks, what contributes to resilience and coping mechanisms. The outcome will enable Basecamp Foundation to focus its conservancy empowerment programs to build greater resilience in the model.

A total of 100 participants from six (6) conservancies took part in the study, out of which 98 were landowners. Majority who took part in the survey are members of Naboisho Conservancy (67.3% of respondents).

Conservancy Membership	Number of Respondents (%)
Mara Naboisho	67.3
Olare Motorogi	8.3
Mara North	6.1
Nashulai	2
Ol Kinyei	1
Naboisho and Mara North	5.1
Naboisho and Olare Motorogi	5.1
Naboisho and Nashulai	3.1
Naboisho and Siana	1

Naboisho, Olare Motorogi and Nashulai	1
TOTAL	100

Table 1. Conservancy members who took part in the survey

Survey Methodology

The Questionnaire

The survey had 36 questions and was designed to capture income changes due to COVID19, potential threats to wildlife and coping mechanisms. The questions were organized in into five areas including respondent profile data, impact of COVID19 on household income, impacts of COVID19 on tourism and leases, conservancy responses to COVID19, conservancy preparedness for risk and resilience

The questionnaire had a mix of open ended questions, close ended questions and multi choice questions. The closed questions helped to keep the survey focused on pertinent issues, while the open questions enabled respondents to give additional view. The respondents had opportunity to choose answers among options and even grade answers.

The Sample

The survey targeted 100 landowners with leases in Naboisho conservancy and other nearby conservancies, including those with multiple memberships in conservancies. The respondents, mainly from areas where Basecamp has other community empowerment program, received an invitation to participate in the survey via word of mouth through Basecamp field officers, who also doubled up as the survey enumerators.

As with past Basecamp Foundation Surveys, respondents were drawn from various villages adjacent to conservancies to provide a geographical balance. In addition, roles of respondents in conservancy, beneficiaries of Basecamp Foundation Kenya projects, gender, age and occupation were taken into consideration to avoid singular views.

Part 1

Profile and Other Data of Respondents

Beneficiaries of Basecamp Foundation Programs

The study sought to determine how many of the respondent landowners were beneficiaries of Basecamp Foundation Kenya programs. This information would be useful to determine the type and extent of relief to provide to beneficiaries during the turbulent phase of COVID19 pandemic.

Concerning data on landowners benefiting from Basecamp Foundation Kenya programs, results showed that landowners from Naboisho Conservancy were the biggest beneficiaries of a multiple of Basecamp foundation Kenya program as shown in figure 1

Nashulai and Ol Kinyei conservancies had no landowners who benefited from any of Basecamp Foundation Kenya programs.

The program with the largest number of beneficiaries across the different conservancies is the community managed saving group.

Mara Girls Leadership school and Rekeru School had the lowest number of beneficiaries across the different conservancies.

Beneficiaries of Basecamp Foundation Kenya covid-19 relief were mostly landowners who were members of Mara Naboisho conservancy.

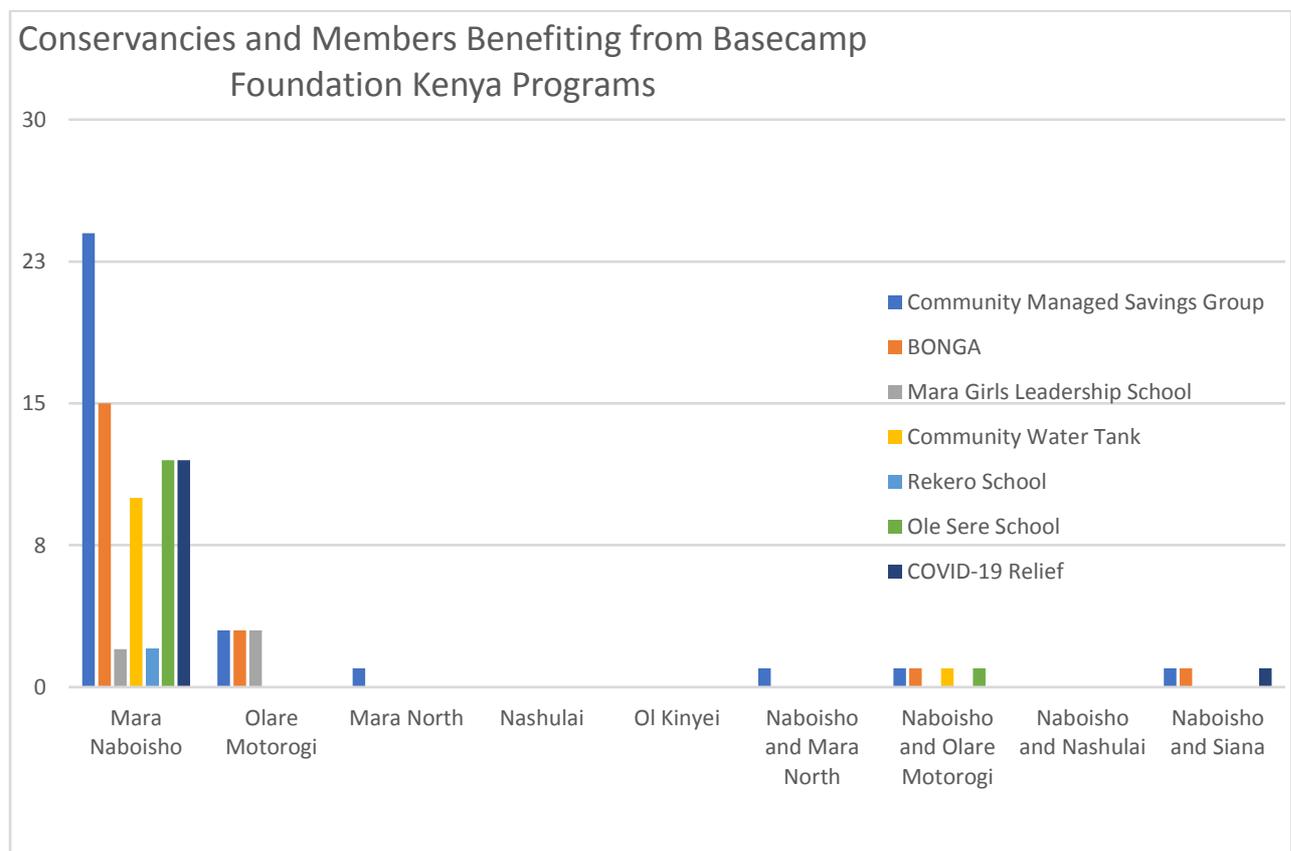


Figure 1. Conservancies and conservancy members benefiting from Basecamp Foundation Kenya programs

Number of Beneficiaries of BCFK Programs in the Study

Name of Program	Number of Beneficiaries in the study
Community Managed Saving Groups	31
BONGA	20
Mara Girls leadership School (MGLS)	2
Roof Harvesting - Water Access	14
Rekero Green Village (school, water)	3
Ol Sere Green Village (school, water, clinic)	13
COVID19 Relief	17

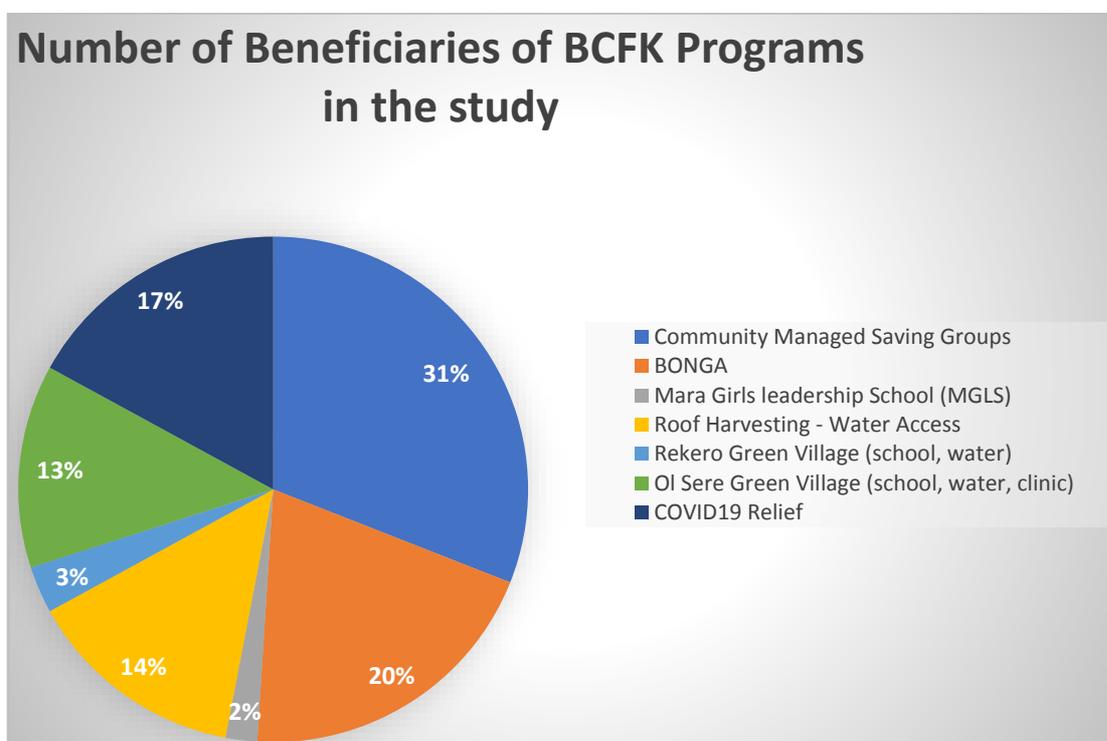


Table 2. Number of beneficiaries of BCFK Programs in the study

Household Composition of Respondents

The study sought to investigate household composition of landowner families including household size and number of dependents to determine importance of regular and dependable household income during the covid-19 crisis.

Data showed that 87.8% of the respondents were heads of families, suggesting that mostly men took part in the survey. This supports the patriachal cultural practices of the man people who are the dorminant inhabitants of the area of study. Of the other

respondents, 7.1% are described as wife and 2% men. The men are probably sons of the home.

Data on household size showed that the average household had at least 12 family members composed of 3 adult men and 3 adult women with at least 6 school going children. It would be noted that several families live together in Manyattas. The figure 12 is not representative of one household.

Part 2

Impacts of Covid-19 on Household and Household Income

The study sought to determine impacts of covid-19 crisis on household and household income by investigating general impacts in household and impacts on major sources of household income in the study area.

General Impacts on Household

Respondents were asked an open-ended question on how covid-19 crisis had impacted on their household. Most respondent mentioned reduced income as the major impact. In descending order reduced income was followed by job loss, closure/lack of livestock markets and reduced lease fees.

Impacts on Household Income

Impacts on main sources of household income.

The study investigated the main source of household income for landowners and compared this before and during covid-19 with an intention of determining if sources of income changed as a result of covid-19 crisis.

