

Appendix A. Narrative summaries of East Africa scenarios

The following narratives for the four original East Africa scenarios are summaries of longer narratives of 8-10 pages. Table A.1 provides directions of change for stakeholder-selected indicators with a short explanation of the logic behind the direction of change for each indicator.

Industrious Ants

This scenario features slow but strong economic and political development in East Africa, accompanied by proactive government action to improve regional food security. However, on the down side, costly battles with corruption continue and peace is fragile, since the region has to deal with new international tensions as a result of its growing prominence on the global stage. The region's focus on the production of staple foods, rather than high-value crops for export, undermines its participation in the global market for a time, while an over-reliance on trade within the region causes problems when severe drought hits in 2020. By that time, though, many government and non-government support structures are in place to mitigate the worst impacts. Governments and their partners work well together and achieve some success in mitigating the adverse environmental impacts of increased food and energy production, although the need to put food security and livelihoods first overshadows these efforts from time to time.

Herd of Zebra

In this scenario, governments and the private sector push strongly for regional development, but mainly through industry, services, tourism and export agriculture, with limited action on food security, environments and livelihoods. East African economies boom, but the region suffers the consequences of its vulnerability to global market forces and unsustainable environmental exploitation. Only when food insecurity becomes extreme, following rocketing food prices during the great drought of the early 2020s, is action taken to improve the management of water resources and invest in climate-smart food production for regional consumption.

Lone Leopards

In this scenario, regional integration exists only on paper by 2030. In reality, government and non-government institutions and individuals are busy securing their own interests. In terms of food security, environments and livelihoods, the region initially seems to be heading for catastrophe in the 2010s. However, after some years, national and international as well as government and non-government partnerships become more active and, unburdened by strict regional regulations and supported by international relations, are able to achieve some good successes by the 2020s. Unfortunately, because of the lack of coordination, this is a hit-and-miss affair, with some key issues ignored while on others there are overlapping or competing initiatives. The inability of governments to overcome regional disputes and work with one another becomes untenable when a severe drought hits in 2020. This pushes civil society, bolstered by international support, into a demand for radical change in governance. In many cases, the resulting change is long lasting and for the better.

Sleeping Lions

This scenario is all about wasted potential and win-lose games. Governments in 2030 act only in response to serious situations and in ways to further their own self-interests, thereby allowing foreign interests free rein in the region. Their actions – or lack of them – have devastating consequences for East Africans' food security, livelihoods and environments. Conflicts, protests and uprisings are common, but each time reform is promised, it fails to

materialize. The lack of coordinated effort on climate change and its impacts means that a severe drought occurring in 2020–2022 results in widespread hunger and many deaths among the region’s poor and vulnerable. It is only the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities, born out of decades of enforced self-reliance based on informal economies, collaboration and knowledge sharing that mitigates the worst effects of this disaster. The first signs of better governance emerge only in the late 2020s, but the region’s population still faces a very uncertain future.

Table A.1: semi-quantitative indicators for the four East Africa scenarios, based on inputs by the process participants.

Indicator	Industrious Ants		Herd of Zebra		Lone Leopards		Sleeping Lions	
	2020	2030	2020	2030	2020	2030	2020	2030
Gross Domestic Product	+	+++	++	+++	++	++	++	+
Why?	Broad development push for food security, environments, livelihoods		Focus on industry, services, tourism, export agriculture		Profitable bilateral arrangements but differences between sectors and countries		Unproductive collaboration with external actors; lack of regional institutions	
Corruption-free institutions	+	++	--	--	--	--	---	---
Why?	Regional collaboration takes time to become effective		New regional institutions become vehicles for corruption		Failures as well as successes but lack of coordination		Lack of regulations	
Political stability	++	+++	-	+	--	--	--	--
Why?	National issues have to be worked out first		Some initial conflicts over resources, later solved		Conflicts over resources, trade		Ineffective governance, no collaboration	
Infrastructure	+	+++	++	+++	++	++	++	+
Why?	Long-term investment		Investment for industry		Patchwork improvement		Solely due to outside investment – but difficult due to lack of support	
Urbanization	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	++++
Why?	Not extreme because of rural investment		Urbanization responds to investment sectors		Urbanization responds to investment sectors		Lack of rural livelihoods	
Yields for rain-fed crops	++	+++	+	+	+	++	--	--
Why?	Effective support (tech and skills)		Not a government priority		Last decade sees NGO/CSO support		Environmental degradation, failing support	

Yields for irrigated crops	++	+++	++	++	++	++	+	+
Why?	Investment in production for regional consumption		Investment in export agriculture		Investment in export agriculture		Marginal increase for export crops	
Area for rain-fed arable land	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	+++	+++
Why?	Attempts to moderate expansion		Smallholders expand uncontrolled		Some mitigation of expansion by state/non-state partnerships		Drive by need for food security	
Area for irrigated arable land	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+++
Why?	Attempts to moderate expansion		Export agriculture		Some mitigation of expansion by state/non-state partnerships		Only export crops produced by external actors	
Livestock numbers	+	0	+	++	-	++	+	+
Why?	Policies to mitigate livestock impacts		Pastoralists decline under pressures, poultry grows		Pastoralists decline under pressures, poultry grows		Pastoralists decline under pressure, some poultry	
Livestock yields	+	++	++	++	++	++	+	+
Why?	Investment in different animals, actors, production systems		Ruminants decline but poultry grows		Ruminants decline but poultry grows		Marginal tech investment in poultry	
Agricultural production cost improvements	+	++	++	++	--	+	---	---
Why?	More fair and transparent pricing		Rising fuel costs; ineffective governance		Rising fuel costs; state/non-state partnerships have positive impacts later		Rising fuel costs; artificial raising of prices	
Nutrition	++	+++	+	+	-	++	---	---
Why?	Focal point for government policies		Benefits of development spread unequally		Food security partnerships form in the last decade		No efforts to mitigate; communities' expertise grows	
Dietary diversity	++	++	++	++	No change	++	---	--

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