



Box 85
Kitui, Kenya
Phone 254-044-4422873
Email sasol@kenyaweb.com

ENDAU PREFEASIBILITY

Mutiso, Kitema and Ken toured the Endau area on 16-17 February 2010. We approached Endau from Kitui and exited through Mwitika and Voo. We drove from Endau to Malalani, Twambui, Malalani, Damsa, Endau, Ilimukuyu, Endau and Mwitika, Voo. Personally I wanted to see how Endau was for I have not been back there since SASOL started. I have thought for a long time that we will need to rethink the approaches we have used in Central, Yatta and the South. They will be useful in the Sombe/Mwitika areas but will be challenged in Endau which I estimate to be 70-80% pastoral.

The **strategic issues** are 1. Extensive Structural Land Degradation 2. Dominant Pastoralist Agriculture 3. Limited Population with Narrow Elite Base 4. Lack of Technical Skills.

Northern Endau is dominated by the Enziu River catchment, which originates as far as Mwingi. Its historic towns/population concentrations are Damsa and Twambui. Both have been overtaken by Malalani, which is driven by reliable water supply. The Munyu? Catchment dominates the Southern Endau. However, before the gradient drops from the mountain to the Munyu? River, there is the area from Endau town towards Ilimukuyu which receives quite a bit of rainfall and possibly underground recharge from the massif. Cattle do not graze this area for its stony ground impacts negatively on their hoofs. It is good crop area but is under-exploited. Eastern Endau has unreliable water supply therefore it is grazed only during the rainy season with livestock collapsing to the Enziu, Munyu and Western Endau which has more rainfall for the massif generates its own rainfall. It is Western Endau, which was colonised first, according to District political records, Mutiso/O'Leary fieldwork and Mutiso ASAL consultancies both of the seventies. From there people moved to the North and the South. This is not backed by as formal demographic work as Kisovi but seems to be backed by the land degradation.

Land degradation is driven essentially by livestock concentrations. Damsa, which had good wells thirty years ago, now has no reliable water in the Enziu River. So is Twambui, relying on the same river. Kitema points out that some Munyu wells we did not get to, need twelve people standing to haul water. Note that it is still these two rivers which traverse the East, where according to the Chief of Malalani location (hived from historic Endau location, each with about 8,000 people in 2010), there is still 70 km of grazing before one gets to the Tana District boundary. I expect the Malalani area to degrade further, through tramping, for it is already taking the Damsa livestock and if the Twambui wells dry, it will be taking livestock from there also. Further, I expect more organizations to put in wells and boreholes in the Malalani area further degrading the aquifer. One should note that the Endau gravity water system is not functioning now. This central achievement of the African Land Development Board and DC Kelly, in the fifties, is vandalized. I expect it to be redone perhaps before SASOL starts work in Eastern.

The **way forward** for me is to task a group within SASOL to begin thinking about addressing the strategic issues of Endau. I envision them, and the rest of the staff, having to decide on whether on completion of the South, the efforts in the East should start in old Sombe and Mwitika or old Endau. My own view is to start in Endau and within it start at the East to facilitate land rehabilitation in the already permanently populated areas. More important is to identify how strategic issues can be refined and internalized into the ongoing staff trainings, attachments, sponsored research etc. I propose that this group be **Kitema, Ken and Fred** to initially cover community, water structures and degradation. Tentatively the **Strategic responses, whose visioning and planning need to be set now or in the near future**, could be seen as 1. Shift Grazing to the Last 70 kilometers 2. Intensification of Crop Agriculture in the Ilimukuyu

Area. 3. Design Pastoralist Oriented Community Organization and Mobilization Approaches.4. Identification of Needed Skills for Endau Development.

I flag Endau because I believe it will challenge SASOL approaches in different sectors in a fundamental way.

Mutiso
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