

**AN EVALUATION OF CONTINUOUS CONFLICT BETWEEN RELATED
COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY OF THARAKA AND TIGANIA
COMMUNITIES**

By

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**A Research Project Report Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for
the**

Degree of Masters of Arts in Project Planning and Management,


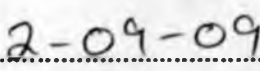
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DECLARATION

This research project report is my original work and has not been submitted for a degree in any other University.

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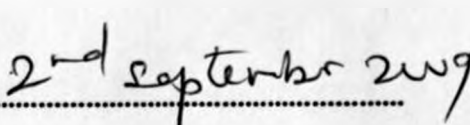
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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents and my husband Paul Begine.

My parents and my husband Paul Begine

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am greatly indebted to my supervisors Professor Macharia, David and Dr Ann Aseeey for guidance and great encouragement. They treated me like their own daughter and patiently read and offered useful criticism to my draft.

I am most grateful to Dr. Guantai Mboroki for reading my draft and giving useful insights. I have no words to thank Ms. Lydia Wambugu and Mrs. Susan Kirema for moral support and inculcating in me a keen interest in academics.

Profound gratitude goes to members of my family, my husband Paul Bagine, my brothers and sisters. I hope this work is worth their support and concern.

Special thanks go to my parents Geoffrey and Jeniffer Kirimi. Their firm belief in the power and value of education gave me motivation to continue with this difficult but noble task.

This work would not have been a success without the effort of Rose Kathurima who spent her precious time typing this work. I can only wish her God's grace.

I acknowledge the support accorded to me by Auntie Cathrine Mwiti, Mr. Silas Mwirigi, Principal, Meru School, Mr. Kiringo, Mr. Mwaki Arimi and all my colleagues at Meru School for their great support. For Mr. Ogallo D.C. Imenti North District, Hon. David Mwiraria, Mr. Murithi of Meru News and Simon Kobia Royal Media, God bless you all

I also thank Meru Sports Club Management Committee and staff for allowing me to use their boardroom for my studies.

Special thanks go to all my fellow students, M. A. Class 2008 for creating a conducive environment for learning.

Indeed, God is good all the time.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CJPC Catholic, Peace and Justice Commission

GoK Government of Kenya

NFD Northern Frontier District

NGOs Non-Governmental Organizations

OAU Organization of African Unity

ABSTRACT

Conflict can be defined as a disagreement through which parties involved perceive a threat to their needs, interests or concern. It arises when two or more parties have incompatible goals.

This study sought to assess the factors influencing continuous conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities in Meru, Kenya. The motivation of the study was based on the need to evaluate the root causes of this conflict that continues for years yet the government security mechanisms are placed for conflict resolution. There also exist indigenous institutions that traditionally have the ability for conflict management.

The study to Johan Galtung's conflict theory and analysis that seeks to understand the root causes of conflicts, structure and dynamics of conflicts and its actors with an aim of suggesting possible resolution strategies.

The methodology used in the study was descriptive analysis as it is not only restricted to fact finding but also resulted in the formulation of important principles of knowledge and solution to the significant problems. The researcher used questionnaire to collect data from both the affected people and political leaders in Tigania and Tharaka Districts. An interview schedule was also administered to collect data about the conflict. The researcher used purposive sampling technique to select the sample size.

The study revealed that there exists continuous conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities of the greater Meru region . Access to and control of scarce resources was found to be the main cause of the conflict. Other factors included politics for self interest, border disputes, land adjudication ad government policy. The greatest impact of the conflict was found to be disruption of economic activities, other factors include environmental degradation, displacement of people, physical harm and death. Intervention mechanisms include establishment of Njuri Ncheke border arbitration committee and peace building initiatives through public barazas.

Resolving conflict is a very expensive process anywhere. For this reason, it is always important to analyse a conflict thoroughly so as to discover possible means of resolving it. The Tigania and Tharaka communities can use the intervention mechanisms that the researcher has identified to resolve their conflict. The research study sought to add knowledge on conflict resolution and maintenance of peace between communities, hence will be helpful to communities in understanding ways and means of maintaining peace.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In Africa today, there is a high level of violence not just in situations where Law and order have broken down entirely, but also where conditions are deemed to be relatively stable. According to Suliman (1996), there is no single cause of conflict nor is there often any single pre-condition for sustainable peace.

The vast majority of groups engaged in contemporary armed conflicts define themselves on the basis of their identity, whether of a national, ethnic or cultural character. This sharpens ethnic identity and chauvinism promoting the doctrine those specific regions of the country 'belongs' to the groups who originally occupied them. This is further complicated by perceived inequalities among cultural groups in status, economic well-being, access to power as seen between Turkana and the Pokot (Suliman, 1996).

The manner in which colonial authorities drew up local and national territorial boundaries in Africa was based on a rather simplistic understanding of the nature of ethnic communities. In Nigeria for example, communities that understood themselves using quite different ideas, were thrown together and designated as 'tribes' on the basis of similarities in language alone (Laremont, 2002). In other cases national borders split communities in order to achieve ethnic homogeneity in Provinces or Districts. This colonial arrangement forced into political entity people who lived apart; it also separated

people who lived together undermining the natural process of state creation and national building and has been a major source of conflict among communities (Laremont, 2002).

According to Mazrui, (2008) access to and control of valuable natural resources has been a critical factor in occurrence of violence in Somalia and Sudan. The structure of natural resources in the regions is unevenly distributed with pockets of abundant natural resources to regions where natural resource scarcity is common. The use and control of resources motivated by greed and grievances related to inequitable distribution of land and natural resources has been an underlying cause of armed conflict.

In Kenya, the Turkana and Pokot have had sporadic conflicts. Their conflicts arise out of scarcity and competition over pasture and water as well as border disputes. The disputes are compounded by minimum routine interaction and communication between the two communities. The conflict occurs in the context of weak or non-existent structures and institutions for conflict prevention and response (Goldsmith, 2007).

Colonial experience in Kenya has meant that land often forms the backdrop to a variety of conflicts. A predominantly agricultural land potential combined with consolidation, adjudication and registration of land defined territorial concepts of ethnic living space within the country. These have combined in various degrees to make land Kenya hottest political issue clearly explained by the clashes in the Rift Valley in 2007 (Waki report 2008). The pastoral communities in Kenya conflict over traditional grazing lands. The conflict is made worse by harsh climatic conditions and recurrent drought prevailing on

the Pokot side and marginalization of pastoral communities from main stream development (Goldsmith, 2007).

The Meru form part of the Eastern Bantus. They are made up of the Igembe, Tigania, Imenti, Mwimbi, Muthambi, Tharaka and Chuka sub-tribes. They occupy the North Eastern slopes of Mt. Kenya. Their land is drained by eastward flowing streams which form rivers of various sizes (Nyagah 1998). The Tigania and Tharaka of greater Meru region migrated together and have long historical ties. They occupy today's Tigania East, Tigania West and Tharaka Districts. They have coexisted peacefully through their indigenous institutions, government of council of elders called Njuri Ncheke. The Njuri Ncheke handled day to day matters of the communities and specifically paid attention to settlement of disputes arising from border disputes, criminal cases and all matters of justice (Rimita,1988). With the introduction of colonial system of government, the greater Meru region like other parts of the country have been administered through the central government. However, the last ten years have witnessed bloody conflicts between the Meru communities especially in the area occupied Tigania and Tharaka.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Armed conflicts have at best prevented people from developing their bountiful human and natural potential; at worst, the conflicts have given rise to conditions of near hopelessness (Kuria, 1994). Tigania and Tharaka communities have coexisted peacefully since their migrations and settlement. They have traded, intermarried and shared many social festivals. They had an indigenous institution called Njuri Ncheke council of elders.

The Njuri Ncheke council formed an effective government that kept law and order and settled disputes among the community (Kangoi, 1974). After independence, the government took over the role of maintaining law and order and settling disputes through the court system. The greater Meru region has since been sub-divided into Districts. All the Districts have an administrative office led by District Commissioner who chairs the District Security Council. Each district has a functional judicial system. However, Tigania and Tharaka communities have experienced unending conflicts spanning a decade despite existence of institutions that ought to have solved the conflicts.

It is therefore clear that the Tigania and Tharaka conflicts are unique with deep rooted causes that require careful analysis and resolution.

1.3 Purpose of Study

The purpose of the study was to analyze factors that contribute to conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities. The research identified the impact of the conflict and examined possible intervention mechanisms that should be applied in the resolution of the conflict.

1.4 Research Objectives

The study had three objectives as stated below:

1. To investigate the factors that influence continuous conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities of greater Meru regions.
2. To assess the impact of the conflict among the Tigania and Tharaka communities.
3. To identify intervention mechanisms that could be applied to resolve the conflict between Tharaka and Tigania communities.

1.5 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the factors influencing continuous conflict between the Tharaka and Tigania communities of Meru region?
2. What is the impact of the conflict on Tharaka and Tigania communities?
3. What are the possible intervention mechanisms that can be applied to resolve the conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities?