Analyzed data on major sources of household income before covid-19 showed that landowners had multiple sources of income as shown in figure 1. The data showed that before covid-19 landowners majorly depended on lease fees, livestock and tourism salary as main source of income. Conservancy salary and beadwork were the least depended on as main source of household income.

During covid-19 crisis, analyzed data showed that lease fees and livestock remained as the main sources of income. There was a slight reduction in the number of landowners that depended on lease fees and slight increase in those that depended on livestock. There was however a significant decrease in the number of landowners that depended on tourism employment and beadwork during covid-19 crisis than before covid-19 crisis.

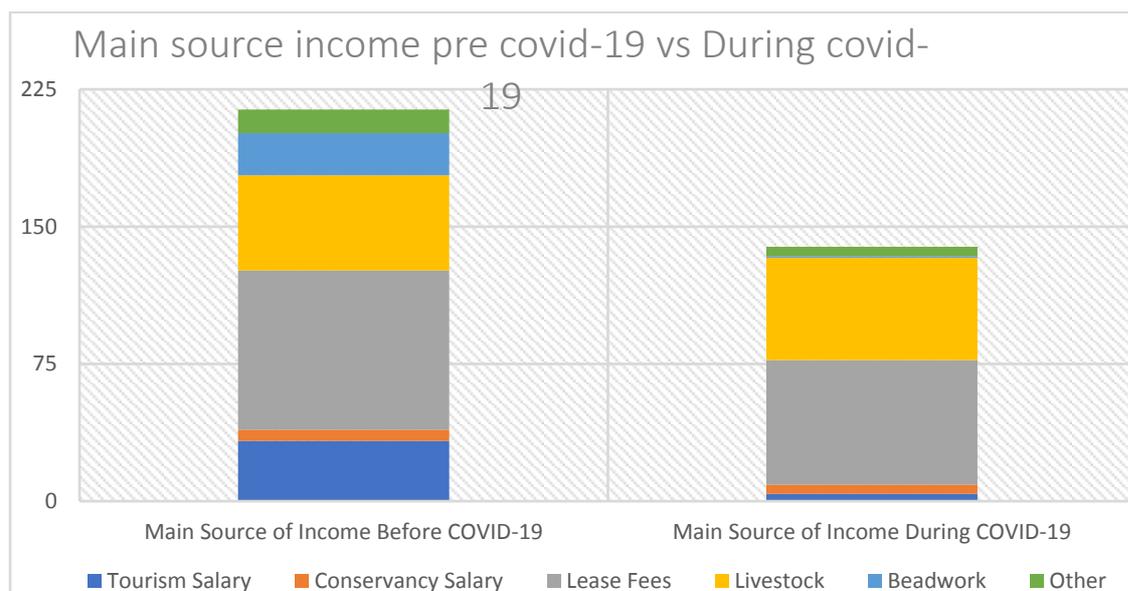


Figure 2. Landowner household main sources of income before and during covid-19 crisis

Regularity of Main Source of Income Pre and During Covid-19 Crisis

The study compared regularity of the main sources of landowner household income both before and during covid-19 crisis to determine if regularity had changed and to what extent.

Analyzed data as seen in figures 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 showed that;

1. Household income from tourism employment and beadwork significantly shifted from being largely regular sources of income before covid19 to being largely irregular during covid-19.
2. Lease fees and conservancy employment remained largely regular before and during covid-19.
3. Income from livestock shifted from being regular before covid-19 to being both regular and irregular during covid-19.
4. Other sources of income like boda boda business and shop keeping shifted from being both regular and irregular before covid-19 to being more irregular during covid-19 crisis

