

# PILOT TESTING OF AE TOOL AT LANDSCAPE SCALE



# Rationale for landscape assessment

- Building on interconnections and flows between farmed land and non-farmed land incl natural ecosystems and built infrastructure
  - Soil erosion and nutrient flows
  - Pest, vermin and disease flows
  - Pollination
- AE interventions may require certain spatial thresholds often > smallholder farm size of ~ 2.5 ha.
- Landscapes can be designed to provide supporting and regulating ecosystem functions for farming systems
- Economies of scale and collective action

# West Pokot rationale for landscape AE assessment

Assessing AE status at landscape level for generation of multiple options for landscape restoration and sustainable food production in different farm contexts.

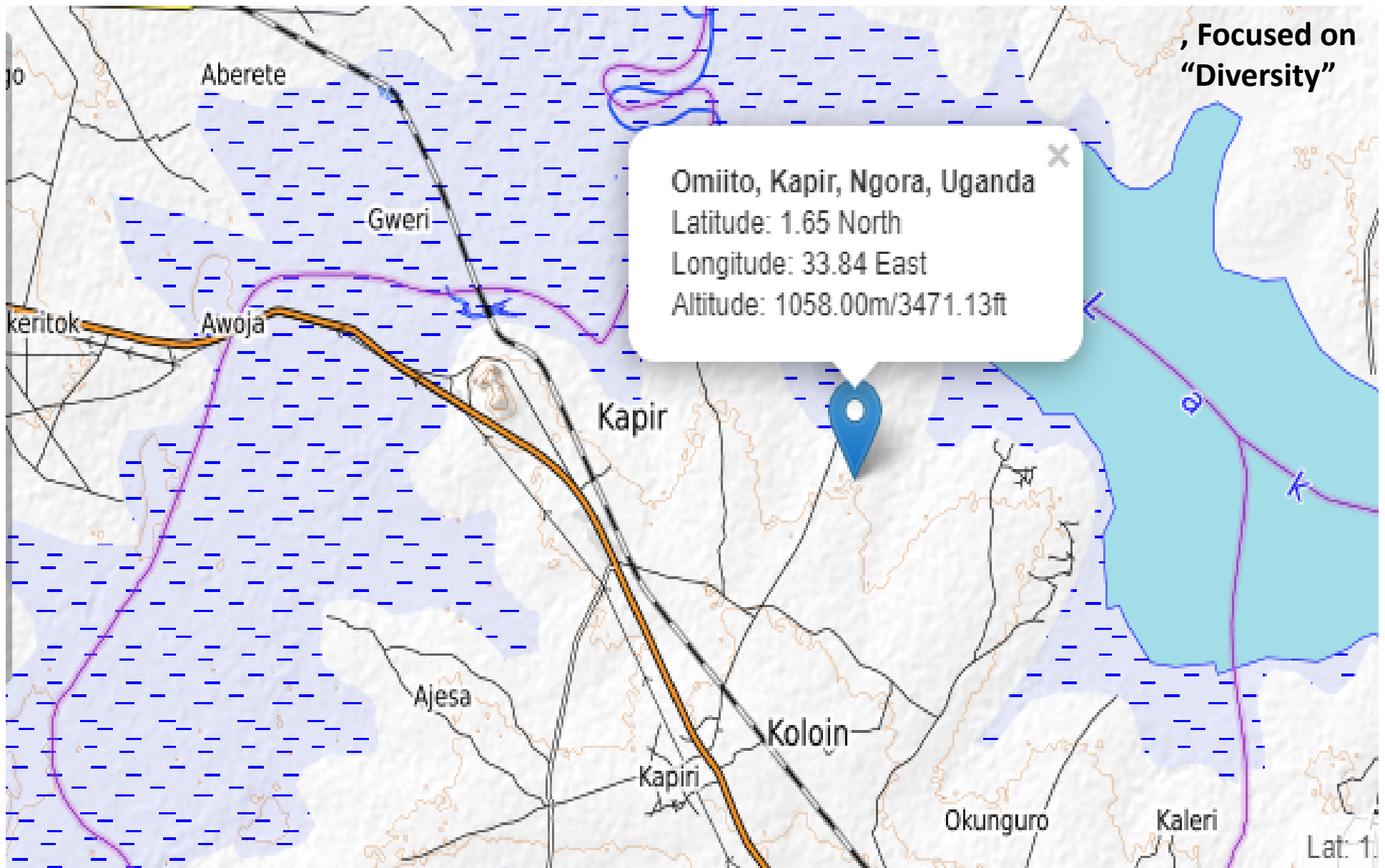
# Process of landscape AE assessment

1. Select a few farmer groups
2. Create awareness of the AE elements
3. Work with expert group of local stakeholders to contextualise and adapt the tool – Review elements, indicators and scores
4. Pilot the tool focusing on a few elements – how long it takes, what aspects are relevant, what to prioritise, understand how farmers view AE and bring local knowledge into it.
5. Where to make the assessment: Upland, midland and lowland
6. Conduct the assessment
7. Bring in other stakeholders including the county government to contribute material and skills

# Methods of landscape AE Assessment

- **Field Focus Group** (10-15 pax) Discussion on top of a hill – farmers and other relevant local stakeholders
  - Engage stakeholders in discussions on the different elements
  - Make observations
- **Transect walk** (10-15 pax) – make observations of how the different elements change along a transect
- **Survey**

# Piloted TAPE in Omiito



**Rain fed Agriculture: -Rainy seasons (March –June & September-  
November); Soil Type: Sandy Soils**

## Landscape Diversity in Omiito

Index	Status	Score
<b>Cropland</b>	> 3 crop types per plot of 2 acres. cassava/sorghum, sweet potato, groundnut, cowpea	<b>3-5 moderately diverse</b>
<b>Grazing lands</b>	Supporting cattle goats and sheep, but limited types of fodder and few water points	Moderately diverse
<b>Natural resources</b>	Few types: lake, swamps, rocky grounds & trees on farm. Beneficial, but limited market	Moderately diverse
<b>Activities</b>	On-farm cultivation, Off-farm: grazing, brickmaking, hunting	Moderately diverse
<b>Products</b>	On-farm: Food , fodder, milk, ghee, honey; Off- farm: Fish, water, firewood, herbs , thatch, papyrus, Ants, birds, sand, timber	Highly diverse
<b>Land ownership</b>	Mostly customary, controlled by men. Some government and free hold too.	Less diverse

# Lessons

1. Some of the guiding questions were not clear and others were repetitive (however, they verified the earlier information)

On some occasions we developed additional guiding questions

2. Modified the scoring system of each indicator using: what is current situation; would be least desirable ; what is most desirable

This four-level scale worked:

- *One kind - Not diverse;*
- *2-3 kinds - less diverse*
- *3-5 kinds - moderately diverse*
- *5 kinds - highly diverse*

3. Diversity of stakeholders was an added advantage

4. Having the FGD at the landscape level enabled observation

5. It could be beneficial to run a transect rather than settling in one position - *farmers didn't mention the naturally growing crops/plants (mangoes, herbs, local vegetables)*

6. Piloting enables restructuring of AE tool to be relevant to local context



# *Focus group + researchers*