1.6 Significance of Study

Resolving conflict is a very expensive process anywhere. For this reason, it is always important to analyse a conflict thoroughly so as to discover possible means of resolving it. The Tigania and Tharaka communities can use the intervention mechanisms that the research has identified to manage their conflict. It is also useful to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in identifying root causes of conflicts between communities and help in identifying intervention mechanisms to end the conflicts. The study sought to add knowledge on conflict resolution and maintenance of peace between communities, hence the study will be helpful to communities in understanding ways and means of maintaining peace.

1.7 Scope of Study

The study concentrated on the Tigania and Tharaka communities who are a part of the greater Meru communities. The research analyzed the factors that influence continuous conflict between the two communities. The research assessed the impact of the conflict among the Tigania and Tharaka communities and sought to identify intervention mechanisms that will be applied to resolve the conflict.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

Since conflict is a security issue, a lot of suspicion was experienced from the government officials and communities, therefore, it hindered access to classified data.

Tigania and Tharaka regions are classified as hardship areas therefore transport problems were experienced from the bus stop to the interior of Tharaka and Tigania to meet the respondents. Research books and materials on the area of study for reference were limited.

1.9 Delimitation

The study covered the Tigania and Tharaka conflict. It assessed the factors causing the conflict and ways of resolving it.

1.10 Basic Assumptions of the Study

1. There existed factors that influence the continuous conflict between the Tharaka and Tigania communities of Meru.

2. That certain intervention mechanism was applied to resolve the conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities of Meru.

3. That the conflict had an impact on the Tigania and Tharaka communities.

1.11 Conceptual definition of terms used

The following terms featured in this study thus the context in which they are used is explained below:

Conflict: An armed conflict or clash between organized groups within a nation or between nations in order to achieve set objectives. It arises when two or more parties have incompatible goals. The incompatibility arises because the conflicting parties have different perceptions, goals and ideas about how to achieve them.

Analysis: An in-depth assessment of issues by going into the basics and the roots issue of a complex phenomenon.

Intervention mechanisms: Methods used by people to confront their problems that brought them to the crisis. These are ways of resolving a conflict.

Resolution: Is to put measures in place to end a conflict statement and create sustainable peace.

Impact: The description by those affected by the conflict and government officers on the changes that have taken place during or after the conflict.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of a review of relevant literature to the study. This chapter begins with definition of conflict, factors influencing continuous conflicts in Africa, intervention mechanism and the impact of conflicts on communities.

2.1 Factors Influencing continuous conflicts in Africa

2.1.1 Historical Injustices

At the congress of Berlin in 1885, the colonial powers partitioned Africa into territorial units, kingdoms, states and communities in Africa were arbitrarily divided, unrelated areas and people were just joined together (Suliman, 1996). In 1960's the newly independent African states inherited those colonial boundaries, together with the challenge that legacy posed to their territorial integrity and to their attempts to achieve national unity (Mamdani, 1996). The political boundaries created by colonial powers in Africa enclosed groups with no tradition of shared systems of settling disputes, for example, in West Africa, the large territory which the British carved out and called Nigeria put together the Yoruba and the Ibo among others who were different from one

another. This artificial mixture led to one of the greatest African tragedies, the Nigerian civil war of 1967-70 (Mazrui, 2008).

While colonialism forced into the same political entity, people who lived apart, it also separated people who lived together, for example, the Somali were scattered in five different countries, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Italian Somalia republic and British Somaliland (Steadman, 1991). Their desire for unification has resulted in deadly conflict. The boundaries were however, accepted by African leaders at independence and were sanctioned by Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963 on the grounds that tampering with the borders would generate new conflicts. This undermined the natural process of state creation and national building and has been a major source of conflict in Africa (Laremont, 2002).

In Kenya, the colonial administration used indirect and direct rule. This was followed by brutal colonial policies that fostered neglect that led to economic and political marginalization of some areas. For example, Wajir which formed part of the Northern Frontier District (NFD) was neglected by the colonial government. Goldsmith, (2007) says that, politically British needed “.... to keep hostile powers at a distance of a few hundred miles of semi-desert away from the White Highlands, the Brook Bond Tea Plantations and the Uganda Railway....”. In addition, the British desired to check Ethiopia’s unstrained expansion into Northern Kenya. The British administration earmarked the vast northern desert land with seemingly limited economic potential to provide better zone between British interests in Kenya and Ethiopian military advances (Shazali, 2000). This region has since remained marginalized. Kenyan government after

independence also has not been able to establish meaningful administration in its borders complicating further the security issues (Courting Disaster report 1993).

The coming of the British to Kenya brought a turning point in Meru people's history. At the hands of the British colonialists, their indigenous institution of Njuri Ncheke lost control over their people due to western mode of social, economic, religious and political systems. This diluted the Ameru traditional place of conflict resolution. The vacuum has caused unending conflict among the Tigania and Tharaka sub-tribes of the Ameru community due to lack of functional traditional institutions for conflict management (Murithi, 2006).

2.1.2. The use of politics for personal gain.

Three decades after African countries gained independence, there is growing recognition among African themselves that the continent must look beyond the past for the causes of their current conflict. The nature of political power in many African states, together with the real and perceived consequences of capturing and maintaining power is key source of conflict across the continent. It is frequently the case that political victory assures a "winner-takes-all" form with respect and prestige and all prerogatives of the office (Leo 1984). A communal sense of advantage or disadvantage is often linked to this phenomenon, which is heightened in many cases by reliance on centralized and highly personalized checks and balances, non adherence to the rule of law, absence of peaceful means to change or replace leadership or lack of respect for human rights. Political

control therefore, becomes excessively important and the stakes become dangerously high (Kuria 1994).

The post colonial Africa state has emerged as the main employer, provider and distributor of resources. The private sector, which should serve as an alternative source of employment and an engine for growth, has been small, fragmented and weak and has in many cases depended on the state for capital and direction. This has created a perception of the state as a channel of accumulation of power and prestige. The struggle for state-head is fierce and considered a matter of life and death because political power is sought in order to acquire control of the state (Adedeji, 1999).

In Kenya, political parties are either regional or ethnically based. In such circumstances; the multi-ethnic character of Kenya makes conflict even more likely, leading to an often violent politicization of ethnicity (Shazali, 2000). In extreme cases, rival communities may perceive that their security, perhaps their very survival, can be ensured only through control of power by one of “their own” making conflicts inevitable as witnessed in Kenya in 2007 (Waki report 2008).

Political leaders in Kenya, have made increasing use of ethnic hatred, their abuse prolongs conflicts, creates long term divisions and reduce the effectiveness of peace building effects as seen in Kenya’s Rift Valley ethnic cleansing in 1991(Courting Disaster 1993). The same was seen in Tharaka and Tigania constituencies in 2007. The political leaders took advantage of the dissatisfactions in the community for their political

gain sparking fights in the region. By manipulating land issues, border disputes and ethnicity they whip up community against each other in bid to raise more votes. (Smucker and Wisner, 2007).

2.1.3 Struggle for scarce resources

Akandes (2004) links violence in Africa to its poverty and underdevelopment. He seeks the scarcity of resources and social inequality as central to African conflict. Both scarce and abundant resources play among other issues in the onset and escalation of violent conflicts. The access to and control of valuable natural resources like land, minerals, pastures, water have been crucial factors in the occurrence of violence conflicts across the continent. Abundance does not just depend on quantity of the resources but on the way it was distributed, geographically and socially for example, in Democratic Republic of Congo, Eastern part is rich in minerals and it has long been the epicentre of major wars fought in the country. According to Adedeji (1999) the discovery of gold and diamond reserves in Eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo, have been a source of conflict between the Iteme and Lede people. These communities have historically contested control of resources and usually establish non-violent ways and delicate ways of sharing resources. Discovery of Gold however has triggered violent conflicts between the two communities.

The difference between the northern and southern part of Sudan can be considered "conflict oil" since most of the proven reserves in the south and control over this resources is in the hands of the central government that is using the revenues to strengthen its power and authority in relation to all parts of the country. This has caused aggression in the south and fuelled conflicts (Suliman, 1996).

Natural resources in Africa have rather served to catalyze distribution of conflicts rather than solve them. Adedeji, (1999) notes that African conflicts are increasingly over natural resources as seen in the case of "diamond conflict". It is widely believed that the involvement of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, in Sierra Leone war was motivated by a desire to gain access to the country's diamond mines. Similarly to finance his war effort, Jonas Savimbi controlled and accounted for 80% of Angola's diamond output in 1996 (Momdani, 1996). The involvement in the country of Angola, Uganda, Rwanda and Zimbabwe was motivated despite claims to the contrary, by interest in Congo's vast diamond and other mineral resources such as resources inspired, prolonged or escalated conflicts in these countries.

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In Kenya major conflicts are experienced among the pastoralist communities who include the Maasai, Samburu, Njemps, Rendile, Boran, Gabra, Sakuye, Oromo, Gurreh and Degodia. The pastoralists way of life sees one's wealth and status as dependent on the size of one's herd of cattle. This has always seemed backward and the implicit assumption by government planners through the years has been that the really 'developed' people must necessarily be settled (Eliots, 1994). Government policies after independence served to limit the amount of land available to Kenyan pastoralists and

their herd. The creation of game parks and reserves by the government is one such example (Goldsmith, 2007). Further, at independence, land was subdivided and registered under individual title deed, a concept hostile to the pastoralist's way of life. To the pastoralists, land is considered communal property and is held by a particular family, clan or group. It is shared with new comers after obtaining the necessary permission from elders to use its resources, water, pastures and salt licks. Government policy of adjudication, consolidation and demarcation created ranches and individual private titles. To the pastoralist's communities, they found the size of their grazing land falling and their access to vital resources like water, limited because the new owners of land had fenced it off, leading to endemic conflicts (Mbugua, 1996).

