

**ASSESSMENT OF THE DYNAMICS OF RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICT
ON HUMAN SECURITY IN KENYA: A CASE STUDY OF ISIOLO COUNTY**

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SUBMITTED TO

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DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented before to any university for academic award.

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DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated with love and gratitude: To my wife Guyatu, still great, and a major source of inspiration to me; to my daughter Chaltu for her love and jovial character which made me stay alert as I wrote my thesis at home.

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I thank God for enabling me to complete my studies. I am particularly grateful but indebted immensely to my supervisor Dr. Martin Ouma, who read each sentence in this project, tirelessly criticized my work after doing so many mistakes and gave me innovative suggestions, to improve my project. Thank you Sir I'm greatly humbled by your support.

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ABSTRACT

With key focus on increased resource-based conflict in Kenya, this study sought to examine the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County. Chapter one covers the background to the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, literature review, theoretical framework, hypotheses and methodology of the study. The study adopted mixed method research design in order to allow the researcher gather information, summarize, present and interpret data for the purpose of clarification. It involves use of both qualitative and quantitative methods which ensures total representations of experiences or associations. Furthermore it ensured trustworthiness of inferences gained and at the same time promotes diversity of opinions for the same experiences. The study was guided by three objectives which formed chapter two, three and four namely; to examine the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County, investigate the impact of resource based conflict on human security in Isiolo County and examine strategies being used to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County. The study has identified global climate change as the most key nature of resource-based conflict in Isiolo County. There is a strong relationship between land degradation, water, pasture, desertification and conflict in the county. Climate change on its own does not lead to conflict, however, combined with poor governance and politics of ethnicity contributes to environmental conflict over scarce resources. In addition, the study established that, climate change has contributed to resource-based conflict in Isiolo County under two main aspects which include; where natural resources reduce as a result of degradation and where access is restricted or unequally distributed resources. In each of the two cases, resource-based conflict arises as people compete for scarce resources available and or their rights to control over these resources especially, in case where some groups have been marginalized. Based on second objective, the study established that, resource-based conflict has far reaching negative implications on human security in Isiolo County. Economic sector is the most affected sector by the conflict. Harsh climatic conditions have contributed to lack of food, as well as economic insecurities. Increased degradation of land, scarcity of water and pasture has led to decline on production of livestock and decrease in price of livestock. The study pointed out that, the strategies fall under two broad categories namely; peace building strategies and security intervention strategies. From the study findings, security intervention strategies have been more effective and preferred by government, than peace building strategies in addressing the conflict.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

Resource based conflict is a recurrent phenomenon in most parts of Africa. Isiolo County has experienced recurrent serious droughts and famine, which have transformed to protracted conflict over rights to, access and control of limited pasture, land and water wells. Most of the people in the county rely heavily on Pastoralism, as their main source of their survival and investment. Due to harsh climatic change exhibited by poor rainfall patterns, these crises threaten the survival of pastoralists and their livestock in the region. This is because the welfare of pastoralists is directly linked to their environment. This study therefore, investigates the impact of resource based conflict in Africa, with specific emphasis on Isiolo County. The chapter also covers the background to the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, literature review, theoretical framework, hypotheses and methodology of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Resource based conflict has always been an impediment not only in Kenya, but also to the rest of the world. Conflict has been a common phenomenon and the dynamics of the resource-based conflict in particular, has had impacts on economic, social, cultural and ecological aspects of human lives. The definition of resource-based conflict varies from various scholars and different interest groups. For instance, Global Policy Forum defines Conflict resources as natural resources whose systematic exploitation and trade in a context of conflict, contribute to, benefit from or result in

the commission of serious violations of human rights, international humanitarian law or violations amounting to crimes under international law.¹

The question of resource-based conflict is perhaps the most complex and controversial one. In Africa, many wars and conflicts have occurred as result of competition for scarce natural resources such as land, water, pasture and other valuable resources. Historically, in the pre-colonial period, the African kingdoms, chieftains and communities waged war against each other, in a bid to control and get acquisition of fertile land, rivers, forests, grazing lands for pastures among other things. Until very recently, the African pastoralist communities have resulted to high number of deaths, mass migration within and across the borders causing diplomatic tensions. For instance, Fulani people of West Africa who live and spread across almost five to six countries of the West Africa, leading to diplomatic tensions between countries. The Maasai, Karamajong and other few communities have on numerous times crossed borders of east African countries, in search of water and pasture for the livestock.²

According to Abraham, Africa is a rich continent well-endowed with natural resources such as oil, fertile land for agriculture and animal product, rivers, falls, savanna grasslands for livestock, moderate climate, high rainfall zones, lakes, equatorial forests that provide woods and timber, minerals such as cobalt, copper, titanium, uranium, gold, silver, diamond, iron among others. For these reasons, the Europeans after the 1884 Berlin conference, scrambled for and partitioned Africa to steal and exploit raw materials in order to support their Industries.³

¹ Global Policy Forum. (2007). *Definition of Conflict resources*. New York, NY

² Abraham, C. (1997, March). 'Why Disarming the Karamojong has not been an easy choice. *The East African*, 17-23.

³ Ibid.

Mamdani contends that, resources are either a source of blessings or a curse as most observers would put, depending on various strategies various states employ in order to manage them. Even after gaining independence, a quite number of African states are still struggling to stabilize, due to lack of political will and national strategy for managing resources. South Sudan a newly independent state is a typical example still having an ongoing civil war and humanitarian crisis largely due to unequal distribution of resources.⁴ In addition, Mathews asserts that the DRC, Angola and Sierra Leone despite being endowed with Oil, Diamond, Gold and other valuable minerals, they are still yet to enjoy from socio-economic and political stability. The countries have experienced political instability and civil unrest created by emergence of rebel groups, child soldiers, foreign mining companies, political leaders who might have either been compromised or have no political will to bring sanity in the countries. However, main objective of interested parties in these countries is control of resource rich areas. This has been a phenomenon experienced globally where rebel groups, terrorists and criminal organizations have had control of Oil in mineral rich areas of Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Bolivia, Peru and Colombia among others.⁵

In Kenya, land is a valuable asset as national economies require it as an input for development. For many households, access to land is central to food security and a source of income although in many instances, it has led to conflict. For instance, ownership of the land (savanna rangeland rich in pasture and water, arable land and

⁴ Mamdani, M. (2014). *“South Sudan and its unending bloody conflict: no power-sharing without political reform.”* Berlin, Germany: Research Gate

⁵ Mathews,S.(2001). *“Resource Conflict in Africa”*. *From Revolution to Independence*. New York: Columbia University Press. pp,16-17

ancestral land) is one determinant of resource-based conflict, between ethnic communities in Kenya especially in Isiolo County.⁶ Therefore, the resource-based conflicts impacts negatively on human security on different dynamics which include; political instability, tribal conflicts, economic instability, controversial policies for community conservancies supported by private conservancies, environmental degradation, overstocking leading to desertification, due to strain on available pasture in the case of influx of livestock and human beings.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Various approaches have been taken by both County and National governments in an effort to address the protracted conflict over natural resources in Isiolo County. Among the approaches include: implementation of Boma peace agreement and engagement of women and elders on negotiation for peace at community level, in order to stop cattle rustling as well as disputes over land and water points. Despite the approaches being taken, conflict over natural resources still persist at an alarming level, posing imminent threat to human security in the region.

The resource-based conflict in Isiolo County has led to poverty, unemployment, commercialized and politicized cattle rustling, ethnic conflict, displacement of persons as well as paralyzation of education. The widespread impact of the resource-based conflict in Isiolo County needs to be investigated in order to establish the root cause. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the impacts of resource based conflict and examine the strategies already taken, to address the issue in Isiolo County.

⁶ Huka, H. (2013, January) "Fights erupt as investors scramble for land in Isiolo". *East African Standard*

1.3 Research Questions

- i. What is the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County?
- ii. What is the impact of resource based conflict on human security in Isiolo County?
- iii. What are strategies currently used to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County?

1.4 Research Objectives

General Objective

The main objective of this study is to examine the dynamics of resource-based conflict among the pastoralist communities living in Isiolo County.

Specific Objectives are to:

- i. Examine the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County.
- ii. Investigate the impact of resource based conflict on human security in Isiolo County.
- iii. Examine strategies being used to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

1.5 Literature Review

This study reviews both theoretical and empirical literature. Theoretical literature is important because it examines the key debates on issue of resource based conflict. Empirical literature helps to identify the key knowledge gaps on this study. Firstly, the researcher reviewed studies on global and regional resource-based conflict. This is in order to provide a global and regional perspective on existing resource based conflict, from which states derive their land policies and resource-based conflict

mitigation policies. The study also focused on Kenya's Isiolo County case and give brief cases of resource-based conflict and its dynamics.

1.6 Theoretical Literature

This section reviews theories relevant to the study which include; environmental scarcity theory and traditional Malthusian theory. The theories examine the key debates surrounding the issue of resource based conflict.

1.6.1 Environmental Security Theory

This theory was developed by Kaplan and Brown in 1991. The theory examines the relationship between environment and conflict. It argues that, mass migration stresses the environmental quality and natural resources as people compete for resources.⁷ Farah opines that, environmental scarcity constitutes the nature of conflict in Africa and more specifically, pastoral conflict in East Africa sub-region, which forms the more prevalent conflict.⁸

The theory posits that, conflict over natural resources can be as a result of scarcity, abundance or mismanagement. Scarcities arise as a result of environmental stress, mismanagement, high population growth or unfavorable climatic factors. This can occur in a number of ways which include: Firstly, where demand for natural resources exceeds supply and as such, resources do not meet the demand. Secondly, where natural resources reduce as a result of degradation and finally, where access is

⁷ Lester, B & Morton, K. (1991). *"The Great Transition: Shifting From Fossil Fuels to Solar and Wind Energy"*. Washington, D.C., United States: World Watch Organization.

⁸ Farah , I. (2008). *"Human Security and the Livelihood of Pastoral Communities in the Horn of Africa"*. Nairobi, Kenya: Africa Peace Forum. P-181

restricted or is unequally distributed.⁹ In each of the above three cases, people engage in conflict and violence in order to fight for scarce resources and meet their needs and demands, especially those who consider being marginalized.

1.6.2 Traditional Malthusian Theory

According to Agarwal, Malthusian theory was developed by Malthus in 1798. It suggests that, due to population growth, human needs to consume natural resources will exceed their availability. Hence he observes that, when this level of demand exceeds supply, conflict over natural resources is inevitable.¹⁰ This theory is relevant to the study, because pastoral conflict in Isiolo County is largely as a result of degradation of natural resources, brought about by adverse climatic change, not only within Kenya, but also across Horn of Africa sub-region.

Pastoralism is a major factor contributing to the conflict and a complete way of life for most people in Isiolo County. Pastoral conflict is caused by depletion of agricultural land and resources owing to harsh climatic changes, demographic and environmental pressure as well as population growth. However, despite pastoral conflict being localized within Isiolo County, it has potential of being trans-boundary in nature due to mobility of the pastoralists.

1.6.3 Empirical Literature Review

Empirical literature review is anchored on the three objectives of the study which include: examining the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County,

⁹ Awuondo, C.O. (1992) .“*Life in the Balance: Ecological Sociology of Turkana Nomads*”. Nairobi: Nairobi: ACTS Press.

