



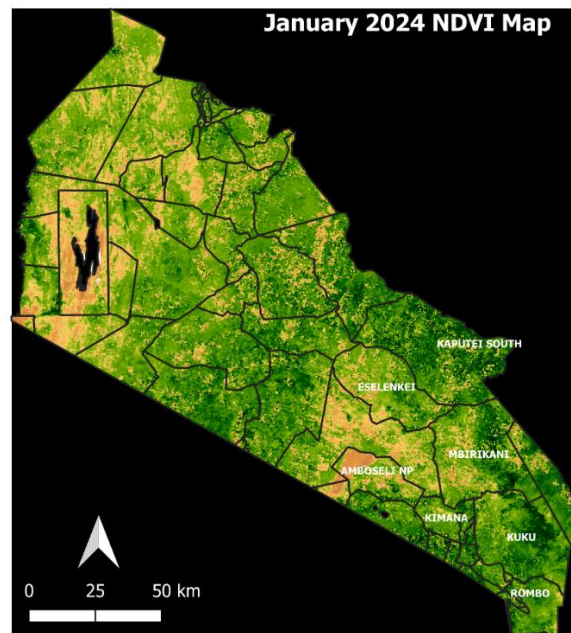
## Current status of the Amboseli ecosystem and southern Kenya

*Victor N. Mose\*\*, David Western\*, David Maitumo, Immaculate Ombongi, Sakimba Kimiti, Winfridah Kemunto, Samuel Leikanaya, Paul Kasaine, Sunte Kimiti and Julius Muriuki*

