

Human-Carnivore Conflicts in Private Conservancy Lands of Elerai and Oltiyiani in Amboseli Area, Kenya

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Abstract

Human-carnivore conflicts represent the most common negative form of interactions between humans and wildlife. Most carnivores involved in such conflicts are: lion, hyena, leopard and cheetah. Three strategies are normally used in Kenya to mitigate such conflicts; consolation for lost livestock and human life to increase tolerance to them, use of predator proof homesteads especially among pastoralists, use flicking lights at night to discourage approach of carnivores near homesteads, and awareness creation among communities on the ecological role of carnivores. This study examined human-carnivore interactions in privately owned conservancies near Amboseli National Park, Kenya. The conservancies were found to have almost similar human and livestock demography. However, homesteads in Elerai had more fence broken parts and relatively higher levels of livestock predation by lion and hyena. The higher the number of each livestock type was, the higher the specific predation to that livestock type was, implying density dependent effects of predation by carnivores on livestock. It seemed that the fence structure and level of maintenance (including carnivore strategies on specializing on specific livestock size and age consistent with optimizing their foraging strategies) influenced predation incidences. However, the presence of adult males and Maasai warriors (morans) in bomas did not seem to be related with the number of livestock killed by carnivores, implying that they didn't add vigilance as an additional strategy to prevent livestock depredation. It is recommended that attention be paid on maintenance of homestead and livestock fences as well as vigilance to deter predation. We further recommend strategies to prevent livestock predation such as, installation of chain link predator proof fences or carnivore lighting deterrents at night because woody plants fences are ineffective and deteriorate easily with time, and also lead to depletion of plant resources critical to households.

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Keywords

Amboseli, Human-Carnivore Conflicts, Livestock Depredation

1. Introduction

Human-wildlife conflicts, including human-carnivore conflicts, are a leading cause of decline of wildlife populations and contraction of their space throughout Africa (KWS 1994 [1]; Woodroffe 2000 [2]; Patterson *et al.* 2004 [3]; Maclellan *et al.* 2009 [4]). It presents one of the most persistent and very emotive aspects of conservation that needs to be managed if humans will co-exist with wildlife especially in poor rural third world countries (Norton-Griffiths and Southey 1995 [5]; Newmark 1994 [6]; Frank 2004 [7]; Kimanai and Pickard 1998 [8]; Okello and Kiringe 2004 [9]; Hazzah *et al.* 2009 [10]). Of the most animals involved in such conflicts are carnivores, particularly lion *Panthera leo*, spotted hyena *Crocuta crocuta*, leopard *Panthera pardus*, and cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*, large mega herbivores especially the African elephant *Loxodonta africana*, Cape buffalo *Syncerus caffer*, hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius* and primates. The manifestation of the conflicts is manifested in different forms such as; crop raiding, livestock predation, spread of wildlife diseases to livestock, destruction of property, human injury and death (KWS 1994 [1]). The main causes for these are probably increasing human population that cause encroachment on wildlife habitats, and competition of critical resources and space between wildlife and humans.

Protected areas provide some of the most important areas available to wildlife legally in the future in Kenya (Gowdy 1997 [11]; Wishitemi and Okello 2003 [12]), but the network of protected areas around the world are faced by all kinds of threat including human encroachment and insularization (Morell 1993 [13]; NewMark 1993 [14], 1996 [15]), mismanagement and insufficient funding (Stuart-Hill and Grossman 1993 [16]). It is therefore important to sustain efforts aimed at expanding space for wildlife outside protected areas, but in safe lands earmarked specifically for conservation such as private and communal wildlife sanctuaries (Graham 1989 [17]; Hackel 1998 [18]; Ferraro and Kiss 2000 [19]; Okello *et al.* 2003 [20]). However, this initiative needs to be fast-tracked but in a systematic manner since land uses in critical wildlife dispersal areas of major national parks in Kenya and East Africa are rapidly changing making them unsuitable for use by wildlife (Campbell *et al.* 2000 [21]). This situation is exacerbated by a fast growing sedentary human population which increases encounters with carnivores eventually leading to conflicts, death and ultimately decline in the population of large predators (Mizutani 1993 [22]; Burtler 2000 [23]; Kerbis *et al.* 2002 [24]; Patterson *et al.* 2004 [3]).

The consequences for human-carnivore conflicts are evident to both people and wildlife. For the people, it entrenches a negative attitude towards wildlife, lack of support for wildlife conservation and tolerance for sharing space and resources with wildlife (Hazzah *et al.* 2013 [25]). This is especially the case where predation costs are enormous and persistent, and also uncompensated by the state or conservation agencies. The problem is persistent where there is no interest or capacity by government agencies to control, prevent or fully compensate damages and losses incurred. Ultimately, this sets many local people against conservation initiatives instead of enlisting their support, participation and collaboration. This situation has eventually become one of the biggest impediments to conservation of wildlife and its habitats across many countries of Africa (Galaty 1992 [26]; Norton-Griffiths and Southey 1995 [5]; Gowdy 1997 [11]). It also entrenches rural poverty especially in cases where losses are not controlled, contained or fully compensated for as it transfers the cost and burden of conservation to local communities, when they may not be specifically the biggest beneficiaries of wildlife related benefits (such as tourism revenue and ecosystem services). Similarly, the consequences to the wildlife are serious, and the threats they face from humans may be direct or indirect. Direct consequences involve killing large carnivores through spearing and poisoning to retaliate for the losses incurred, reduced tolerance to wildlife presence including engaging in illegal activities such as bush-meat poaching as a means of reducing wildlife numbers and associated damages. The indirect consequences for negative human interactions include destruction of critical wildlife habitats, encroachment of their space, conversion of their space to alternative land uses, and general insularization. Collectively, indirect and direct consequences have an effect of leading to reduced carnivore populations, local extinctions and their confinement in protected areas (Western 1975 [27]; Rudnai 1979 [28]; Hackel 1998 [18]; Okello *et al.* 2003 [20]; Patterson *et al.* 2004 [3]).

It is therefore imperative that controlling and managing human-wildlife conflicts is an important part of ensuring coexistence between man and beast (KWS 1994 [1]). This co-existence means that there must be consistent and effective means to eliminating or controlling these conflicts. Several strategies have been employed by conservationists and communities to address this with varying degrees of success. In the Amboseli area, the Amboseli for Elephants (ATE) and Big Life Foundation through the elephant research program provides a consolation for livestock killed by elephants outside the parks. In addition, Big Life Foundation provides a consolation to locals whose livestock is killed by large carnivores. These schemes have helped a great deal in restoring local tolerance for wildlife as well as allowing them more range due to community understanding created by these organizations. However, more strategies are needed to complement their effort, such as the new initiatives by Born Free Foundation and African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) who have in the recent past helped construct chain-link predator proof livestock sheds (PPFs) in Maasai homesteads (*bomas*) within the ecosystem.