¹⁰ Agarwal, P. (2019). “Malthusian Theory of Population”. *Journal of Intelligent Economist*, 9

investigating impact of resource based conflict in the County and examining the strategies being used to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

1.6.4 Nature of Resource Based Conflict

Resource based conflict has become a global challenge. For instance in Pakistan, discovery of natural gas led to conflict, since revenues were not equitably distributed to give local communities their share, instead taking the natural gas through the pipelines to other regions. This led to aggression and hostility from members of the community which culminated into war with the government. The government retaliated and sent troops which finished the whole community.¹¹

Goodhand observes that, Africa is a continent where conflict is recurrent. Bad and weak governance in Africa leads to mismanagement of resources resulting to conflicts.¹² Similarly, Collier views that, typical developing country dependent on natural resources export, while developed world export 80% of manufactured goods which command better prices.¹³ This explains the link between poor countries which depend on resources. Therefore, it's unfortunately that Africa has been stuck in resource dependence, while other countries have moved on. In Overall, Collier views all that, conflict in Africa have an underlying cause in over dependence of natural resources.¹⁴ This can also be the case in Isiolo County, where much of the people rely on pastoralism as a complete way of life.

¹¹ Muliuro, A., et al .(2004). "*Towards a Common Agenda: Resource Based Conflicts in East and Southern Africa*" -Politics, Policy and Law (1st SID conference on Resource Based Conflicts in Eastern and Southern Africa, Nairobi. Nairobi: Nairobi Press

¹² Joseph, G. (2003). "Enduring disorder and persistent poverty: A review of the linkages between ward and chronic poverty". *World Development*, 31(3) , 629-31.

¹³ Collier, P. (2000) . "Natural resources and Conflict in Africa' Crimes of War Project". 20(1), 89-110.

¹⁴ Ibid, p-23.

Mwangiru contends that, many conflicts in the horn of Africa are resource based conflicts, caused by inequality in resource management, including marginalization of certain sectors of society from sharing of resources. Mwangiru highlights some examples which include; pastoralist conflict over pasture and land in Karamajong cluster and cattle rustling in their inter-boundary IGAD member States which include Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia. Additionally, Mwangiru views that, Somali government collapsed mainly because of inequality in resource sharing especially in the marginalized of clans in Northern part of Somalia.

Farah argues that, the nature of conflicts in many parts of Africa is rooted on inequality in sharing of natural resources. For instance, conflict in the newly independent South Sudan is rooted in unequal distribution of oil resources. He adds that, the recent tension between Egypt and Ethiopia over the Nile is another issue which has insecurity implications, not only for sub-region but wider continent as whole. This is particularly with the horn of Africa context, because of its volatility and proximity to the Middle East sub-region. The scholar views that, the conflict emerging from the Nile, may also lead to a wide spread Socio-economic and political instability in the neighboring states.¹⁵

Nzau posits that, the East and Horn of Africa region represent one of the fastest growing populations in Africa. It has also been the hardest hit by environmental changes that manifest in terms of shrinking water catchment resources and famine. There are varying environmental changes which have been attributed, to global warming and improper management of available natural resources at the local,

¹⁵ Ibid, p-196.

national and regional level. In Kenya for example, forest that contribute to rainfall have been depleted through deforestation and change of land use pattern. This has also become an issue in pre-election campaigns, as issue of land touch the nerve center of many. Another issue include, the dispute over Migigo Island which has been attributed to depleting fishing resources, owing to overfishing by large foreign ventures, infiltration by water hyacinth weed and poor fishing management in both countries”. Although stalled, no major progress has been made to date. Kenya and Uganda try to resolve the dispute bilaterally with options of going to the regional EAC or involving the IGAD as the last resort.¹⁶

According to Hudson and Milas, Future wars will not be fought over the oil but water and land. They view that in Kenya and Horn of Africa, future wars will be fought over land and water especially within the pastoralist communities in the region.¹⁷ This is similar case to the resource based conflict in Isiolo County, whereby pastoralism provides a very critical way of survival accounting to livelihood of many. Pastoralists are specifically vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters, because of over reliance on natural resources. The rationale behind this is that, just as livestock production is highly dependent on availability of water, pasture and market, the welfare of pastoralist community is directly linked to the environment, which they practice these activity.

According to (FAO), over 15 million people in the horn of Africa are at risk of losing their livelihood to severe and recurrent drought. The most vulnerable are the

¹⁶ Nzau, M. (2008). “Aspects of Resource Conflicts in Semi-Arid Africa”. London : Oxford publishers:

¹⁷ Hudson N & Milas D. (2003). “*Resource Based Conflict: Water in Security and Its Strategic Implications*” . Durban: University of Durban

pastoralists who still remain poor with no other means of survival except over relying on their livestock. Mwangiru views that, the most urgent consequence on drought season, is lack of water for both human and animal consumption as well as complete lack of pasture for animals.¹⁸ The scenario in Isiolo County has made the pastoralists to be more trans-boundary in nature hence resulting to conflict over land, pasture and water points among the pastoral communities in Isiolo County and the neighbors. Additionally, Hajir argues that, conflict in Isiolo County have been exacerbated by decrease of available land for pasture, due acquisition of land for other purposes such as farming and creation ranches.

1.6.5 The Impact of Resource Based Conflict in Isiolo County

Since independence, the image of Africa has been displayed negatively due to occurrence and recurrence of resource based conflict within and between States. This is so because Africa is home of most atrocious armed intra-state conflict. Resource based conflict in DRC, Liberia and Sierra Leone have had widespread devastating impact within the country and across boundaries. For instance, the resource based conflict in DRC is internationalized with large number of actors involved, with competing interests making it one of the oldest conflict in Africa. More so, in the event of resource based conflict, there has been internal displacement of people while others become refugees across the borders. Lynch argued that, the conflict in Somalia, DRC and South Sudan has led to one of the highest number of refugees' crisis in 21st century.¹⁹

¹⁸ Mwangiru. M, (2008), "*Human Security*". Setting the Agenda For The Horn Of Africa, Africa Peace Forum, First Edition. Addis Ababa: Ambo University Press

¹⁹ Lynch, G. (2006). "*Negotiating Ethnicity: Identity Politics In Contempolary Kenya*". *Review of African Political Economy*. Berlin, Germany: Research Gate

According to Abdille, the issues of territory, border and land have e escalated in Isiolo County leading to displacement, death, poverty, loss of property, loss of land for grazing as well as water points. Kochore also argues that, various politicians’ campaign on platform of advancing or defending communal interests, an issue which has led to tensions in the county over land, pasture and water.²⁰ Accordingly ‘the availability of small arms has made communal warfare between and among communities more destructive and life costly. Many ethnic groups straddle on the expansive and porous border with Ethiopia, which has made the conflict harder for security forces to contain and resolve. Parties in conflict can count on reinforcements from their ethnic kinsmen in Ethiopia with each community having its own youth militia that acts at the whim of its community leaders.’²¹

In Isiolo County, political conflict is caused by resource competition between agriculturalists, pastoralists usually over land, pasture and water. Pastoralists engage in conflict due to scarcity of water and pasture especially during droughts. For instance on 7th June 2017, more than 70 heavily armed Samburu raiders attacked Turkana herders and escaped with hundreds of cattle’s, with heavy gun battles lasting for hours leading to death of eight people. Furthermore, the issue of boundaries has destabilized peace in the region especially between Borana and Garre. The two groups have for a long time disagreed over South Eastern border of Oromiya region. This conflict has rendered some areas of grazing land inaccessible with high tension and insecurity. These conflicts pose serious challenges to traditional grazing patterns.

²⁰ Kochore, H. (2012, February). “Kenya: Devolution Goodies Fuelling Conflict in North”. *The Star*. Accessed on <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202190036.html> [accessed 17 August 2012]

²¹ Abdille A. (2001). “*Towards a Culture of Peace: A Regional Approach for the Transformation and Prevention of Conflict in the Horn of Africa*”. Paris, France : UNESCO

A study conducted by Amsalu indicates that, about 90 percent of households in Borana and Guji have noticed changes in the condition of rangelands over time. Most of the high potential grazing areas are heavily degraded. In the course of this study, key informants asserted that bush encroachment is the single most important factor degrading rangeland resources.²² These affected livestock which is considered as the only source of income for the community. The nature of this conflict renders the affected community to be polarized, leading to loss of historical links and social network. This scenario also leads to loss of socioeconomic development as resources, which could have been used for development of community, are directed to peace building operations.²³

1.6.6 Strategies Being Used to Address Resource Based Conflict

Dispute over natural resources such as land, water, minerals or fishing rights remains very ambiguous. This conflict is complex and involves incompatible interests which require multifaceted approach to address them. The international community has been actively involved in solving of conflict all over the world. The Nongovernmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations especially United Nations have to a large extend helped to solve or settle conflict in many countries. For instance, Nyakuri states that the nongovernmental organizations were very critical in 1998 for drafting and campaigns through the social media, for adoption of Land mines treaty in 1998 especially through the help of Lady Diana. United Nations has also helped in settling conflicts, especially in Liberia and Sierra Leone on issue of blood diamonds.

²² Amsalu, j.(1999). *“Understanding and Managing Pastoral Conflict in Kenya”* : Lind, J. (2002) Report of Consultative Session and Regional Conference. Nairobi: Nairobi Press

²³ Christian Aid. (2006). *Life on the Edge of Climate Change: The plight of pastoralists in Northern Kenya*. Accessed on <http://www.reliefweb.int/rwarchive/rwb.nsf/db900sid/LTIO6VHRL6?OpenDocument>

Additionally, United Nations has also been instrumental in addressing the protracted resource based conflict in DRC and South Sudan.²⁴

According to Farah, there have been numerous interventions to address the human insecurity among the pastoral groups in Kenya. One of the major strategies the pastoralists have adopted to cope with drastic adverse climatic change include; practice of agro-pastoralist, reducing the number of the herd to match the available land, pasture and water points.²⁵

Farah also notes that, traditional institutional mechanisms for addressing conflict at community level are also well functioning and have mitigated much of the conflict. In order to enhance human security, pastoral communities have held meetings to enhance community participation. There have also been successive numerous pastoralist gathering meetings (PGM), to discuss the issues affecting pastoral communities in Kenya, especially in northern region. In all this meetings, there are four main issues which are discussed. They include; strengthening the governance structures among the pastoral communities, eradication of conflict, measures to increase productivity of their animals and increase of access to market with better prices. During the meetings the national government and United Nations officials join in order to hear the proposals suggested by pastoralists to address the serious issues affecting them.²⁶

²⁴ Nyukuri, K. (2006). “*The Impact of Past and Potential Ethnic Conflicts on Kenyan's Stability and Development*”. A paper prepared for the USAID Conference on Conflict Resolution in the Great Horn of Africa

²⁵ Farah, A. (2011, November) .“Politics of land to blame for Isiolo violence”. *East African Standard*

²⁶ Ibid.

It has been unanimously agreed by United Nations that, in order to address the issue of conflict and all forms of human insecurity, we must put human security within the core security interest. This has been through adoption of Millennium Development Goals which are presently known as the Sustainable Development Goals.²⁷ The UNDP on its report of 1994 linked poverty with conflict, with the rationale that, people could be too poor for peace. This issue seems to bear some truth, as most conflicts are entrenched within the poorest countries. Therefore, this study views that, in order to address the issues affecting pastoral communities, human security should be a priority. This will involve demarginalization of pastoralists by empowering them through education and trainings, transformation from retrogressive cultures, creation of effective institutions, involve community leaders for holistic disarmament as well as taking measures to alleviate drought and hunger.

