PotentiaL for Stakeholder Collaboration: An Evaluation of Community-based Conserves in Maasai Group Ranches, Kenya

Talk by Lily Maynard
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12:45-1:45pm
Grinter 376

Biography:
Lily Maynard is a Master’s student in the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation department, under the supervision of Dr. Susan Jacobson. She was born in Ohio, and she received a Bachelor’s degree in biology and environmental science from Smith College in Massachusetts. She studied savanna ecology and conservation in South Africa with the Organization for Tropical Studies. She has worked on carnivore conservation projects in African communities in Kenya, Botswana, and Zambia, and with this work she began to appreciate humans as the actors in conservation. Now she is completing her degree focused on the Human Dimensions of Conservation, linking conservation and community resource management issues. She is committed to conserving wildlife and to communicating with people about the environment.

Content:
Community-based conservation projects can use evaluation to support adaptive governance and inform management decisions. To evaluate community conservancies, I compared well-established programs, which are over ten years old, and recently formed conservation areas in Maasai group ranches in the Rift Valley of Kenya. I conducted SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analyses to measure perceptions of the conservancies through 10 focus groups and 36 key informant interviews with directly and indirectly involved community stakeholders. Also, a group maturity model (Pretty and Ward 2001) was used to analyze the conservancies’ performance, organization, and efficiency. Results of disparate perspectives of the conservancies show opportunities for increased stakeholder collaboration in the conservancies. Distinct issues for projects in different stages of maturity promote the designing of management plans specific to the conservancies’ maturity stage in order to enhance their conservation potential.

Tropilunch is a weekly seminar run by graduate students from the Tropilunch Conservation and Development Program. It provides a forum for a range of discussions and presentations related to TCD work and research. Students are provided with an opportunity to present and discuss their research projects with peers and faculty. In addition, discussion sessions on issues of current interest are also held. Visiting scholars and conservation practitioners also participate when available. It is held every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. in Grinter 376.