Land and natural resources use systems are a powerful linkage between over all natural resource scarcity and low intensity conflict in Kenya. The structure of natural resources in the region is uneven, pockets of comparatively abundant natural resources along water courses and in higher elevations. Other areas are embedded in a highly stressed overall ecological region where natural resource scarcity is common. Uneven distribution leads to competition and creates fertile ground for conflict. To preserve their environment and ecosystems, the communities move from one place to another according to rain patterns in their localities and in search for scarce resources for their livestock. The movements occasionally take them and their livestock into other communities, territories, and sparking conflicts (Goldsmith, 2007).

Traditionally, the Karamong communities were few in number including their livestock; however, the population of people and herds has since more than tripled and further

exerting pressure on the fragile semi-arid ecosystem in the region. This is worsened by the fact that most of the available grazing and water resources are found in mountains and border areas where the likelihood of communities coming into contact with each other are high. The end result has been inter-community conflicts over the resources and degradation of rangelands as livestock tend to concentrate on areas presumed safe therefore a vicious circle of conflict during movements (Mbugua, 1996).

Kuria, (1994) states that the primary object of the ethnic cleansing as described by its advocates has been to maintain political and economic power in the hands of those who have wield it. Its secondary objective has been to effect redistribution of wealth, particularly agricultural land, by expropriating one ethnic group land and giving it to another.

The Ameru lived sedentary agricultural life and those on the lowlands practices pastoralism. During the migrations and settlements of the Ameru, a land treaty named Igaaniro Treaty (a land partitioning treaty) sought to allocate land to the sub-tribes in the most equitable manner and asked the Athi (warriors) of respective groups to place landmarks to define the boundaries of their clans. Therefore, Igaaniro treaty became a treaty that enforced the protection of peoples land and give rights to each sub-ethnic group to further supervise their clan, sub-clan and family land occupation. To avoid a situation where strong, greedy clans would grab fertile land and leave the weak ones to occupy the arid and semi-arid regions, the treaty spelt out the terms for land prospecting migongo (sub-ethnic nation states) would begin land occupation from maiti (lowlands in the east) and advance towards the luxuriant mountain zones. Boundaries were selected

from existing natural features and ensured all the agro-zones were equitably divided (Ishida and Gichere 2008). The treaty also added that the Meru community's legal, land property and family laws, defence, natural resources protection and culture would be administered by Njuri Ncheke council of elders and would have a national parliament centrally located at Nchiru (Ishida and Gichere 2008).

With the coming of the colonialists the land tenure systems of the Ameru was transformed. The traditional land tenure policies and regulations was systematically weakened and made irrelevant. The changes were brought about through the gazettment of community forests and transfer of all common lands to private ownership. Since then land has become an emotive issue among the Ameru sub-tribes. Adjudication and demarcation ignored all traditional landmarks. Conflict in this region is mainly centred on exploitation of the limited resource after demarcation of land and new boundaries were marked without considering distribution of natural resources in the new region. Conflicts are based on access to water, pasture resources, and lose of grazing land, cattle raiding, weakening role of traditional institutions in conflict management and political incitement (Murithi in Meru Newspaper, 2007).

2.1.4 Government Policy

Generally, the legitimacy of the state is enhanced if it provides basic services and creates reasonable economic conditions for development. According to Human Rights watch report (2001), many African states are weak and show a growing incapacity to provide

minimum services including basic security for their population deepening the states legitimate crises. Many African leaders have in many aspects compromised good governance creating an environment riddled with authoritarianism and antagonism. State partisanship and social exclusion are shown by lack of good governance, without credible avenues to vent grievances, dissatisfied people are forced to result to violence as a way of rectifying imbalances and injustices, therefore, bad governance increases the risk of conflicts as seen in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Somalia (Adedeji, 1999).

Many parts of arid areas in Kenya portray a classification retreat and acute absence of the state (Goldsmith, 2007). These areas are scantily policed by the respective state prompting the law of the jungle to reign supreme. Scenes of youthful warriors wielding AK47 rifles are abound everywhere in the region. The state in the region have formulated and implemented policies that do not take cognizance of nomadic pastoralists needs and aspirations. For example the insistence of fixed schooling system at expense of mobile and or boarding schools that could fit into nomadic pastoralism lifestyle is a good example of policies that marginalize the nomadic communities (Human Rights watch report 2001).

During the colonial administration, arid and semi-arid lands were considered uneconomical due to poor resource base. All the activities were concentrated in potential agricultural areas. Schools, health centres, roads, communication infrastructure were all developed in high potential areas. Post colonial administration perfected this marginalization policy to-date (Goldsmith, 2007). In Karamong for example, by November 2006, there were only four university graduates. They interpret this as a conspiracy by those in position of power to marginalize and exploit them. Further, this

has resulted in armed conflicts to articulate against these marginalization policies and react to the structural inequalities (Human Rights Watch Report, 2006).

Goldsmith, (2007) cites that the Tigania and Tharaka conflicts are fuelled by poor government policies. The creation of natural parks and game reserves in the region has reduced their grazing land. The situation is made worse by lack of infrastructure for example Tharaka claim to be forgotten by the government as far as infrastructure is concerned as the district does not have a single piece of tarmac road. The situation is made worse by limited medical facilities, water and most other prerequisites for meaningful economic progress making them bitter over their perceived marginalization.

According to a Government of Kenya report (2008) on the Tharaka-Tigania conflict states "Historically all the Ameru sub-clans had access to the land in dispute. The Tharakas grazed their livestock on the land while the Tigania and Imenti cultivated the same land. During the adjudication process, the land was not considered as ancestral but a settlement. Those who had interest to the land did ballot to get access to ownership of land. Tharaka's felt that individualizing ownership of land will deny them pasture. Those who received numbers went ahead and processed titles to their land while Tharaka's moved in and settled leading to the current state of affairs. In view of the above, the government should accept responsibility for failing to give direction during adjudication process..." The process of adjudication, consolidation and demarcation that was started by the Government of Kenya in 1963 is yet to be implemented in this region fuelling more conflict (Mbugua, 1996).

2.1.5 Boundary Disputes

Disputed land and borders are another cause of conflict in Africa. In 2006, Ethiopia militias crossed into Kenya and slaughtered people across five sub-locations in Tuubi (Goldsmith, 2007). The villagers have not returned home because their territorial rights and security as Kenya citizens living in Kenya are not guaranteed.

Unlike the Kenya-Ethiopia dispute where the boundary is well demarcated and beacons elected, the Kenya-Uganda border is rogue and sometimes subject to new interpretations, for example, a Ugandan government officer camped at Migingo Island to collect taxes accrued from the abundant fish sales on the Island. She made it clear that fish belonged to Uganda and those who didn't like the new arrangement should leave (Thatiah, 2009). To make the whole saga harrowing, the Uganda team treated Kenyan team contemptuously when they recently visited Kampala for talks on the Island.

In Kenya, when Rendile were asked to show their border with Samburu in a survey, the elders responded that Rendile land and Samburu are inside of each other and they are mixed up. The land of the Rendile was a separate concept in his mind from the clearly defined boundaries of the districts on the ground (Smucker and Wisner, 2007). After independence, the number of administrative districts remained fairly stable at 42 but increased to 79 in 1992 to 200 in 2007 (Thatiah, 2007) creating major conflicts for example the newly created Pokot. North District includes a part of Turkwel Division that is classified as being in Turkana District. The same is said of the new East Baringo District that stretches into parts of Lometo Division from Turkana. These are the main zones where internal conflict occurs between the Turkana people.

These perceptions contradict the creation of districts and provincial boundaries meant to facilitate access of the government institutions and foster unity. Instead, the new boundaries have never been accepted as they cut across the community vital resources and brings out the perception that this or that community has encroached 'our ancestral land' and denies 'us' access to 'our' community resources. According to a Kenya Government Report (2008) the trend of district boundary conflicts between the two communities flare-ups are intertwined with general election campaign periods and immediate post election period. Most political aspirants both for parliamentary and civil seats in the concerned districts with boundary disputes use this matter as a political platform promising voters the reclamation and acquisition of the contested areas if elected. The report further states that soon after elections and succumbing to pressures from the electorate to make real their campaign pledges, the incumbents incite violence along the borders to cause confusion and buy time. Murithi (2006) states there has been a long standing tug-of-war over Katithini trading centre with Tharaka and Tigania clans claiming Kathithini trading centres as part of their administrative area creating exchange of words that has frequently broken down to bloody fights. The building of a police post at Kathithini built by Tigania East constituency development fund committee in an areas claimed by both Tharaka and Tigania sub-tribes triggered out break of severe fighting in 2007. Manipulation of issues affecting Tigania and Tharaka has fuelled conflict to date (Goldsmith 2007).