1.7 Gaps in the Literature

From the above literature review, the study discloses three main gaps which include: Firstly, the strategies adopted by government to solve the resource based conflict in Isiolo County are not sufficient. For instance, it's established that government use excessive force to disarm the pastoralist communities, instead of adopting human security approach. Secondly, the underlying root causes of the resource based conflict are not very clear. Much of literature focuses on mobility nature of pastoralist and their competition over land, pasture and water points, neglecting the issues of severe climatic degradation and political issues. Lastly, the literature has identified that, there is inadequate political effort to mitigate the issue of pastoral conflict in Isiolo County.

²⁷ WHO. (2000). *Millennium Development Goals Adopted by United Nations*. UN: Monterrey, Mexico

1.8 Justification of the Study

1.8.1 Policy Justification

In Kenya resource-based conflict comes in the shape of conflict over lands. Land which is a basic factor of production has been a determinant for ethnic violence particularly, in post-independence era. There has been historically recorded that, there was ethnic violence between the Kikuyus and Kalenjin Communities around the Molo regions, the Maasai and Kalenjins living in the South Riftvalley region, Orma and Pokomos in Tana River County, violence among Communities living around Mt. Elgon, Marsabit County as well as Communities living in the Isiolo County.

Particularly, for this study for over long period of time, the dynamics of resource based and it's after math notably the ethnic violence related to the ownership and use of land has persistently recurred in in Isiolo County. This has jeopardized the socio-economic stability, human and national security. Isiolo is going to become an Economic hub and had been viewed as the center for Commerce by Analyst. According to Vision 2010 Flagship projects, Isiolo shall create the resort Cities and the divergent point for the (LAPSSSET) Development project corridor.²⁸ Isiolo County also harbors an International Airport that envisions Economic Growth and Development to the county and Kenya at large. Therefore, having peace among ethnic groups in Isiolo and in its environs is important for the Commercial interest of the County and the national government, which seeks to connect North Eastern region through vision 2030 flagship projects like LAPSSSET.

²⁸Minister of State for Planning. (2008). *Kenya Vision 2030 Projects*. Nairobi, Kenya

This research will contribute towards policy formulation, as it offers recommendations on how to achieve a comprehensive and impregnable policy at national and county level. This will be able to adequately address the root causes and mitigate the issue of resource based-conflict in Isiolo County.

1.8.2 Academic Justification

This study acknowledges the efforts made so far by other researchers, on some of the related issues regarding the dynamics of resource-based conflict. The findings will assist in academic studies and further advance the work of previous scholars on the research.

1.8.3 To the General Public

This research study will create awareness and to sensitize the public on the adverse implications of resource-based conflict on human security and national development. There is need to devise enough strategies to mitigate the effects and causes of violence related with the resource-based conflict. There is also need to consider the importance of what is referred to as community lands in Kenya as contained in Article 63 (2), of the Kenyan Constitution (2010).²⁹

1.9 Research Hypotheses

This study will be based on the following hypotheses:

H¹: Increased resource based conflict in Isiolo County has been triggered by adverse climate change.

H²: Current strategies to address resource based conflict in Isiolo County are not effective.

²⁹ LOF. (2010). *Kenyan Constitution Article 63 (2)*. Nairobi, Kenya

^{H3}: Environmental scarcity of water, land and pasture has resulted to conflict in Isiolo County.

1.10 Theoretical Framework

This study utilized Environmental scarcity theory, in explaining the issue of resource based conflict. It was developed in 1990 by Kaplan and Brown. It is relevant to this study because it approaches the issue with a lens of human security, which is a major focus in the international relations, after paradigm shift from state. Smith argues that, the theory of environmental security provides a useful link between environmental scarcity and conflict. It views that in future, the world will be destabilized because of lack of environmental security related infrastructure and all required level of awareness. Many countries are vulnerable to global climate change, due to their relative poverty, large and growing populations and relatively fragile ecological situation.³⁰

The scholars argued that, one of the ways which environmental factor contributes to conflict is through interaction with social, political and economic factors as well as attendant issue of mass migration.³¹ Brown argues that mass migration stresses the environmental quality and natural resources as people compete for resources.³² This is particularly the nature of resource based conflict in Africa, and more specifically in Isiolo County.

³⁰ Smith, D. (2018). *"The Connection Between Environment, Conflict and Security"*. New York: Planet Experts.

³¹ Kaplan, R., & Bull, H. (1990), *"Environmental security debate"* Copenhagen school of human security. Oxford: Oxford publishers.

³² Ibid, p-5.

Additionally, this theory views the natural resource based conflict as brought about by scarcity and mismanagement. Cabot observes that, scarcity arises as result of environmental stress, mismanagement, high population growth or unfavorable climatic factors, which occur when demand for natural resources exceeds supply. Secondly, where natural resources reduce as a result of degradation and finally where access is restricted or is unequally distributed. Hence, conflict arises as people compete for scarce resources available and their right to access and control over these resources, especially in marginalized areas.³³

Therefore this theory provides insightful guide to the study, because it's very clear that the resource based conflict in Isiolo County, is clearly entrenched within the nature of the pastoral communities as they compete for access of limited land, pasture and water points.

1.11 Research Methodology

This section gives a brief description of the methodology that was used in conducting this study. This study utilized both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

1.11.1 Research Design

Research design refers to an arrangement of conditions or collections or the set of methods and procedures, used in collecting and analyzing measures of the variables specified in the research problem.

This study adopted mixed method research design in order to allow the researcher gather information, summarize, present and interpret data for the purpose of clarification. It involves use of both qualitative and quantitative methods which ensures total representations of experiences or associations. Furthermore it ensured

³³ Cabot,C. (2016). *"Casual Linkages Between Environmental Change and Conflict"*. Climate Change, Security Risks and Conflict Reduction In Africa. Berlin, Germany : Springer

trustworthiness of inferences gained and at the same time promotes diversity of opinions for the same experiences.

1.11.2 Study Location

This study took place in Isiolo County, Kenya. Isiolo County is one of the arid regions of the Kenya. It is commonly known for hot and dry climatic condition, with temperatures ranging from 15 to 28 degrees and rainfall from 150mm to 650mm every year. Geographically, it borders six Counties namely: Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit, Samburu, Laikipia and Meru. Isiolo County has growing population with relatively high birth rates among the pastoralist Communities. Distribution of the population is not homogenous across the parts of the County. The County has diverse ethnic background of Borana, Turkana, Samburu, Meru, Somali and other minority groups. According to National Census of the Year 2009, Isiolo had a population of about 150,000.³⁴

1.11.3 Target Population

The study targeted Isiolo County residents specifically the pastoralist communities such as Samburu, Borana, Turkana and Somalis. The researcher interviewed (2) officials from Isiolo County Government.

1.11.4 Study Sample

According to 2009 census, Isiolo County has a population of around 143,294 people. Conducting a research study by administering questionnaire and interview on this entire population is highly costly, tedious exercise and time consuming which necessitates adoption of a study sample. For purpose of this study, the number of respondents was determined using this a formula adopted from Mugenda & Mugenda (1999) when population is more than, 10,000.

³⁴ Kenya National Bureau Of Statistics.(2009). , “*Census 2009 Summary of Results Archives*”. Nairobi, Kenya. p-49.

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where:+

n = the desired sample size

z = the standard normal deviate at the required confidence level

p = proportion in the target population estimated to have characteristics being measured.

q = 1-p

d = level of statistical significance set

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2 (.50) (.50)}{(0.5)^2}$$

$$= 384.^{35}$$

The study sample is represented by the following table.

Table 1.1 Sample Size

Respondents	Number of Respondents	Sampling technique
Pastoralists (Herders)	250	Simple Random
County Officials	2	Simple Random
Anti-Stock Theft police	20	Simple Random
Community Elders	100	Random
Red Cross	12	Random
TOTAL	384	

Source: Researcher, 2019

³⁵ Mugenda, O., & Mugenda, G.(1999). “*Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches in Research*”. Berlin, Germany : Research Gate.

1.11.5 Tools for Data Collection

The study relied on primary and secondary data. The study administered open-ended questionnaire and interview guides. Secondary data was sourced mainly from scholarly publications, journals, newspapers and government publications. The questionnaire had two structured sections which include section A and B. Section A contained the respondent's profile, where he/she was required to give their personal details such as gender, age bracket and their occupation. Section B consisted of closed ended questions regarding adverse climatic conditions in Isiolo and preparedness against such problems.

1.11.6 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for social sciences (SPSS) where it was coded and entered into the Program. The figures obtained were categorized according to percentages of responses and presented using tables, pie charts, bar graphs and frequency distributions.

1.11.7 Pilot Study

According to Hawkins, piloting is an exercise of administering the instruments of data collection, to a sampled small population to find out whether the tools are effective.³⁶

This study conducted a pilot study in order to test the effectiveness of the instruments.

1.11.8 Ethical Considerations

While conducting the research, the researcher was conscious of research ethics to avoid what is unacceptable to the respondents and the general public. The information

³⁶, Hawkins Stephen.(2007). *Designing Clinical Research*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

that was obtained through questionnaires and the interview guide, was treated with a lot of confidentiality and used only for academic purposes.

1.11.9 Chapter Outline

Chapter one: introduces the topic and gives the background of the study. It also presents statement of the problem, justification of the study, theoretical framework, literature review, hypothesis and methodology of the study.

Chapter two: examined the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

Chapter three: This chapter was anchored on objective two of the study and dwelled on investigating the impact of resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

Chapter four: This chapter sought to examine the strategies used to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

Chapter Five: covered the Summary of the findings, Conclusion and Recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

NATURE OF RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICT IN ISIOLO COUNTY

2.0 Introduction

The nature and pattern of resource based conflict in Isiolo County is very complex. It's influenced by different perspectives which include; clan settlement pattern, rainfall pattern and ecological conditions, land, water points, culture of cattle rustling and Trans boundary nature of pastoralism. This chapter seeks to investigate the interplay of the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

2.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population

This section presents demographic characteristic of the respondents

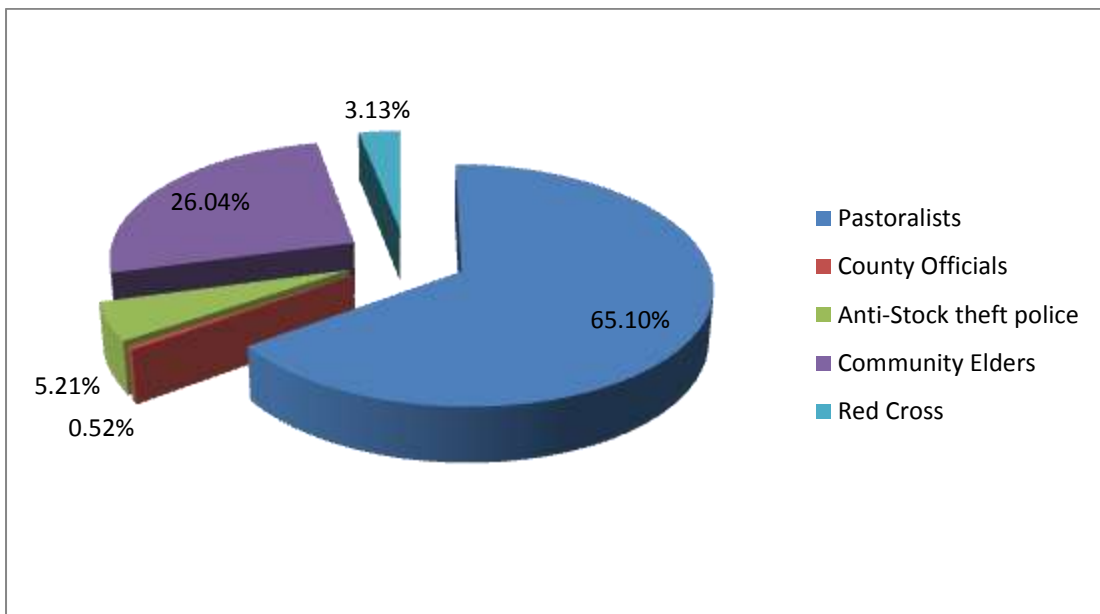


Figure 2.1: Demographic Characteristics

Source: Researcher, 2019

Since Isiolo County is inhabited by pastoralists, Majority of the respondents 65.1% came from pastoralism groups. The pastoralists were easily accessible and helped in giving critical information about the impacts, extent and nature of resource-based

conflict. The study revealed that 26.04% were community elders who were crucial to the study, since they are the decision makers of the community and participate in peace building initiatives.