Conservation actions like establishment of PPF fences and flicking lights to scare away large carnivores at night in the Amboseli region are addressing the critical question of prevention (before it happens) as well as consolation (after it happens), operating side by side to contain the escalation human-carnivore conflicts. Other general strategies that are also be used include; use of electric fences around agricultural areas, encouraging tourism investments other than agriculture in form of privately owned sanctuaries and establishment of eco-lodges whose revenue goes directly to individual land owners. This will augment efforts of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) problem animal management unit (PAMU), community/individual vigilance of farms, as well as use of community game scouts/rangers who help KWS control problem animals and mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.

This study examined human-carnivore conflicts in the emerging private conservancies in the Amboseli ecosystem. The overall objective was to assess the nature, pattern and extent of the conflicts, and establish the most common problem carnivores. Specifically, the study addressed the following objectives:

- 1) Assess homestead characteristics, human demography and livestock numbers in homesteads.
- 2) Evaluate how human demographic characteristics, *boma* fence integrity and livestock numbers influenced the rate of carnivore predation on livestock in homesteads.
- 3) Establish the common carnivores that challenged *boma* fences, and livestock predation incidences in the conservancies.
- 4) Make recommendations on how to alleviate human-carnivore conflicts in the study sites and other private conservancies in the Amboseli region.

2. Study Area

Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies are part of the Amboseli ecosystem (**Figure 1** and **Figure 2**) which is a renowned wildlife conservation region in Kenya. Wildlife moves seasonally between protected areas (*i.e.* Tsavo West, Chyulu Hills and Amboseli National Parks) and the adjoining communal group ranches owned by the Maasai (Western 1975 [27]; Wishitemi and Okello 2003 [12]). These wildlife resources have made the ecosystem an important tourism hub, and hence generate a lot of revenue for the country and stakeholders in the tourism industry. The group ranches are part of the ecosystem and collectively provide important wildlife dispersal areas and movement corridors (Western 1975 [27]; Ntiati 2002 [29]; Okello *et al.* 2003 [20]), including supporting large populations of resident wildlife. In recognition of the value of these communal lands to wildlife survival in the ecosystem, the government through support of USAID established the first private and communally owned wildlife sanctuary (Kimana Community Wildlife Sanctuary) in 1996. Among conservationists, this initiative marked the genesis of establishment of private conservancies in the ecosystem and the country as a whole. It also demonstrated the commitment of the government to mainstream locals in wildlife conservation endeavors whilst involving them in the tourism industry.

Elerai is a privately owned conservancy situated near Amboseli National Park that was started in the 1980's with support from AWF and KWS COBRA Program (Conservation of Bio-diverse Resource Areas) (**Figure 2**). It borders the Kenya-Tanzania border near and is owned by 8 related families who have set aside their land for wildlife conservation and tourism investment opportunities. Similarly, Oltiyiani is a private conservancy arising from sub-divided land from the former Kimana Group Ranch. It was established in 2000, and is owned by about 85 members (families), and each member has contributed approximately 60 acres of land for the formation of the conservancy. The members opted to merge their individual parcels so as to have multiple gains such as; se-

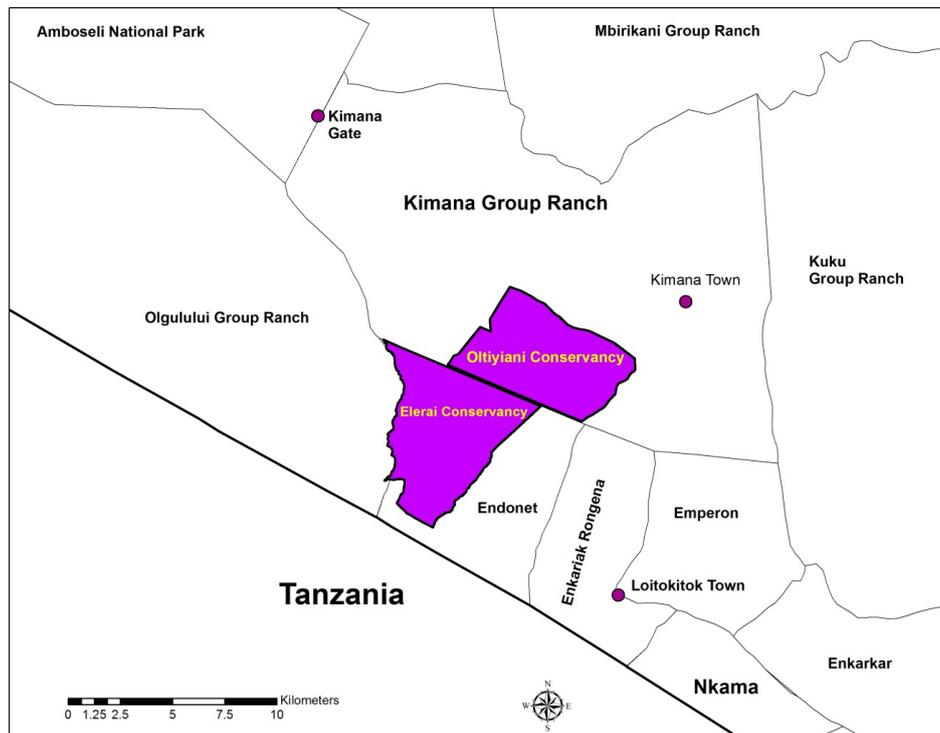
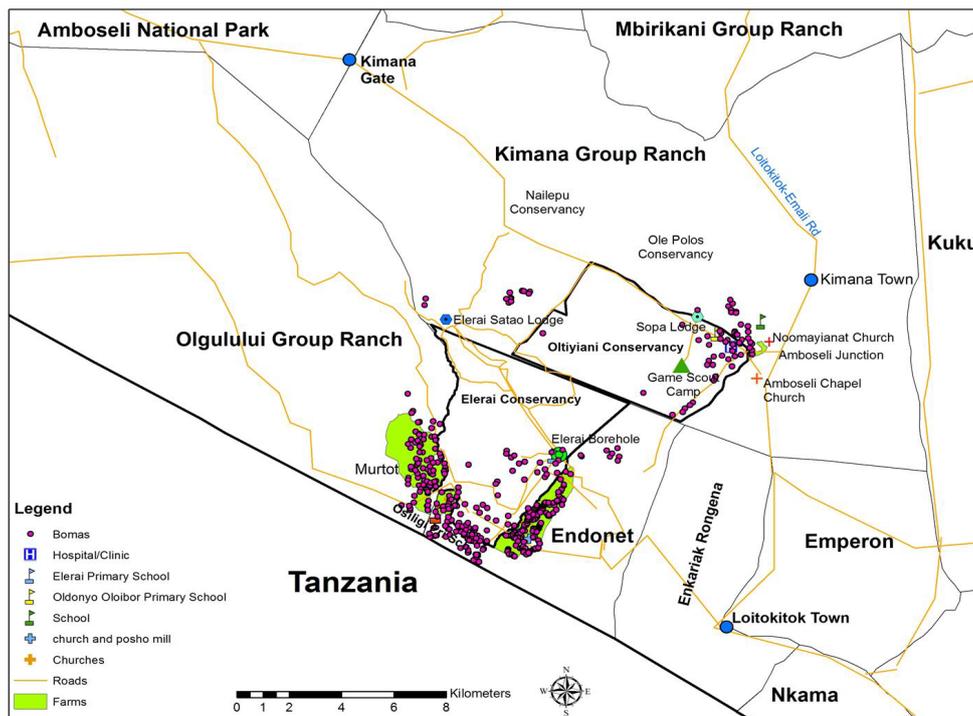


Figure 1. A section of the Amboseli ecosystem showing some of the communal Maasai group ranches in Southern Kenya. Highlighted are Elerai and Oltiyiani Conservancies.