Income from Tourism Employment

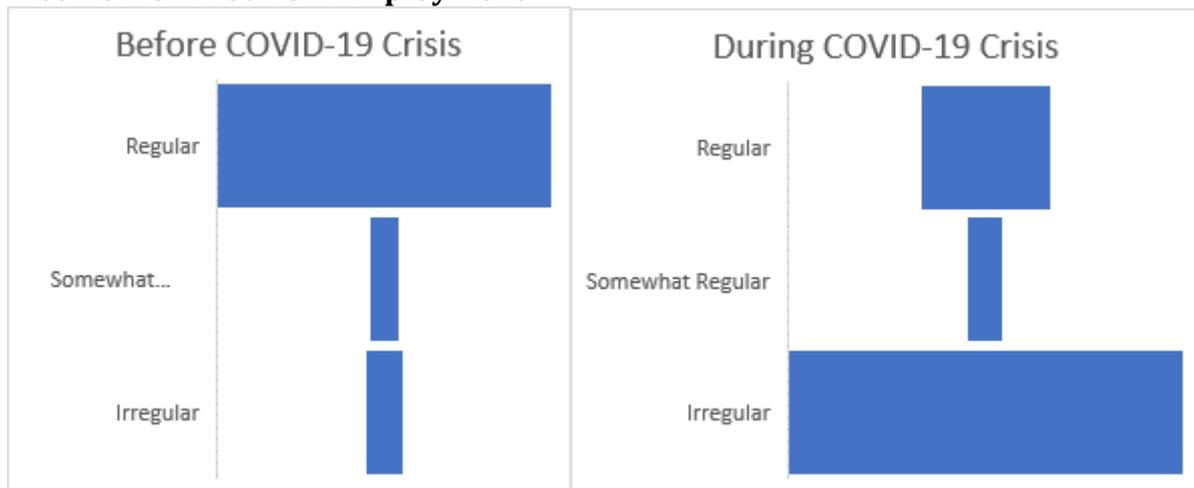


Figure 3. Regularity of tourism employment before and during covid-19 crisis

Income from Conservancy Employment

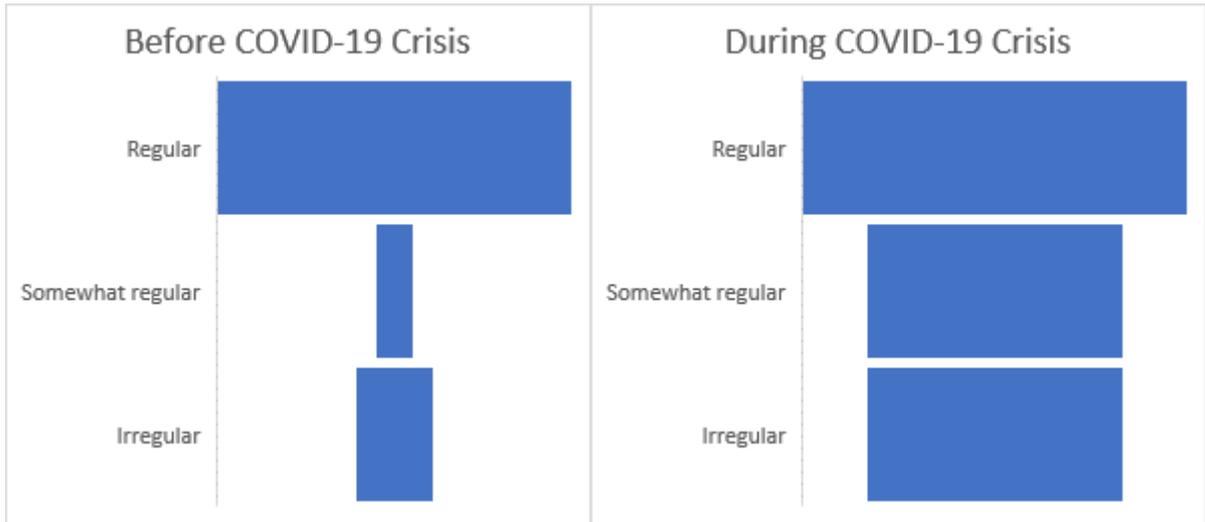


Figure 4. Regularity of conservancy employment before and during covid-19 crisis

Income from Lease Fees

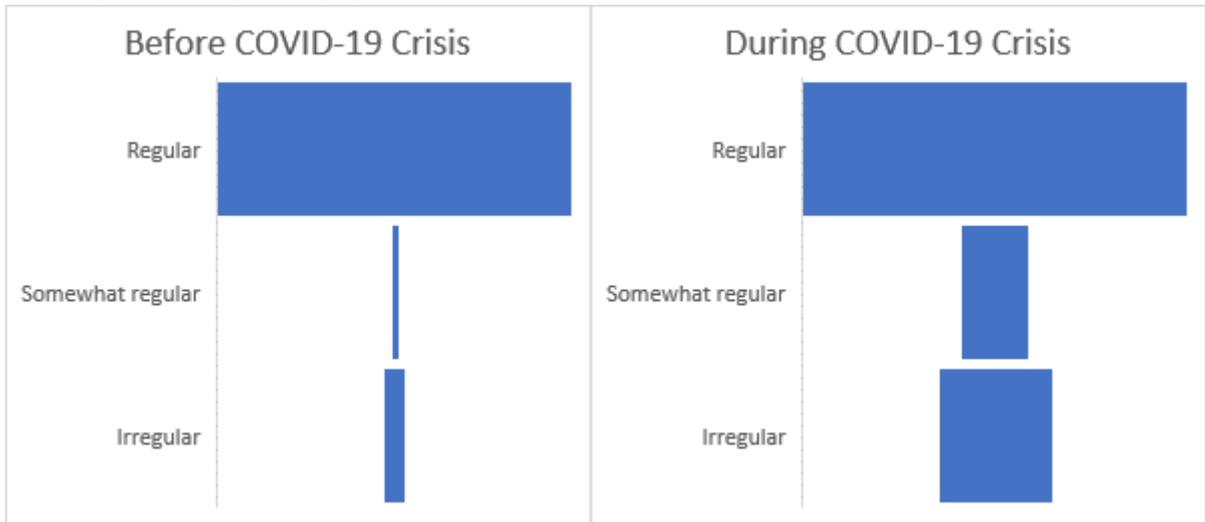


Figure 5. Regularity of lease fee payment before and during covid-19 crisis

Income from Livestock

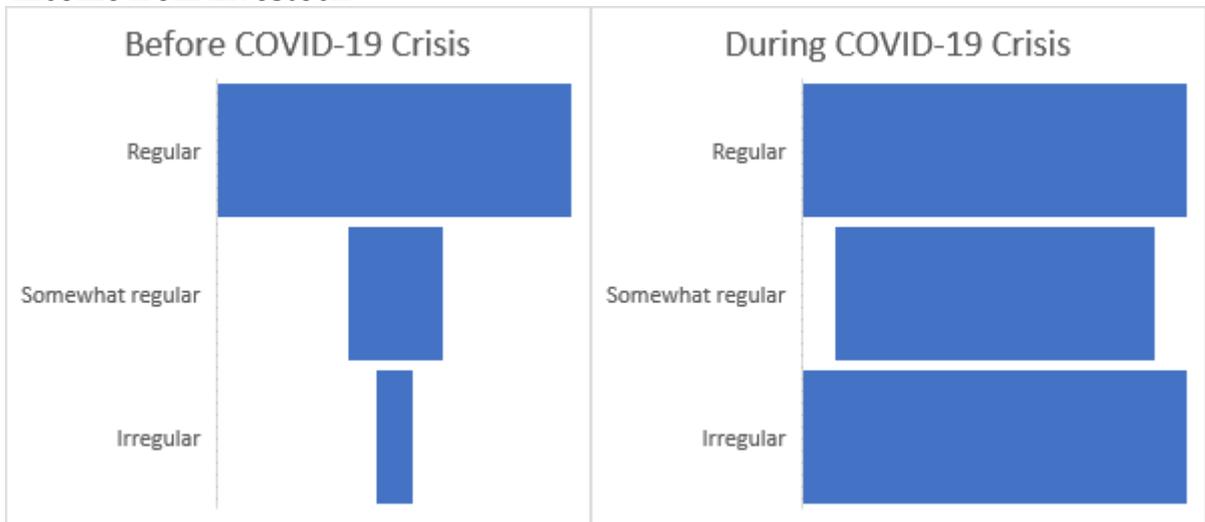


Figure 6. regularity of income from livestock before and during covid-19 crisis

Income from Beadwork

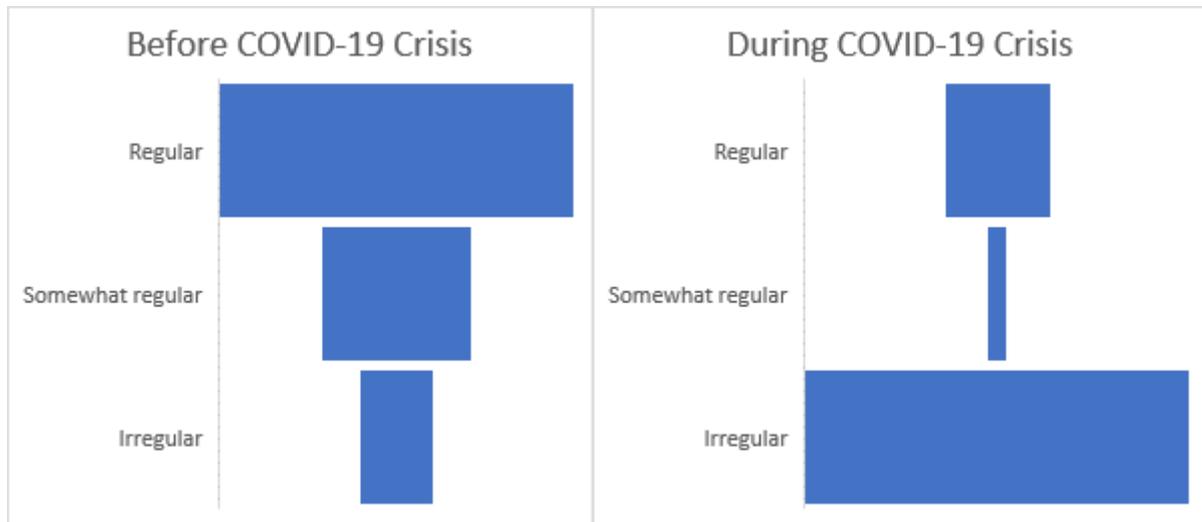


Figure 7. Regularity of income from beadwork before and during covid-19 crisis

Other Incomes

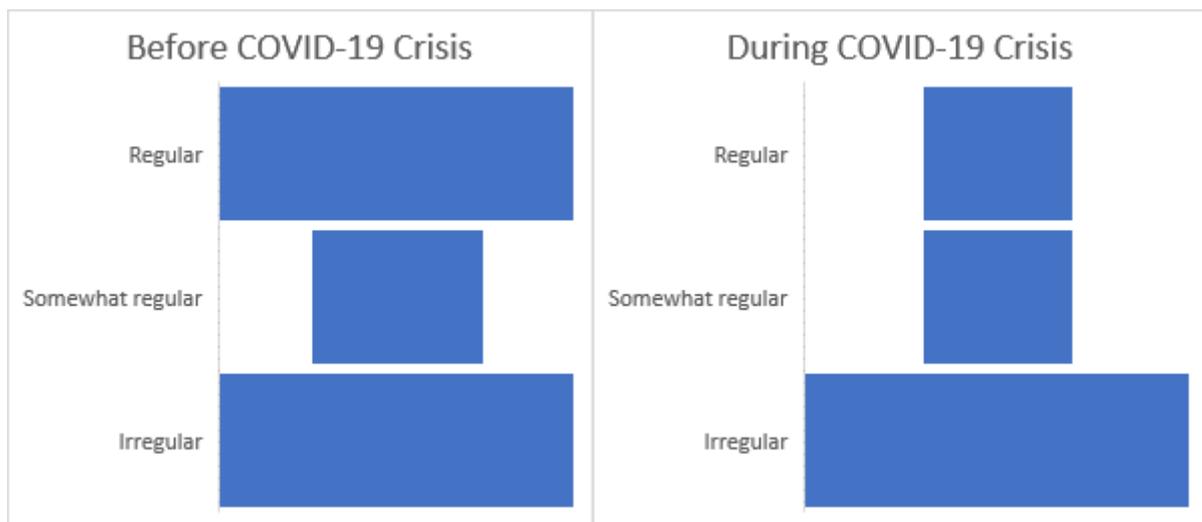


Figure 8. Regularity of other income sources before and during covid-19 crisis

Size of Income from Main Sources of Household Income

The study compared how much in Kenya shillings household received from their main income sources before and during covid-19 crisis. This would help in determining level of reduced income to households and how this will affect ability to meet household needs.

Analyzed data showed that;

1. Income from Tourism Employment

Before covid-19, majority of landowners were earning more than KES 10,000 from tourism employment. During covid-19 crisis more of the landowners were earning less than KSH10000 as shown in figure 8. There were no landowners

earning KSh. 40001-50000 and above 50000 during covid-19 crisis. Those earning above 10000 had also reduced during the crisis.

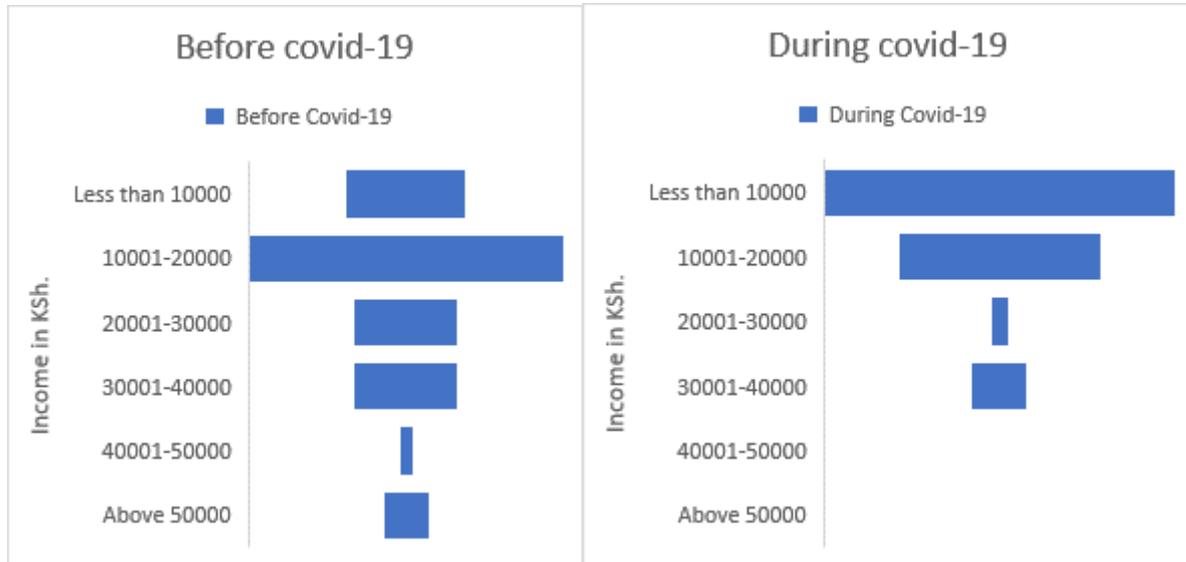


Figure 9. Monthly household income from tourism employment before and during covid-19 crisis

2. Income from Conservancy Employment

Analysed data on household income from conservancy employment showed that more of landowners were earning above KSH10000 before covid-19. During the covid-19 crisis more of the landowners were earning less than KSH10000. However, landowners earning between Ksh. 10001-20000, Ksh. 20001-30000 and KSh.30001-40000 were present, although significantly reduced in numbers as compared to before covid-19 crisis. This was especially significantly reduced for those who were earning between KSh.20001-30000.



Figure 10. Monthly household income from conservancy employment before and during covid-19 crisis

3. Income from Lease fees

Data showed that majority of landowners were earning above KSh20000 before covid-19, but during covid-19 more of landowners were earning less than KSh10000. Those earning above KSh. 10000 had significantly reduced during covid-19 crisis than before covid-19 crisis. No landowner indicated that they were earning more than KSh. 40000 from lease fee during the covid-19 crisis compared to before the crisis.

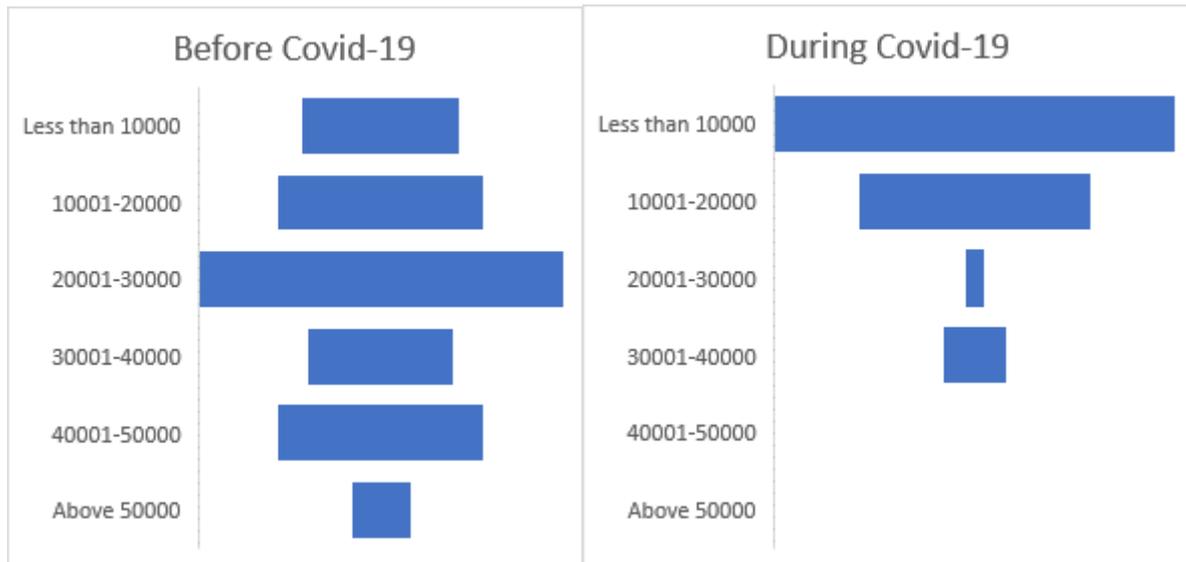


Figure 11. Monthly household income from lease fee before and during covid-19 crisis

4. Income from Livestock

Data showed that before covid-19 very few landowners were receiving less than KSh. 10000 as household income from livestock sales. Majority were receiving above KSh. 20000.