About 5.21% were anti-stock theft police who gave information on attackers, those who commercialized and politicized cattle rustling and theft. 3.13% were Red Cross officials from Red Cross a critical humanitarian organization in Isiolo County. Red Cross has played a key role in alleviation of humanitarian crisis and had a clear glimpse of resource-based conflict in the area. Lastly, 0.52% was county officials especially from the environmental sector, who helped in highlighting issues on climate change and how it has heightened conflict in the County.

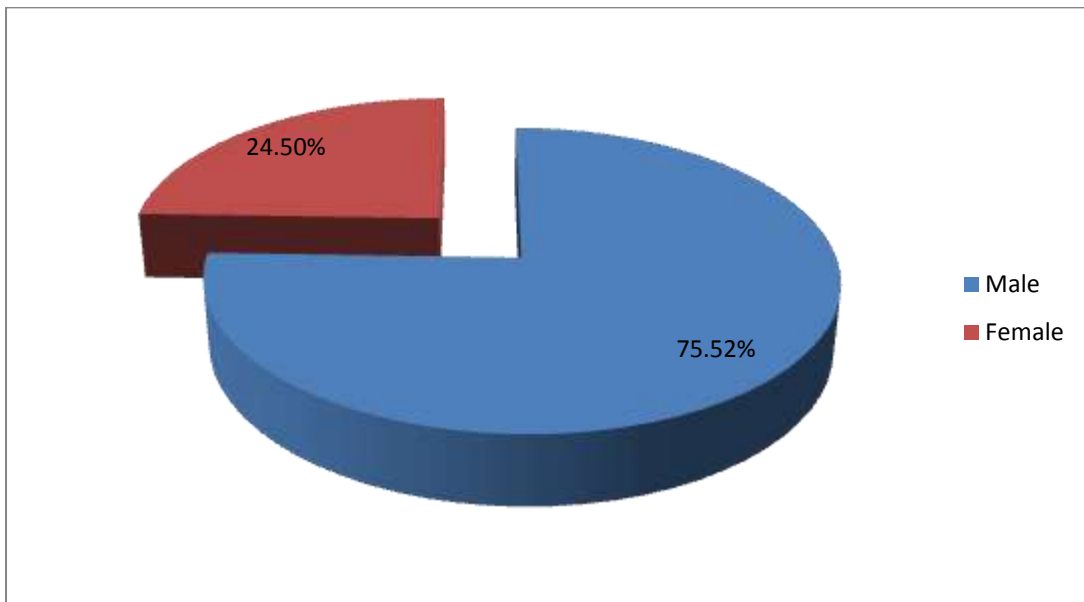


Figure 2.2: Gender Representation

Source: Researcher, 2019

The highest number of respondents was males at 75.52%. This is because the largest number of herders and community elders are men while women constitute 24.5% of total respondents.

2.2 Rainfall and Ecological Determined Pattern of Conflict

This pattern of conflict is determined by Rainfall regimes. Some regions in Isiolo County receive more Rainfall compared to other regions. According to National (NDMA)) County Coordinator, Lordman Lekalkuli, some regions have not received any rainfall for over an year. This has made pastoralists to move in search of water and pasture, leading to conflict due to competition over limited water and pasture.³⁷ Conversely, Peter asserts that the resource-based conflict in Isiolo County is to a large extent as result of decreased rains, change of rainfall pattern and increased temperatures, which make the land to dry up quickly even after rains. This vice has led to decreased availability of pasture and water which is a critical need by pastoralists' livestock. This has necessitated pastoralists groups to move to other regions encroaching on other people's land, an issue which has triggered vicious conflict. He refers to this kind of conflict as a shifted conflict, in which those faced by environmental scarcity shifts their problems to those with kind of sustainable environmental conditions. This is the nature of conflict between the Borana and the neighboring Meru community.³⁸

However, Peter's line of thought corresponds with one of the respondents who posit that Our biggest problem here is lack of rainfall, if there were enough rains, no one would move to other regions. Things are totally different, for instance for the past one year, we have not received amount of rains which could sustain growth of a pasture and availability of water, for our animals. Therefore, it has become necessary for us to

³⁷ National Drought Management Authority .(2018, February). "Drought Situation in Isiolo County Raises Alarm". *Daily Nation*, p-12.

³⁸ Omondi, P. (2016). "Isiolo County Conflict Analysis" *Safeworld, Preventing Violent Conflict. Building Safer Lives In Isiolo County*". Berlin, Germany: ResearchGate. p-13.

move from one place to another, in search of pasture and water, because this water and pasture is little sometimes you have to fight to gain access.

According to Farah, North Eastern region of Kenya has been among the hardest hit by environmental changes that manifest in terms of shrinking water catchment resources, erratic rains, drought and famine. These environmental changes have been brought about by global warming and improper management of available natural resources. This is evidenced at local level as case of the regions inhabited by the pastoralist groups, who stress the environment by keeping large herds of animals, which outnumber the available water and pasture. Therefore for resource based conflict in pastoral region is to end, pastoralists have to reduce their animals to match the available water and pasture.

More so in long term they have to adopt other means of survival, such as planting of crops through irrigation, rearing of chicken and other means of their own.³⁹ This is in line with one of the pastoralist who argued that, “the resource-based conflict is partly due to a poor culture practice”. Most of us still believe that, we need to be in possession of large herds of animals, which is actually unsustainable due to change in environmental conditions, limited resources have led to increased cases of attacks in the grazing fields, over control of the limited resources. He added, yesterday herders were shot at Kambi Samaki by bandits as they were grazing their camels

³⁹ Farah, I. (2003) .“*Resource Based Conflict: Water in Security and Its Strategic Implications*” . Greyville, Durban: University of Durban Press

2.3 Land Determined Resource-Based Conflict

Land has been one of the contentious issues catching the nerve center of everyone in Isiolo County. According to Letiwa, conflict over land in Isiolo County has been accelerated by the conservancies who have taken up traditional Borana grazing land.⁴⁰ One of respondent asserted that Nomadic pastoralists in Biliqo village have nowhere to move to in search of pastures and water, since most of the land where they grazed and lived during dry periods, has been taken over by conservancies. The conservancies have fenced the land and are heavily guarded by heavily armed police. This has resulted to conflict as pastoralists try to access and claim their illegally taken land. In addition Charles argues that, pastoralists in Isiolo County have already lost access to their traditional land, a condition which has restricted their movement in search of pasture and water.⁴¹ Conservationists favor wildlife preservation at expense of pastoralists, who largely depend on their livestock for survival.⁴²

Based on a report by Waso Boran Professional Forum the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), has taken thousands of Acres of land belonging to pastoralists and turned it into wildlife conservation. Due to the large funding of NRT by America, European countries and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), NRT has been able to set up 39 conservancies across Northern and Coastal region of Kenya, covering almost eight percent of total land surface in Kenya. Much of this land has been taken from pastoralists especially from Isiolo County.⁴³ Isiolo County has eight conservancies

⁴⁰ Letiwa, P. (2019). *Herders Protest As Wildlife Conservancies Drive them Out. Balancing between keeping of wildlife and pastoralism becomes a hotbed of resource based in Isiolo County*. Berlin: ResearchGate

⁴¹ Charles, M. (2017). *Conflict between Pastoralists and Conservationists in Isiolo County. Environmental Conflict takes another twist*. Nairobi: UNEP

⁴² Ibid, p-6.

⁴³ Borana Council Of Elders and the Waso Professional. (2019). Forum Report on “Rangelands Trusts Operations In Community Conservancies In Isiolo County”. Nairobi: Borana Council of Elders

which include Biliqo, Bulesa, Nakuprat-Gotu, Nasuulu, Leparua, Oldonyiro Narupa, Oldonyiro Nanapicho, Oldonyiro Naapu and Oldonyiro Nannapa which are under management of NRT and within traditional land occupied by pastoralists in region.⁴⁴ One of the respondent argued that the conservations have been violating human rights of pastoralists as they have imposed stringent restrictions on how communities exploit their natural resources. NRT gives people guns and gadgets for communication and vehicles which has led to increased insecurity in Isiolo County. This has altered the traditional local governance structures because most decision making has been taken over by conservancy boards, resulting to violent conflict with the community over land rights.

Bonaya observes that, Pastoralism is the economic mainstay as 80% of Isiolo population relies on pastoralism as a complete way of life. Therefore, shifting their rangelands from pastoralism to other uses, completely threatens the very existence of community. This will push them to poverty and more conflict as they compete for the very little remaining pasture.⁴⁵ The conflict over land has over time resulted to herders being shot and severely injured by security personnel's, guarding conservancies to graze their animals in the restricted areas. Additionally, the NRT anti-poaching unit, alias 92, has been widely accused of shooting to death and harassing herders who graze within the conservancies, which is their traditional grazing land.⁴⁶

According to Pinnock, the natural resource based conflict in Isiolo County is to a large extent as a result of; climate change, cattle herders and wildlife conservancies

⁴⁴ Ibid, p-7.

⁴⁵ Bonaya,M. (2018). *Pastoralism As A Complete Way of Life In Isiolo County, Its Threats Now And In Future. Presented at the Gender and Development Forum In Nairobi*. Nairobi, Kenya: World Vision Organization Office.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

which have collided in Isiolo County, resulting into tragic consequences. The increasingly annual drought and overstocking has driven pastoralists, to sometimes forcefully push thousands of cattle into conservationists, killing wildlife on their way and burning tourist lodges.⁴⁷ Another respondent argued that, sometimes many heavily armed herders drive in their cattle into conservation and say that, they don't want to speak to anyone, they are going to take grass on the land by force, so no one should stop them on their way, conservationists and police sometimes fight a losing battles, as inventors are sometimes with more than 130,000 cattles accompanied by heavily armed youths.

Furthermore, according to Golicha, Isiolo County lacks a proper land tenure policy and regulations, which are a major factors refueling conflict over land use. He observes that, the recent proposal to make Isiolo town a resort city and a communication hub, has suddenly triggered high demand of land, which was considered useless. This made the political elite to take advantage of more volatile land issue and policy, to incite their community to protect their land from intruders, who were branded as land grabbers. More critical is that, since land in larger parts of Isiolo County is communally owned, politicians deceived the community that, land for creation of resort city and communication hub, will be bought by government and private investors. This prevailing perception has made the different communities to compete and fight to displace each other by force. Tension and conflict has risen up as main residents of this region perceive intruders as a threat to the expected income from sale of communal land. This has made the communities to illegally acquire illicit arms, to fiercely fight deadly battles in their attempt to replace each other from the

⁴⁷ Pinnock,D. (2017). *Kenya: Huge Cattle Invasion Overwhelms Iconic Wildlife Conservancies*". Johannesburg: Daily Maverick

land which has gained value and demand.⁴⁸ One of the respondents argued that Pastoralists fight to possess this communal land because of the planned construction of Resort City, and also the land has high value, because it will be bought by government. The conflict has led to many deaths as different community claim ownership of the 6000 acres of land.

