



DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING OF MECHANISMS FOR SOLVING CONFLICTS ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE KARAMAJONG ECOSYSTEM IN EAST AFRICA

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Project Objectives and Outputs

Objectives:

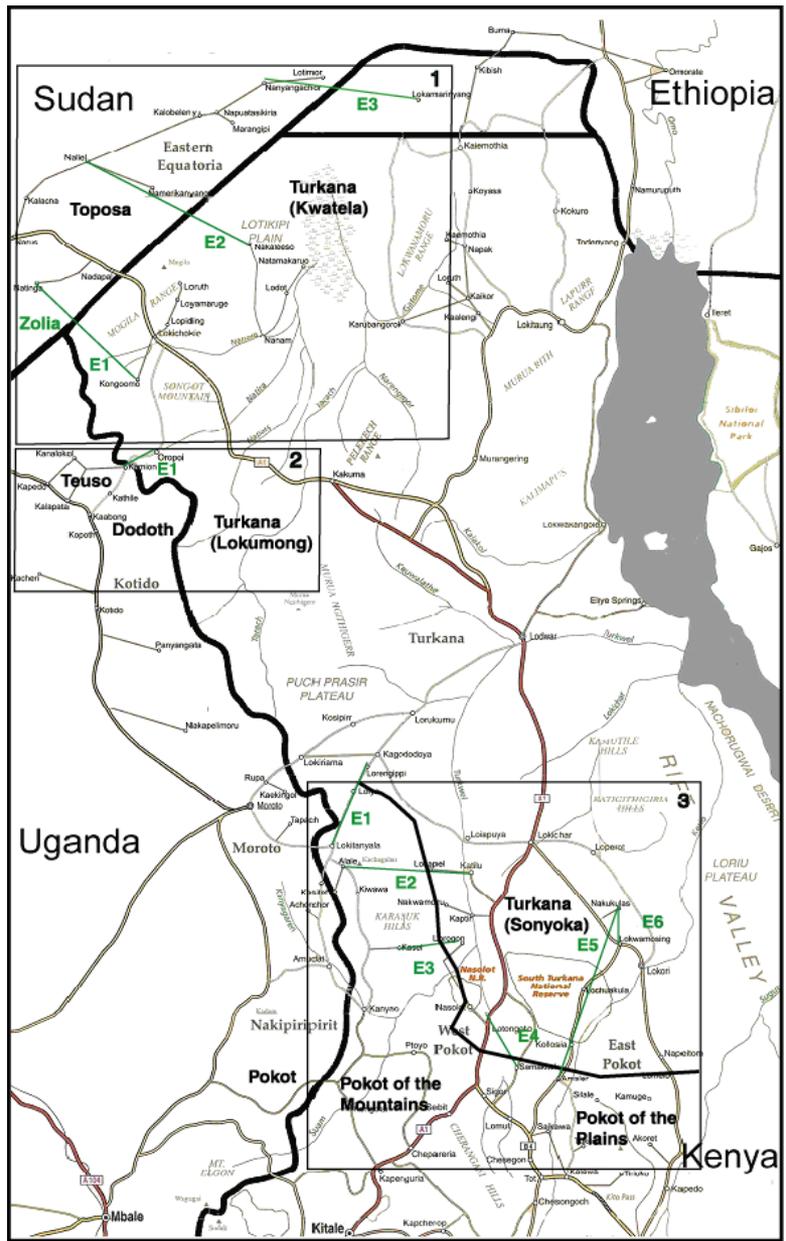
- Rationalization of rangelands use through positive changes in land tenure and land use policy.
- Intervention of conflict transformation and pastoral community peace building.
- Analysis of livestock and environment interactions.
- Promotion of the rational use of rangelands and pastoral livelihoods through application of appropriate range management techniques.

Expected Outputs:

- Community based organisation of rational use of shared grazing resources that currently are the root cause of cross border conflicts.
- Establishment of inter-ethnic community peace building structures that will resolve conflicts as they arise in the use of shared and scarce natural resource.
- Establish a linkage between conflicts and the ecological trends of grazing resources due to altered livestock movements
- Strengthening of the pastoral livelihoods through introduction of appropriate range management practices.

Methodology

- AU-IBAR operational area
- Areas affected by interethnic and cross border conflicts (pasture, water, boundaries).
- Discussions with communities, government authorities, NGOs and CBOs.
- Identification of CBOs involved in conflict management and resolution
- Documentation of CBO activities and operational areas
- Documentation of conflict management /peace building mechanisms.
- Documentation of pastoralist livelihoods Livelihood Assets, Policies, Processes and Institutions and Vulnerability Context.