During covid-19 crisis number landowners earning less than KSh. 10,000 from livestock sales significantly increased and those earning above KSh. 20000 significantly reduced. Those earning between KSh. 30001-40000, KSh. 40001-50000 and above KSh.50000 were sustained although fewer, during the crisis compared to before the crisis.



Figure 12. Monthly household income from livestock before and during covid-19 crisis

5. Income from Beadwork

Data showed that before covid-19 majority landowners received between less than Ksh KSH10000 and KSh.40000 from beadwork, with a majority earning between KSh.10001-20000. During covid-19 this had significantly reduced to earnings between less than Ksh. 10000 and Ksh. 20000. Most landowners were earning less than Ksh. 10000 during the crisis compared to Ksh. 10001-20000 before the crisis.

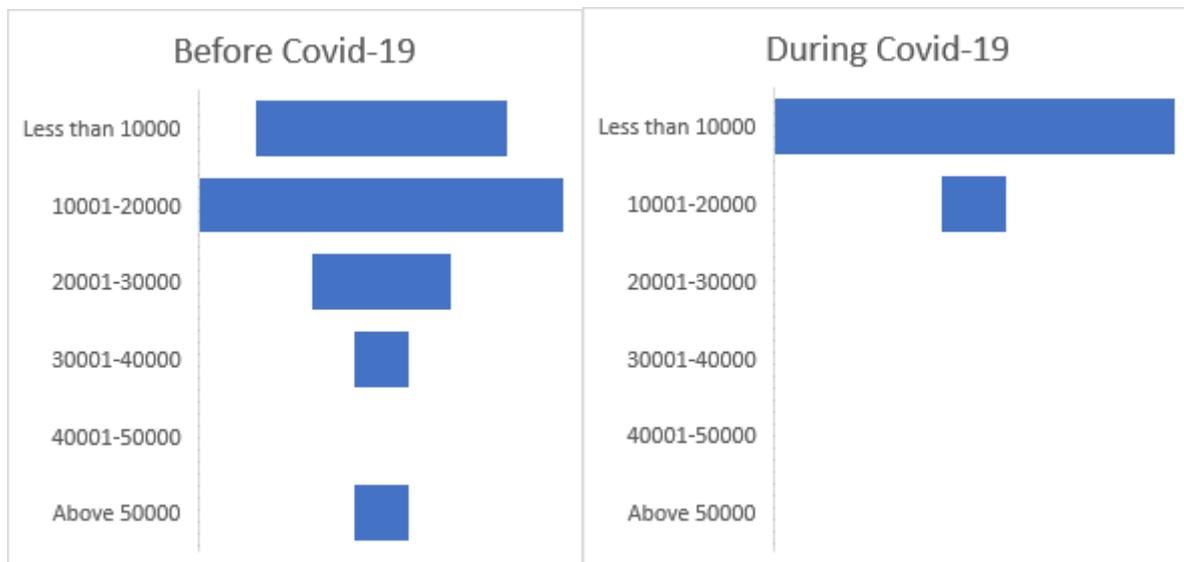


Figure 13. Monthly household income from beadwork during and before covid-19 crisis

Covid-19 Crisis Impact on Tourism Employment and Lease Fees as a Source of Household Income

Tourism and lease fees are one of the major contributors to household income for landowners. The study sought to determine level of impact of covid-19 on tourism employment and lease fees to explain regularity and monthly income changes before and during covid-19 crisis.

Tourism Employment

Data showed that 56% of landowners had lost their employment in tourism or knew someone who had lost employment because of covid-19 crisis.

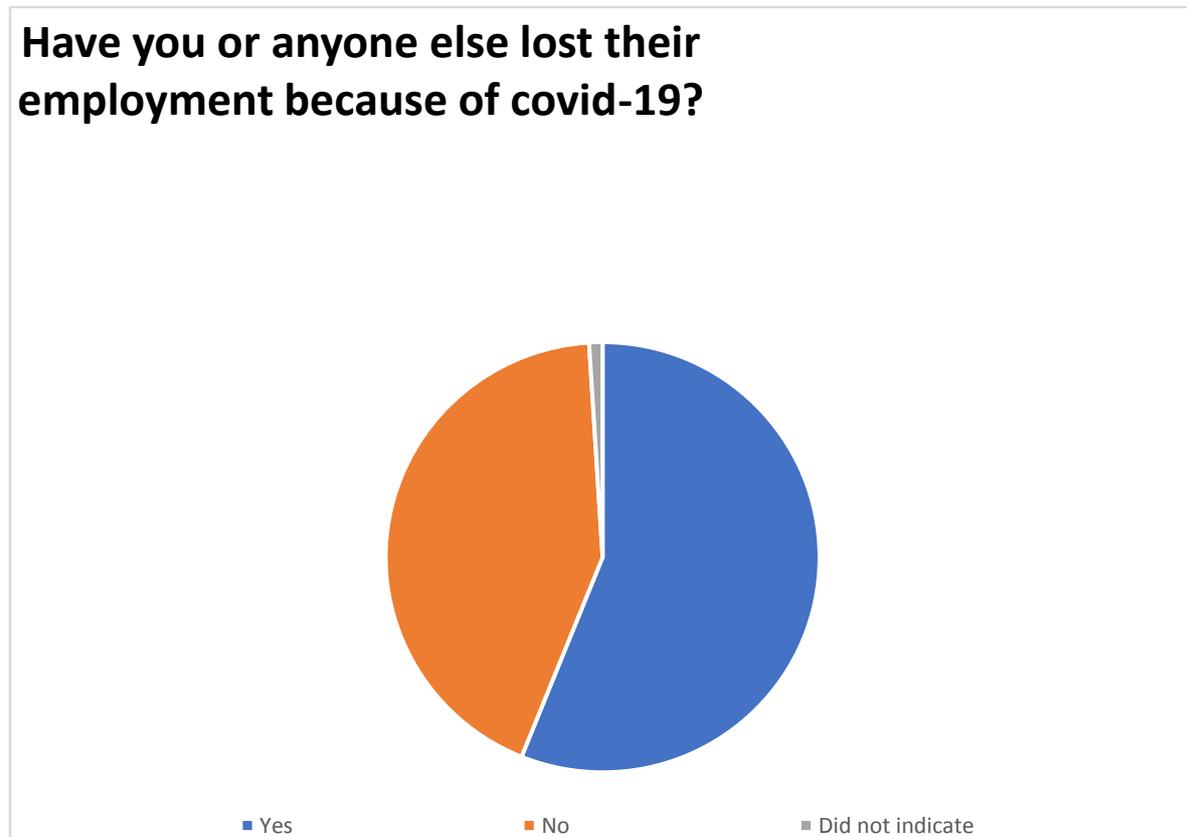


Figure 14. Level of employment lost during covid-19 crisis

Analyzed data further showed that unemployment caused by covid-19 crisis was highest in tourism, especially those employed in tourist camps or were hired as guides.

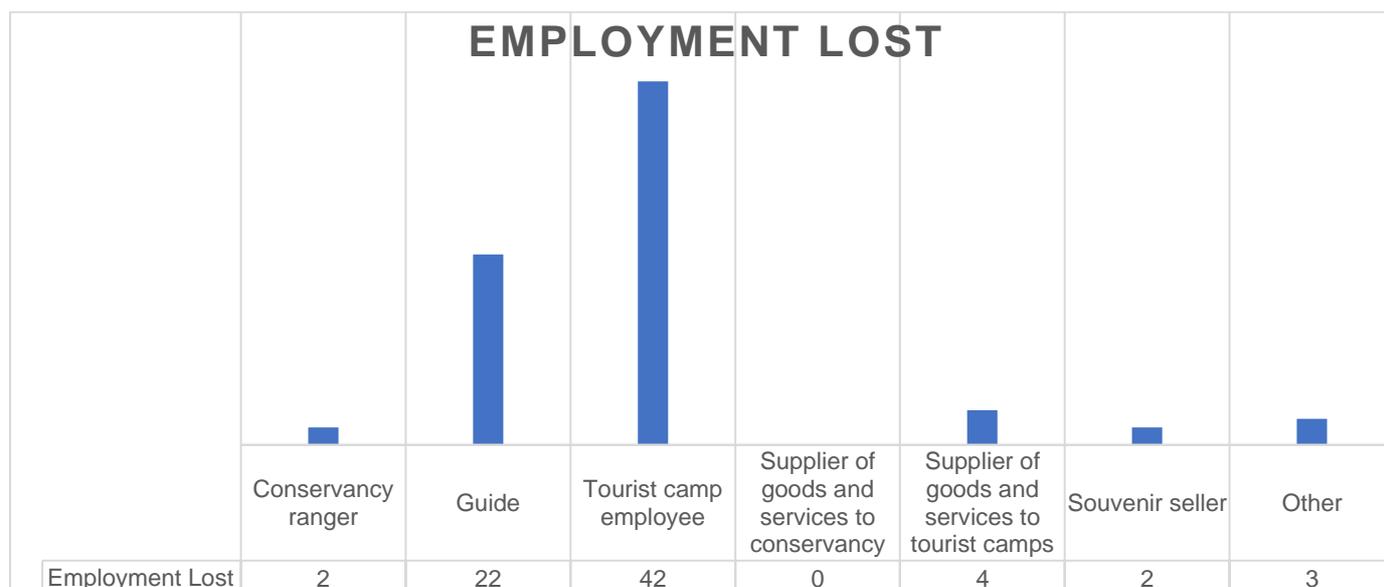


Figure 15. Employment opportunities lost during covid-19 crisis

Lease Fees & Regularity of Payment

Analyzed data on payment of lease fees and regularity of lease fees payment to landowner showed that 98% of landowners were being paid their lease fees. Data further showed that lease fee payment was majorly regular across all conservancies as reported by 69.4% of the landowners. However, other data also showed 91% of landowners had reported a reduction of lease fees and the reduction was between 41-50% as reported by 87.8% of the landowners.

When asked if they had consented to lease fee reduction, 79.6% of the landowners indicated that they had consented to the reduction having been informed through landowners' management board representatives. Those who had not consented, 14.3% of the landowners, indicated that they had known of the reduction through a bank notification when withdrawing funds.