According to Chebet another deadly land issue is the protracted dispute between Isiolo and Meru County boundary. Despite the conflict been mediated by elders from both sides of community, it still prevail and has claimed many lives over the time. This has made the Isiolo County to propose (LAPSSET) corridor that traverses the County, to be re-routed to avoid the conflict prone zone along Isiolo-Meru border.⁴⁹ According to Mwenda in 2018 alone, the border conflict led to demise of more than ten people and torching of many houses, by unknown people at Maili Tatu area. Earlier in 2017 the Meru-Isiolo border conflict had displaced more than 1,000 people in Igembe Central following the deadly clashes between the communities on both side of the border. For Mwenda, the border conflict has been an on and off issue marred with massive retaliatory attacks.⁵⁰ One of the respondents argued that, we have fought over the Meru-Isiolo border for many years; the area is ever green and has fertile soil a key interest of both communities along the border. Boran claims it, because of green pasture and water points while the Meru community wants to retain the land for crop farming.

⁴⁸ Golicha,D .(2012, February). “Fights Erupt As Investors Scramble For Land in Isiolo County”. *Daily Nation*

⁴⁹ Chebet, V. (2016, September). “Isiolo Leaders Want Lapsset Corridor Rerouted to avoid Areas Prone to Land Conflicts. *Daily Nation*

⁵⁰ Mwenda, J. (2017). “*Hundreds Displaced After Clashes Erupt On Meru-Isiolo Border*”. Berlin: ResearchGate

More so, according to Astariko the Garissa-Isiolo border conflict is another resource based conflict which has caused bloody clashes for many decades. The Borana and Somalis have fought for the boundary between the counties. The key issue triggering border conflict between Isiolo and Garissa counties is competition over access for pasture and water points. The conflict is heightened during the drought seasons, owing to the increased mobility of herders. The disputed piece land is believed to belong to Isiolo County, as herder's reserved grazing area. However, due the conflict between the two counties, the land has been left without herders leading to influx of livestock from the neighboring counties of Samburu, Garissa, Marsabit and Wajir. This issue has further complicated the conflict, as the herders from the neighboring counties refuse to leave from the land. In addition, this has prompted the counties security team and elders, to hold peace meetings on the conflict prone area, in an effort to prevent further retaliatory attacks and negotiate with the herders from neighboring counties, to return to their traditional land.⁵¹

2.4 Drought Caused Pattern of Conflict in Isiolo County

According to Goldsmith, drought is one of the key determinants of conflict in the regions inhabited by the pastoralists. The protracted conflict in North Eastern is as a result successive droughts.⁵² Farah argues that, pastoralists are specifically vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters, because of their over reliance on natural resources. Drought has contributed to desertification, soil erosion and bush encroachment, as well as significant reduction of land for grazing and water for the animals. The

⁵¹ Astariko, A. (2017). *“Understanding and Managing Pastoral Conflict in Kenya “The Complex Nature of North Eastern Counties of Kenya. Report of Consultative Session and Regional Conference, Christian Aid, Life on Edge of Climate Change and Mobility of Pastoralists.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp, 102-105.

⁵² Goldsmith, M. (2015). *“Climate Change Contributes to Drought Instigated Conflict on Pastoralist Regions of Kenya”.* *Assessment on the Impacts of Climate Change on Pastoralist lifestyle and possible Approaches to Mitigate the Impacts of Climate Change in Horn Of Africa.* Nairobi, Kenya

welfare of pastoralists is directly linked to their environment. However, in the same way the livestock production is directly linked to the availability of water, pasture and market. More so, this relationship has faced a major challenge due to long and persistent droughts. Drought is the single most important underlying factor, contributing to resource-based conflict in Isiolo County and the larger part of the Horn of Africa, which is highly inhabited by the pastoralists and extreme climatic conditions.⁵³

One of the respondents of the study whom is an environmentalist County officer argued that, 90% of Isiolo County is inhabited by pastoralists; the resources required by the community have drastically decreased, due to persistent global climate change. Droughts and climate change have more impact on pastoralist regions, because they depend on environmental resources for their livestock. These resources have been reduced by persistent drought contributing to limited water, pasture and increased mobility of herders which leads to conflict. Conversely, Mwangiru views that pastoralism communities often have their mechanisms to cope with drought; however they have been exhausted due to frequent shocks. As the negative effects of crisis accumulate, pastoralists become more vulnerable to food insecurity. This has persistently led to conflict, as pastoralists compete for the scarce resources available.⁵⁴

2.5 Water Points Conflict in Isiolo County

Water points comprises of dams, boreholes, springs, rivers and natural wells. According to Bulu, managerial regimes have been created to manage and negotiate on

⁵³ Farah, I. (2008). *“Human Security and the Livelihood of Pastoral Communities in the Horn of Africa” Human Security: Setting the Agenda for the Horn Of Africa*. Nairobi: Africa Peace Forum. pp, 193-195.

⁵⁴ Ibid

sharing of the water points. However during the drought season, such negotiations are not possible, as each pastoral group is on dire need of water for their livestock. The most urgent consequence of drought season is the scarcity of water for both human beings and their animals. This has made pastoralists to move for large distances in search of water. This movement is also limited to clan, ethnicity, conflict and boundaries making migration difficult.⁵⁵ Effects of conflicts over water points during drought period have persistently being reported in North Eastern Kenya, as competition has led to resource based conflict in the region.⁵⁶ This coincides with one pastoralist who pointed out that the conflict Garbatulla and Sericho is largely as a result of competition over limited water points.

2.6 Chapter Summary

The study noted that the nature of resource-based conflict in Isiolo County is a complex one and it involves different stakeholders, interested in exploitation different resources such as the water points and pasture. In addition, there is protracted conflict over the border within the County and the neighboring Counties of Garissa and Meru. The chapter established the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County is caused by rainfall and ecological aspects, land, drought and water points.

2.7 Chapter Findings

This chapter established that, there are complex factors which have contributed to the resource based conflict in Isiolo. Among the other factors is global climate change which is not limited to the County but to whole world at large. However, there is no any particular part of the world which has not experienced adverse effects of climate

⁵⁵ Bulu, B. (2012). *“Understanding and Managing Pastoral Conflict in Kenya” U.K Institute of Development Studies*. Oxford: Oxford Press. p-12.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

change. The most affected regions by climate change are those inhabited by the pastoralists. This is because pastoralists have extreme reliance on environment for their survival. The most devastating impacts of climate change include: desertification, depletion of pasture and water points as well as decrease of the land available for grazing. This has led to resource based conflict as pastoralists compete over the scarce resources.

CHAPTER THREE

IMPACTS OF NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICT IN ISIOLO COUNTY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter introduces a review of the impacts of natural resource-based in Isiolo County. Majority of its natives are pastoralists who walk from one point to another looking for pasture and water for their livestock. However, the violent dispute has been caused by shortage of resources where every pastoralist societies grapple to get and keep the little that is available. The clash and brutal force mostly occurs in the pattern of cattle rustling, inter-racial, and displacement. Additionally, the chapter explains broadly the models of dispute within Isiolo County. For instance, the models are regulated by occupation intention, clans, rainfall patterns, and many others. Lastly, the chapter underlines several actors and their impact on natural resource disputes.

3.1 Community Resource Struggle

Cultural based struggle over the approach to natural services in a habitat of producing funds deficiency has been a terrible tension in the area. According to Farah, community dispute over the approach to pastures and water springs has been a serious issue in the County thus causing a lasting history of the episodic armed dispute.⁵⁷ However, the approach to wells and pastures is an affair of existing significance to the entire pastoral population. Additionally, rivalry and challenged claims of certain grazing lands develop anxiety that increases dispute quality. Growing resource shortage in pastoral areas contributes to an increase in population, degeneration of environment; confined approach to grassland (due to yards, ranches, and established

⁵⁷ Ibid, p-12

programs) strengthens these community anxieties. Sharamo states that, there is a close evaluation of study cases of community encounters in the area, which shows a clear finish concentration on the section of dynasties and their representatives, with gathering approach and reinforcing claims to watering zones and pasture while admitting off antagonists.⁵⁸

3.2 Poverty, Unemployment and Youth Bulge

According to Rohwerder, statistical data in Isiolo County, the levels of poverty are high in rural areas where most of them are pastoral or agro-pastoral.⁵⁹ However, unemployment is also reflected in large urban centers of the County. High levels of unemployment in urban regions are guided by urban relocation by needy pastoralists, who move to urban areas with little knowledge of the formal areas of the financial system.

High rates of hardship and unemployment levels are mainly considered as fundamental situations that can, contribute to societies being exposed to armed disputes, because they support injustice and generate large figures of frustrated and idle youths who engage in crime. This final aggression is of a special treat in Isiolo County. However, due to large number of unemployment, the area is recently encountering a dramatic demographic tension known as youth bulge. Moreover, youth bulges are mainly thought to be connected with growing rates of crime, armed disputes and political uncertainty, particularly associated with low education.

⁵⁸Roba, S. (2014). *The politics of pastoral violence: a case study of Isiolo County, Northern Kenya*. Nairobi, Kenya

⁵⁹ Brigitte,R. (2015). *Conflict analysis of Kenya*. Birmingham: GSDRC University of Birmingham

3.3 Political Injustices against the State

The common reports on dispute recognize mass injustice as an important systematic cause of armed dispute and civil battle. However, among the main suitable injustices is a perception that the administration is oppressing, marginalizing, or treating various groups unjustly. Kabelo and Gakuu affirms that, the survey data collected in 2007 admits that, no other set of community details a perception of being handled unjustly by administration than the pastoralists. Therefore, 58 % reveal that their racial group is handled unjustly.⁶⁰ Besides, Isiolo County being a homestead to the largest accumulation of grazing societies in the land, this study emphasizes mainly on a high measure of specific isolation from the administration. This statement is strengthened by a strong delivery of injustice reports in web-based and published origins from the County.

3.4 Commercialized and Politicized Livestock Rustling

Cattle's rustling is part of pastoral lifestyle and a ritual channel between some racial families in sections of Isiolo County. The exercise generated a manageable and routinized dispute over the past years. Chome reports that, over the last twenty years, ancestral cattle rustling has been more mortal, due to access of small weapons in the county and selling of cattle raiding.⁶¹ The latter has compromised unethical law implementation, business people and legislators benefiting from big-scale attacks and effectively arranged relocation of stolen livestock to slaughterhouses. However, the

⁶⁰ Kabelo, I. H., & Gakuu, C. (2019). Factors influencing the success of collaborative resource-based conflict resolution projects in Isiolo County, Kenya." *International Academic Journal of Information Sciences and Project Management*, 3(4)55-81.

⁶¹ Ngala, C. (2016). *Violent extremism and clan dynamics in Kenya*. Waterloo, Ontario

scale and brutal force of cattle rustling have been a strong cause of community dispute and vengeance raids in Isiolo County.

3.5 Proliferation of Small Arms and Light weapons

Over the last years, there has been an increase in light weapons in Isiolo County which is getting worse currently. Mostly semi-automatics weapons are sneaked across Kenya's boundaries and into towns especially in Isiolo County. However, Isiolo County is at the epicenter of ignition of little weapons. A study conducted by Small Arms Survey stated;

“Isiolo County is approached by many challenges of inter-racial resource-based disputes, underdevelopment and accessibility to war-prone neighboring counties, which have the largest connection of small arms.”⁶²

Additionally, the research also asserts that, Isiolo County has a solid gun society which has been strengthened by long-term insecurity. Nevertheless, this causes a security predicament in which societies arm themselves, for protection but this activates neighboring communities to act by arming themselves.

