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RANGELAND HEALTH ADVOCATES

Restoration of Rangeland Carbon Sinks for Increased Community Climate Resilience and Agricultural Outcomes:

Building a Network of Monitoring and Co-learning Rangeland Restoration Sites

The project focuses directly on addressing key knowledge and capacity gaps to enhance rangeland health monitoring with one key work area focused on building a gender-inclusive community of practice in rangeland health monitoring. These individual profiles of rangeland health advocates reflect on the experiences of women and youth who have been engaged in training, skills development and data collection in their local rangelands.

Name: Benson Tumuke

Age: 28 years



Place of Training:
Laingarinyoni Conservancy, Amboseli

About the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF)

The LDSF is a comprehensive method for assessing soil and land health, from the field to the use of new and advanced data analytics. The LDSF provides a consistent set of indicators and field protocols to assess the health of an ecosystem, including vegetation cover and structure, tree, shrub and grass species diversity, current and historic land use, infiltration capacity, soil characteristics and land degradation status.



Which LDSF activities were you engaged in, during the training?

“ **Soil sampling during the rangeland health module.**

What new skills have you learnt through this training? What did you learn in the LDSF?

“ **I learnt about the soil layers and their properties, and that soil contains living organisms and carbon. I also learnt that grass helps to prevent soil erosion, and that there are annual and perennial grass species. I learnt that perennial grass species are preferable in grazing lands.**

How has the training changed/impacted your agency or ideas for future skills building and work in the community?

“ I have learnt how important perennial grasses are, because even in drought animals will still have food. I also appreciate that I could learn about where it is suitable to build dams, as this information will really help the community.



What did you enjoy most?

“ The interaction with people who are knowledgeable about the environment was really great. I also enjoyed learning the scientific names of trees and grasses.

How does understanding of land health issues empower women?

“ Women can restore rangeland health and improve their livelihoods at the same time by growing and selling grass and hay. It would be wonderful if an educational process could be funded to share this knowledge with more women.

What message do you have for your community leaders on rangeland restoration?

“ We must preserve and protect grass, trees and wildlife, and our community needs clear guidance about how to graze their livestock.

Do you see a career in land health as a result of the engagement in the LDSF? Which and why?

“ I really like the field agent work. I can train people on how to collect soil samples and the importance of having healthy soil, and train people in the community about different types of soils, grasses and trees. This will benefit the environment for everyone.

How will your engagement in the LDSF impact your community?

“ I can share what I have learnt about how important it is to plant and conserve trees, and to plant grass. I can also educate people about the impacts of overgrazing.

Project Contact

Dr Leigh Winowiecki, Soil Scientist,
CIFOR-ICRAF Theme Leader, Soil and Land Health
L.A.Winowiecki@cifor-icraf.org