Average Household Income Before and During Covid-19 Crisis

The study investigated impacts of covid-19 on monthly household income from changes in main sources of household income resulting from covid-19 crisis. This would help in explaining covid-19 impacts on sufficiency of household income in meeting household needs before and during covid-19 crisis.

Analyzed data showed that before covid-19 very few landowners were earning less than KSH10000 as average monthly household income. Data also showed that those earning above KSH10000 to above KSH50000 were slightly evenly distributed across the different income categories.

During covid-19 crisis data showed distribution of average monthly household income was uneven with those earning less than KSH10000 and between KSH 10001-20000 having significantly increased by up to 9 times and 3 times respectively during covid-19 crisis than before the crisis. Landowners earning above KSH50000 before covid-19 crisis had also significantly reduced by up to 12.5 times during the crisis.

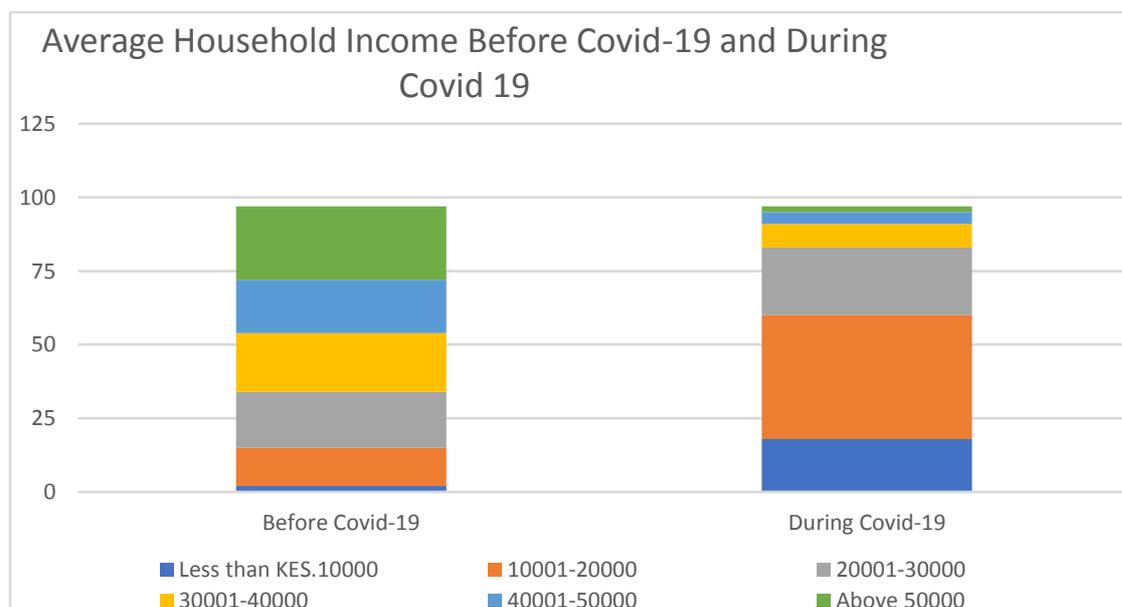


Figure 16. Average monthly household income before and during covid-19 crisis

Sufficiency of Monthly Household Income to Meet Household Needs Before and During covid-19 crisis.

The study investigated if changes resulting from covid-19 crisis in monthly household income could impact on ability of household to meet their needs.

Analysed data showed that before covid-19 crisis, household income was able to meet household needs as indicated by 69% of the landowners. However, during covid-19 crisis only 14% of landowners reported that income could meet household needs.

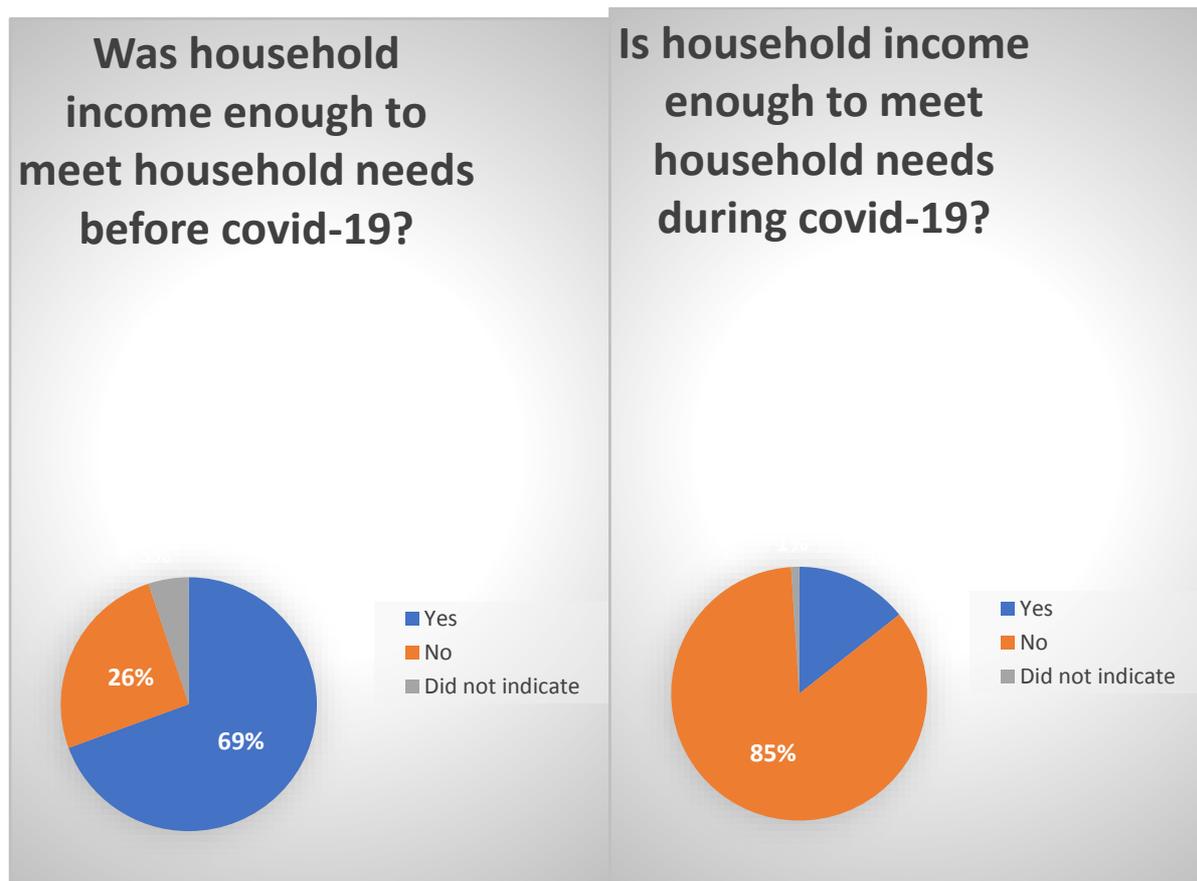


Figure 17. Sufficiency of monthly household income in meeting household needs before and during covid-19 crisis

The data also showed that those who had membership in a single conservancy and multiple conservancy were both not able to meet their household income needs.

Part 3

Threats to Conservation from COVID-19 Crisis

Landowners were asked if impacts on household income will impact conservation efforts in the different conservancies. Analyzed data showed that 58.2% of the landowners believed change in household income would not affect conservation efforts while 37.8% believed it would as shown in the figure 17.

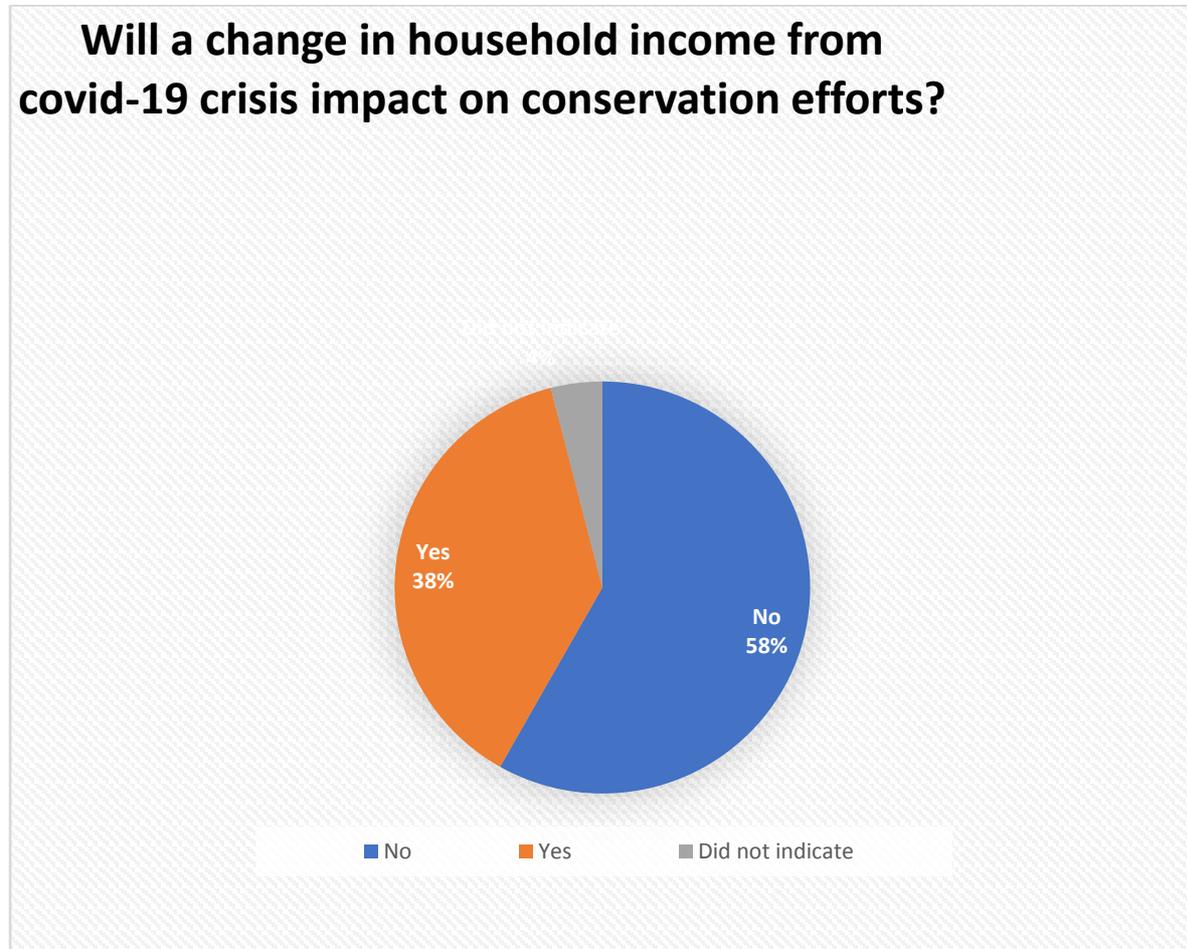


Figure 18. Likelihood of change in household income impacting on conservation efforts

When comparing conservancy by conservancy, it is only Olare Motorogi conservancy that had more landowners believing that conservation efforts will be affected as shown figure 18.