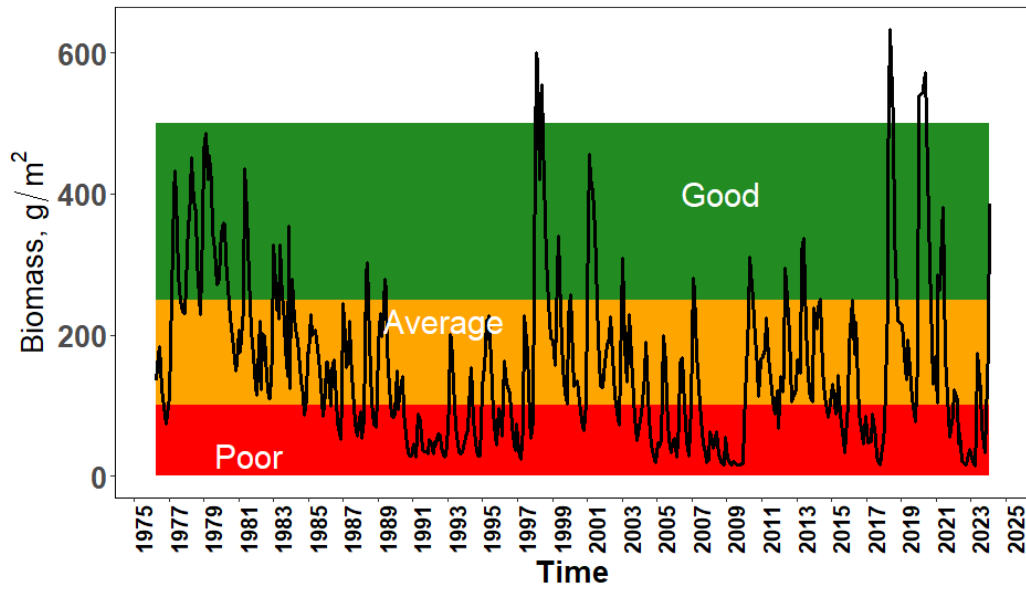
### Situation report

#### Introduction

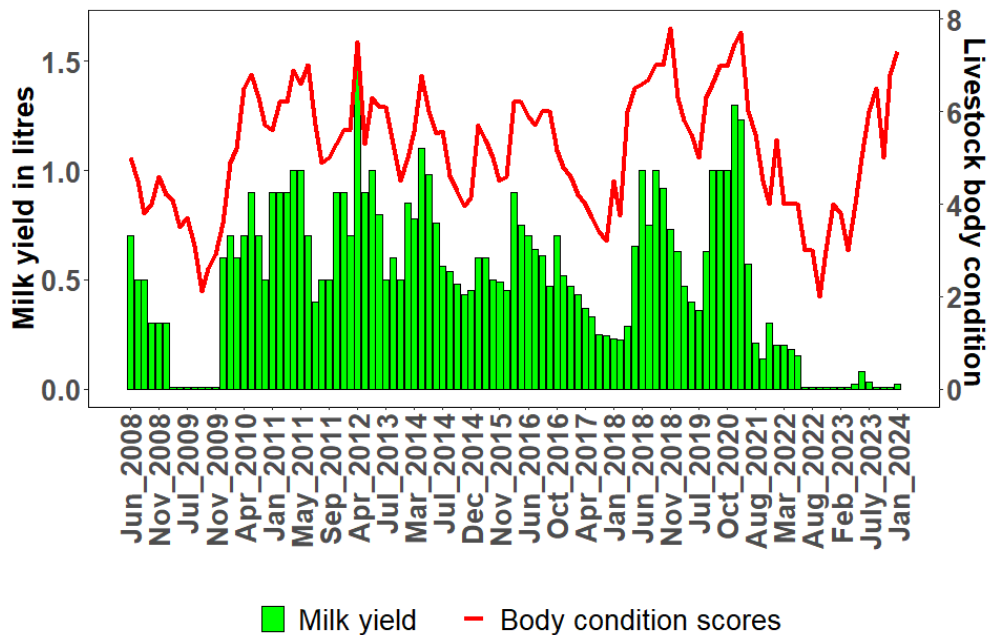
The effects of the good short rains have been felt in the Amboseli area in moving the pasture barometer into the green zone. The green zone signals abundant forage in the coming dry season. Body condition of wildlife and livestock has also fully recovered from the 2022-2023 drought. Milk yields have yet to bounce back due to impregnation and calving being delayed by over nine months following the drought. Wildebeest calving has also been delayed by a year because of the poor condition of animals at the end of the drought.



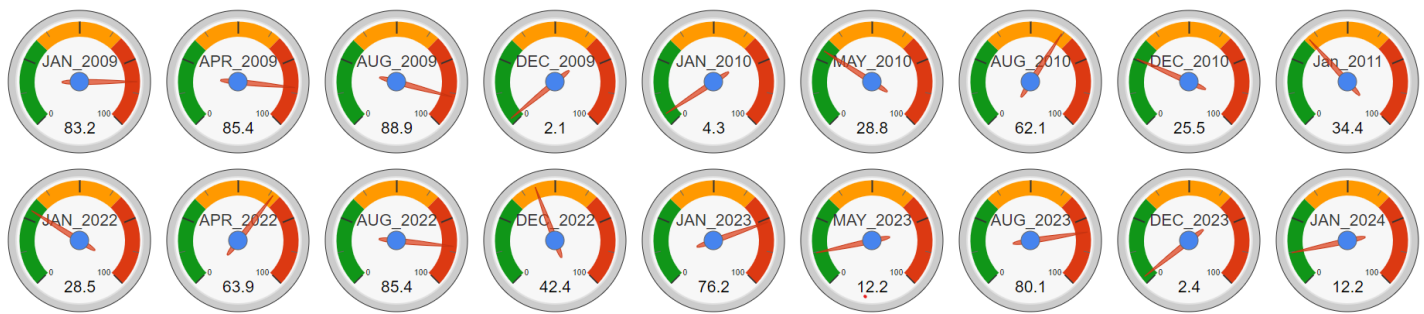
**Figure 1: Greenness map of Kajiado county for January 2024. Amboseli seasonal lake is now flooded and many of the ground monitoring plots are submerged. The Eremito Ridge north of Amboseli National Park remained dry during the early weeks of the rains but began greening up late January.**