3.6 Poor Governance

Karuti says that, the most vigorous fundamental source of dispute in pastoral regions of Isiolo County is poor governance. All other systematic sources of the dispute are secondary by juxtaposition.⁶³ Eventually, unproductive governance of Isiolo County

⁶² Manasseh, W., Nthiga, E., Kabuu, E., Murray, R., & Alvazzi del Frate, A. (2012). *Availability of small arms and perceptions of security in Kenya: an assessment*. Geneva: Small Arms Survey

⁶³ Jephitha, K. (2014). Assessment of Factors Influencing Financial Sustainability of Non-Governmental Organizations in Isiolo County, Kenya. *International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management United Kingdom*, 2 (9)

is not able to support development, distribute justice, generate security and control armed communities. Further, returnee bases are regarded as the cause of predation and crime in the County.

3.7 Displacement of People

In last years, armed violence in Isiolo County generated a non-permanent population dislocation, but normally on a small scale. According to a UN humanitarian report, the armed fights in Isiolo County have triggered non-permanent relocation of many people. Majority of displaced people have managed to return home but others have not.⁶⁴ This constitutes an important section of the total population, between the two clans in the county which if not solved it will represent a consequential incident of racial cleansing, between the two dynasties in dispute. Additionally, this will produce a long-lasting damage on both sides over astray goods; income and homestead. Furthermore, the enormous internally displaced persons (IDP) are a disaster in place and can create a section of a pattern of inhumanity that could be hard to end. Returnees are normally casualties of brutality but when accommodated in refugees' bases for a long time; they can be a target of recruitment into armed groups. Nevertheless, the main direct issues of insecurity have taken place inside the camps or within the perimeter of the area, thus involving serious and long-term violent crimes.

3.8 Political Impacts

Isiolo County reflects some of Kenya's disputes; a connecting point for various interest groups. It originated as a colonial governmental center; however, the town has a perception of poor security, due to the big inflow of small weapons and light arms

⁶⁴ OCHA. (2014). "*Kenya, Inter-Communal Conflict by County*. Nairobi, Kenya

from the neighboring nations. The relationship between the national government, Isiolo County and Isiolo business society on the other page seems to be glacial. Moreover, Isiolo business society panics about banks closing because entrepreneurs feel insecure, therefore, affecting economic growth and development in the area.

Other than insecurity, there is local anxiety between the Isiolo's big five societies; Somali, Samburu, Borana, Meru, and Turkana. In addition, there are frequent clashes in Isiolo and Meru Counties, due to shared resources, land divide and boundaries. Mistrust between counties is worsened by anxiety associated with the national government, over projects implemented in the region. Karani et al. assert that, tensions are relatively due to intentional disinformation, political impairment and lack of information. Even though Isiolo is multiracial, there is a widespread feeling of discrimination in the County Government which comprises Somali, Meru, Samburu, Turkana, and minorities. Further, there is a belief that the demolition of the market in Isiolo town was a mission to make one society poor.⁶⁵

The LAPSSET project stated would damage the habitat and relocate pastoralists by taking over grazing land. Kula Mawe which is dry and less attractive made questions of repayment abound. However, this assumption initiated dispute as owners of the titled land, started fencing their regions, hindering free movement of livestock. Furthermore, this might lead to majority of the people been burnt in the Isiolo land bonanza. Additionally, there will be no fiscal repayment because the government cultivated from previous mistakes connected with Isiolo airport, SGR, and Lamu. For

⁶⁵ Irene, K., & Kariuki, N. (2017). *Using participatory approaches in measuring resilience and development in Isiolo County, Kenya. In Evaluating Climate Change Action for Sustainable Development.* Berlin: Springer pp. 271-287

example, at Isiolo airport, people in Meru and Isiolo counties were short-changed in land repayment, because the authority misappropriated the funds. Eventually, in spite of some administrators deceiving citizens on compensation, the advancing strategy of land for land exchange along the corridor, is geared toward burning enormous speculators.

3.9 Economic Impacts

Economic effects of disputes indicate that the outbreak of clashes between pastoralists affects the costs of livestock and items indirectly. Poor security and low incomes impacts both on the demand and supply. Loss of livestock persuades herders to sell their cattle's, in order to buy other goods. Inter-clan conflicts result in loss of livestock which later impacts on the economy. The raided cattle are channeled into other neighboring countries, thus affecting the economy of the country especially in Isiolo County. The prices of livestock decrease due to shortage of pastures and increased cost of essential commodities, forcing pastoralists to sell their cattle at a throw price. However, conflicts have contributed to the loss of properties. Wasonga et al. affirms that, many years of inter-clan disputes in Isiolo County leads to majority of houses being raided and burned, vehicles stolen and other burned, businesses looted and burned resulting to economic loss.⁶⁶

Further, due to insecurity in Isiolo County, market products seem to decrease, because crops are destroyed or abandoned in the regions affected by conflicts. People fear to travel to conflict-prone regions to buy and sell their products, resulting to damage of

⁶⁶ Oliver, W., Musembi,J., Rotich, K., Jarso,J., King-Okumu, C., Kyuma, R., & Wahome, R. Vegetation resources and their economic importance in Isiolo County, Kenya. *Nomadic Peoples*, 20(1) , 123-140.

products. This affects market activities; distribution of commodities and results to an increase in prices of other items like sugar, maize and much more.

3.10 Impacts of Ethnic Conflict

There is an uninterrupted linkage between ethnic disputes and its effects on economic development and growth of Isiolo County. However, any political, economic and social growth needs a habitat of peace and solidity. More precisely, schemes of economic development and growth need the participants to be in a non-dispute condition. Aside from this, ethnic clashes destroy what has been established. It breaks systems formed for economic growth, resulting to collapse of businesses, damage of infrastructures and loss of lives of individuals who engage in development. Eventually, some parts of Isiolo County have had cases of underdevelopment caused by ethnic clashes.

3.11 Impacts of Conflict on the Education Sector

Teachers in conflict-prone areas are forced to abandon their profession due to insecurity, which result in killing of teaching staff. Dispute conditions can damage a student's ability to study and attend school. Muriithi asserts that, in Isiolo County dispute can also influence adversely on the school infrastructure, availability of certified teachers and supply of teaching materials.⁶⁷ However, records from societies in clashes have discovered that, teachers and students participate in conflicts, increasing their likelihood of being exploited and killed. This in return affects students' performance and literacy levels in the region.

⁶⁷ Elishepher, M. (2015). *Influence of environmental factors on pupils' participation in education in public primary schools in oldonyiro sub-county Isiolo County, Kenya*. Unpublished research project. University of Nairobi

3.12 Social Impacts

The common impacts of the clashes in the community include; abuse, injury, death and torture. The study indicates that, youths who join illegal structured groups are submitted to bodily misuse involving beatings, rape, removal of fingernails or forced to take part in the execution of persons or murder of the whole families. Moreover, Karani et al. expressed that, members of the public have been innocent victims of conflict attacks, along with persons who speak publicly against others based on individually held beliefs.⁶⁸ Nevertheless, the conflict has caused social and religious dishonor, particularly to children whose family members have joined criminal groups.

3.13 Chapter Summary

Isiolo County faces several remarkable transformations to its financial status, demographics and politics than other counties in northern parts of Kenya. These transformations are in first phases, even though, they are putting large tension on local dispute administration operations in northern parts, giving the nation a stature as Kenya's boomtown. However, dangers of violent dispute are increasing over several fronts which include community resource struggle; poverty, employment and youth bulge; political injustices against the state; commercialized and politicized livestock rustling; small weapons proliferation; poor governance; displacement; long-term refugees; political impacts; economic, cultural and social impacts. Nevertheless, this new constraint comes on top of anxieties across grazing land and relocation, which

⁶⁸ Irene, K., & Kariuki, N. (2017). *Using participatory approaches in measuring resilience and development in Isiolo County, Kenya. In Evaluating Climate Change Action for Sustainable Development.* Berlin: Springer
pp. 271-287

has provided main episodes of fatal society inhumanity and homicides due to revenge since the mid-1990s.

3.14 Chapter Findings

This study shows that violent dispute is growing in the region and is probably going to worsen in future. First, Structural sources of dispute across Isiolo County include; communal anxiety over the approach to inadequate water and pastures among others. County boundaries are used as a factor for racial territorial claims. These conflicts are triggered mostly by the value attached to the land around boundary regions, due to the established projects. There are also conflicts over wells and pastoral grazing land. Finally, parts of Isiolo County have refugee populations that produce special security disputes. However, regions in and around the camps are the most insecure due to increased cases of radicalization. Insecurity displays itself in long-term violent crimes like rape and kidnapping, fight between refugees and local population over jobs among others.

CHAPTER FOUR

**STRATEGIES BEING USED TO ADDRESS THE RESOURCE BASED
CONFLICT IN ISIOLO COUNTY**

4.0 Introduction

In response to the resource based conflicts in Isiolo County for a number of years, various strategies were developed towards managing and resolving the conflicts. Formulation and subsequent implementation of these strategies, initiated a process of cooperation and peace-building efforts, among the warring communities, that culminated in the relative peace now enjoyed in the region. The strategies revolved around peace building and security interventions. This chapter examines the strategies being used to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

4.1 Strategies being used to address the Resource Based Conflict in Isiolo County

Various strategies have been initiated to broker peace and tame violence amongst warring communities in the region. The strategies mainly fall into two main categories, peace building strategies and security interventions strategies.

4.1.1 Peace Building Strategies

Many stakeholders have been instrumental in fostering peace in Isiolo County. Abdille observes that, actors like Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), District Peace Committees (DPCs), Faith Based Organisations (FBO), National Steering Committee (NSC), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders have largely been at the forefront of fostering peace building strategies in Isiolo.⁶⁹ NGOs such as, APFO, CJPC, Oxfam GB and Safer World have collaborated with local organizations

⁶⁹ Ibid, p-23.

in coming up with early warning systems, funding a number of peace dialogues, facilitating events for peace awareness and lobbied the government to be more responsive in mitigating conflict amongst communities. The CSOs and NGOs are also implementing projects to address conflict in the region, for instance; sinking additional boreholes, offering social services and livelihood support. Safer World for example has facilitated peace talks and conducted peace trainings in the area. APFO has been instrumental in organizing peace meetings between Borana, Somali, Samburu and Turkana. CJPC at one time called for a consultative workshop with the local community, security officials and political leaders to agree on best strategies for preventing recurrence of peace in the region. Some groups based in the community such as women associations and religious groups, have also played roles in preventing the conflict, by sharing information with government security agencies and sensitized locals on the need for peace while sharing scarce resources. A religious group such as Isiolo inter-faith has been instrumental in bringing together members from various organizations and assessing and allocating available resources, like water points and grazing areas. They have also drilled boreholes in areas that are highly concentrated with livestock in an effort to reduce the burden on available water boreholes.