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Figure 2. Distribution of Maasai homesteads (bomas) inside and outside the immediate environs of Elerai and Oltiyiani Conservancies as surveyed in the this study.

curing land for their children, conservation of plant resources to meet their livelihood needs, pastoralism and ecotourism benefits through wildlife conservation.

Most of the Amboseli ecosystem including the two conservancies where this study was done is semi-arid and arid rangeland with a bimodal rainfall pattern (Ntiati 2002 [29]). The long rains occur from around March/April to May while the short rains occur in November and December. The average annual rainfall received within the general locality of the conservancies is between 400mm and 500mm, with 30% being received during the short rains and 45% received during the long rains (Irigia 1995 [30]). Soils are classified as volcanic and are generally shallow, highly saline and alkaline (Gachimbi 2002 [31]).

Socio-economic changes in the Amboseli region are increasing demand for group ranch subdivision so that the Maasai can individually feel secure in land ownership. This is further fueled by new government policies which are encouraging dismantling communal ownership of land and nomadic pastoralism into individual ownership (Graham 1989 [17]; Galaty 1992 [26]). These are some of the circumstances which led to the eventual sub-division of Kimana Group Ranch around 2005, and subsequently triggered the creation of private conservancies such as Osupuko, Olepolos, Kilitome, Elerai and Oltiyiani. Unfortunately, this new land tenure policy has increased the opportunity for non-Maasai migrants to lease or even buy the subdivided land hence promoting land uses like agriculture that are not compatible with wildlife conservation. Proliferation of agriculture is therefore an issue of great concern, and is viewed as one of the most serious threats to wildlife conservation in the ecosystem (Pickard 1998 [8]; Ntiati 2002 [29]; Okello and Kiringe 2004 [9]; Okello 2009 [32]).

3. Methodology

This study was done between March and June in 2013 in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park. We used homesteads as sampling units, and for each we sought the desired information through measurements, observations and interviews with homestead owners. The GPS locations of the homesteads were first established to show their location (Figure 2), after which measurement of *boma* fence diameter was taken, including making observations on repairs and materials were used to fence the homesteads. Interviews with the homestead owners were done to provide insights on the number of all the people in the homestead, (total people, and number of adult males, women, children and Maasai warriors). Further, information about the number of livestock in general; cattle, shoats (goats and sheep), donkeys and camels were also taken. After this, an interview /discussion with a household male or female leader was done to capture opinions on the effectiveness of the *boma* fences in deterring livestock predation and human-carnivore conflicts was done in each homestead. Other important information collected included; predators involved in conflicts, livestock predation incidences, compensation sought from killed livestock, and incidences of retaliation killing of large carnivores.

Data analysis was done by calculating averages and variance (Zar 1999 [33]) of common continuous parameters collected. Equality of frequencies was done using Chi-square goodness of fit test, comparisons between some aspects of the conservancies was done using an independent t-test (Zar 1999 [33]), and relationships between fence characteristics and *boma* demographic variables with livestock killed was done using a Pearson correlation. All tests were deemed significant statistically if the probability of type one error (alpha) was less than 0.05. Tallies and data processing and analysis was done using Excel Microsoft Spreadsheet 2000, and Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) 2001.

4. Results

There were 30 homesteads (*bomas*) in both Elerai and Oltiyiani, and their distribution was rather clustered (Figure 2). There seemed to be more *bomas* in the immediate environs of the conservancies than inside. The number of *bomas* also appeared to more in the northern part of Elerai towards the Kenya-Tanzania border where agriculture was more prevalent but fewer and localized in Oltiyiani (Figure 2). Within Elerai, the highest number of *bomas* was in Oltinga, followed by Naankamuriak, and lastly Nooloitikoshi, while in Oltiyiani, the highest number of *bomas* was in Noomayianat near Sopa Lodge, followed by Noonkeshi, and lastly Paranai (Table 1). For Elerai conservancy, the number of families per homestead was 2.36 ± 0.58 . The average temporary house units per homestead was 4.72 ± 1.28 , semi-permanent units were 0.90 ± 0.08 , and permanent units 0.07 ± 0.05 (Table 1). In Oltiyiani, the average number of families per homestead was 1.74 ± 0.70 with an average temporary house units per homestead of 2.15 ± 0.51 , while that of semi-permanent units was 1.25 ± 0.41 , and permanent units were 0.13 ± 0.04 (Table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of Maasai *bomas* in Elerai and Oltiyani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Conservancy	Location	Total <i>bomas</i>	Average number of temporary <i>bomas</i> (Mean \pm SE) Mode: NA Min/max: 2,7	Average number of semi-permanent <i>bomas</i> (Mean \pm SE) Mode: NA	Average number of permanent <i>bomas</i> (Mean \pm SE) Mode: 1	Total number of families (Mean \pm SE) Mode: 1 Total: 2 families
Elerai	Naankamuriak	2	4.50 \pm 2.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 2,7	Not present	Not present	1.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: 1 Total: 2 families
	Nooloitikoshi	1	5.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	2.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	Not present	3.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA Total: 3 families
	Oltinga	27	4.65 \pm 1.33 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1, 37	0.70 \pm 0.23 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1,2	0.22 \pm 0.15 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 4	3.07 \pm 1.73 Mode:1 Min/max: 1, 48 Total: 83 families
Total	30	4.72 \pm 1.28	0.90 \pm 0.08	0.07 \pm 0.05	2.36 \pm 0.58	
Oltiyani	Noonkeshi	4	1.75 \pm 0.48 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 3	1.25 \pm 0.75 Mode: NA Min/max: 2, 3	Not present	2.00 \pm 1.00 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 2 Total: 8 families
	Noomayianat	24	2.21 \pm 0.54 Mode: 3 Min/max: 1, 10	2.50 \pm 0.47 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1, 10	0.38 \pm 0.13 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 2	1.21 \pm 0.10 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 3 Total: 29 families
	Paranai	2	2.50 \pm 0.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 2, 3	Not present	Not present	2.00 \pm 1.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 1, 3 Total: 4 families
Total	30	2.15 \pm 0.51	1.25 \pm 0.41	0.13 \pm 0.04	1.74 \pm 0.70	