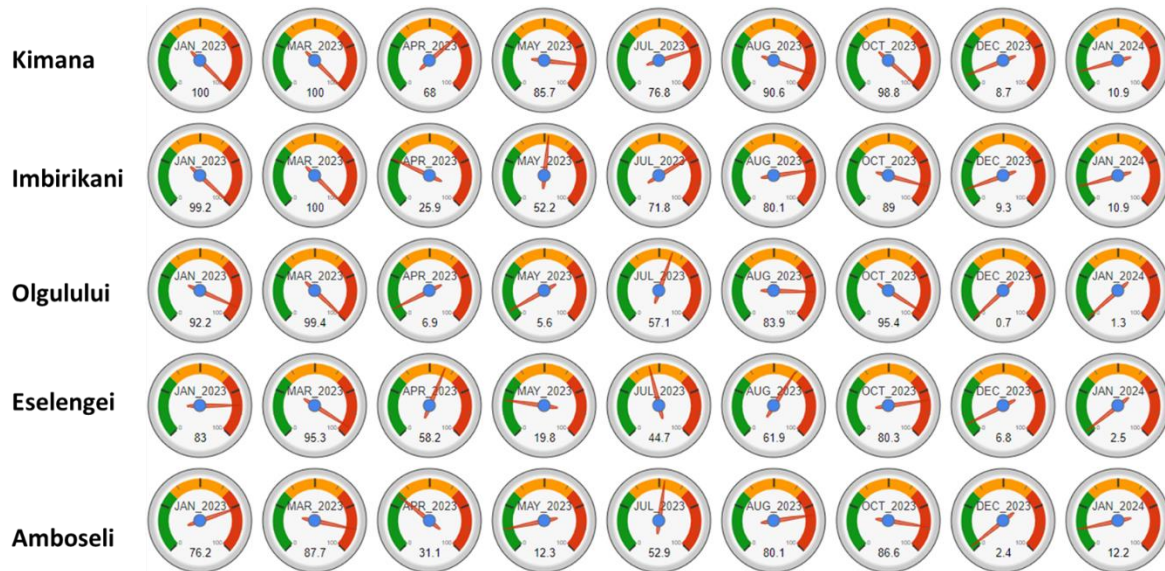
**Figure 2: ACP's long-term pasture barometer has now shifted to the green zone after the short rains that persisted into the new year.**



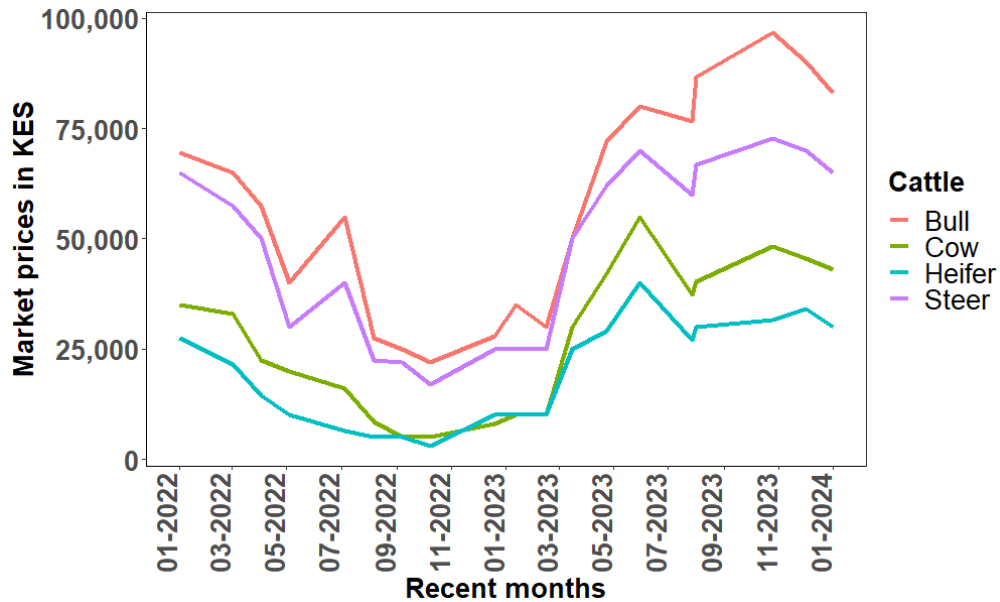
**Figure 3: Cattle body condition has rebounded. The severe drought conditions delayed calving, resulting in the long delay in the recovery of milk yields. Milk yields have been suppressed for far longer than the 2009 drought due to a slower recovery of body condition. Calving and milk yields are likely to commence before the long rains in late March or early April.**