Causes of NRM conflicts

Use and management of Water

- Disputed ownership and user rights of traditional shallow wells.
- Poor management of water sources leading to quarrels and fights.
- Lack of respect for existing by-laws by the herders
- Using water outside normal watering schedules e.g. at night.
- Water shortages during the dry season.
- Concentration of livestock around water points.

Common pasture and other natural resources (trees and wildlife)

- Movement of livestock into neighbouring areas during the drought without prior agreements.

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- Uncontrolled outbreaks of livestock diseases especially from migrating herds.
 - Disputed claims over ownership of grazing lands and poor grazing management plans.
 - Poor rainfall distribution patterns.
 - Livestock thefts that lead to retaliatory raids.
 - Rampant alarmist reports of banditry attacks between conflicting communities.
 - Indiscriminate cutting of trees for charcoal, livestock fodder, building posts etc.
 - Indiscriminate killing of wild animals by the home-guards, bandits, and herders with access to guns.
 - Inadequate awareness on the importance of trees and wildlife protection and conservation.

Boundaries between neighboring communities

- lack of information on political or administrative boundary changes e.g. between the Turkana (KE) and the Pokot (KE).
- Uncontrolled movements of livestock.
- Local politics especially in an election year.
- Indiscriminate exploitation of resources e.g. illegal fishing activities in neighboring territories

Co-operation between local leaders from neighbouring areas

- Lack of respect and trust among local leaders.
- Poor communication between local leaders and elders
- Lack of adequate dialogue
- Incitement and involvement of the leaders in banditry attacks.
- Intolerance and bias over important issues by the leaders.
- Weakened traditional authorities and governing structures.
- Herders from neighboring areas not respecting hosting community leaders.

● Banditry, raids and murders

- Livestock raids and robbery with violence
- Revenge and use of force to sort out disputes instead of dialogue
- Theft of small items from livestock camps
- Outdated customs e.g. heroism and fame
- Collusion with raiders and giving false reports on attacks and harboring or allowing passage of bandits especially from the same ethnic groupings
- Eminent threats of attack from neighbors that may lead to preemptive attacks
- Poor law enforcement and inadequate support from the government security personnel
- Easy availability of small arms that lead to misuse of firearms

Discipline among herders, warriors and vigilante groups

- Conflicting customs between communities where one group may not be under the control of the elders while the other is
- Poor cooperation and dialogue between the elders from the different communities
- Hatred, hostility and suspicion based on past experiences
- Vigilantes not being under the control of elders especially where they are armed on their own accord
- Poor training of the vigilantes in responsible handling of firearms.
- Partisan attitudes and bias towards own communities
- Low morale and poor leadership among vigilantes exacerbated by the lack of incentives or welfare plans for them.
- Collaboration between the vigilantes and bandits which is made worse by the inability of differentiating between them.

Identification of Conflict Hotspots

Intra-Country conflict

Kenya

- Pokot and Turkana
- Pokot and Trans Nzoia district communities.
- Inter-district borders e.g. Turkwell Gorge (Pokot-Turkana) and Kanyarkwat (Pokot-Trans Nzoia border).
- Indigenous (cultural and commercial purposes and Dairy cattle (commercial purposes) from 2-3 to several hundred
- Heightened conflict during the dry seasons and advent of wet season
- Role of political elite

Uganda

- Tepeth and Matheniko,
- Jie and Dodoth, Bokora, Matheniko and Tepeth,
- Pian and Pokot ethnic groups

Unutilised grazing areas

- Kaabong district: Loyoro, Lolelia, Kapedo, Karenga, Sidok counties.
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- Kotido district: Nakorumwa arengak and Loongor dam.
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- Moroto district : Nakicumet, Northern parts of Rupa bordering Panyangara and Loyoro counties
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- Nakapiripirit district: border with Pokot near Amudat, Nabilatuk parts bordering Bokora County.

Southern Sudan

- Toposa against Didinga, Buya, Jie and Nyangatom.
- Murule and Jie

Unutilised grazing areas

- Buya-Toposa corridor,
- Lauro corridor, Buya-Pibor corridor
- Kidepo Valley.

Inter-Country conflict

- Pokot (KE) and Pian (UG),
 - Turkana (KE) and Toposa (SS)
 - Dodoth (UG) and Lango (SS)
 - Merille (ET) and Toposa (SS)
 - Turkana (KE) and Merille (ET)
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- Most grazing areas along the international borders not utilized.