A number of peace building strategies in Isiolo have also consisted of peace negotiations conducted by the government, CSOs, NGOs, religious and political leaders. Grass-root peace building strategies like peace caravans have become popular in the region. The peace caravans have been used to facilitate dialogue between Borana, Samburu, Turkana and Somali. Several meetings have been organized particularly with an aim of discussing how grazing lands and water points the key catalysts of conflict, should be used. The close relationship that the peace caravans

have with communities at the grass-root level has been found to offer them unique, advantage in persuading conflicting communities, in finding lasting solutions to peace. The caravans have also sensitized communities on existing peace agreements such as the Garissa and Modogashe declarations.⁷⁰ Modogashe declaration, for example, was signed in 2001 and revalidated later in 2005 and 2011 between the warring communities, to address the major issues that caused conflict in the region. The peace agreement sought to address issues of unauthorized grazing, cattle rustling, trafficking of illegal firearms and highway banditry. In order to end conflicts over water and pasture, the declaration directed pastoralists to seek permission from elders and chiefs of the areas they were moving into. The pastoralists were also to be cleared by District Security and Intelligence Committees (DSIC) in their host areas and also surrender any weapons they brought along with them. Provision of a platform through which conflicting communities can air their grievances and discuss possible solutions has been seen as the declaration's most notable achievement. Communities now feel that the more roles they have been given by the declaration to identify their security challenges, motivates them more to manage conflicts and collaborate with government security agencies.

The declaration has also streamlined movement of livestock across the county's boundaries, during dry seasons thus eliminating the need for conflict over pasture and water between the bordering communities. Relations between communities and security officers has also improved and in turn enhanced information sharing and voluntary return of illicit firearms. All in all, the peace pact has been widely successful in establishing calm in Isiolo and introduction of institutions that promote

⁷⁰ Kangethe, M. (2013). "*Conflict Management and Disaster Risk Reduction: A Case Study of Kenya*". Nairobi, Kenya

peace, through dialogue has enhanced local capacity to address conflicts, associated with resources.

Isiolo District Peace Committees have also been successful in mitigating conflicts in the region through continuous dialogue and consultations. The committees have incorporated traditional approaches in their peace building efforts and draw their members from various communities and organizations in advocating for the benefits of peaceful coexistence. A number of DPCs have incorporated members from the council of elders in their committees. The different communities living in Isiolo hold elders in high esteem and their councils remains one of the highest institutions for managing and resolving conflict. It was therefore, considered prudent for some of the members in the DPCs be from the council of elders.⁷¹ Dialogues and negotiations are the main approaches employed by these DPCs in resolving conflict and help promote empathy, transform relationship and inspire solutions for different problems whenever they arise. Decisions usually arrived at by DCPs have been found to be long lasting, effective and accepted widely within the community.⁷² The government has also strengthened the capacity of the DPCs by making them work closely with other peace organs like Pasture Management Committees, Water Users Association (WUA), District Task Forces (DTF) and Cross-Border Peace Committees. All these organs together with DPCs are part of the region's peace committee architecture. DTFs for example have been working closely with DPCs to survey livestock migratory routes so that pastoralists do not move into the region with illicit arms. They have also kept vigil on the communities likely to rearm themselves mainly to forcefully access or protect grazing resources.

⁷¹ Suda, C. (2003) .“Traditional Mechanisms of Conflict Resolution in Isiolo District, Eastern Kenya: Implications for Rural Poverty”. *International journal of Contemporary Sociology*, 40(2), 281-294.

⁷² Muigua,K.(2012). “*Settling Disputes through Arbitration in Kenya.*” Nairobi: Glenwood Publishers.

Other actors such as Northern Rangeland trusts and conservancies have also assisted communities in Isiolo, Samburu and Rendille to tackle adverse effects of drought and conflict in the area. Lewa Wildlife Conservancy for example has been working with Meru Police in tracking livestock stolen during raids. The neighbouring Samburu County has also been provided with demarcated grazing lands by Lewa Conservancy. The Conservancy has also channelled some of the proceeds from tourism in establishing schools, sinking boreholes and awarding scholarship to the communities. The conservancy also offers employment to the communities especially to the youths.⁷³

4.1.2 Security Intervention Strategies

Use of security intervention strategies has mainly been a preference of the Kenyan government to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County. The most prominent security intervention strategies by the government include; deployment of security officers to conflict prone areas, conducting security operations, disarmament and arrests of persons believed to be sponsoring and fanning violence in the region.

4.1.3 Deployment of Security Officers to Conflict Prone Areas

The government through the Ministry of Interior security and coordination, decided to deploy additional security personnel in Isiolo in order to contain lawlessness and restore stability. Availability of water and favourable pasture in Isiolo and bordering areas such as Laisamis, Tigania East and Meru North, have been attracting a high number of pastoralists, causing conflict with the local residents on resource utilization. The influx of pastoralists, sometimes beyond the normal threshold of the

⁷³ Ruto, P., Musoi, K., Tule, I., & Kirui, B. (2010). *Conflict Dynamics in Isiolo, Samburu East, and Marsabit South Districts of Kenya*. Nairobi, Kenya

existing grazing area, have been causing intense conflict in the region, necessitating the government to deploy additional security personnel. Through its security personnel, the government has managed to control the utilization of resources and in the long run restored stability. A respondent during the fieldwork for this study stated people in this region appreciate the efforts security forces are making towards restoring peace and stability, we the people of Isiolo will always be ready to cooperate and volunteer information to the security apparatus that is here if they continue working with us. Further, another respondent stated Isiolo used to rule the headlines for days as a security hotspot, but now ever since additional security personnel were deployed here, we have enjoyed relative peace.

4.1.4 Conducting Security Operations

During times of active conflict, the government has always conducted intensive security operations to neutralize violence in the region. During 2002 conflict, the government conducted an intense security operation that included a multi-agency security team, from police and the military, in an effort to contain tribal skirmishes that erupted along Isiolo/Wajir border, between Somali and Borana communities. The conflict was caused by reduction in water points because of a prolonged drought that hit the area. The multi-agency security operation is said to have yielded fruits, when several suspected armed bandits were arrested, stolen livestock recovered and multiple firearms and ammunitions recovered from the operation.⁷⁴ The security agencies then, identified Marsabit-Moyale-Isiolo-Samburu axis as a hotbed of cattle rustling involving Samburu, Rendile, Borana, Gabra and Somali communities. The government therefore, launched the National Conflict Early Warning System

⁷⁴ Huka, H.(2002, January). Government deploys police to Isiolo fighting. *East African Standard*

(CEWARN) and also set up the National Rapid Response Fund (Response Fund), to help support and fund operations in these regions. NSC currently manages the Response Fund and is charged with allocating it to security agencies and District Peace Committees, who are charged with generating early warning information. Government efforts in the area have therefore, considerably reduced conflict with only few sporadic outbreaks being reported.

4.1.5 Disarmament

Comprehensive disarmament by government security forces has been taking place in Isiolo County and its surrounding counties of Wajir, Samburu, Marsabit, Garissa and Tana River. A study done by Pkalya et al. in 2003 found that, about 80 % of respondents viewed having a gun as a basic household necessity.⁷⁵ The government therefore, embarking on disarmament strategy was hailed to have gone a long way, in the expansion of zones of peace and stability. Formerly, small arms had proliferated Isiolo County and were readily available during the days of intense conflict. The former government regime also took the initiative to arm vulnerable communities, so as to protect themselves during armed banditry raids and other types of conflict.

However, it was conducted by the government, without proper vetting of the recipients therefore, destabilizing the region rather than deescalating the conflict.⁷⁶ The location of the county on a preferred transit route to the borders of southern Somalia and that of South Sudan, also contributed in the proliferation of firearms in the county, as those borders are of conflict prone countries. Comprehensive

⁷⁵ Pkalya,R., Adan, M., & Masinde, I. (2003).“*Conflict in Northern Kenya: A Focus on the internally Displaced Conflict victims in Northern Kenya,*” DTP Martin Karimi, Nairobi.

⁷⁶ Osamba, J. (2000). The Sociology of Insecurity: Cattle Rustling and Banditry in Northwestern Kenya. *African Journal for Conflict Research*, 1(2)

disarmament by the government started in 2009, with calling of a presidential amnesty that urged residents to willingly surrender all illegal arms in their possession. In 2010, the government ordered another disarmament operation dubbed Dumisha Amani II. The disarmament exercise was successful and Isiolo County was hailed as having handed over the highest number of illegal arms compared to its neighbours Laikipia, Laisamis and Samburu counties. During the disarmament exercise, over 4000 rounds of ammunition and 500 assorted weapons were recovered.⁷⁷

4.1.6 Arrests of Persons Believed to be Sponsoring and Fanning Violence

Politicians and businessmen were identified as prominent persons usually at the forefront in fanning and sponsoring violence against rival communities in Isiolo. Majority of politicians in the region, were fond of using ethnic narratives to mobilize their communities against the rival ones. It is reported that, around election times, politicians with the backing of wealthy businessmen would politicize resource rights in order to garner political capital. Their actions would fuel ethnic tensions and lead directly to violence. One of the respondents stated wealthy businessmen and politicians from this region were well known to collude with criminal agents to coordinate attacks in different parts of Isiolo, in order to put across unknown political agendas or drive the supporters of their perceived rivals out of their turf. Another respondent also posits some of our politicians have used careless utterances in the past to incite violence against certain communities living here in Isiolo. Apart from arresting those perpetrating violence, the government has also set up judicial

⁷⁷ Pkalya, R., & Halakhe, M.(2011). *Combating the problem of Small Arms in Northern Kenya: Case Studies and Testimonies of the Pastoralist Communities*. Nairobi, Kenya

mechanisms, to prosecute perpetrators of violence and deter the need for revenge attacks from communities.⁷⁸

4.2 Chapter Summary

This chapter concludes that many stakeholders are instrumental in fostering peace in Isiolo County. Actors such as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), District Peace Committees (DPCs), Faith Based Organisations (FBO), National Steering Committee (NSC), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders have largely been at the forefront of fostering peace building strategies in Isiolo. Some CSOs and NGOs are also implementing projects to address conflict in the region for instance; sinking additional boreholes, offering social services and livelihood support. Safer World for example has facilitated peace talks and conducted peace trainings in the region. APFO has been instrumental in organizing peace meetings between Borana, Somali, Samburu and Turkana.

CJPC at one time called for a consultative workshop with the local community, security officials and political leaders to agree on best strategies for preventing the recurrence of peace in the region. Some groups based in the community such as women associations and religious groups have also played roles in preventing conflict by sharing information, with government security agencies and sensitizing locals on the need for peace. Other actors like Northern Rangeland trusts and conservancies have also been assisting communities in Isiolo, Samburu and Rendille in tackling the adverse effects of drought and conflict in the area. Lewa Wildlife Conservancy for example has been working with Meru Police in tracking livestock stolen during raids.

⁷⁸ Pkalya, R., Adan, M., & Masinde, I. (2003). "*Conflict in Northern Kenya: A Focus on the internally Displaced Conflict victims in Northern Kenya*," DTP Martin Karimi, Nairobi.

The neighbouring Samburu County has also been provided with demarcated grazing lands by Lewa Conservancy. The Conservancy has also channeled some of the proceeds from tourism in establishing schools, sinking boreholes and awarding scholarship to the communities.

4.3 Chapter Findings

This chapter establishes that, various strategies have been employed in resolving and containing the resource based conflict in Isiolo County. The strategies fall into two broad categories, peace building strategies and security interventions strategies. Grass-root peace building strategies such as peace caravans have become popular in the region. The peace caravans have been used in facilitating dialogue between Borana, Samburu, Turkana and Somali. Security intervention strategies include deployment of security officers to conflict prone areas, conducting security operations, disarmament and arrests of persons believed to be sponsoring and fanning violence. Use of security intervention strategies has mainly been a preference of the Kenyan government to address the resource based conflict in Isiolo County.