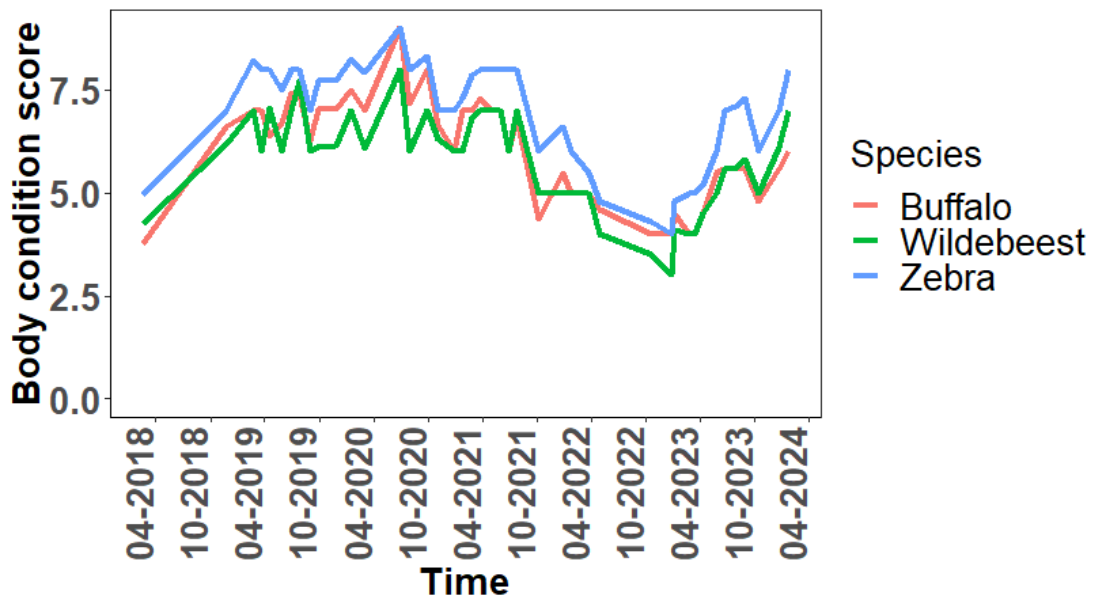
**Figure 4: The grazing pressure gauge is now in the green zone, signaling good pasture conditions. The 2022-2023 drought recovery was delayed relative to 2009 because of lower livestock losses, an influx of 140,000 cattle from outside Amboseli, and weaker short rains. The pastures have now recovered fully in response to the heavy El Niño rains extending from October to January.**



**Figure 5: The effects of the short rains are now being felt across all the group ranches as the pressure gauge settles in the green zone. The grazing pressure for each group ranch shows subdivided Kimana to have experienced earlier and more severe grazing than Amboseli National Park and other ranches. Pastures on all group ranches and in Amboseli National Park recovered fully in December 2023 and grazing pressure remains low in January 2024. Good pasture conditions should prevail through to the long rains expected in late March or early April.**



**Figure 6: Livestock market prices have bounced back and are now dropping as families begin selling livestock to pay school fees and other household expenses.**



**Figure 7: Body condition of buffaloes, wildebeest and zebras has recovered since the end of the drought in 2023. Calving has been delayed by the poor condition of animals at the end of drought but is likely to resume before the long rains.**

## Current conditions and outlook

The excellent short rains, boosted by the El Niño Ocean warming in 2023, extended from October to January. Pastures have bounced back strongly after deteriorating again following the weak long rains in 2023.

The recovery will see livestock and wildlife remain in good condition through the coming two months and into the long rains. The recovery of body condition will see the long-delayed calving of cattle and wildebeest commence in the coming weeks. The timing of the calf fall will benefit from the rich pastures boosting milk yields, and from the additional boost of the long rains.

We shall continue to monitor the numbers and condition of livestock as well as pasture conditions in the coming months. We shall also conduct another aerial count of the greater Amboseli ecosystem to assess the status of wildlife and livestock and recovery from the drought.



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