Institutions involved in Conflict Resolution in the Karamoja Cluster

- 36 institutions met NGOs, CBOs, Faith based organizations, networks and quasi-government institutions.
- Kenya- formal peace committees from the national to locational level under the National Conflict and Peace Building Policy and Strategy
- Uganda and Southern Sudan formal government peace committees - absent.
- Peace committees NGOs formed by CBOs and Faith based organizations

Activities of Peace Actors

CONFLICT MITIGATION/PREVENTION

Encompasses all activities attempting to prevent the outbreak of violent conflict

- Diffuse tensions among communities through dialogue and negotiations
- Tracking, recovering and hand over of stolen property/livestock
- Conflict Analysis
- Collection of Early Warning data
- Early Warning Response
- Advocacy for peace
- Formation of civil society cross border liaison committees
- Hold consultations over sharing natural resources and formalize social communities' contracts/agreements e.g. grazing agreements and peace agreements.
- Establish civil society cross border networks

Conflict Transformation

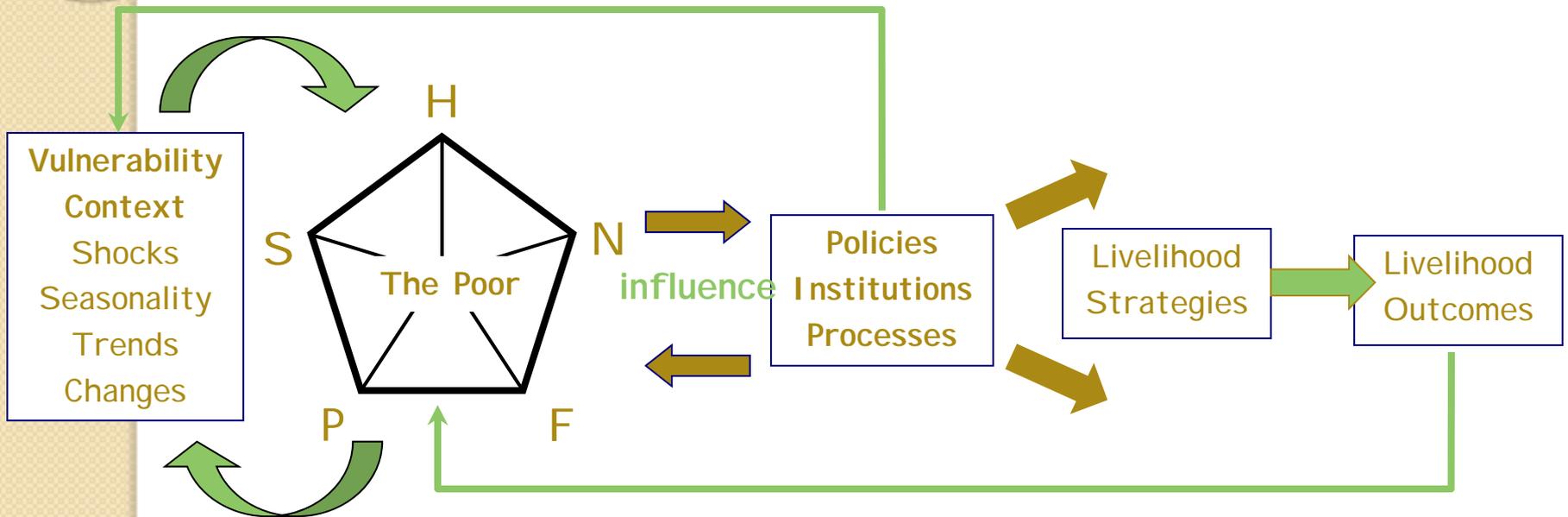
- *Long-term process of building appropriate attitudes, behaviors and structures within a society so that inevitable conflicts are not dealt with by the use of deadly force but are channeled into peaceful processes of social change.*
- Reforming former warriors through evangelism and training on other life skills.
- Establishment of peace clubs in schools.
- Sports for peace e.g. Tecla Lorupe Race, Cross-border football matches

Peace Building

Addresses underlying causes of war. It is a dynamic, participatory process that aims to transform existing or potential destructive conflict into sustainable peace, build upon justice and equity, trust and tolerance

- Establishment of socio-economic infrastructure, roads, health, water, social amenities, e.t.c.
- Advocacy for peace in various forums,
- Equitable sharing of social amenities and natural resources amongst warring communities,
- Establishment and capacity building of institutions that can be used in development activities (women, elders, youth),
- Building cross border markets to enhance e.g. Matheniko (UG) and Turkana (KE) market at Lokiriama,
- Livelihood enhancement and diversification i.e. income generating activities, micro-enterprise development, revolving funds e.t.c.
- Facilitating exchange visits between women, youth and elders from conflicting ethnic groups,
- Establishing cross border linkages and networking.