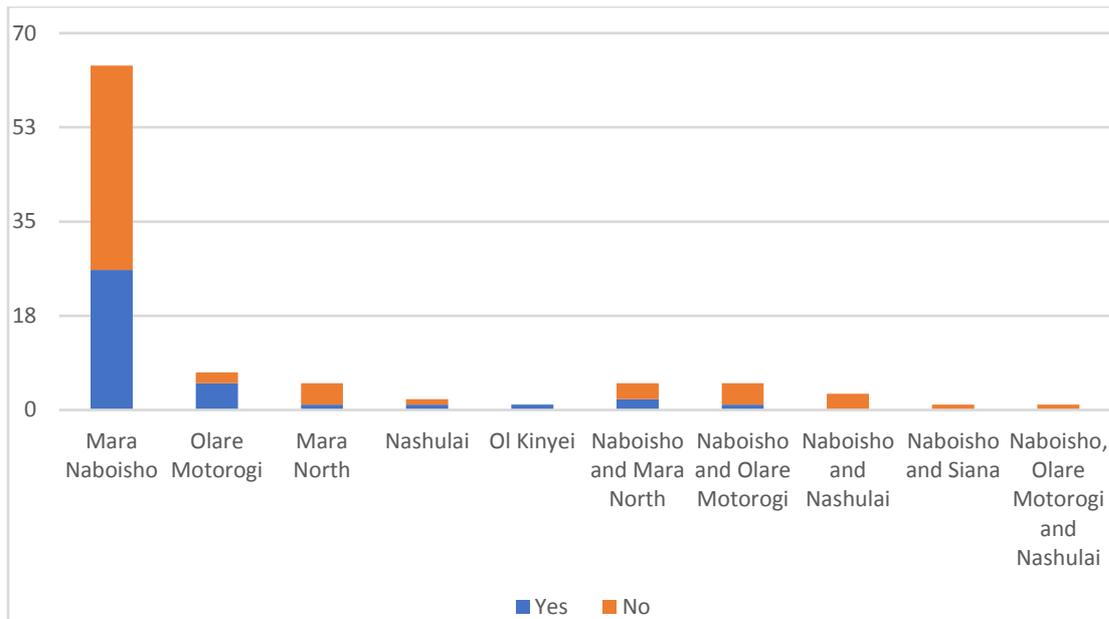


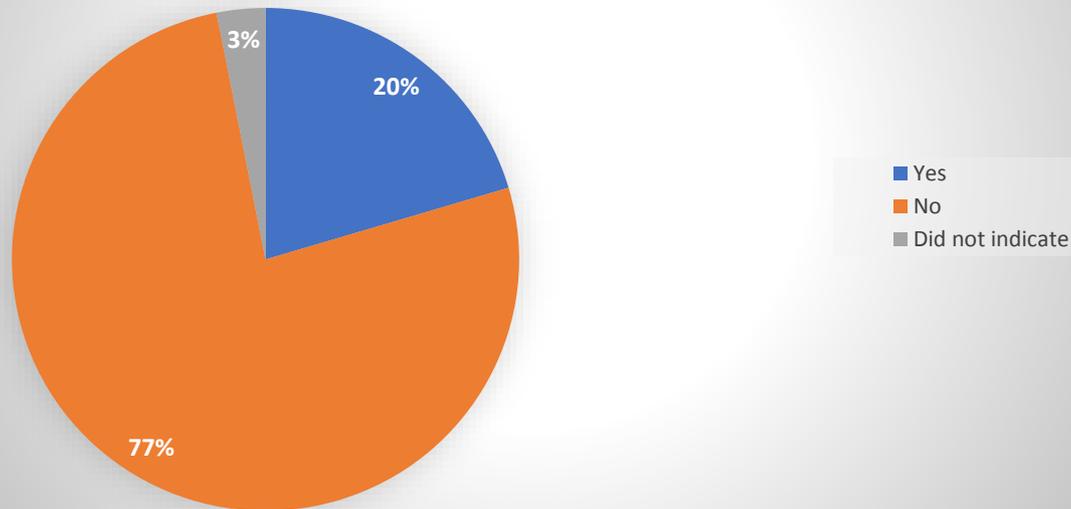
Figure 19. Income change and likelihood to impact on conservation efforts per conservancy

Those who believed that conservation efforts would be affected gave the following reasons;

1. Reduced lease fees and income does not motivate landowners to continue with conservation
2. Grazing will become more important than conservation and therefore conservancy land will be turned into grazing fields
3. Landowners may decide to settle on land that no longer benefits them
4. Landowners may sell land to pay off loans
5. Hosted landowners may be evicted from host parcels from non-payment

Landowners were also asked if lease fee payment could continue without tourism happening in the conservancies. Analyzed data showed that 76.5% of landowners believed it would not and 20.4% of landowners believed it would as shown in figure xxx.

Can lease fee payment continue without tourism?



Those who felt that lease fee payment can continue without tourism gave the following reasons;

1. Lease fees can be reduced for payments to continue
2. Agreement guarantees lease fees regardless of situation
3. Fundraising activities can be done

Other Impacts of Covid-19 that Could Affect Conservation Efforts

Apart from change in income, landowners were asked an open-ended question to indicate other impacts that could affect conservation efforts. Analyzed data showed that;

1. Restricted movement and gatherings have forced decision making on conservancy management and governance to be done by a few
2. Landowners have increased dependency on livestock and are selling more of their livestock
3. Increased illegal grazing in conservancy has increased human wildlife and has resulted loss of wildlife

Part 4

Conservancy Response to Covid-19 crisis

Apart from reduced but regular lease fee payment, landowners were asked if their respective conservancies had put in place measures to support their livelihood during the covid-19 crisis and whether these measures were adequate in addressing their needs.

Analyzed data showed that 79.6% of landowners reported that their conservancy had not put in place support measures as shown in figure 20.

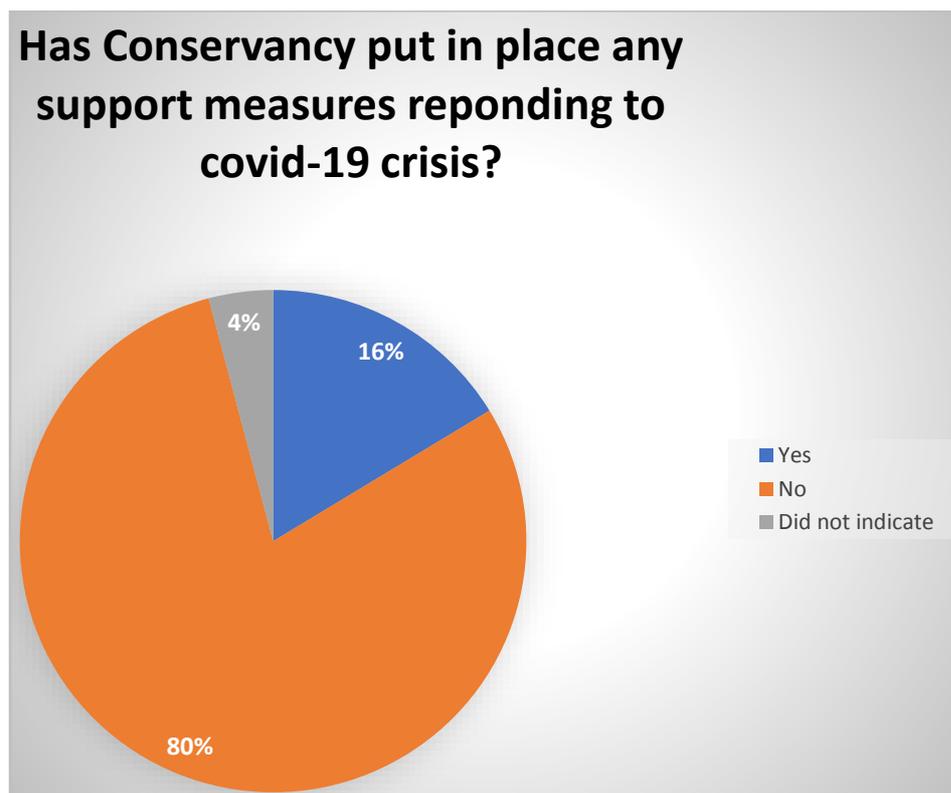


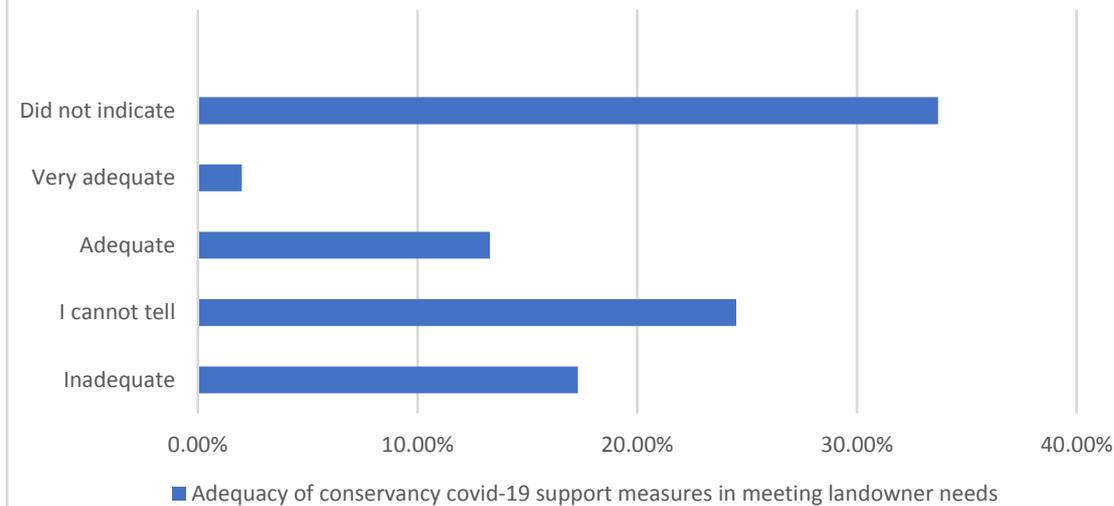
Figure 20. Level of covid-19 support by conservancies to landowners

Landowners who reported yes (16.3% of landowners) that their conservancy had put in place measures described the measures as;

1. Food donations to landowners
2. Reduced but guaranteed lease fees
3. Increased access to grazing inside conservancy
4. Negotiation with bank on loans and loan repayments

Landowners were also asked if the measures were adequate to meet their household needs. Analysed data showed that landowners could not tell if the measures were adequate (24.5% of landowners) or felt that the measures were inadequate (17.3% of landowners). Only 13.3% of the landowners felt the measures were adequate as shown in the figure below;

Adequacy of conservancy covid-19 support measures in meeting landowner needs



The following reasons were given for;