The homesteads' human demographics of interest (number of Maasai warriors (morans), adult males, women, and children) varied between the conservancies. For Elerai, the average number of Maasai warriors per homestead was 4.09 ± 0.70 , adult males and women was 4.51 ± 1.73 and 6.06 ± 1.33 respectively while that of children was 24.67 ± 7.17 (Table 2). In Oltiyani, the average number of Maasai warriors per household was 1.85 ± 0.76 , with that of adult males being 2.54 ± 0.91 , 3.00 ± 1.99 for women and an average of 7.29 ± 1.99 for children (Table 2). Overall, there were more people in Nooloitikoshi followed by Naankamuriak and lastly Oltinga within Elerai conservancy, while in Oltiyani, there were more people on Noomanayiat followed by Paranai and lastly Noonkeshi (Table 2). In terms of livestock owned, there was an average total livestock of 420.11 ± 177.87 and 188.94 ± 115.07 per homestead in Elerai and Oltiyani respectively (Table 3). Further, the average number of cattle per homestead in Elerai was 100.30 ± 20.54 , for shoats it was 334.81 ± 163.84 , and donkeys 5.78 ± 2.01 . For homesteads in Oltiyani, the average number of cattle per homestead was 58.03 ± 47.80 , with an average of 130.74 ± 69.45 for shoats, and 0.18 ± 0.14 for donkeys (Table 3). Within Elerai, the highest number of livestock was found in Naankamuriak followed by Nooloitikoshi and lastly Oltinga. But in Oltiyani, the largest number of livestock was found in Paranai followed by Noonkeshi and lastly Noomanayiat.

Several characteristics of the homesteads fences in the two conservancies were obtained (Table 4). Elerai conservancy had an average 5.21 ± 1.53 fenced compartments in the homesteads while Oltiyani had 3.63 ± 1.19 . The average number of fence broken points in Elerai was 7.42 ± 0.69 , and fence repairs due to damage were done on average 8.58 ± 1.47 times per year. In Oltiyani, the average number of fence broken points was 3.89 ± 0.95 , while repairs were done 5.25 ± 1.83 times per year (Table 4). In Elerai, the largest number of broken fence parts in homesteads was in Oltinga followed by Nooloitikoshi and Naankamuriak in that order. Further, the largest number of fence repairs was done at Nooloitikoshi followed by Naankamuriak, and lastly Oltinga. For Oltiyani, the highest number of broken fence parts was in Paranai followed by Noomanayiat and lastly Noonkeshi. For the number of repairs done, Noomanayiat had the highest followed by Noonkeshi and lastly Paranai.

In both Elerai and Oltiyani, more shoats were killed followed by cattle and donkeys every month (Table 5).

Table 2. Human demographics of Maasai *bomas* in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Conservancy	Location	Average number of morans per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of adult men per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of adult women per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of children per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)
Elerai	Naankamuriak	2.50 \pm 1.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 1, 4	5.50 \pm 4.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 1, 10	5.50 \pm 3.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 2, 9	21.00 \pm 19.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 2, 40
	Nooloitikoshi	7.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	5.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	9.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	40.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA
	Oltinga	2.78 \pm 0.59 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1, 16	3.04 \pm 0.70 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 20	3.67 \pm 0.50 Mode: 3 Min/max: 1, 11	13.03 \pm 2.51 Mode: 12 Min/max: 2, 70
Total	4.09 \pm 0.70	4.51 \pm 1.73	6.06 \pm 1.33	24.67 \pm 7.17	
Oltiyiani	Noonkeshi	1.50 \pm 0.87 Mode: 3 Min/max: 3,3	2.75 \pm 0.85 Mode: NA Min/ max: 1, 5	2.75 \pm 1.18 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 6	6.75 \pm 2.25 Mode: 3 Min/max: 3, 12
	Noomayianat	2.04 \pm 0.42 Moe: 1 Min/max: 1, 9	2.38 \pm 0.38 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1, 8	2.75 \pm 0.34 Mode: 3 Min/max: 1, 7	10.13 \pm 1.71 Mode: 12 Min/max: 2, 40
	Paranai	2.00 \pm 1.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 1, 3	2.50 \pm 1.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 1, 4	3.50 \pm 0.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 3, 4	5.00 \pm 2.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 3, 7
Total	1.85 \pm 0.76	2.54 \pm 0.91	3.00 \pm 0.67	7.29 \pm 1.99	

Table 3. Livestock characteristics in Maasai *bomas* in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Conservancy	Location	Average livestock per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of cattle per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of goats and sheep(shoats) per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of donkeys per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)
Elerai	Naankamuriak	598.00 \pm 512.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 86, 1110	65.00 \pm 35.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 30, 100	525.00 \pm 475.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 50, 1000	8.00 \pm 2.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 6, 10
	Nooloitikoshi	556.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	150.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	400.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	6.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA
	Oltinga	106.33 \pm 21.60 Mode: 34 Min/max: 14, 350	85.89 \pm 26.63 Mode: 10 Min/max: 5, 100	79.42 \pm 16.53 Mode: 100 Min/max: 3, 300	3.34 \pm 4.02 Mode: 3 Min/max: 2, 20
Total	420.11 \pm 177.87	100.30 \pm 20.54	334.81 \pm 163.84	5.78 \pm 2.01	
Oltiyiani	Noonkeshi	169.50 \pm 60.87 Mode: NA Min/max: 40, 320	27.00 \pm 15.67 Mode: NA Min/max: 8, 70	142.50 \pm 49.39 Mode: NA Min/max: 40, 250	Not present
	Noomayianat	108.83 \pm 22.83 Mode: 50 Min/max: 27, 407	20.08 \pm 4.73 Mode: 20 Min/max: 2, 120	88.21 \pm 20.45 Mode: 30 Min/max: 15, 400	0.54 \pm 0.42 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1, 2
	Paranai	288.50 \pm 261.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 27, 550	127.00 \pm 123.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 4, 250	161.50 \pm 138.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 23, 300	Not present
Total	188.94 \pm 115.07	58.03 \pm 47.80	130.74 \pm 69.45	0.18 \pm 0.14	

The number of livestock killed per boma every month in Elerai was 6.34 ± 1.76 . This was composed of cattle 1.70 ± 0.27 , shoats 5.92 ± 1.39 , and donkeys 0.39 ± 0.23 . On the other hand, the number of livestock killed per boma every month in Oltiyiani was 6.78 ± 2.88 , which was composed of cattle 1.13 ± 0.70 , shoats 5.63 ± 2.30 , and donkeys 0.03 ± 0.02 . In Elerai, the highest number of livestock killed by carnivores was in Nooloitikoshi followed by Naankamuriak and lastly Oltinga, and for Oltiyiani, the highest number of livestock killed was in

