

abstract

One health is the concept of human, animal and environmental ecosystem coexisting in a balance that keeps all of them healthy and living optimally, where the disturbance of one element affects the other components. This phenomenon underpins the desire for the holistic one health study approach in an ecosystem. In Samburu ecosystem humans, domestic animals and wildlife co-exist sharing the same environmental resources, exposed to common risks and in some cases antagonize the lives and existence of one another. Carnivores as well as wild ungulates in the Samburu ecosystem roam into human settlements. Through scat analysis carnivores were shown to predate on both domestic and wild animals. There are a number of records of humans' injuries. The carnivores, most notably the hyena share their denning sites with humans, while the wild ungulates grazed and watered together with domestic animals. This human carnivores and prey base interaction has over time resulted in cross-species pathogens transfer. Samburu herdsman "morans" were reported to live and trans-night in dens abandoned by carnivores. Disease transmitting vectors namely ticks, were also identified from the same dens, as a result, the pastoralists remain at risk of emerging and re-emerging infections that could be transmitted by both carnivores and wild ungulates. The findings of this study will constitute recommendations to inform future research and policy development.

Key words: human, wildlife, carnivores, livestock, conflict, one health.