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- Progress report

Eco-unit designation

Further survey work, as described in the previous report, has led to some of the sub-units being up-graded to full unit status. There are, therefore, now 44 eco-units delineated in the Kenya rangelands. The new code numbers and names of these units are given in Table 1.

Land unit directory

This computer directory, described in the previous report, is a direct access file that assigns data on any of the 20,000 5x 5 Km units of the Kenya rangelands to its eco-unit and political district. Provision is also made for data asignment to sub-ecounit, designated land use (park, ranch, etc.) and to any other variable that might be required. The system is at present almost operational.

Ground truth sites

A 1:250,000 scale vegetation map based on vegetation physiognomy (Forest, bushland, woodland, etc.,) has almost been completed for southwest Kenya (the range areas of Narok, Kisii and Kajiado Districts). The maps are advanced enough to allow representative sites to be selected for ground truth stations. Five 10 x 10 Km areas have been chosen in Narok District and 8 in Kajiado District. The exact locations of these sites will be within the 10 x 10 Km squares but will be dependent upon negotiations with individual land owners and the Administration. These negotiations are at present in an advanced stage. Photo-transects (20 - 30 Km in length) have been marked out across gradients of ecological significance. Each transect will pass through a ground truth site.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to start transect photography for another 2 - 3 months (say March 1977) because, although the cameras and mounts have been made ready for installation in the aircraft, the Canadian equipment suppliers have not yet provided the needed wiring and circuit diagrams for the operation junction box and control panel. As the equipment is custom built, standard diagrams are not available. This means that the equipment cannot yet be made operational.

Green biomass determination from reflectance data

Data continue to be gathered using the 8000 Å: 6750 Å ratio. At the moment this work is confined to Kajiado District which has a high

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proportion of open grassland and grass dominated vegetation communities. Work will soon start in relating this data to grassland productivity and rainfall distribution using past LANDSAT imagery.

Dr. M.D. Gwynne
Nairobi
January, 1977.

TABLE 1 KENYA RANGELAND ECO-UNITS

(Wherein movement of large mammals is controlled by landforms, settlement, and other attributes of landscape, as delineated by K.R.E.M.U. as at December, 1976. These Units are provisional)

<u>CODE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1.	North Turkana
2.	South Turkana
3.	Pokot
4.	Suguta Hills
5.	Kerio Valley
6.	Baringo
7.	Lorogi
8.	Maralal
9.	Samburu
10.	Laikipia
11.	Ileret
12.	North Norr
13.	Chalbi
14.	Huri
15.	Sololo
16.	Marsabit
17.	Chera
18.	Bokhol
19.	Archer's Post
20.	Ewaso Ngiro
21.	Meru
22.	Garissa
23.	Tupo
24.	Wajir
25.	Mandera
26.	Khorof Harar
27.	Dif
28.	Kitui
29.	Hola
30.	Ijara
31.	Tsavo
32.	Tana Delta
33.	Lamu
34.	Kilifi Kwale
35.	Taita Hills
36.	Mtito Andei
37.	Jipe
38.	Amboseli
39.	Magadi
40.	Naivasha
41.	Narok
42.	Lolgorien
43.	Loita
44.	Mara