Table 4. Fence characteristics of Maasai *bomas* in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Conservancy	Location	Average number of fence compartments per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of broken points per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average number of fence repairs done per year per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)
Elerai	Naankamuriak	6.00 \pm 3.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 3, 9	5.50 \pm 0.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 5, 6	6.50 \pm 3.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 3, 10
	Nooloitikoshi	5.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	8.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	13.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA
	Oltinga	4.63 \pm 1.59 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1, 40	8.77 \pm 1.56 Mode: 10 Min/max: 2, 30	6.23 \pm 0.91 Mode: 2 Min/max: 2, 20
Total		5.21 \pm 1.53	7.42 \pm 0.69	8.58 \pm 1.47
Oltiyiani	Noonkeshi	3.00 \pm 0.71 Mode: 4 Min/max: 1, 4	3.25 \pm 1.97 Mode: NA Min/max: 5, 8	4.75 \pm 2.43 Mode: 2 Min/max: 2, 12
	Noomayianat	3.38 \pm 0.36 Mode: 3 Min/max: 2, 11	4.43 \pm 0.89 Mode: 2 Min/max: 1, 15	8.50 \pm 2.56 Mode: 3 Min/max: 1, 48
	Paranai	4.50 \pm 2.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 2, 7	4.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	2.50 \pm 0.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 2, 3
Total		3.63 \pm 1.19	3.89 \pm 0.95	5.25 \pm 1.83

Table 5. Livestock killed by large carnivores in Maasai *bomas* in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Conservancy	Location	Average number of livestock killed per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average monthly cattle killed per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average monthly shoats killed per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)	Average monthly donkeys killed per <i>boma</i> (Mean \pm SE)
Elerai	Naankamuriak	8.50 \pm 4.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 4, 13	1.50 \pm 0.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 1, 2	6.50 \pm 3.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 3, 10	0.50 \pm 0.50 Mode: NA
	Nooloitikoshi	9.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	2.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	7.00 \pm 0.00 Mode: NA	Not present
	Oltinga	1.52 \pm 0.79 Mode: 2 Min/max: 2, 21	1.59 \pm 0.31 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 8	4.26 \pm 0.68 Mode: 3 Min/max: 1, 20	0.67 \pm 0.19 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 8
Total		6.34 \pm 1.76	1.70 \pm 0.27	5.92 \pm 1.39	0.39 \pm 0.23
Oltiyiani	Noonkeshi	7.50 \pm 4.63 Mode: NA Min/max: 4, 21	1.00 \pm 0.41 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 2	6.50 \pm 4.56 Mode: 3 Min/max: 3, 20	Not present
	Noomayianat	4.33 \pm 0.50 Mode: 3 Min/max: 2, 9	0.88 \pm 0.20 Mode: 1 Min/max: 1, 3	3.38 \pm 0.33 Mode: 3 Min/max: 1, 7	0.08 \pm 0.06 Mode: 1
	Paranai	8.50 \pm 3.50 Mode: NA Min/max: 5, 12	1.50 \pm 1.50 Mode: NA	7.00 \pm 2.00 Mode: NA Min/max: 5, 9	Not present
Total		6.78 \pm 2.88	1.13 \pm 0.70	5.63 \pm 2.30	0.03 \pm 0.02

Paranai followed by Noonkeshi and lastly Noomanayiat. In regards to fence size dimensions, the average boma diameter in Elerai was 44.19 ± 4.49 meters while the average boma area was 1700.21 ± 386.83 m² and with an average fence height of 1.29 ± 0.07 meters (Table 6). The average boma diameter in Oltiyiani was 42.29 ± 8.04

Table 6. Average diameter (m) and area of Maasai *bomas* in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Conservancy	Location	Average <i>boma</i> diameter (m) (Mean \pm SE)	Average <i>boma</i> area (m) (Mean \pm SE)	Average fence height (m) (Mean \pm SE)
Elerai	Naankamuriak	54.00 \pm 10.50 n = 2	2376.81 \pm 890.64	1.45 \pm 0.15
	Nooloitikoshi	41.50 \pm 0.00 n = 1	1352.65 \pm 0.00	1.00 \pm 0.00
	Oltinga	37.03 \pm 2.97 n = 27	1371.17 \pm 269.86	1.43 \pm 0.05
Total		44.18 \pm 4.49 n = 30	1700.21 \pm 386.83	1.29 \pm 0.07
Oltiyiani	Noonkeshi	33.83 \pm 7.04 n = 4	3869.31 \pm 1881.83	1.65 \pm 0.06
	Noomanaiyat	39.78 \pm 2.32 n = 24	3254.63 \pm 432.73	1.45 \pm 0.04
	Paranai	53.25 \pm 14.75 n = 2	2397.92 \pm 1233.76	1.50 \pm 0.10
	Total	42.29 \pm 8.04 n = 30	3173.95 \pm 618.44	1.53 \pm 0.07

meters (Table 6). In the same conservancy, the average *boma* area was 3173.95 \pm 618.44 m² and the average fence height of 1.53 \pm 0.07 meters. In Elerai, the fence size (in terms of area) was largest in Naankamuriak followed by Oltinga and lastly at Nooloitikoshi, while in Oltiyiani, the largest fence size was for Noonkeshi followed by Noomanaiyat and lastly Paranai.

In both conservancies, three types of large carnivores (lion, spotted hyena and leopard) were frequently mentioned to be involved in conflicts with the locals (Table 7). Their views also showed that within Elerai more livestock was killed by carnivores than Oltiyiani, and this was specifically by lions, while in Oltiyiani hyena kills were the highest. Both conservancies had similar leopard predation on livestock, and for Elerai more livestock kills by carnivore were in Oltinga followed by Naankamuriak and lastly Nooloitikosh. However, lion kills in Elerai were more common in Oltinga followed by Naankamuriak and lastly Nooloitikoshi. For Oltiyiani, the highest livestock killed by carnivores was in Noomanaiyat followed by Noonkeshi and lastly Paranai, with hyena kills being highest at Noomanaiyat followed by Noonkeshi and least at Parani. Opinions from land owners in the conservancies showed that there were a high number of homesteads (86.7%) that repairs were frequently done to keep their *boma* fences in good working condition (Table 8). Further, a majority of the owners (78.3%) thought that it was getting harder to acquire the plant materials (thorny bushes) for fence repairs. Many homesteads (96.7%) noted that the current fence (of thorny woody plants) they are using was not an effective deterrent for predators as they were still losing livestock in predation. A significant majority of members (95.1%) thought that livestock depredation by large carnivores had increased in the conservancies ($\chi^2 = 49.59$, $df = 1$, $p < 0.001$), but most (98.4%) reported never having killed predators in retaliation for livestock losses. Further, a majority (96.7%) noted that large carnivores always succeeded in their attempts to take livestock from the homesteads at night. A slide majority (61.7%) of the respondents said that there was no compensation for the loss of livestock to predators in the conservancies, but this number was not significant from those who said that compensation was offered ($\chi^2 = 3.27$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.07$).