- i. I cannot tell
 - a. There is no communication by conservancy on support measures
- ii. Inadequate
 - a. Consultation with conservancy members was not well done
 - b. There is no support beyond lease fee reduction
 - c. Lease fee reduction is not equitable. Lease fee was reduced regardless of size of land with those owning small pieces of land in the conservancy being affected the most
- iii. Adequate
 - a. Lease fee reduction is better than nothing
 - b. Food is being donated

Landowners were asked to suggest way in which the conservancies could provide new or better support. Landowners suggested the following measures ranked in descending order;

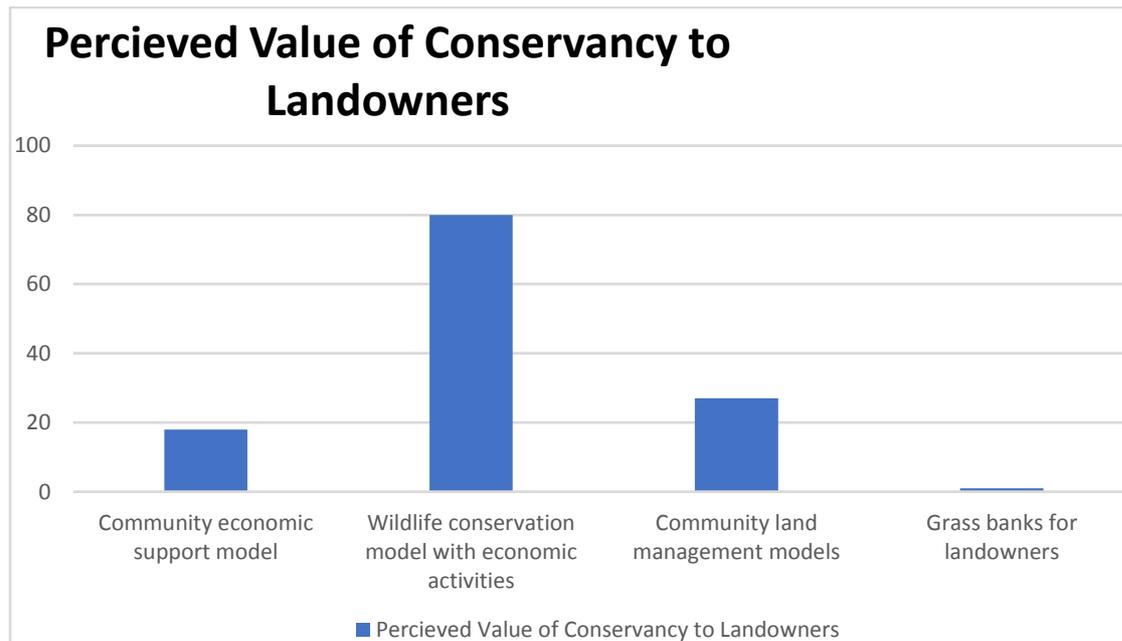
- i. Provide food relief
- ii. Find ways of paying lease fees in full
- iii. Increase lease fees
- iv. Sustain lease fees
- v. Provide covid-19 prevention education and material

Part 5

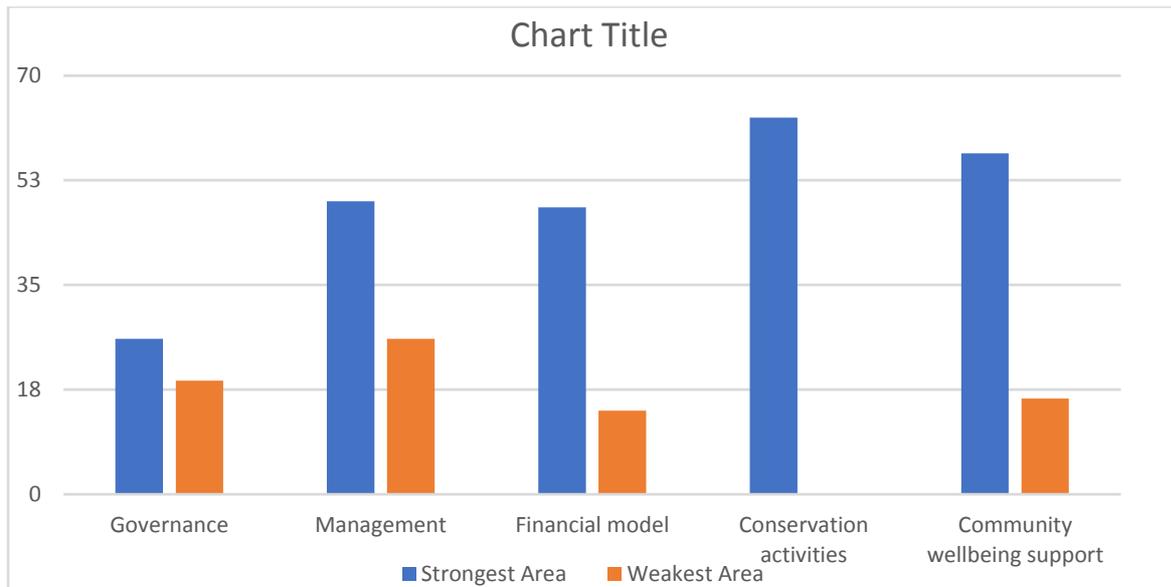
Preparedness for Risks and Resilience of Conservancies

The study sought to find how well-prepared conservancies to respond to future shocks and risks like the covid-19 crisis.

Using a multiple selection question, landowners were first asked to describe what a conservancy means to them to determine value of conservancy to landowners. Analyzed data showed that landowners perceived conservancies to be more of a wildlife conservation model with economic activities



Landowners were also asked to indicate what they thought were the strongest and weakest areas of a conservancy. Results showed that conservation activities was the strongest area of a conservancy, followed by community wellbeing support initiatives, management, financial model and governance respectively. Results also showed that a smaller number of landowners felt that management of the conservancies was the weakest area, followed by governance, community wellbeing support and financial model respectively. Conservation activities was not indicated as a weak area.



Landowners who indicated weakest areas of a conservancy suggested the following for strengthening a conservancy;

1. Increase members participation in decision making
2. Hold regular meeting and improve on communication to members
3. Improve on how representatives are appointed and removed

Change in landowner Immediate Concerns Before and During a Crisis

The study also sought to find out if landowners' immediate concerns before and during a crisis would change. Results showed that wildlife protection, tourism continuity, sustainable grazing, household income and family health and wellbeing remained majorly important before and during the covid-19 crisis.

However, wildlife protection, tourism continuity and sustainable grazing became slightly unimportant as an immediate concern during a crisis than before a crisis.

Household income and family health and wellbeing increased slightly increased in importance during a crisis than before a crisis

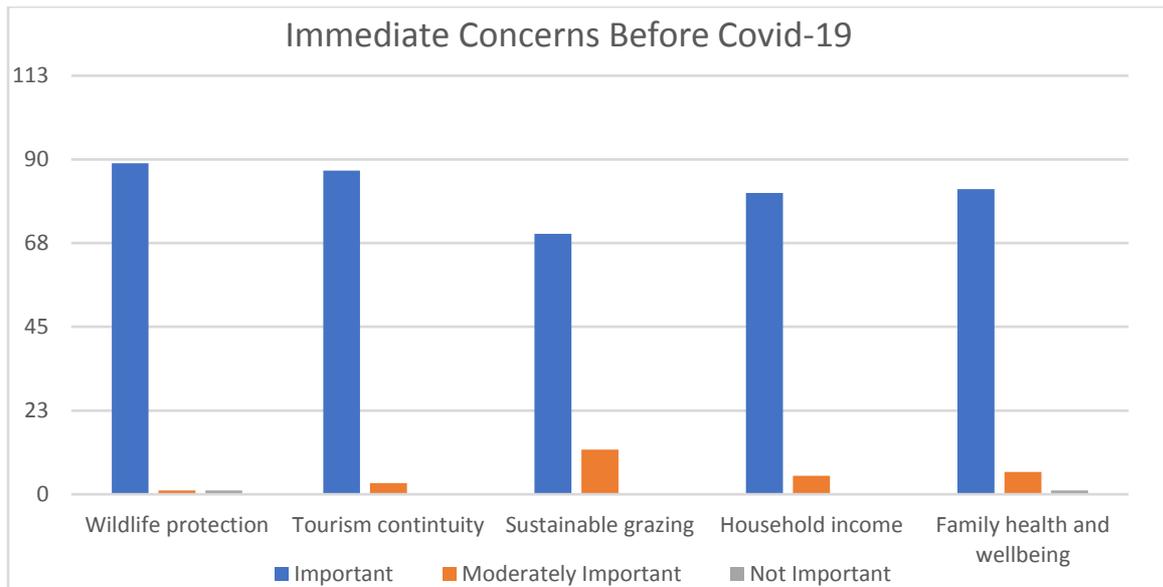


Figure 21. Landowner immediate concerns before covid-19 crisis

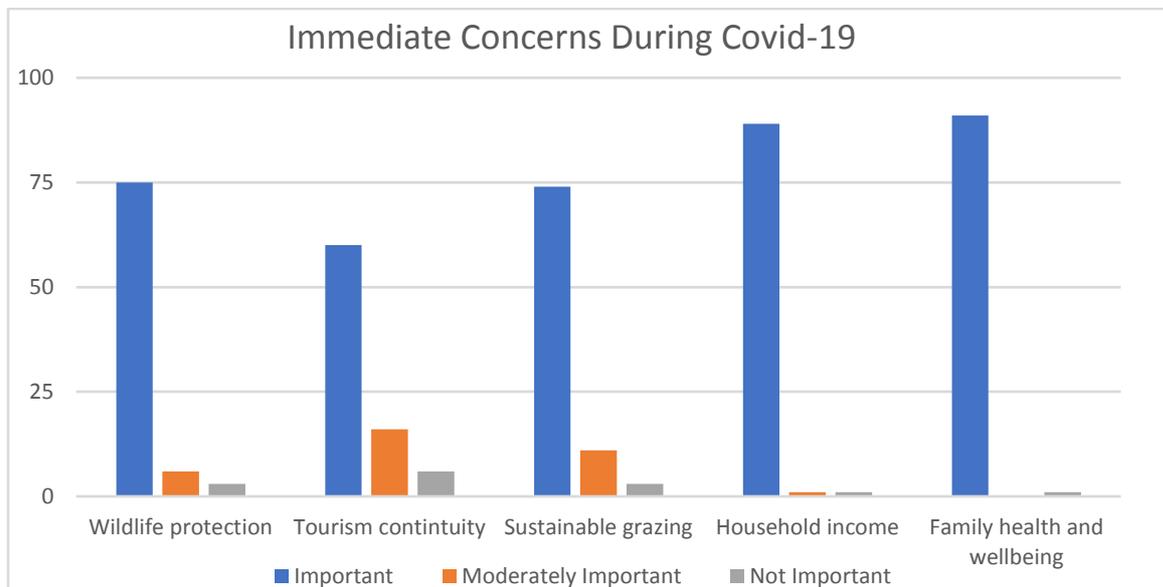


Figure 22. Landowner immediate concerns during covid-19 crisis

Part 6

Observations and Key Findings of the Study

Observations

Observations on Background Information of Study Area

- i. Landowners can be members of several conservancies. These landowners may have a higher income from lease fees paid than landowners who have membership in only one conservancy. Majority of respondents however have membership to one conservancy.
- ii. Basecamp Foundation Kenya program mostly benefit members of Mara Naboisho Conservancy.

