

CLIMATE CHANGE, RESOURCE COMPETITION AND CONFLICT AMONGST PASTORAL COMMUNITIES OF KENYA

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Outline of the Presentation

- Background
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

Background

- The paper argues that violent conflicts involving pastoralists is associated with resource competition which is induced by climate change
- In Africa about 40% of land mass is dedicated to pastoralism.
- Dry lands occupy 70% of the Horn of Africa - ranging from 95% of Somalia, more than 80% in Kenya, 60% of Uganda and approximately half of Tanzania

Background cont..

- Pastoralism is practiced in all arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of Africa.
- In Kenya pastoralism constitutes about 80% of the country's total surface area, and supports 25% of the total human population and 50% of the entire livestock population in Kenya.
- Livestock accounts for 95 % of the family income and provides employment to 95% of the population.

Background cont..

- Pastoral communities of kenya include; Masaai, Turkana, Samburu, Orma, Gabbra, Rendile, Borana, and Somali among others who depend on cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys and camels
- They solely rely on access to water and pasture for the survival of their livestock.

Background cont.

- In the recent past, Kenya has been experiencing a prolonged drought due to climate change and this has affected pastoralists' traditional way of life.
- Given this background, there is need to investigate how climate change has led to resource-base conflict among the pastoral communities of Kenya.

Paper objectives

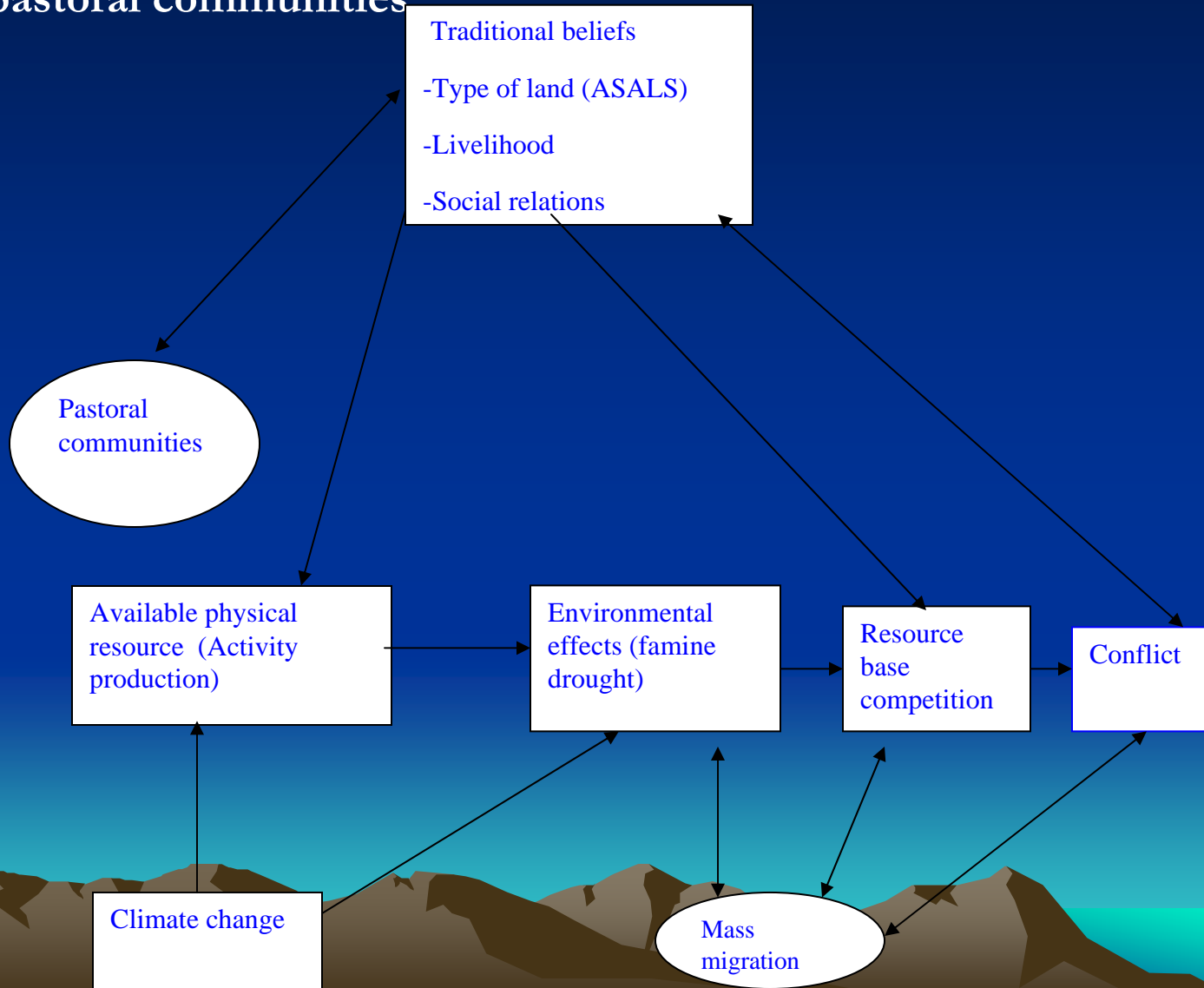
- To document the evidence of climate change in the pastoral areas in Kenya and world over.
- To discuss the impacts of climate change in pastoralist livelihoods in Kenya
- To assess the effects of climate change on resource based conflicts among the pastoral communities of Kenya