Comparisons of Elerai and Oltiyiani Conservancies

Comparisons were made between Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies in terms of homestead characteristics, total livestock present, human demographics and fence characteristics (Table 9). The number of families for both Elerai and Oltiyiani were statistically similar ($t = 1.00$, $df = 58$, $p = 0.32$). Further, the number of adult males, women, morans and children were statistically similar in both conservancies. The number of temporary house units as well as the permanent house units was also statistically similar between Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies. However, the number of semi-permanent houses in the two conservancies were statistically different ($t = 1.00$, $df = 58$, $p = 0.32$), with Oltiyiani having a higher average of such houses. The average number of people;

Table 7. Monthly total livestock killed by various carnivore types in Maasai *bomas* of Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Conservancy	Location	Total carnivore kills	Lion livestock kills	Spotted hyena livestock kills	Leopard livestock kills	Cheetah livestock kills	Jackal livestock kills
Elerai	Naankamuriak	17	14	3	-	-	-
	Nooloitikoshi	9	6	3	-	-	-
	Oltinga	163	99	27	2	-	-
	Total	189	119	33	2	-	-
Oltiyiani	Noonkeshi	30	5	23	2	-	-
	Noomayianat	104	39	65	-	-	-
	Paranai	17	10	7	-	-	-
	Total	151	54	95	2	-	-

Table 8. Frequencies of aspects regarding human-carnivore conflicts in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies near Amboseli National Park.

Number	Issue being investigated	Aspect outcomes	Frequencies	Percentages	Chi-square goodness of fit test outcome
1	Opinion on whether repairs have been done on the broken points on fences	Yes	52	86.7	$\chi^2 = 32.27$ d.f = 1 p < 0.001
		No	8	13.3	
		Near	16	26.2	
2	Opinion on how far members go to gather fencing materials	Far	21	34.4	$\chi^2 = 1.61$ d.f = 2 p = 0.45
		Very far	24	39.3	
3	Opinion on whether it was getting hard to acquire plant materials for making and repairing fences	Yes	47	78.3	$\chi^2 = 19.27$ d.f = 1 p < 0.001
		No	13	21.7	
4	Opinion on whether large carnivores succeeded in taking livestock from <i>bomas</i> at night	Yes	59	96.7	$\chi^2 = 53.26$ d.f = 1 p < 0.001
		No	2	3.3	
5	Opinion on the trend of carnivore attacks on livestock in the entire conservancy	Same	3	4.9	$\chi^2 = 49.59$ d.f = 1 p < 0.001
		Has increased	58	95.1	
6	Opinion on whether anyone in the <i>bomas</i> had been forced to defend livestock by killing predators in retaliation	Yes	1	1.6	$\chi^2 = 57.07$ d.f = 1 p < 0.001
		No	60	98.4	
7	Opinion on whether compensation was done for livestock killed by large carnivores	Yes	23	38.3	$\chi^2 = 3.27$ d.f = 1 p = 0.07
		No	37	61.7	

morans (warriors), adult males, women, and children present in each *boma* were statistically similar in both conservancies.

The average number of cattle and shoats were also similar for the two conservancies (Table 9). Elerai however, had a significantly higher number of donkeys compared to Oltiyiani. It also had a significant higher number of cattle and donkeys killed per household every month by carnivores compared to Oltiyiani. The average number of shoats killed per household per month was statistically similar between the conservancies. Of the three main predators that were reported to kill livestock, lions had a significantly higher number of kills in Elerai than in Oltiyiani. However, the spotted hyenas and leopard did not show any statistical difference in number of kills between the two conservancies. Aspects of the enclosures (*boma*) and their fences were also compared (Table 9). Among the parameters considered, the number of fence compartments, the longest fence diameter,

Table 9. Comparisons of Maasai homesteads in terms of human demographics, livestock predation by carnivores and fence characteristics in Elerai and Oltiyiani conservancies.

Variables	Conservancy means (Means \pm SE)	Statistical outcomes	Conclusions
Number of families present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 2.93 \pm 1.56 Oltiyiani = 1.37 \pm 0.16	t = 1.00; d.f = 58; p = 0.32	Similar
Temporary houses per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 4.66 \pm 1.22 Oltiyiani = 2.17 \pm 0.43	t = 1.95; d.f = 57; p = 0.056	Similar
Semi-permanent house units present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 0.70 \pm 0.21 Oltiyiani = 2.17 \pm 0.40	t = -3.22; d.f = 43.57; p = 0.002	Significant difference
Permanent house units present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 0.20 \pm 0.14 Oltiyiani = 0.30 \pm 0.11	t = -0.57; d.f = 58; p = 0.57	Similar
Cattle present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 33.30 \pm 6.88 Oltiyiani = 28.13 \pm 8.75	t = 0.46; d.f = 58; p = 0.64	Similar
Shoats present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 121.21 \pm 36.55 Oltiyiani = 100.33 \pm 19.07	t = 0.51; d.f = 57; p = 0.61	Similar
Donkeys present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 3.76 \pm 0.75 Elerai = 0.43 \pm 0.34	t = 4.04; d.f = 38.96; p < 0.01	Significant difference
Warriors (morans) present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 2.90 \pm 0.55 Oltiyiani = 1.97 \pm 0.36	t = 1.42; d.f = 58; p = 0.16	Similar
Adult men present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 3.27 \pm 0.68 Oltiyiani = 2.43 \pm 0.33	t = 1.11; d.f = 58; p = 0.27	Similar
Adult women per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 3.97 \pm 0.52 Oltiyiani = 2.80 \pm 0.31	t = 1.93; d.f = 58; p = 0.06	Similar
Children present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 14.47 \pm 2.61 Oltiyiani = 9.33 \pm 1.42	t = 1.73; d.f = 58; p = 0.09	Similar
Fence compartments present per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 4.43 \pm 1.29 Oltiyiani = 3.40 \pm 0.33	t = 0.78; d.f = 58; p = 0.44	Similar
Fence diameter (meters) of per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 42.36 \pm 2.93 Oltiyiani = 44.14 \pm 4.37	t = -0.35; d.f = 40; p = 0.73	Similar
Average height (meters) of <i>bomas</i>	Elerai = 1.42 \pm 0.04 Oltiyiani = 1.48 \pm 0.03	t = -1.11 d.f = 57; p = 0.27	Similar
Average number of broken points in the fence per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 8.43 \pm 1.32 Oltiyiani = 4.25 \pm 0.79	t = 2.73; d.f = 44.08; p = 0.009	Significant difference
Average number of fence repairs done per year per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 6.14 \pm 0.84 Oltiyiani = 7.60 \pm 2.09	t = -0.63; d.f = 56; p = 0.53	Similar
Average number of cattle killed per month per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 1.60 \pm 0.20 Oltiyiani = 0.93 \pm 0.19	t = 1.98; d.f = 58; p = 0.05	Significant difference
Average number of shoats killed per month per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 4.50 \pm 0.65 Oltiyiani = 4.03 \pm 0.65	t = 0.51; d.f = 58; p = 0.61	Similar
Average number of donkeys killed per month per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 0.63 \pm 0.18 Oltiyiani = 0.07 \pm 0.05	t = 3.11; d.f = 33.00; p = 0.004	Significant difference
Average monthly livestock kills by a lion per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 3.97 \pm 0.41 Oltiyiani = 1.80 \pm 0.28	t = 4.33; d.f = 58; p = 0.001	Significant difference
Average monthly livestock kills by spotted hyena per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 2.27 \pm 0.40 Oltiyiani = 3.17 \pm 0.61	t = -1.24; d.f = 58; p = 0.22	Similar
Average monthly livestock kills by leopard per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = 0.07 \pm 0.07 Oltiyiani = None	t = 1.00; d.f = 29; p = 0.33	Similar
Average monthly livestock kills by cheetah per <i>boma</i>	Elerai = None Oltiyiani = 0.07 \pm 0.07	t = 11.00; d.f = 29; p = 0.33	Similar

the average outer fence height, and the number of repairs carried out on the fences annually per household were statistically similar in the conservancies. However, Elerai had statistically higher average number of broken points on the fences per *boma* compared to Oltiyiani. The correlation between family size and demographics (number of adult males, women, morans and number of children) had large positive correlation (**Table 10**) with

Table 10. Correlation of livestock killed with human and livestock demographics, and fence features.