Not all conservancies benefit from Basecamp Foundation Kenya programs. There is need to define areas of operation for maximized impact.

- iii. Community managed saving groups, and are more widespread and can become an important support system for the landowners to build resilience during crisis.
- iv. Land is mostly owned by men and it is likely that they control household income from lease fees and participate in decisions concerning management and governance of conservancy affairs. It is likely that women are disadvantaged economically and in leadership making them more vulnerable to social economic impacts of covid-19. The conservancy model has had little success in addressing this culture of exclusion from land.
- v. Households have a high number of school going dependents. This might make it difficult for a low-income household to meet basic household needs without regular and adequate income.

Observations on Impacts of Covid-19 on Household and Household Income

- i. Households have suffered reduced household income because of covid-19 crisis. The reduced income is likely caused by job loss, lack of livestock market and reduction in lease fees. This raises the question of dependency on tourism
- ii. Lease fees and livestock appear to be the major sources of household income before and during covid-19 for many landowner households suggesting continuity and dependency on tourism and livestock. He maasai still live off their land.
- iii. Tourism and beadwork as sources of household income appear to have been significantly affected by the covid-19 crisis possibly from job losses, reduced salaries and lack of beadwork market as earlier observed.
- iv. Covid-19 is likely to reduce income earning opportunities for landowners and therefore also explains why landowners reported reduced income as a general covid-19 impact on household. Reduced income might have huge impacts on large households with irregular and insufficient household income.

- v. Regularity of all sources of income appear to have been affected by covid-19 crisis, with some livestock, tourism and lease fees being significantly affected more than others.
- vi. Significant change in regularity of income from tourism and beadwork from being regular before covid-19 to being largely irregular during covid-19 crisis exposes the risks associated with both and need to build resilience in household income.
- vii. Lease fees appears to be a regular source of income for households before and after covid-19 which suggest that landowners are receiving regular lease fee payments during covid-19 crisis hence.. The conservancy model if strengthened can provide a reliable source of incoe of landowners
- viii. Income from livestock appears to have been affected uniformly during covid-19 crisis since it appears to be regular for some landowners and irregular for others during the crisis. This may suggest that accessibility of livestock market varies from location to location and the crisis could have exasperated this for some areas.
- ix. Covid-19 appears to have reduced income from tourism employment. Again exposes the seasonality of tourism jobs, a weak area for many tourism destinations. The conservancies were no better than other tourism destinations
- x. Covid-19 impacts on conservancy employment may have resulted in reduced salaries but fewer job losses for rangers explaining the slight change in regularity and dependency as a main household income source before and during covid-19
- xi. Covid-19 impacts on conservancy lease fee may have resulted in reduced lease fee and it is likely that lease fees is still being paid which explains the regularity and dependency as a main source of household income before and during the covid-19 crisis as earlier observed.
- xii. It is also likely that lease fee may have been reduced by 50% during covid-19 crisis.
- xiii. Livestock sales and prices may have been affected by closure of livestock markets as earlier observed. This may explain both regularity and irregularity as a main source of household income.
- xiv. Earnings from livestock before during covid-19 appears to be higher than both tourism employment, conservancy employment and lease fees, suggesting that livestock is a major source of livelihood for landowners compared to the others. Livestock husbandry is likely to be prioritized as a response to building resilient conservancies.
- xv. Significant increase by up to 9 times in the number of households earning less than KSH10000 and significant reduction by up to 12 times in those earning

above KSh. 50000 suggests that covid-19 has significantly pushed landowners to a lower income status than before the crisis.

- xvi. Limited sources of income, irregularities and reduced earnings resulting from covid-19 crisis has significantly negatively impacted on ability of landowners to meet household needs. This is important especially important because landowners have large families with a high number of dependents.
- xvii. The significant impacts on landowner's ability to meet household needs is likely to impact on conservation efforts.

Observation on Threats to Conservation from COVID-19 Crisis

- i. It appears that reduced household income is not perceived as a threat to conservation by landowners but if lease fee payment is stopped it would significantly affect conservation efforts. Stopping lease fee payment would likely result in alternative use of conservancy land by landowners including converting into grazing land, settling and selling of land.
- ii. Tourism appears to be linked to lease fee payment. Lack of tourism activities would likely result in nonpayment of lease fees. This is risky
- iii. Conservancy weak areas include governance. This has been emerging over and over. Effectiveness of conservancy governance and management is key to the future of conservancies
- iv. Wildlife human conflict is likely to escalate from illegal grazing

Observations on Conservancy Response to Covid-19 Crisis

- i. It appears that conservancies have largely not provided support measures to landowners in response to covid-19 crisis and impact of measure put in place has not been felt by landowners.
- ii. Support measures to landowners include food relief and reduced but regular lease fee payment.
- iii. It is likely the food and lease fee payment are the most concerning issues for landowners during covid-19
- iv. The arrangement with banks to revise landowner loan repayment is recognized as a support mechanism

Observations on Preparedness for Risks and Resilience of Conservancies

- i. It is likely that economic benefits from wildlife conservation influences landowner perception of conservancy.
- ii. It is likely that conservancies provide more economic benefits than social benefits to landowners.
- iii. It therefore suggests that if economic benefits are reduced, landowners may no longer see value of wildlife conservation and protected areas. This explains why reduced income from conservancies will likely result in alternative use of the land including grazing, settlement and selling of land as earlier observed.

This also explains why lease fee payment in full or its increase is a major concern for landowners and a threat to conservation efforts.

- iv. Conservancies appear to have more strengths than weaknesses in the four areas of governance, management, financial model, conservation activities and community wellbeing support.
- v. Conservation activities are likely the strongest area of a conservancy followed by financial model. This might explain why communities perceive a conservancy to be a wildlife conservation model with economic activities.
- vi. Conservancies are likely to be highly faced with governance issues which could threaten their future and effectiveness.
- vii. Immediate concerns of the landowners changed with the crisis. Household survival (health and food) became top priority. Inability to meet basic needs during crisis means the community is still in early stages of life in terms of need.
- viii. It is likely that survival of the household will become an immediate concern than conservation and tourism during a crisis. This explains why reduced income has become a major issue to landowners during the covid-19 crisis and why demand for food donations, illegal grazing and selling of livestock may have increased in the conservancies as earlier observed.

Key Findings

Covid-19 Impacts on Household and Household Income

Landowners have generally large families with a high number of dependents. This might make it difficult for a low-income household to meet basic household needs without a regular and sufficient income source.

Covid-19 crisis has significantly reduced ability of landowners to meet household needs.

Food and lease fee payment are the most concerning issues for landowners during covid-19 crisis.

Covid-19 crisis significantly increased by up to 9 times the number of households earning less than KSh.10000 and significant reduced by up to 12 times landowners earning above KSh. 50000 and therefore pushing landowners to a lower income status than before the crisis.

These changes resulted from;

- i. Covid-19 crisis limiting the number of household income earning opportunities
- ii. Covid-19 crisis resulting in irregularity of income from tourism employment; forcing reduction in salaries and leading to job losses in tourism.
- iii. Lease fees payment is being regular but reduced by between 41-50% for all landowners regardless of size of land.

- iv. Covid-19 crisis resulting in the closure of livestock market which has affected sales and prices causing both regularity and irregularity of livestock as main source of household income
- v. Covid-19 crisis resulting in near collapse of beadwork market and earnings

Covid-19 Impacts on Conservation Efforts

Reduced household income will indirectly impact on conservation efforts. However, lease rate and regularity of lease fee payment will directly and significantly impact on conservation efforts. If lease fee stops it would likely result in alternative use of conservancy land by landowners including conversion of conservancy land into grazing lands, landowners may settle on land or sell of their land.

Tourism appears to be heavily linked ability of conservancy to pay lease fee to landowners. Lack of tourism activities is therefore a threat to the future of conservancies because it can result in nonpayment of lease fees.

The belief by landowners that lease fees is guaranteed, reduced or not, regardless of the economic situation of the conservancy also constitutes a major threat to conservation. Covid-19 crisis may result in nonpayment of lease fees in the long-term and conflict between landowners and tourism operators is likely to escalate.

Effectiveness of conservancy governance and management is likely to be affected in the long term from reduced participation by members. This reduced participation is from a government directive to reduced gatherings in response to the covid-19 crisis

Reduced income and increased dependency of livestock as a main source of household income will likely escalate human wildlife conflict from increased illegal grazing in the conservancy.

Conservancy response to covid-19 crisis and future preparedness

Conservancies have largely not provided support measures to landowners in response to covid-19 crisis. Support measures to landowners include food relief and reduced but regular lease fee payment. Impact of these measures have however not been felt by landowners.

In terms of future preparedness and resilience the conservancies have an advantage in that they have more strengths than weaknesses in the four areas of governance, management, financial model, conservation activities and community wellbeing support. Conservation activities are likely the strongest area of a conservancy followed by financial model. This might explain why communities perceive a conservancy to be a wildlife conservation model with economic activities. However, governance issues will affect response and future preparedness to shocks.

It is also important that conservancy managers should be aware that immediate concerns of landowner are likely to change during a crisis. These concerns are affected differently with some increasing in importance during a crisis and some decreasing as an immediate concern. The immediate concerns for a landowner during a crisis like covid-19 was observed to survival of the household. This concern outweighs conservation and tourism during a crisis. This explains why reduced income become a major issue to landowners

during the covid-19 crisis and why demand for food donations, illegal grazing and selling of livestock may have or are likely to increase in the conservancies.

Recommendations

This sections highlights a few recommendations that can be drawn from this study. However these recommendations cannot substitute the richness in analysis of each element of investigation in this survey.

- Landowners need diversified, more resilient sources of income to build a strong economy. Tourism income is unreliable
- Households are still very dependent on livestock. As such, build strong conservancies cannot be achieved without livestock programs
- Conservancies need to address actions that create the perception that the conservancy is not a community development model but conservation model with economic benefits.
- Women empowerment enterprises centered on tourism, like direct selling of beadwork to guests, are vulnerable. Many women empowerment projects in Masai Mara centered on beadwork.
- Hygiene projects will become critical in coming years- clean water in particular, since it is reported that the corona virus may not be eradicated. Until a vaccine is found, hygiene will be paramount.
- Conservancies need to address governance which is identified as a weak area in conservancies

Annexes

Survey tool

List of respondents