The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework



Livelihoods

- Social Capital: Strong in some communities (Pokot) seriously eroded in others (Karimojong)
- Natural Capital: Decimation of natural assets (pasture, water, livestock, crops due to persistent drought, conflict and climate change
- Financial capital: Livestock trading, alternative income generating activities (brick making, charcoal burning, petty trade,
- Human capital: Education on the upward trend
- Physical capital: increased road networks, water infrastructure, communication (mobile phone), provision of energy still a problem

Policies, Processes, Institutions and Vulnerability Context

- Governance systems and policies in the four countries centralised, devolved, federal, use of military in stemming cattle rustling,
- Disarmament
- Development programmes (Uganda and Kenya)
- Role of civil societies
- Vulnerabilities- drought, conflict, climate change, HIV/AIDs

Livelihood Outcomes in the Cluster

Nomadic pastoralism:

- Parts of Pokot, Turkana and Southern Sudan
- Biggest asset natural assets of livestock, water and pasture

Pastoralists with Alternative Livelihoods

- Semi sedentary or sedentary lifestyle.
- Prevalent close to urban areas.
- Found in the three countries. More than 80% of the Karimojong in Uganda fall in this category as they are agro-pastoralists

Pastoralists with minimal assets or Destitutes

- This group of people is found in the three countries
- Internally Displaced People (IDPs).
- Found around urban centres
- Almost permanently on relief aid as they have lost all livestock.

Challenges of dealing with NRM Conflict in the Cluster

- Commercialisation
- Politicisation
- Unequal disarmament amongst communities
- Unevenly distributed military presence along borders
- Lack of harmonised peace efforts by governments and non governmental actors
- Investment by governments in education and alternative livelihoods still low.
- Ethiopia needs to be included in Project

Implications for the different livelihoods scenarios in the Karimojong Cluster

- Nomads pay for the services provided by the settled pastoralists.
- Agro-pastoralists provide the essential linkages with the outside or modern world.
- Agro-pastoralists in the best position to explore different options for diversification of the pastoral production system.
- The interaction and mobility between the destitute and the other two groups is fairly limited as there are relatively few people who succeed to acquire enough livestock again and move back to nomadism.
- It has been observed that support to the agro-pastoralists is an appropriate strategy to strengthen the pastoralist production system indirectly.

Implications in targeting

- Target group differentiation is a good tool to identify and assess current and future activities and programmes.
- Proper targeting should thus ensure the relevance of programmes and activities being implemented to address constraints identified.
- Each target group requires different approaches, interventions, organisations and skills to achieve lasting and effective results

General Recommendations

- Inclusion of Ethiopia.
- Enhancement of access to natural resources.
- Peace Education.
- Addressing root causes through livelihood improvement.
- Enhancement of inter-linkages among livestock producers and marketers and pastoralists.
- Public awareness rights to good governance.
- Punishment of crime.
- Blending of traditional and modern conflict management approaches:
- Gender mainstreaming:

Water Management

- Water management committees should be established at all important range water points.
- Preparation of water management schedules and rota to accommodate herders from neighboring communities.
- Migrant herders should report to the area water management committees for inclusion in the water use schedules.
- Herders who fail to respect the established watering schedules should be penalized
- Appropriate water sources should be identified and developed.

Management of Grazing areas

- Environmental Management Committees (EMCs) should be established.
- Local leaders and EMCs to inform and report movements of their livestock to their counterparts if there is an intention to move into the neighbor's grazing areas
- Each group of fora herd moving to a neighbor's territory should have a leader known to the entire group
- Fora herds should honor and respect area specific grazing management by-laws of the host communities

Accessing range resources in neighboring territories

- Local leaders and the EMCs should promote sustainable utilization of grazing resources in their areas.
- Local leaders and elders should urge their people to honor and respect their neighbor's grazing territories
- Communities leaders should officially communicate to their counterparts movements of their for a herds and livestock into their territory
- Migrant herders should bring letters of introduction from their leaders and to report to the local leaders and the EMCs of the area they move into
- Fora herds from other districts, provinces or countries should return home once the weather conditions in their own areas improve.

Reducing banditry, raids and murders

- Peace or dialogue committees should be established at the lowest administrative levels possible.
- Criminals should be handed over to Police
- Neighboring Peace Committees to maintain contacts with each other
- Penalties should be decided, agreed upon and imposed on those found with stolen livestock.

Improving dialogue between different ethnic groups

- Frequent meetings between all stakeholders
- Rapid response to rising tensions and outbreaks of violent conflict
- Peace committees to put in place measures for dealing with emergencies and natural calamities

Recommendations on Strengthening CBOs and District Peace Structures

- A criterion for choosing the CBOs assist needs to developed based on their activities and complementarity with the AU-IBAR programme.
- Capacity assessments will then have to be undertaken for the chosen CBOs.
- Thereafter a capacity building plan should be developed and implemented in the course of the programme.
- The CBOs that are found to be weak but relevant to the programme need to be mentored/supported through bigger organizations in the area such as national NGOs or INGOS.
- An exit strategy will need to be developed by the programme from supporting the CBOs in order to enhance sustainability and reduce dependency.



Thank you for listening