

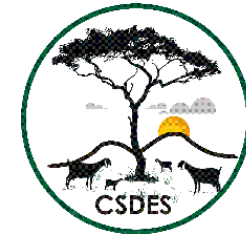
● PARTNERSHIPS

The Centre has made modest strides in collaborating with stakeholders and partners engaged in sustainable development of drylands. The Centre has partnered and collaborates with several stakeholders who include; Practical Action, Mercy Corps, Government Ministries, National Drought Management Authority, Kenya Dryland Livestock Development Project, Cross-Project Dryland Consortium, Mpala Research Centre, Meeker family fund, Wangari Maathai Institute, Kenya Dryland Livestock Development, Regional Learning & Advocacy Program (REGLAP), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) among others. The Centre is also partnering with community based organizations in Loita (Narok), Yatta (Machakos), Laikipia, Isiolo, Taita Taveta, and other dryland areas to identify challenges facing the Communities and come up with practical solutions.



● CONTACTS

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THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DRYLAND ECOSYSTEMS & SOCIETIES



● INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Sustainable Dryland Ecosystems and Societies (CSDES) is a partnership between the University of Nairobi and Colorado State University that is supported by USAID-HED. It was established as a hub of a web of collaborative institutions engaged in education, research and action supporting dryland communities so that they can adapt to the many changes affecting their sustainability.

CSDES VISION:

Excellence in the management of dryland ecosystems and societies

CSDES MISSION:

To contribute to sustainable Dryland ecosystems and improved livelihoods through innovative trans-disciplinary education, research, partnerships, policy dialogue and community outreach initiatives

● CORE VALUES

- Collaboration and partnerships
- Equity and inclusiveness
- Professionalism and integrity
- Commitment to community service
- Innovativeness
- Environmental integrity
- Respect for cultural diversity
- Good governance

● OBJECTIVES

- Improved coordination of interdisciplinary education, research and outreach for drylands in Kenya. (Co-ordination)
- Greater capacity of students and faculty to address the problems of dryland ecosystems and societies (teaching)

- Increased research capacity and policy-relevance, and resource directions and innovations appropriate for Kenyan drylands (research)
- Greater participation in higher education by pastoralists, especially women, resulting in the development of more appropriate innovations for dryland systems (outreach)
- Increased impact of education, research and outreach on the sustainability of Kenyan drylands (learning)

● CORE ACTIVITIES

- Training and capacity building
- Knowledge exchange seminars
- Student internship and mentorship
- Community outreach and engagement
- Research and knowledge management
- Building partnerships and networking
- Resource mobilization through proposal development
- Field/experiential courses

● OUR SERVICES

- Demand-driven action research
- We provide tailor made professional development courses (e.g. GIS)
- Support student placement for internship and experiential field courses
- Organize community outreach and engagement activities
- Research affiliations for local and foreign scientists
- Consultancy services: project concept/proposal development, baseline and feasibility studies, environmental impact assessment and project monitoring and evaluation.

● ACHIEVEMENTS

- Over 500 community members have directly benefitted from our community outreach activities through CSDES interns, graduate students and partnership with other organizations
- Supported staff development through partial funding for PhD students from Universities and research organizations, to collect data and give feedback to communities.
- 6 Monthly seminar series that have benefitted over 600 students and faculty members
- 5 faculty members and 35 graduate students have benefitted from GIS course
- Leveraged resources to support students from underserved areas in drylands through affirmative action with our partners
- Held field courses where 17 undergraduate students benefited from hands on training in dryland ecosystem resource assessment and interaction with pastoral communities.
- Refurbishment of Kibwezi field station for research and extension
- Funded 15 interns from various communities, some attached to graduate students for mentoring, and others to local NGOs.
- Conducted a fact finding field assessment for the development of dryland courses.
- Conducted several short courses- 2 ODL and E-learning, 2 Short courses on GIS, and 2 field courses for students
- 20 faculty members and 50 graduate students have access to the use of USAID Resource Management Portal