2.30 Impact of Conflicts on Communities

2.3.1 Weakening of Traditional Institutions for Conflict Resolution

Conflict has impacted negatively on traditional institutions and conflict resolution mechanisms. The institution of elders among communities played a critical role in safeguarding honour, discipline and pride of their community. Elders instilled discipline among the youth through a strict set of rules that stipulated does and don'ts. This no longer commands the respect among the youth as it used to command in the past, with the changing social dynamics that dictate reduced wealth for community members coupled with scarce employment opportunities, elders power of influence over the youth has steadily reduced, rendered them almost totally insignificant as a reference point for community wide decision making (Rimita, 1998).

As an institution, elders played a distinguished role in solving intra community conflict, moulding and guiding young males in preparation for taking up leadership roles later in life as elders themselves, seers, traditional healers, warriors etc. This is hardly the case these days because the youth are pre-occupied in a modern capitalist society which has diminishing opportunities for them (Stedman, 1991).

Traditionally, African communities living in close proximity to each other had close strong ties that bound them. These ties were solidified over time and actualized through inter-community activities like simultaneous circumcision ceremonies, inter community marriages, joint community celebrations, seasonal activities (Nyaga, 1998). These have gradually but steadily declined with the advent and increasing intensity of pastoralists and

agriculturalists conflicts, these social ties have been almost completely eroded. They have been replaced by fear and mutual suspicion as seen by the Samburu, Karamong and their neighbours.

Among the Tigania and Tharaka suspicion of each other is high that all their meetings have the security officers and armed security in case of crisis (Munithi 2008).

2.3.2 Environmental Pressure

Conflict has a negative impact on the environment. The pressure exerted on the fragile ecosystem when communities regroup for security reasons may never be reversed. The facts that resources are contested remove the responsibility of conservation from the competing parties. Displaced people have settled along river beds and are blamed for the destruction of trees that used to dot river valleys (Imanyara, 1992).

Huge movements of livestock and human beings during cattle raids have caused massive environmental destruction, human beings and livestock usually move as one block during raiding missions or when communities are fleeing attacks. Such concentrated and simultaneous movements cause destruction of water points, cutting down trees to build fences and also sometimes destroyed. Conflicts have also intensified the depletion of dry woodlands as trees are felled for fuel and commercial purpose (Ikiara, 2006).

Another factor that puts more pressure on environment is internally displaced people. Population displacement is caused by interaction between the individual community and environment. It's an indication of lack of sustainability of the environmental resource

base, the production system and the cultural and political setting. For example, the conflicts in Sudan have led to drastic changes in the demographic features of many of the regions (Laremont, 2004).

The civil war in the south Sudan is major cause of population mobility and the population displacement taking place to-date. A number of families and individuals have had to leave their places of residence and abandon their traditional means of livelihood and joint the multitude of displaced people around urban areas leaving their area of habitation and moving to camps arranged for the displaced away from urban areas (Stedman,1991). The displaced people can no longer maintain their organizational structures as they used to do in their homes. They are faced with new structures which include more than one ethnic group under one administrative unit. This in turn leads to the emergence of a new type of leadership among the newly formed communities. The new leaders are able to articulate the needs and grievances of the camp members and communities to the authorities so that they can benefit their new constituents (Mazrui, 2008).

2.4.0 Intervention Mechanisms

According to Human Rights Watch Report (2003) Government actions speak loudest. Development of a national plan of action for human rights aimed at advancing the ratification of human rights treaties, reviewing and amending legislation to ensure that human rights are adequately protected and promoting human rights training of judges, police officers, lawyers and prison officials would go along way in conflict intervention. Respect for human rights and the rule of law are necessary components of any effort to

make peace durable. By signalling its commitment to building a society in which all can live freely and reduce all forms of violence

Democratic governance helps to guarantee political rights, protect economic freedoms and foster an environment where peace and development can flourish. Countries in Africa are seeking to establish pluralistic systems of government in which political leaders are elected by the will of the majority fitted terms of office and exercise their authority within legal limits (Human Rights watch 2001). Promotion of good governance therefore is hopeful trend that bond well for Africa's future, because in the absence of genuine democratic institutions contending interests are likely to seek to settle their differences through conflict rather than through accommodation. Democratization gives people a stake in society. Its importance cannot be overstated for unless people feel that they too have a stake in society lasting peace will not be possible and sustainable development will not be achieved (Monica Kathina, 2007).

For the African continent to stop or reduce conflict therefore, democratic channels for pursuing legitimate interests and expressing displeasure need to be protected. Rule of law, sound policies, transparency and accountability need to be entrenched in the country's Constitution. Unless good governance is prized, Kenya will not break free of the threat and the reality of conflict that is so evident today (Human Rights Watch, 2003).

The role of indigenous institutions cannot be ignored in the resolution of disputes and strengthening ties that bind communities together. People derive their sense of meaning from their culture, which in turn feeds into the attitudes and values that people choose to embrace which in turn determine how they interact with each other (Monica Kathina 2007). Cultural attitudes and values therefore provide the foundation for social norms by

which people live. In order to re-establish social solidarity in war affected communities, people would need to find a way for members of the communities to re-inform themselves with a cultural logic that emphasizes sharing and equitable resource distribution. It would need to emphasize the importance of reviving progressive cultural attitudes and values that can foster a climate within which peace can flourish.

According to Kuria (1994), government only becomes real to people as their possession when they are able to take part in self-rule on topics of local importance. This need is significant when ethnic and regional identities and concerns are the basis of demands and conflicts. Government structures need to include greater regional autonomy and a greater articulation of local and national government institutions to provide a bottom-up rather than a top-down hierarchy. The process of political participation and decision making should therefore reflect the decision making values and procedures of the local population involved. Indigenous institutions in particular would be well placed to perform the function of enhancing political participation and decision making because of three overlapping but distinct factors.

They are more accessible to all members of a given society, brought up within a particular tradition. They are also already embedded in the social and political structures of a given society and therefore the rules and procedures are more easily internalized. The institutions further enable all members of a society to be aware of their responsibilities and rights with regard to the community as a whole.

Indigenous institutions can therefore enhance the role of citizens in addressing their own problems rather than submitting, as passive objects, to the directives of a distant centralized authority states for the most part have a limited capacity to enable such a

degree of inclusive participation in decision making process (Suliman, 1996). Despite the collapse of the state of Somali, people of Somaliland have used indigenous institutions to establish peace conferences at the local, district and provincial levels leading to creation of relatively high degree of peace and the semblance of law and order and continued self-governance in the region (Monica Kathina, 2007). This demonstrates therefore, that in Somaliland traditional leadership institutions and methods of resolving disputes can be used to bring together the clans and create a legislative and government.

2.4.1 Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in conflict management

The role of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in conflict resolution and prevention is undeniably vital to the emerging practices of peacemaking in conflict areas. NGOs can try to empower parties to deal with conflict constructively, monitor and lobby for human rights and protection of minorities and exact capacity buildings and protective measurements for disadvantaged of endangered groups (Han, 1993). NGOs can consequently play an important role in the creation of 'peace constituencies'. NGOs contribute to the process of conflict resolution by addressing aspects of conflict which official actors cannot reach. They are therefore, vital institutions in the articulation of education issues as they contribute in the stabilization of civil society through identifying and acting upon the human needs, framework, the communication, and the psychological, deep rooted aspects of conflict. Citizen diplomacy can also become NGO diplomacy in which multi-dimensional efforts address the local, civil, regional and global aspects of the conflict, incorporating both an understanding for global norms and global civil society, the traditional systems, the local identity and representational needs in the wider context

of political and economic interdependence, regionalization and globalization (Monica Kathina, 2007).

Conflict resolution approaches have illustrated the need for local expertise and access to be built into peace making processes something that NGOs can nurture. NGOs seem to have resolved some of the conceptual problems of conflict resolution by becoming a vehicle for broad activities to occur at civil level, both in the context of the world society perspective engendered by conflict resolution approaches. They can emphasize the significance of cross-cutting forces working from the global to the local and vice versa. Thus, NGOs can and local actors in their awareness of how their existence, knowledge and actions are constituted by their role in society and also in a global society (Monica Kathina, 2007).

Communities and faith based groups have come handy in facilitating peace dialogues and conflict management in Turkana and Karamoja and such activities need to be emulated in conflict resolution. These organizations have brokered peace between different conflict groups by facilitating their respective elders, youth, women and government representation to meet and dialogue. This has been used to facilitate a number of cross-border peace processes e.g. in Turkana world vision, Oxfam GB have established grassroots peace committees that are modelled on the traditional structure. The peace committee members have been championing peace-building activities in the region by engaging in peace dialogue with their neighbours (Kagari Michelle, 2003).

In its draft national policy for the sustainable development of arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya, the government acknowledges that problems of insecurity exist in Kenya's pastoral areas by stating "...violence conflicts raiding and clashes over land use

continually undermine arid and semi-arid areas livelihoods and wealth creation”(GoK 2004). The same paper highlighted priority areas that point working together with other stakeholders, to formulate coherent approaches to contain and manage violent conflict by Improved coordination and information sharing between different actors on conflict and Strengthening role of elders in justice and peacekeeping efforts with communities, grazing management and negotiation of grazing rights with other communities. There is need to encourage the formation of village peace communities to mediation of violent conflicts. Improved understanding of grazing strategies and mobile herding and other coping mechanisms, increased voice for women community members as peace ambassadors; challenging the culture of violence among the youth need also to be explored.

Given that the causes of conflict are deep rooted and complex it would be wise to have and use different mechanisms for prevention, management and resolution.

