# 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:** Steven Twarari
**Age:** 24 years

**Kenya**
Sera
Maasai Mara
Amboseli

**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.

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

> **How to identify the perennial and annual grasses, and forbs. I also learned about overgrazing, and how it affects the growth of grasses and causes the soil to develop hard pans, which reduce water infiltration.**

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

> **Grass identification and line transects during the rangeland health module.**

## What did you enjoy most?

"I enjoyed learning how to conduct transects and how to identify grasses.

## How will you use this knowledge?

"I now know how to recognise grasses that are good for animal feed, and those that thrive in dry areas.

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

"It's important to involve everyone in the community in landscape restoration, and not leave the task to a few individuals.

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

"I can teach the community about the negative impacts of overstocking or overgrazing.

## How has the LDSF work changed your perception of your local landscape/environment?

"I now understand the importance of growing trees and grasses to cover the soil. Failure to do this can expose the soil to erosion. Without soil, there is no life in the future.



## How will your engagement in the LDSF impact your community?

"I will teach other young people about the importance of trees, and of taking care of the environment.

## How does increased knowledge of land health through trainings like these empower women?

"If women take part in land restoration activities, they are protecting the soil as well as improving their livelihood from grass sales.

**Project Contact**

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