The government through the Ministry of Interior security and coordination decided to deploy additional security personnel to Isiolo in order to contain lawlessness and restore stability in the region. During times of active conflict, the government has always conducted intensive security operations, to neutralize violence in the region. Comprehensive disarmament by government security forces, has been taking place in Isiolo County and its surrounding counties of Wajir, Samburu, Marsabit, Garissa and Tana River. Politicians and businessmen were identified as the prominent persons

usually at the forefront in fanning and sponsoring violence against rival communities in Isiolo.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

With key focus on increased resource-based conflict in Kenya, this study sought to examine the nature of resource based conflict in Isiolo County, investigate the impact of resource based conflict on human security in the County and examine strategies being used to address the resource based conflict in the region. This chapter therefore, covers summary of the key findings, presents conclusion and recommendations flowing from the three key objectives that guided the study.

5.1 Summary of the Findings

This section covers key findings from each objective of the study.

5.1.1 Nature of Resource-Based Conflict in Isiolo County

Based on the first objective of this study which was to examine the nature resource based conflict in Isiolo County, this study has established global climate change as the most key nature of resource-based conflict in Isiolo County. There is a strong relationship between land degradation, water, pasture, desertification and conflict in the county. Climate change on its own does not lead to conflict, however, combined with poor governance and politics of ethnicity contributes to environmental conflict over scarce resources. In addition, the study established that, climate change has contributed to resource-based conflict in Isiolo County under two main aspects which include; where natural resources reduce as a result of degradation and where access is restricted or unequally distributed resources. In each of the two cases, resource-based conflict arises as people compete for scarce resources available and or their rights to

control over these resources especially, in case where some groups have been marginalized.

Further the study also established that, Isiolo County is to a large extent inhabited by pastoralists who have extreme over reliance on environment for their survival. Based on literature review, the horn of Africa is the most affected region by drastic climate breakdown. This in return affects the environment by making natural resources scarce leading to environmental conflict in the area.

5.1.2 Impact of Resource-Based Conflict on Human Security in Isiolo County

Based on second objective, the study established that, resource-based conflict has far reaching negative implications on human security in Isiolo County. Economic sector is the most affected sector by the conflict. Harsh climatic conditions have contributed to lack of food, as well as economic insecurities. Increased degradation of land, scarcity of water and pasture has led to decline on production of livestock and decrease in price of livestock. Just as Livestock production to a large extent relies on availability of pasture, water and market, the welfare of pastoralist communities in Isiolo County is linked to their environment. Outbreak of clashes has affected the cost of livestock; an issue which has indirectly affected prices of other items, since insecurity and low income negatively impacts demand and supply.

5.1.3 Strategies Used to Address Resource-Based Conflict in Isiolo County

Various strategies have been employed to resolve and contain resource-based conflict in Isiolo County. The study pointed out that, the strategies fall under two broad categories namely; peace building strategies and security intervention strategies. From the study findings, security intervention strategies have been more effective and

preferred by government, than peace building strategies in addressing the conflict. The government through ministry of interior security and coordination, employed the following strategies; deployment of security officers to conflict prone areas, disarmament, conducting security operations and arrest of persons believed to be sponsoring and fanning the violence. During active violent conflict, the government conducts intensive security operations in order to neutralize the conflict in the region. After active conflict, the government has conducted comprehensive disarmament, which has been an on-going activity in Isiolo County and its surrounding counties of Wajir, Garissa, Samburu, Turkana and River Tana.

5.2 Conclusion

In a nutshell, among many features shaping the nature of resource-based conflict in Isiolo county, the key factor is climate change which is not only limited to the region , but a human security threat globally. The impacts of climate change are highly felt in regions inhabited by pastoralists. This is because pastoralism is a major factor and a complete way of life for largest population in the area. Pastoral conflict is caused by depleting agricultural and land resources, owing to harsh climatic conditions, as well as demographic pressure due to population growth.

The conflict is not only localized within Isiolo County, but due to mobility of pastoralists, it has potential of being Trans boundary in nature. For instance, the protracted conflict over the border between pastoralism communities along the border of Isiolo and Garissa Counties, as well as Isiolo and Meru County. The claims over access to and control of water and pasture combine with one or more socioeconomic and political factor which elevates friction, contributing to conflict over natural

resources. This calls for the need to impress human security, so as to holistically attend to needs and concerns of pastoralists, not only in Isiolo County but across the region.

Based on the second objective the study also found that, resource based conflict has wide reaching negative impact on human security. Among many other impacts, the key one is economic impact. The outbreak of clashes among the pastoralism decreases the cost of their livestock; affects the cost of other items indirectly, since poor security and low incomes impact both on demand and supply. Ethnic conflict over water and pasture resources led to killing of livestock and cattle rustling, rendering some pastoralists poor.

Environmental scarcity has led to increase in malnutrition cases in livestock which eventually resulted death of a lot of livestock, especially during the drought season. Pastoralists in Isiolo County completely rely on selling of their livestock, in order to buy food, pay school fees for their children's and buy other essentials of their own. However, pastoralists have experienced a lot of difficulties in meeting their needs due to increased malnourished livestock's. In addition resource based conflict have resulted to; ethnic conflict, unemployment, commercialized and politicized cattle rustling, social, political and economic impact, affected education sector, increased proliferation of small arms and light weapons and displacement of people. These adverse effects have affected development and economic growth in the region.

Lastly, the study identified main strategies been employed to resolve and contain resource based conflict in Isiolo County. They include; peace building strategies and

security intervention strategies. It's evident that, security intervention strategies are more effective than peace building. The most effective of the security strategies is deployment of security officers, who conduct intensive security operations in conflict prone areas. Other noted strategies, include disarmament and arrest of persons sponsoring and fanning violence, especially politicians and businessmen.

5.3 Recommendations

Firstly, the study recommends that, there is need for Kenya to impress the concept of human security in order, to holistically attend to needs and concerns of pastoralist problems. Isiolo County represents one of the hardest hit by environmental changes that manifest in terms of shrinking water catchment resources and famine. Therefore, there is need to train and encourage the communities, to change from the culture of pastoralism and try other businesses like rearing of poultry, fish and irrigation farming.

Secondly, the study recommends that there is need of reduction of the livestock to the level sustainable by the available environmental resources, this will not only reduce the resource based conflict among the community, but also improve the quality and cost of livestock.

Lastly, in order to contain lawlessness and restore stability in the region, the government should deploy additional security personnel. During times of active conflict, the government should conduct intensive security operations to neutralize violence in the region. Comprehensive disarmament by government security forces should also be launched not only in Isiolo County but also in its surrounding counties of Wajir, Samburu, Marsabit, Garissa and Tana River. Politicians and businessmen

identified as the prominent persons fanning and sponsoring violence against rival communities in Isiolo should also face the law.

5.4 Areas for further Research

This study established that, environmental scarcity on its own does not cause resource-based conflict, other, socioeconomic and political factors combine to elevate friction, which ultimately contribute to conflict over natural resources. Therefore, there is need for further studies, to focus on the extent of relationship between environmental conflict, politics as well as socioeconomic factors. In addition, since climate change is a global phenomenal which cannot be addressed by one country, there is need to carryout research on how the world should unite to mitigate its adverse effects.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Research Questionnaire

Please answer the questions by putting a tick in the appropriate box or by writing in the space provided.

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. Groups.

1. Pastoralists (Herders) []
2. County Officials []
3. Anti-Stock Theft police []
4. Community Elders []
5. Red Cross []

2. Gender?

Male []

Female []

3. How old are you?

18-35 years []

36-55 years []

55 and above []

4. Marital Status

1. Single/ Never Married []
2. Married []
3. Separated []
4. Divorced []
5. Widowed []

5. What is your highest level of education?

1. Non- Formal []
2. Primary school []
3. Secondary school []

4. Tertiary []

5. University []

6. Religion:-

1. Traditional []

2. Christian []

3. Islam []

4. Others (Specify) _____

7. How long have you stayed in Isiolo County?

Below 5 Years []

5 – 10 years []

10 -15 years []

Over 15 years []

SECTION B: NATURE OF RESOURCE BASED CONFLICT

8. To what extend do you think the following constitutes to resource based conflict in Isiolo County? (√)

	Very great extent	Moderate extent	Little extent	Very little extent	Not at all
Cattle rustling					
Politics					
Unemployment					
Land					
Illiteracy					
Educational Facilities					
Water points					
Negative ethnicity					

9. Please rate the frequency of the occurrence of the conflicts, how often?

Most frequently []

Frequently []

Partially []

Not at all []

Not sure []

SECTION C: IMPACT OF RESOURCE BASED CONFLICT

Using the following SA-Strongly Agree, A-Agree, N-Neutral, D-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree key, please indicate the degree to which you agree with the following statements impacts of the resource based conflicts in the area.

No		SA	A	N	D	SD
a)	Education and health services have been disrupted by the conflicts					
b)	The Conflict has negatively stereotyped both the Turkanas and Boranas?					
c)	The Security in the area has been negatively been impacted by the conflict					
d)	The Conflict has led to the increase of theft and banditry in the area					
e)	The level of political tension has increased as a result of the conflict					
f)	Land and boundary dispute has increased as a result of the conflict					

Appendix II: Key Informant Interviews

1. What has been the main instigator of conflict in the area?

2. Do you think there are some resources that instigate the conflicts and what would you recommend to be done pertaining them?

3. Do you think the government has done enough in bringing peace amongst the warring communities and if not what do you think should be done?

4. In your opinion are the existing policies strong enough in tackling the conflicts, if no what do you think should be done in strengthening the policies?

5. What are the political leaders doing about the conflict in the area?

SECTION D: STRATEGIES USED ON RESOURCE BASED CONFLICT

Section B: Strategies used on resource based conflict

Indicate your extent of agreement on the following statements regarding strategies put in place on resource based conflict.

Key: SA-Strongly Agree, A-Agree, UD-Undecided, D-Disagree, SD-Strongly Disagree.

No		SA	A	N	D	SD
a)	County Government has put in place conflict resolution meetings					
b)	There is adequate provision of social services					
c)	Security personnel have been increased in the area					
d)	Educational facilities and other social facilities have been adequately increased in the area					
e)	Measures put in place by the County government in dealing with the conflicts are effective					
f)	County Government in partnership with the NGOs and CBOs have act decisively in framing new approaches to crisis prevention, management and resolution.					
g)	County Government is working in close collaboration with the communities fighting in search for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.					

Appendix III: Research Permit

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RESEARCH LICENSE	
	
<p>This is to Certify that Mr.. Guyo Sama of University of Nairobi, has been licensed to conduct research in Isiolo on the topic: ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICT IN AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF ISIOLO COUNTY for the period ending : 05/November/2020.</p>	
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Appendix IV: Plagiarism Report

CONFLICT

ORIGINALITY REPORT

12%	9%	3%	9%
SIMILARITY INDEX	INTERNET SOURCES	PUBLICATIONS	STUDENT PAPERS

PRIMARY SOURCES

1	amaniafrika.org Internet Source	2%
2	www.csba-ferras.eu Internet Source	1%
3	Submitted to Kenyatta University Student Paper	1%
4	Submitted to Mount Kenya University Student Paper	1%
5	Submitted to University of Nairobi Student Paper	1%
6	r4d.dfid.gov.uk Internet Source	<1%
7	dehai.org Internet Source	<1%
8	www.ijsrp.org Internet Source	<1%
9	International Journal of Social Economics, Volume 36, Issue 10 (2009-10-02)	<1%