Richmond, (2001) argues that at community level, different methods would be used to address matters that affect them. Bringing people together to discuss about their common concerns for example returning stolen properties, discouraging the praise of looters and offenders in the communities and setting conditions that promote and favour peace lovers and penalize promoters of conflict.

2.4.2 Border disputes

The administrative boundaries between the Oromo and Somali regional states should be demarcated in a way that ensures the freedom of movement of pastoral groups and does

not exacerbate resource competition between them. The boundary demarcation between warring states should not merely imply designating the grazing land of the groups into the commonly shared grazing lands. Instead, there is need for the warring groups to issue a consensus regarding the management of commonly shared pasture and water points and the parameters agreed on be submitted to governments to ensure that the agreement is implemented accordingly (Goldsmith, 2007).

Governments in the Horn of African and donors such as the European Union should work to strengthen cross border efforts by regional institutions such as the inter-government Authority on development and the regional conflict, early warning and response mechanism to contribute to lasting solutions e.g. both the Boran and Degodia pastoralists live across the border in Kenya as well as Ethiopia, which means that their conflict has implications beyond Ethiopia.

In the realm of international politics, early warning is primarily concerned with the initiation and escalation of intra-and inter state hostilities. Former secretary general Boutros Boutros Ghadhi, declared that the aim of early warning is to “assess whether a threat to peace exists and to analyze what action might be taken to alleviate it”. According to Annan, (1998), the goal is to predict trends towards an intensification of violence in Africa to protect vulnerable sectors of society against gross human rights violations terror and genocide. Dynamics of early warning are intended to identify accelerator events that build the tensions and indicate the possibility that full blown crisis will occur within a short time, events to be checked could include arms acquisitions, incidents of aggressive posturing or low intensity violence, a crop failure, repressive policies, mass violence does not occur on a single event, it cannot be prevented or terminated unless these matters are addressed to the satisfaction of local actors.

The type of intervention associated with early warning is preventive diplomacy. In agenda for peace, Boutros Boutros Gandhi, defined preventive diplomacy as action to prevent disputes from arising between parties, to prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and to limit the spread of the latter when they occur (Annan, 1998). The main aim of early warning is to resolve disputes conflict breaks out to act swiftly to contain it and resolve its underlying causes (International Alert Report 1996).

Environmental conservation and the rehabilitation need to be seen as conflict management mechanism. Better water management, soil conservation reforestation, family planning to curb population growth. In order to access properly the impact of denying or limiting access to renewable resources in African countries, with their economies largely confined to primary commodity production, important issues as structural programmes and export agricultural, the collapse of the terms of trade as a consequence of the deterioration of the prices of primary commodities, the economic, social and ecological implications of foreign and capital flight, must be taken into full consideration as integral to understanding the causes violent conflicts and ultimately to conflict resolution (Monica Kathina, 2007).

Theoretical Framework

This study was based on the broad framework of the conflict theory and analysis, as advanced by Galtung, (1996). Conflict theory looks at the non-violent and creative handling of conflict in detail. The conflict theory involves a critical investigation into the following elements:

Structure and dynamics of the conflict

This involves a critical investigation into the historical background and context of the conflict so as to understand the genesis and dimension of the current events in the conflict and understand the background and framework within which the causes have emerged and matured. This involves the study of current events will show the conflict as it is on the ground and give different versions of the events

The theory holds that at this stage the personalities and personal perspectives of the individuals will emerge and the conflict taking place will be maintained by show of interests, positions, feelings and outside pressures on the parties. It asserts that whoever is involved in the conflict needs a deeper understanding of the conflict and get a factual account to be of value. Those involved need to consider the start of the conflict what were the root causes of the conflict, who are the parties in the conflict and their roles and interests in order to bring to an end or reduce the conflict. According to the theory, conflict takes different stages pre-conflict period when goals between the parties are incompatible and which would lead to open conflict. Confrontation state is when the conflict becomes open and manifests itself in occasional fighting, strained relations and mobilization of resources. The conflict goes to the crisis peak characterized by intensive fighting, killings, large scale population displacement and use of small arms. The post conflict stage is when violence ceases considerably and parties have gone beyond the crisis stage. This is the time to mend rehabilitation of destroyed infrastructure

Actors in the conflict

In the conflict analysis also is useful to identify all involved parties either directly or indirectly depending on the feelings, interests, positions or needs that are threatened. The parties involved are grouped into “primary parties” referring to those who are directly involved in the conflict, they are visibly and commonly known. “Secondary parties” are those not directly affected but have ability to destabilize any agreement if they do not agree with it.

The “peripheral parties” are those outside but have interests in the outcome of the proceedings. They are not visible in the conflict. They however operate by proxy and may heavily influence either party in the conflict positively and negatively.

Root causes of the conflict

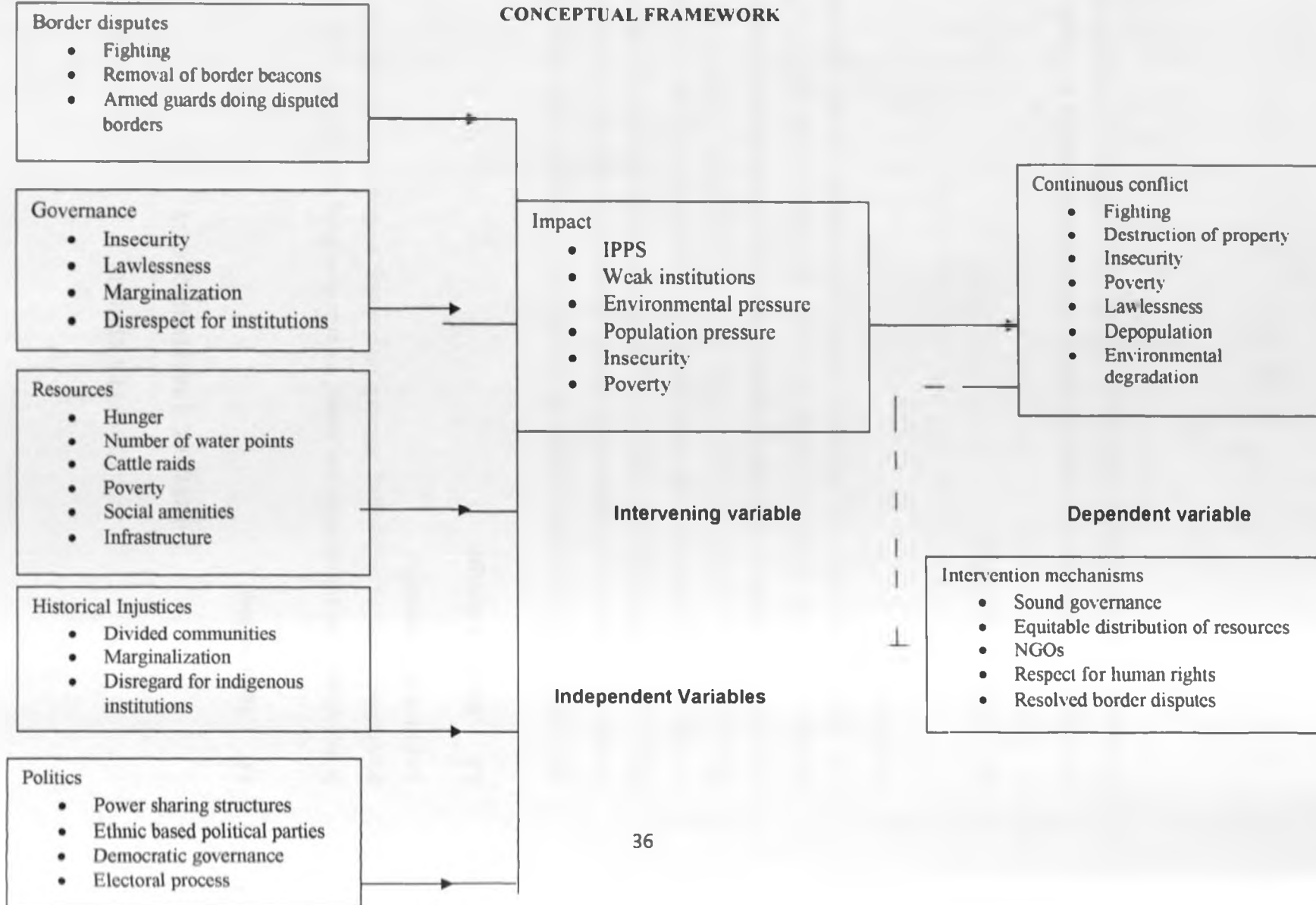
The circle of conflict is a useful tool for identifying the root causes of conflict. It helps identify relationship conflicts caused by misconceptions, rivalry or competition in the relationship information conflict are caused by lack of information, different interpretation of data and different views of what is important. It also assesses the interest conflicts caused by different needs of hidden interests.

The structural conflicts are identified by assessing the structural social injustices or discrimination, unequal access to and control of resources.