	Average monthly cattle killed	Average monthly shoats killed	Average donkeys cattle killed
Human Demographics			
Number of families	$r = 0.68^{**}$ d.f = 59 $p < 0.001$	$r = -0.38$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.77$	$r = 0.29^*$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.03$
Number of morans	$r = 0.61^{**}$ d.f = 59 $p < 0.001$	$r = 0.05$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.03$	$r = 0.32^*$ d.f = 59 $p < 0.01$
Number of adult males	$r = 0.62^{**}$ d.f = 59 $p < 0.001$	$r = 0.13$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.31$	$r = 0.24$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.07$
Number of adult women	$r = 0.44$ d.f = 59 $p < 0.001$	$r = 0.10$ d.f = 59 $p < 0.45$	$r = 0.17$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.20$
Number of children	$r = 0.15$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.26$	$r = 0.13$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.34$	$r = 0.45^{**}$ d.f = 59 $p < 0.001$
Livestock Demographics			
Number of cattle in the boma	$r = 0.30^*$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.02$	$r = 0.23$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.07$	$r = 0.08$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.54$
Number of shoats in the boma	$r = 0.61^{**}$ d.f = 58 $p = 0.15$	$r = 0.43^{**}$ d.f = 58 $p = 0.001$	$r = 0.08$ d.f = 58 $p = 0.55$
Number of donkeys in the boma	$r = 0.57^{**}$ d.f = 58 $p < 0.001$	$r = 0.08$ d.f = 58 $p = 0.54$	$r = 0.47^{**}$ d.f = 58 $p < 0.001$
Boma characteristics and parameters			
Longest Diameter	$r = 0.50^{**}$ d.f = 41 $p = 0.001$	$r = 0.28$ d.f = 41 $p = 0.07$	$r = 0.12$ d.f = 41 $p = 0.47$
Boma Radius	$r = 0.07$ d.f = 17 $p = 0.77$	$r = 0.68^{**}$ d.f = 17 $p = 0.002$	$r = -0.37$ d.f = 17 $p = 0.13$
Average main outer fence height	$r = 0.07$ d.f = 58 $p = 0.59$	$r = 0.11$ d.f = 58 $p = 0.42$	$r = 0.09$ d.f = 58 $p = 0.52$
Number of broken points	$r = -0.19$ d.f = 55 $p = 0.17$	$r = 0.03$ d.f = 55 $p = 0.81$	$r = -0.105$ d.f = 55 $p = 0.44$
Number of times repaired per year	$r = 0.07$ d.f = 57 $p = 0.65$	$r = 0.05$ d.f = 57 $p = 0.73$	$r = 0.01$ d.f = 57 $p = 0.95$
Number of compartments	$r = 0.16$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.21$	$r = 0.02$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.93$	$r = 0.15$ d.f = 59 $p = 0.24$

the number of livestock killed, except the negative (but insignificant) relationship between the number of families and the monthly average number of shoats killed ($r = -0.38$, $df = 59$, $p = 0.77$). The number of families, morans, adult males and women had a significant positive relationship with the number of cattle killed by large predators ($p < 0.05$ in all cases). For shoats, the positive significant relationship was with the morans, while for the donkeys, the positive significant relationship was with the number of families, the number of morans and the

number of children ($p < 0.05$ in all cases).

In terms of livestock kills, there was a positive and significant ($p < 0.05$ in all cases) correlation between livestock type and its predation number. Hence, an increase in numbers of cattle led to more predation on cattle and vice versa, an increase in the number of shoats led to more predation on shoats and vice versa, and an increase in the number of donkey led to more predation on the donkeys (**Table 10**). On homestead size, there was generally a positive correlation between homestead size and the number of livestock (cattle, shoats and donkeys) average monthly kills (**Table 10**). The only significant positive correlation ($p = 0.001$) was between the diameter of the boma and the number of cattle killed. Fence repair parameters such as number of broken fence parts and repairs per month, though positively correlated with number of various livestock predation; the relationship was not significant ($p > 0.05$ in all cases). Most of the correlations between human demographics and the number of livestock killed were positive (**Table 9**). These implies that increase in number of families in a household, number of Maasai warriors, number of adult males and women, and the number of children was associated with an increase in the number of livestock killed. The only exception was the negative correlation (implying increase in number of family per household was associated with a decrease in the predation rates) between the number of families and the average number of shoats killed per month, even though this relationship was not significant ($r = -0.38$, $df = 59$, $p = 0.77$). The positive relationship between number of families, number of morans and number of adult males on one hand, and cattle killed were all significant ($p < 0.05$). Further, the number of cattle, shoats, and donkeys per boma had significant positive correlation with their respective average monthly kills (**Table 9**), implying that as the number of each of the livestock type increased, the number of kills of that type by large carnivores also increased, and when the number reduced, the carnivore kills for that particular livestock type also declined.

5. Discussion

The findings of this study revealed that the conservancies had similar number of families and most housing characteristics. Similarity was also found in number of household demographics (adult males, women, children and morans). Further, the number of livestock and its types (except cattle which were higher in Elerai) were similar. These findings are consistent with what would be expected because most Maasai homes are similar in their arrangement, structure and pattern in terms of sharing a single homestead (*boma*). Elerai conservancy also had the largest number of broken fences and livestock predation rates, especially from lions. This confirms that the number of broken fences, fence structure, and fence maintenance and fence condition may be the single most important determinant of predation. This predation rates, being density dependent, will increase with the number of livestock in a *boma* because it provides more successful opportunities for predation by carnivores than *bomas* that have fewer livestock in well maintained fences. Lions particularly will be most successful in such attacks, but so will hyenas since they normally dig under a fence and access livestock. The abundance and prey preference weight range still gives the hyena a broad and wider choice for livestock that it can attack, making it the most prevalent and leading carnivore problem animal in the conservancies.

