

1st Annual Rangelands Congress of Kenya.

Theme: Status and Trends in Rangelands and Options for the future.

11th and 12th August 2015.

Kenya Commercial Bank Leadership Centre - Karen, Nairobi.

The future of rangelands is at crossroads. Despite covering three quarters of Kenya, supporting 60 percent of national livestock herd and 90 percent of all wildlife, the rangelands face great threats. The many threats include population growth, poverty, land degradation, recurrent drought, loss of rivers and wetlands, declining wildlife and climate change. The collapse of subsistence economies and cultures has left families destitute. Land subdivision and sales, the extraction of charcoal, sand, building stone and wildlife poaching have risen with poverty and social disruption. Poor social services and lack of technical skills hamper opportunities for alternative livelihoods in a tight job market.

Despite the enormous threats facing Kenya's rangelands, the opportunities to reverse the trends through improved breeds, better husbandry and marketing skills, range restoration, grass banks, arable and irrigated farming, wildlife enterprises, ecotourism, renewable energy, carbon markets and natural resource businesses have been poorly developed. The 2010 constitution sets the tone for rangelands communities to form a strong constituency, set the agenda and build the skills needed to conserve and develop the arid and semi-arid lands.

Many progressive landowner associations and research institutions have taken the initiative in recent years to redress the threats and open up new opportunities for managing and sustaining the rangelands. The Rangelands Association of Kenya, in collaboration with the African Conservation Centre, Centre for sustainable drylands ecosystems and societies - University of Nairobi and the International Livestock and Research institute (ILRI), will host the First Annual Rangelands Congress at the KCB Leadership Centre in Karen Nairobi on the 11th and 12th of August 2015. The congress brings together the voices and views of land owner associations invited speakers, government and county governments, national and international agencies to highlight the status, threats and opportunities in the rangelands and chart the way forward.

For further clarification or/and inquiry please contact rangelandskenya@gmail.com and follow the congress developments through www.conservationafrica.org

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