To understand factors contributing and fuelling conflicts in the Tigania and Tharaka Communities, therefore, there is need to look into the root causes of the conflict, identify

the parties and their interests and understand their values with an aim to resolve the conflict and attain sustainable peace. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of the culture of conflict and how conflict can be understood at deeper level.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the sub-sections was geared towards describing the research design, target population, sampling techniques, research institutions, methods of data collection and data analysis procedure.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is a plan showing how the problem under investigation will be solved. It is a process of selection of methods to be used to answer the research questions and solve the research problem (Ngechu, 2006). A Case Study was used in this study to collect data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of the subjects in the study. Kerlinger (1969) says that descriptive studies are not only restricted to fact finding but may often result in the formulation of important principles of knowledge and solution to significant problems. Therefore in using this design, the researcher sought to find out the root causes of Tharaka and Tigania a conflict and identify possible intervention mechanisms.

3.2 Target Population

The target population was from the area directly affected by the conflict in Tigania and Tharaka Districts. These were: Kathangachini, Twanthanju and Gatue in Tharaka District

totalling 700 people. In Tigania District, the areas directly affected were Ankamia, Kunati, Giithu, Igani with a population of 800 people. Both communities had a total population of 1500 people directly affected by the conflict (Government of Kenya Report 2007). Also targeted were the two District Commissioners in Tigania and Tharaka District. The study also targeted 10 Councillors who served the affected region and also the two members of Parliament in the area. Also targeted was the Njuri Ncheke Arbitration Committee made up of 16 members who served in both communities.

3.3 Sampling Technique and Sampling Design

According to Orodho (2003) a sample design is a definite plan determined before any data is collected by obtaining a sample size from a given population. For this study purposive sampling technique was used. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) say that purposive sampling technique allows the researcher to use cases that have the required information with respect to the objectives of the study. While Frankel and Warren (2008) states that the researcher can use personal judgment to select a sample assuming that they can use their knowledge of the population to judge whether or not a particular sample was representative. The sample selection was based on Purposive Sampling to select a sample from people directly affected by the conflict in Tharaka and Tigania Districts. The researcher visited the Administrative office in Tigania and Tharaka District to obtain a list of the people directly affected by the conflict in both communities. The researcher then classified the people into homogeneous groups depending on how they were affected by the conflict i.e. those who lost property in the conflict, those who lost relatives in the conflict, those who were displaced by the conflict and those who sustained injuries in the conflict. Warren and Frankael (2008), states that a homogeneous sample was one in

which all the members possess a certain trait or characteristic. In this case, a homogenous sample allows the researcher to select a smaller sample since the cases are very similar, thus enabling the researcher to collect more intensive data. Four (4) people were selected from each category in Tigania District to make a total sample of sixteen (16) people. Twelve (12) people were picked from the four categories in Tharaka District. All the political leaders (Councillors and Members of Parliament) in Tigania and Tharaka areas affected by conflict were included in the sample. These are; ten councillors and two members of parliament. All the members of the Njuri Ncheke boundary arbitration committee were also included in the sample as shown in the table below.

Table No. 3.1: Sampling Frame

Category	Number of Members	Sample	Percentage
People directly affected by conflict in Tharaka.	700	28	28%
People directly affected by conflict in Tigania.	800	29	32%
Members of Parliament in Tharaka and Tigania Constituencies.	2	2	4%
Councillors in Tigania area affected by conflict.	5	5	10
Councillors in Tharaka area affected by conflict.	5	5	10
District Commissioners in Tigania and Tharaka Districts.	2	2	4
Njuri Ncheke Boundary Arbitration Committee.	16	16	12%
Total	1530	87	100%

3.4 Research Instruments

For data collection questionnaires and interview schedules was used in order to get information from all the respondents. The questionnaires comprised both closed and open headed questions. The researcher constructed a questionnaire for those affected by the conflict and the political leaders in the affected areas. An interview schedule was constructed for the Government Provincial officers to collect data on causes of conflict, impact and intervention mechanisms. Since they are busy people, they did not get time to respond to a questionnaire. Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) say a guided interview can be used to interview respondents when the subjects may not have the ability to easily interpret the questionnaire mainly because of their educational background.

3.5.1 Instrument Validity

Validity is the accuracy or meaningfulness of inferences. It is the degree to which a test measures what it purports to measure (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999). To enhance validity of the questionnaire, the researcher sought advice from the supervisors on validity and relevance on the questions to the topic under study. Comments and suggestions were taken into account when formulating the final copy.

3.5.2 Reliability of the Instrument

Orodho, (2003) states that reliability of measurement concerns the degree to which a particular measuring procedure gives similar results over a number of repeated trials. Reliability was determined by split-half technique. This technique involves breaking the instrument into equivalent halves after administering it. Each of the subsets was treated separately and scored accordingly.

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

List of the affected people in the conflict were sort from the administration office in Tharaka and Tigania Districts. Before proceeding to the field, contacts were made to establish the exact physical location so as to enable delivery of questionnaires. The same was delivered and filled in the presence of the researcher. For those not literate, a guided interview was done to collect the relevant data. The filled questionnaires were collected, edited to ensure that they are completely filled. All respondents were assured of confidentiality.

3.7 Data Analysis and Presentation

The researcher scrutinized the instrument and check for completeness and accuracy. The data was coded in order to classify the answers into meaningful categories so as to bring out their essential pattern. Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) was used to generate frequency distributions using descriptive statistics in order to examine the

pattern of the responses. The findings were presented in the form of tables and charts to easily bring out differences of value.

3.9 Operational Definition of Variables

Objectives	Research Question	Variables	Indicators	Measurement Scale	Type of Analysis
To investigate the factors influencing continuous conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities of greater Meru region	What are the factors influencing continuous conflict between the Tharaka and Tigania communities of Meru region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Border disputes ▪ Governance ▪ Politics ▪ Resources ▪ Historical Injustices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reports ▪ No of IDPs • Cases reported over fights for water ▪ Cases reported of cattle rustling ▪ Cases as reported on land disputes. 	Ordinal	Descriptive
To assess the impact of the conflict among the Tigania and Tharaka communities	What is the impact of the conflict on Tharaka and Tigania communities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IDPs ▪ Poverty ▪ Insecurity ▪ Environmental degradation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of displaced people ▪ Number of criminal cases reported to police, and chief. • Deforestation – forest destroyed ▪ Charcoal burning sites 	Ordinal Nominal	Descriptive
To identify intervention mechanisms that can be applied between Tharaka and Tigania communities	What are the possible intervention mechanisms that can be applied to resolve the conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sound governance ▪ Equitable distribution of resources ▪ NGO ▪ Respect for Human Rights ▪ Resolved border disputes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No. of NGOs ▪ Documents on border disputes ▪ Government policy on conflict resolution ▪ Reports on human rights campaign 	Ordinal	Descriptive

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter deals with the questionnaire return rate, reporting of data analysis and discusses the findings from the data. The data involved the questionnaires received from respondents as well as observation schedule administered by the researcher. Data analysis was done according to research questions of the study and the findings are then considered and discussed.

4.1 General information

The questionnaires were used to collect the data; the respondents' questionnaire was the main instrument of the study. The questionnaires were given to the respondents which were duly completed and returned constituting 100% return rate. All the questionnaires were administered by the researcher and all collected constituting 100% return rate these were considered adequate for the study.

Table 4.1.1: Gender

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Male	48	55.2
Female	39	44.8
Total	87	100.0

Out of the 87 respondents who were interviewed 55.2% were males and 44.8% were females, this showed a good distribution on gender.

Table 4.1.2: Age

Response	Frequency	Percentage
25 – 34 years	20	23.0
35 – 44 years	24	27.6
45 years +	43	49.4
Total	87	100.0

Majority of the respondents of the age 49 and above were represented by 49.4%, those aged between 35-44 years was 27.6% and those aged between 25-34 were the least with 23.0%. This indicates that the most affected group by the conflict were the old generation who were settled in either Tigania or Tharaka areas.

Table 4.1.3: Marital Status

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Married	58	66.7
Single	2	2.3
Widow	17	19.5
Widower	7	8.0
Divorced	3	3.4
Total	87	100.0

Most of the respondents were married, this constituted to 66.7% followed by widows who were represented by 19.5%, widowers were 8.0%, 3.4% were divorced and only 2.3% were single. The data shows that there were many widows (19.5%) as compared to widowers (8.0%) possibly because their spouses might have been killed in the conflict and at the same time they might have chosen to remain widowed after the death of their spouses.

Table 4.1.4**4: Highest level of Education**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	42	48.3
Secondary	23	26.4
Diploma	17	19.5
Bachelor's degree +	5	5.7
Total	87	100.0

Out of the respondents interviewed 48.3% which was the majority of those who were interviewed reached, the secondary school leavers constituted 26.4%, 19.5% were Diploma holders while only 5.7% were Bachelor degree holders. This could be a consequence of the conflict resulting in school drop out at primary school level. This is a key pointer to the government to advance/promote higher education in the region.

Table 4.1.5: Residence of Respondent

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Tigania East District	49	56.3
Tharaka District	38	43.7
Total	87	100.0

From the table above out of the respondents interviewed 56.3% came from Tigania East District which had more people affected by the conflict while 43.7% came from Tharaka District, this shows that the residence in Tigania East District showed a lot of interest in the study.

Table 4.1.6: Length of the conflict

Response	Frequency	Percentage
1 - 5 years	6	6.9
11 - 15 years	63	72.4
Cannot remember	18	20.7
Total	87	100.0

Majority of the respondents said that the conflict had taken 11-15 years 72.4%, 20.7% said that they could not remember how long it taken while only 6.9% said that it had taken between 1-5 years.

