Factors Influencing the Performance of Improved Pastures: A Case of Lake Bogoria Production Landscape, Kenya

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Internationally, Lake Bogoria Production Landscape (LBPL) is important for wildlife species, biodiversity content and livestock feeds. However, it is at risk from degradation arising from unsustainable exploitation resources due to overstocking and inadequate natural pasture. Information on pasture species, places of planting and production capacity are well documented. However, there is limited research on the factors influencing the performance of improved pastures and impacts on environment and people. This study assessed the factors influencing the performance of improved pasture production in LBPL. A descriptive research design targeting 5,000 households spread within five administrative locations in the Baringo South Sub County was applied. Using multi-stage sampling techniques, 300 households and 12 key informants from the major stakeholder organizations were interviewed in September 2019. The instruments were reviewed by Dryland Research Training and Ecotourism Centre (DRTEC) of Egerton University for expert judgment, review of content and face validity. A sample of 10 questionnaire was used for pilot survey in Majimoto. Reliability analysis produced an alpha of 0.77. Data analysis used SPSS as percentages, means and SD and findings presented in tables and graphs. Pearson's Product Moment Correlations was done through percentage scores from addition of scores of Likert-like scale items to determine the relationships between variables. The study established that strong cultures ($r=0.65; p=0.0002$) and limited awareness ($r=0.55; p=0.0001$) influenced improved pasture production. The study recommends that the community to be trained to scale up efforts to mobilize adequate resources. The training should be on both financial and human resources to strengthen the other factors that rely on them. This will promote the realization of the goals of biodiversity conservation, which will assist in improved, pasture production.

Keywords: Culture, influence, pasture, performance, resources.