

Building a 20 year research and development program in Maasa Mara ecosystem



On 22nd and 23rd April 2015, Maasai Mara University (Kenya) hosted a group of scientists, policy makers, central and county government representatives and the local community. The workshop was organized and financed by the Maasai Mara Science and Development Action (MMSDA). The Action is an initiative founded in 2014 by the University of Nairobi and the Maasai Mara University (Kenya), Aarhus University (Denmark), Justus Liebig-Universität Giessen (Germany), the Karen Blixen Camp Limited, the Mara Rianda Community (Maasai Mara) and other stakeholders. Prof. Richard Odingo, Prof. Elias Ayiemba, Prof. Evaristus Irandu, Dr. Samuel Owuor, Dr. Alice Odingo and Dr. Stellah Mukhovi – all from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies – represented the University of Nairobi.

The MMSDA is an interdisciplinary research platform and a Public-Private partnership to save and develop the unique ecosystem of the Maasai Mara. It is the ambition of MMSDA to build a 20 year research and development program, which links the local community with research institutions to ensure that the research outcomes are well utilized, works with the private sector and creates measurable and visible impact that improves the status of Maasai Mara as the 7th Wonder of the world. The aim of the workshop was to present and discuss “Restoration of the Mau ecosystem, challenges and opportunities: A research agenda for the next 20 years”. Prof. Mary K. Welingo, Vice Chancellor, Maasai Mara University and Hon. William Ole Ntimama (former MP and Government Minister) graced the occasion.