4.2 Influence of Politics on Conflict

Table 4.2.1: Extent at which politics has fuelled the conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Great extent	59	67.8
Moderate extent	22	25.3
Small extent	2	2.3
No extent	4	4.6
Total	87	100.0

From the table above 67.8% of the respondents agreed that politics greatly contributed to the conflict. Rival communities might perceive that their security, perhaps their very survival, can be ensured only through control of power by one of “their own” making conflicts inevitable. 25.3% said it was moderate 4.6% of the respondents said that there was no extent and only 2.3% said it was a small extent

Table 4.2.2: Presence of established boundary between Tigania and Tharaka communities

Response	Frequency	Percentage
No	20	23.0
Yes	67	77.0
Total	87	100.0

The table above shows that 77.0% of the respondent agree that there was an established boundary between Tigania and Tharaka communities while only 23.0% disagreed that there was no established boundary existing. However there is a disagreement on where the boundary is between the two communities. This might be a cause of conflict in Tigania Tharaka region.

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Table 4.2.3: Institutions under Conflict

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	81	93.1
No	6	6.9
Total	87	100.0

The table above shows that 93.1% agreed that there were public institutions whose ownership were in conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities, only 6.9% said no. They further stated that the public institutions were, schools open, air markets, churches, health centres, chief camps and cattle dips among others. These disputed public facilities are mainly along the border and each district claim that such facilities belong to them. Such scenarios can fuel conflict among the affected communities.

Table 4.2.4: Some causes of Tigania - Tharaka conflict

Cause	Frequency	Percentage
Land ownership dispute	82	94.25
Boundary dispute	80	91.95
Influence of political leaders	50	57.47
Incitement against the Kamba people	2	2.30
Marginalization and poverty	57	65.52
Lack of security	2	2.30

N=87

When asked for the causes of Tigania and Tharaka conflict 94.25% felt that land ownership dispute was the cause, 91.95% felt it was because of boundary dispute, 57.47% said it was influenced by political leaders, 2.3% of the respondents said that it was caused by incitement against the Kamba people, while 2.3% of the respondents said that it was caused by lack of security. Also another major cause cited was marginalization and poverty.

4.3 Impact of the conflict among the communities

Table 4.3.1: Extent to which Tigania - Tharaka conflict affected Individuals

Effect	Frequency	Percentage
It affects the running of social and economic activities	85	97.70
Loss of property and displacement	87	100.00
Hurt/injured in the conflict	50	57.47
Death of relatives and friends	20	22.99

N=87

The interviewed respondents said that there was loss of property and displacement (100%) due to the conflict. During the conflict, houses were burnt, crops destroyed and cattle raided. This affected the running of social and economic activities (97.70%) of the individuals because there will always be that fear of development. 22.99% of the respondents said that the conflict caused deaths of relatives and friends as many of them were either killed or hurt in the conflict. Also 57.47% of the respondents reported that they were hurt or injured in the conflict.

4.4 Intervention mechanisms

Table 4.4.1: Opinion on conflict resolution between the Tigania - Tharaka communities

Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Involvement of members of the communities and churches	79	90.80
Involvement of the government	59	67.82
Involvement of the community elders	72	82.76

N=87

All the respondents were of the opinion that Tigania and Tharaka conflict could be resolved, they were of the opinion that the government, 67.82% should be involved and play a big role in the conflict resolution between Tigania and Tharaka communities. In addition community leaders (82.76%) and members of the communities themselves and the church should also be involved in the conflict resolution. Such an approach would help the stakeholders to own the resolution process. Again this showed a good entry point in the region for peace building process to be able to proactively participate in peace building initiatives as involvement of all stakeholders is important in conflict resolution.

Table 4.4.2: Suggestions on conflict resolution between the Tigania - Tharaka communities

Suggestion	Frequency	Percentage
Have a definite boundary	83	95.40
Land demarcation	77	88.51
Put up security personnel	51	58.62
Provide food for those in the refugee camps	40	45.98
Resettlement of refugees	39	44.83
Land development	56	64.37

N=87

The respondents suggested that in order to resolve the conflict between Tigania-Tharaka communities they should; have a defined boundary (95.40%), land demarcation (88.51%), put up security personnel (58.62%), resettlement of refugees (44.83%), provide food for those in refugee camps (45.98%). Land development (64.37%) was also suggested to be a solution to conflict resolution. This would help to alleviate poverty and increase food security which may minimize conflicts

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The chapter presents summary of the finding of the study in reference to the interpreted data and objectives. It also includes conclusions, recommendations and area for further study.

5.2 .0 Summary Of Findings

5.2.1 Analysis of the data in chapter 4 clearly shows that there exists a conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities. The table 5.1 below shows objectives of the study, data collection methods, type of data analysis and main findings for each objective

Table 5.2.1 Summary of findings

Objective	Data collection	Type of analysis	Main findings
To investigate the factors that influence continuous conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities of greater Meru regions	Questionnaire interview	Descriptive statistics	Access to and control of scarce resources among the Tigania and Tharaka areas was found to be the main cause of conflict. Other factors included politics for self interest, border disputes, land adjudication, and government policy.
To assess the impact of the conflict among the Tigania and Tharaka communities	Questionnaire interview	Descriptive statistics	The greatest impact of the conflict on the Tigania Tharaka communities is disruption of economic activities. Others are environmental degradation, displacement of people death and physical harm.
To identify intervention mechanisms that could be applied to resolve the conflict between Tharaka and Tigania communities.	Questionnaire interview	Descriptive statistics	Main intervention mechanism is establishment of Njuni Ncheke arbitration committee and peace initiatives through public barazas

Politics of self interest have played a great role in fueling the conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities. The magnitude of conflicts gets worse at the peak of every general election.

Border disputes are also a factor causing conflict in Tigania and Tharaka regions as no clear boundaries exist between the newly created districts. Where boundaries have been fixed, they have not been accepted as they cut across the community's vital resources and bring perceptions that "our resources are being encroached".

Access to and control of resources like water, pasture, land, grazing areas have played a crucial role in the occurrence of violence among Tigania and Tharaka communities.

Land adjudication and demarcation process that has dragged on for many years in Tigania -Tharaka administrative has been a source of conflict as people claim to own land that they are not occupying while others occupy land that they do not own.

Implementation of Government policy of Arid and Semi-Arid areas is also a factor that causes conflict in the region. The residents of Tigania -Tharaka areas feel marginalized by the government in the distribution of the national cake. Since the colonial times, the areas have remained poor and lack basic amenities like water, schools, and infrastructure. For example, for the forty years that Kenya has been independent, not a single metre of tarmac road exists in Tharaka. This makes the residents of these areas bitter and hostile due to the perceived marginalization.

5.2.2 Impact of Tigania-Tharaka conflict on the community

The research also found out that the Tigania Tharaka conflict had a great impact on the community. The conflict has lasted for too long distrusting the economic activities of the residents reducing them into a poor community. All the interviewed respondents said that their crops and property had been destroyed in the conflict creating fear and hopelessness not knowing when the next fighting erupts.

The environment has been destroyed by felling down of trees for charcoal burning and over grazing this has exposed the soils to erosion by wind and water

The research also found out that many people had been killed or hurt in the conflict, leaving behind orphans, widows and widowers. Other residents were forced to run away from the conflict area and are now internally displaced living in camps with little or nothing to look forward to.

5.2.3 Interventions mechanisms for conflict management

The study revealed that various intervention mechanisms have been put in place to resolve the conflict. The provincial administration has been engaged in many barazas in effort to resolve the conflict.

The Njuri Ncheke boundary arbitration committee has been sent up to help resolve the Tigania-Tharaka.

Various peace initiatives have been put in place to address the disputes between the Tigania-Tharaka communities

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that there exists a conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities. There is need to resolve the conflict.

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that there exists a conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities. The leading cause of conflict is competition for limited natural resources such as pasture, water and land. The regions occupied by the Tigania and Tharaka communities receive limited amounts of rainfall and this limits the availability of pasture and farm products. This leads to movements in search of scarce resources elsewhere bringing the communities in an inevitable conflict as the rules of entry and sharing among the communities are not observed.

The study has shown that Tigania and Tharaka border land is a complex site in which conflicts occur frequently. The recent creation of new administrative districts in the

greater Meru region has created an environment for eruption of fresh disputes. The fact that communities are left for long periods to violently dispute boundaries without the government intervening to declare firmly where demarcations are, politicizes the whole process. One example is, the building of a police post at the disputed border between Tigania and Tharaka communities has resulted in a dispute that has claimed several human lives and property.

Governance was found to be another major reason for conflicts in this region. The communities claimed that since independence, their districts have been marginalized because they lack basic social needs like hospitals, schools, their districts have poor infrastructure without a single meter of tarmac road, an indication of marginalization.

From the interviews and observations the impact and magnitude of Tigania and Tharaka conflict can best be understood in the context of factors like growing insecurity, manifested in the proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons, contest over resources, lost economic and social development opportunities, destruction of life and property, deaths and displacement of huge numbers of population, enhanced negative perception by outsiders, of the region as inhospitable and insecure and weakening of traditional institutions for conflict resolution.