It is expected that the security of livestock implies security of wealth and social capital for the Maasai and therefore more families are likely to prefer to stay together in a bigger fenced homestead to escape livestock losses and general insecurity posed to them by large carnivores. Since homesteads usually comprise of more than one family related or not living together, it is not surprising that the number of families are expected to be higher in a bigger fenced homestead. The number of people will go together with more livestock (together with livestock holding pens and layers of fence for additional protection against predation), particularly cattle and shoats which are more economically and socially valuable form of livestock to the Maasai. The number of livestock will increase with presence of more families, but will also increase with perceived and real security and protection from carnivores due to the physical barrier afforded by a better fenced *boma* and maintained fence in areas not frequented by carnivores.

Information gathered from the respondent's showed that hyena, lion, and the leopard were the most common problem species in regard to livestock attacks. Lions were more common, especially in Elerai which lies close to Amboseli Naitonal Park, while hyena is widespread in the region. It is not surprising therefore that these carnivores will be the common problem carnivore in these conservancies. However, those interviewed also mentioned that in addition to lion, hyena, and leopard, cheetahs and baboons also killed their livestock. Generally, the predation effects of the carnivores were influenced by their numbers, numbers of competing carnivores, the

state of the fence and the livestock type. An increase in density of a particular carnivore will lead to more incidences of livestock predation, and depressed effect on competing carnivore numbers due to natural prey competition and intra-competitor sabotage (Estes 1997 [34]). A weak and badly maintained fence will not provide an effective deterrent to predators taking livestock. Further, the vulnerability of livestock to a particular predator depends on the size of the livestock type, and larger carnivores have a tendency of taking larger prey than small-sized carnivores. Therefore, the lion and hyena will easily take cattle and donkey more often than a jackal or a cheetah. However, in terms of optimizing returns from forage, lions will not prefer small prey like shoats which are easily and frequently taken by cheetahs and jackals. But generally, sick and young animals, as well as solitary ones not properly protected will be easy targets for all the carnivores.

It's evident from the interviews with homestead owners that for fences to be effective deterrents to predators, regular and good maintenance are critical, and this partly explains their success in reducing livestock predation. This fact must continue to be emphasized to the Maasai as a critical component of anti-predation strategies aimed at reducing human-carnivore conflicts in the conservancies. But most critical in mitigating this problem is a combination of fence types and materials used (*i.e.* thorny woody plants and chain link predator proof fences), as well as deterrents such as night flicking lights that will scare away and discourage carnivores closer to *bomas*.

It was expected from this study that the number of people especially adult males and Maasai warriors' presence in a *boma* would provide additional protection against predation of livestock by carnivores. Thus, it was envisaged that there would be a significant and negative correlation between the number of people, adult males and Maasai warriors with the number of livestock killed in homesteads. However, from the results, most correlations were positive, and those which were negative (*i.e.* number of morans and adult males with donkeys killed in *bomas*) were few. This unexpected finding suggests that the number of people or adult males or Maasai warriors is not in themselves key deterrents against predation of livestock in a Maasai homestead whether it's fenced or not. Perhaps, this may be due to the fact that they do not keep vigilance at night but generally react when livestock attacks have occurred. It also suggests that the number of people in a *boma* is more associated with high livestock numbers other than providing additional security for livestock. Overall, these findings lead to the conclusion that it is the physical state of the thorny fences and its effectiveness (in structure, supported by good maintenance and repair) that makes them effective deterrents and not additional vigilance by humans at night. Nevertheless, this aspect needs further research.

It is instructive however that the correlations between broken fence and livestock killed was positive (though not significant) implying that increase in fence damage will lead to more predation event by carnivores. This strengthens the view that the effectiveness of a fence is closely linked with its structural integrity, proper and frequent repair, and its hence a critical factor as a mitigation strategy against livestock predation and reduction in human-predator conflicts. The number of broken fence parts, deterioration of thorny plant materials the Maasai's use collectively weaken its barrier integrity and ultimately leads to higher livestock predation rates. In discussions with owners of the homesteads, they indicated however, that their natural thorny plant vegetation was ineffective in reducing and deterring livestock predation from carnivores and majority desired the chain link predator proof fence. Further, it is getting harder to access plant resources for this maintenance and so most carnivores succeed to challenge the fence and take livestock. This use of thorny plants for fencing has huge degradation effects on the vegetation and environment as well (Kiringe and Okello 2005 [35]). In this regard, we recommend that this request be prioritized to match funds availability and be given to homesteads with highest predation incidences (near parks and inside private and community conservancies).

6. Conclusions

In conclusion, the frequent carnivore problem animals in the two conservancies were: hyena, lion, jackals, leopard, cheetah and baboons in some cases respectively. This is also consistent with the study by MacLennan *et al.* (2009 [36]). To prevent their predation effects, the chain link fence in addition to emerging strategies like installing flicking lights around homesteads (that offers lighting to Maasai *bomas* as well as scaring away potential carnivores at night) and expansion of tolerance for carnivores through consolation payments for livestock killed (but weighed against fence maintenance and structural integrity) needs more research to add to that of MacLennan *et al.* (2009 [36]). This will provide answers and more insights into carnivore responses to these mitigation approaches similar to this study. It is also critical that we continue monitoring predator numbers and their distribution (Ogutu 1994 [37]), which will also help determine the frequency of encounter with Maasai homesteads and livestock so as to help predict future predation conflicts. Homesteads where predator proof fences are

needed should be chosen on the basis of severity and prevalence of livestock attacks, particularly the number of cattle and shoats killed per month (*i.e.* economic loss to two most socially and economically important livestock types), the hyena and lion kills (most common carnivore problem animals) and the number of fence repairs undertaken per month (vulnerability). Based on this study, we recommend that the Maasai take more responsibility in *boma* fence maintenance, and ensure that this is done well, more frequently and uses high quality material so that the effectiveness of the fence is maintained. They should also be encouraged to find alternative materials to fence their *bomas* by investing in *boma* proof fence that uses chain link wire rather than using thorny woody plant branches which deplete such resources and in the long term increase habitat degradation. To further prevent livestock depredation by carnivores, it's advisable that Maasai adult males and warriors be more vigilant at night as an additional deterrence of predation, but restrain themselves from retaliatory killing of carnivores. They should also be supported to explore initiatives such as predator proof fencing and installation of flickering lights around the *bomas* as a means of preventing livestock predation, and by so doing help reduce use and dependency on funds for the carnivore consolation scheme administered by Big Life Foundation.

In terms of research, we recommend experimental research that will work if predator proof fencing and light sensor motion individually or in combination can provide better prevention of livestock predation by carnivores. We also encourage exploration of the potential multiplier effect of the Maasai men being involved in more night vigilance and how that would help reduce predation effects on livestock in the *bomas* at night. It's also important to engage in monitoring and mapping out types of carnivore conflicts and species involved, method and process of attacks, hotspots and spatial-temporal prediction of conflicts. Establishing number, density and spatial distribution of common carnivores (hyenas, lions, jackals, leopards and cheetahs) in core use areas (national parks and sanctuaries) and in dispersal areas should continue. Further, there's a need to monitor their numbers and population dynamics, landscape level movements and the effect of habitat fragmentation and human encroachment on carnivore survival.

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