



Leboi Ngoira

Terrat Village,
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I took a picture of these zebras because I like to see them happy and fat. It shows that the land is good and healthy. It's beautiful. I spend a lot of time on the plains, where I work, close to the wildlife. I was elected to become a community game scout by the elders because I have experience. **I know a lot about wildlife** because I grew up having them around me. I know if they're ill, I know their names, I know how to count them, and I know their different tracks and hiding places. I was trained by my father. I was a good herder as a child because I knew all of these things. A plain can keep both wildlife and livestock. It is very good land. For us pastoralists the wildlife is a natural resource. The wildlife gives us money, we profit from them. We have an agreement with five tourism companies. Each year the village receives income from them for keeping the plains free from cultivation. **The Conservation Easement area, as we call our plain, is a way to preserve our livestock and the wildlife.**

The income helps the whole community. During bad years, dry years, it is used for paying school fees and for transporting food to our village.

You are very young when you are allowed to go out herding. Because the herders are normally small boys **there can be problems with wild animals like lions.** They don't know how to walk away and keep control over their livestock when a lion is approaching. There has always been conflict between people and wildlife even before we set up the conservation easement area. At the moment there is enough wildlife so the lions cause no problems. But **when the animals return to the national park the lions remain** and then they trouble the Bomas. If there is a lion problem the village communicates with the park rangers. Then they come and assess the situation and possibly kill the lion. We don't get any profit from the lions so if a lion kills our livestock, we would kill it.



This cow is a cross-breed. It looks healthy. This is a huge difference from 2009. You can find lots of carcasses from cows everywhere on the plain. Many of them are from cows that were moved across from Kenya. Their cows did not have grasses for three years. So the **Kenyan cows were already very weakened when they arrived and they died because of hunger.** Most of the cows that survived the drought are from here, they belong to the Maasai of Simanjiro. Those were **years with no water and pastures.** It was confusing. I have never seen Kenyan Maasais before in my life. Normally we Maasai don't have conflict with each other. If Maasais come here from Kenya we accept them. The important thing is that when they are here, they should **respect our rules about**

the different grazing areas. Also we don't know what will happen to the rains next year. It is not predictable. Maybe it will rain more in Kenya so we will have to go there. If we say we can't accept you Kenyans, it means we can't go there if we have to.

I took this picture of the dry river bed close to our village. **The river has dried out.** The last time it had water all year round was almost twenty years ago. Now it should at least have water since it is the rainy season. But as you can see, there is no water. People are digging for water. People drink it but I only use it for my livestock. **The tree is a natural well.** The roots of the tree can store water. The cement wall is to capture the water around the tree roots. We are more people now than before so we have to come up with ways to find water so there is enough for all of us and all our livestock. It is becoming more and more difficult.



We drink a lot of milk. We normally get more milk when the grasses are green, during the rainy season. **The milk is very important to us Maasai.** The problem is when there are bad rains and the pastures become scarce. **Since 2004 and especially in 2009 we had very bad rains.** There was almost no milk to feed our children. Even this year the rains have been bad. We did not receive it during the normal months and it is late.