Methodology

- Indepth review of existing literature
 - To document climate change
 - To document and show effects of climate change
- Theoretical framework
 - To link climate change to observed effects on the pastoral communities of Kenya

Theoretical frame work

Relating Climate change, resource competition and conflict among the pastoral communities



Theoretical frame work (1)

- Climate change can be observed in terms of increased temperatures and dryness.
- This influences the activity productivity which in turn leads to environmental effects
- Environmental effects (drought, famine) may lead to;
 - mass migration (displacements).
 - resource base competition
 - resource-based conflict which in turn may lead

Theoretical frame work (2)

- Traditional beliefs and social relations can also lead to resource competition since every community wants to claim ownership of the available resources leading to conflict
- Traditional beliefs can also lead to conflict directly due to cattle rustling whereby each community would want to own large numbers of animals, which to them is a sign of wealth
- In this perspective, climate change is seen as the driving force towards resource competition and consequently resource-based conflict

Effects of climate change on pastoralist's livelihood

- Traditionally Pastoralists followed a seasonal migration pattern to find suitable land for their cattle to graze.
- Climate change has caused persistent drought in the arid and semi arid lands (ASALS) worsening the migration of the pastoral communities
- Their movements are no longer seasonal unlike in the past.

Effects of climate change on pastoralist's livelihood cont.

- Due to climate change new weather patterns and prolonged drought have emerged and pastoralists are now struggling with frequent water shortages which are threatening their impoverished livelihoods.
- This has led to mass migration of the pastoral communities in search of pastures and water for their animals and for their own use

Effects of climate change on pastoralist's livelihood cont.

- In most cases this means vulnerable women, children and the elderly are left behind to fend for themselves in the villages as men move with their animals.
- Some pastoralists have been forced to abandon livestock rearing and have migrated to towns in search of other jobs creating other problems in urban areas

Effects of climate change on pastoralist's livelihood cont.

- Some have found themselves leaving their homes for months in search of pastures and water for their animals.
- Many livestock have died and the ones that are left can no longer resist the drought which is causing widespread hunger and thirst

Effects of climate change on pastoralist's livelihood cont.

- In Kenya thousands of environmental refugees flee from drought forcing them to rely on food aid
- In the north of Kenya where the drought remains severe, conflict over access to grazing land and water has erupted among pastoralists from different tribes.

Effects of climate change on resource-based conflicts

- Competition for natural resources brought about by climate change is considered to be directly related to conflict.
- Resource -based competition escalated by prolonged drought is leading to diminishing access to water and land leading to violent conflict.
- The same declining access to resources could cause people to move in mass numbers creating environmental refugees who in turn increase the capacity of these groups to compete for scarce resources and consequently wage war.

Effects of climate change on resource-based conflicts

- In Kenya these conflicts have increased with adversity of drought. Dozens of people have died in clashes over water.
- The effects of resource competition is inter-ethnic conflict, intra-ethnic conflict and international conflict (cross border conflicts).
- This has forced worried pastoralists to carry guns or bows and arrow, in order to defend their access to water and pasture

Effects of climate change on resource-based conflicts cont.

- Violent conflict induced by climate change is disrupting the social settings of the pastoral communities.
- Children have been forced out of schools while schools and other social settings have been abandoned.

Effects of climate change on resource-based conflicts cont.

- After displacement, many become exposed to violence and other human rights violations. Among the IDPs, women and children are particularly vulnerable, suffering high rates of rape, physical assault and exposure to child labor and trauma and to the spread of HIV/AIDS who spend most of the time away from home in search of pasture.

Social effects of resource based conflict cont.

- Due to persistent drought caused by climate change much of these resources are never replenished and become extinct.
- In many cases pastoralists have ended up in unfamiliar territory in search of pasture and water for their livestock for example in the bordering countries.
- Cattle rustling sets in as a way of retribution worsening the resource competition induced conflict.

Response to these effects

- Community response
- NGO response
- Government response

Recommendations

- Pastoral economies should be strengthened so that diverse alternative sources of income can be initiated in order avoid over reliance on livestock
- Alternative water sources should be sought and provision of emergency water supply by Government and NGOs during prolonged droughts.
- Develop mechanisms of preventing cattle rustling and resource based conflicts

Recommendations cont.

- International efforts should be made to significantly reduce green house emission.
- There is an urgent need to put the livelihoods of pastoralists at the center of emergency preparedness, proper planning and response mechanisms.
- More research should be done on the coping strategies to climate change

Conclusion

- It is very clear that climate change is a real problem. The risks of climate change should be taken seriously from all the perspectives and explore ways in which resources can be used sustainably and bring groups and communities together rather than divide them. The consequences of climate change require deeper international co-operation. This is the high time we should determine our destiny otherwise we are going to perish.

Thank you