On current intervention mechanisms, the Government as formed the Njuri Ncheke border arbitration committee mandated with the role of establishing the real boundaries in the

larger Meru region but in particular show the clear boundary between Tigania and Tharaka districts.

The Catholic Church through the Catholic Peace and Justice Commission (CJPC) has been at the forefront in seeking and advocating for peace among these communities. Many CBOs have conducted several peace building initiatives but more peace education is still required to resolve the conflict.

Conflict resolution and transformation mechanisms to the conflict should not only be concerned with structures of managing the conflict itself, but also with post conflict peace structures in order to build lasting solutions.

5.4

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is need to build a peace making process at the grass roots level in Tharaka and Tigania communities in order to aid the local actors in their awareness of how their existence, knowledge and actions can improve their role in conflict resolution. In order also to share the realities upon which further negotiations can be done to foster peaceful coexistence between them.

Ever since historical days, traditional authorities were important in creating peace, security, law and order. The primary role of such traditional authorities can still be explored in the regulation of access to shared resources such as grazing land and water.

The role of clan elders also need to be strengthened as they lead groups in making decisions on basis of consensus a factor which both subordinates the interests of the rich and the marginalized.

The indigenous institutions operating in the Meru community need to be recognized and strengthened instead of being ignored as they can be consulted on their view concerning land, conservation, conflict resolution which was their basis of existence.

There is need for more interaction between the greater Meru communities on their shared values, customs and attitudes which would in turn provide a foundation for the social norms by which people live. Through internalizing and sharing values with their fellow community members and by handing them down to future generations and therefore reconstruct themselves on the basis of a their cultural image.

The created new districts need to reconsider their names instead of emphasizing on ethnic sub-tribes of the Meru they would need to think of District names that reflect a united rather than a divided Meru.

Declaration of adjudication sections on adjudicated areas need to be speeded up and timely issuance of little deeds done to stream line owner ship of land.

The government, non Governmental organizations and Human rights groups need to consider offering civic education to Ameru community on peaceful co-existence and the need to shun conflict.

There is need to offer functional skills to the youth who are unemployed in these area who are always used to fight wars that they know little about.

There is need to resettle the internally displaced people in the area affected by the conflict to safer areas where they can reconstruct their lives.

Improve road and transport infrastructures in the Tigania – Tharaka District.

Explore prospects for irrigation along the river sections and promote crop farming and cattle keeping to improve the lives of the Tigania Tharaka communities living in the dry part of Meru.

5.5 Areas of further study

1. There is still room for further research on the Tigania- Tharaka conflicts as far as resources are concerned in order to find a lasting solution.
2. There is need to explore intervention mechanism to conflict transformation in Tigania Tharaka communities with a view to finding sustainable peace.

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Appendix A

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Kirimi Lilian Mworia

P O BOX 359-60200

MERU

TEL: 0724920173

Dear Sir /Madam,

RE: LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL OF DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

This is to inform you that I am carrying out a research study leading to the award of Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management of the University of Nairobi. The study focuses on “**An Evaluation of Continuous Conflict Between Related Communities: A Case Study of Tharaka and Tigania Communities**”.

When the research is completed, it is presumed that it will benefit the Ministry of Internal Security, Provincial Administration and communities to identify root causes of conflict and intervention mechanisms to resolve them.

Attached please find a questionnaire that requires you to provide information by answering questions honestly and objectively. You may not record your name anywhere in the questionnaire and the information provided will be treated with utmost confidence.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance.

Kirimi Lilian Mworia

Appendix: B

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Telegrams: "Districter" Meru
Telephone: 32701700
Fax: 32360
Email: dcnorthmenti@yahoo.com



DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
IMENTI NORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 743 60200
MERU

When replying please quote

Ref: WEL. 14/18 VOL. IV(93)
And Date

9th June, 2009

Kirimi Lilian Mworia
ADM. NO. L50/70282/2008
University of Nairobi
Extra Mural Centre

**RE: RESEARCH ON EVALUATION OF CONTINUOUS CONFLICT IN RELATED COMMUNITIES:
CASE OF THARAKA –TIGANIA COMMUNITIES**

Continuous conflict amongst related communities with particular reference to the greater Meru sub-tribes has been a great challenge to the government and in several cases has compromised security with reconciliation efforts being a mirage.

Arising from the above, it is pleasant to note that you have opted to research on this phenomenon with a focus on the continuous conflict between Tharaka – Tigania sub-tribes of the Ameru.

By a copy of this letter, I urge for support and good will from all those that you will interact with in this district.

Wish you all the best.


WYCLIFFE O. OGALLO, OGW
DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
IMENTI NORTH DISTRICT

Copy to: ~~D.O – Mirigamieru West~~
D.O – Mirigamieru East

Appendix: C

QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE FILLED BY BOTH THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT, AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS RESIDENTS OF TIGANIA-THARAKA CONFLICT.

SECTION: A RESPONDENTS PROFILE

For this section, please put a tick (✓) or write in the space provided.

1. What is your sex?
Male ()
Female ()

2. What is your age sex?
18 – 24 years ()
25- 34 years ()
35 – 44 years ()
45 ears and above ()

3. What is your marital status?
Married ()
Single ()
Widow ()
Widower ()
Separated ()
Divorced ()

4. What is your highest level of formal education?
Primary ()
Secondary ()
Diploma ()
Bachelor's degree and above ()

5. Are you a resident of:
- (a) Tigania East District?
 - (b) Tharaka District?
 - (c) For how long have you lived there?
-

6. Do you hold any elective post in;
- Tigania ()
 - Tharaka ()

Please specify:

.....

7. If your response to number 6 is yes how long have you held the elective post?
- 1 – 5 years ()
 - 6 – 10 years ()
 - 11 years and above ()

SECTION: B

8. (a) Are you aware of the Tigania-Tharaka conflict?
- Yes ()
 - No ()

- (b) If yes, how long has the conflict lasted?
- 1 – 5 years ()
 - 6 – 10 years ()
 - 11 – 15years ()
 - Cannot remember ()

9. To what extent do you think scarcity of resources has contributed to the Tigania-Tharaka conflict?
- Great extent ()
 - Moderate extent ()

Small extent ()

10. To what extent has politics fuelled the conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities?

- Great extent ()
- Moderate extent ()
- Small extent ()
- No extent ()

11. Is there an established boundary between Tigania and Tharaka communities?

- Yes ()
- No ()

(a) Are there public institutions whose ownership is in conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka communities?

- Yes ()
- No ()

(b) If yes, please specify:

- (i)
- (ii)

12. In your opinion, explain some of the causes of Tigania-Tharaka conflict?

.....

13.

14. To what extent has the Tigania-Tharaka conflict affected you? Please explain.

.....

15. To what extent has the Tigania-Tharaka conflict affected your communities?

- Great extent ()
- Moderate extent ()
- Small extent ()
- No extent ()

Please specify.

.....

16. (a) In your opinion, can the Tigania-Tharaka conflict be resolved?

Yes ()

No ()

(c) Who in your opinion should be involved in the conflict resolution between the Tharaka-Tigania communities?

.....

17. What do you suggest can be done to resolve the conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities?

.....

.....

Thank you.

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
EAST AFRICANA COLLECTION

APPENDIX: D

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

SECTION 1: RESPONDENTS PROFILE

For this section, please put a tick (✓) or write in the space provided).

1. What is your highest academic qualification?
.....
2. What is your total working experience as a Provincial Administrator?
1 – 5 years ()
6 – 10 years ()
15 years and above ()
3. How long have you served in your current station as a Provincial officer?
.....years.
4. What is your current number of staff including yourself, Division officers and Chiefs in the district?
- 5.
6. What is the actual population in your district?
Tharaka ()
Tigania ()

SECTION: B

7. (a) Is there formal training for Provincial Administrative officers?
Yes ()
No ()

(b) If yes, does it include a component of conflict management?
Please explain.....

Are you aware of the Tigania-Tharaka conflict?

Yes ()

No ()

8. If yes, when was it first reported to your office?.....

(a) Has any investigation into the conflict been done?

Yes ()

No ()

(b) If yes, please explain.
.....

9. Who are the parties involved in the Tigania-Tharaka conflict? Please specify.
.....

How many cases of cattle rustling have been reported to your office? Please specify.....

How many cases have been reported over fight for water?
.....

10. Are there internally displaced people arising from the conflict? Please specify.....
.....

11. How many people have been affected by the conflict?

Number of people displaced.....

Number of people killed

Number of children orphaned by the conflict.....

12. What are the causes of the conflict between the Tigania and Tharaka community?
Please explain.....

To what extent is the impact of the conflict on the affected communities?

Please explain.....

13. Has the number of criminal cases increased since the fighting started? Please specify.....

14. (a) Do you partner with other bodies in the resolution of Tigania-Tharaka conflict?

Yes ()

No ()

(b) If yes, Please specify.

(c) If yes, what is the role of the partners in conflict resolution? Please explain.....

15. What strategies has your office embraced in the effort to manage Tigania-Tharaka conflict? Please explain.....

.....
.....
.....

16. (a) Do you encounter any problems in the management of the conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities?

Yes ()

No ()

(b) If yes, please explain.

.....

17. What do you suggest can be done to resolve the conflict between Tigania and Tharaka communities?

.....

Thank you