



Understanding policy processes in water and land use management among agro-pastoralists in Northern Kenya

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Policy Processes

- Policy spans the interface between:
 - national government
 - non-governmental and international actors
 - down through all the levels of national and local governance
 - to the most local level of the community

Objective

- Broad:
 - to increase the understanding of policy processes in adaptation to climate change at national and local levels
- Specifically
 - Establish constraints and opportunities for the integration of local evidence in pastoral livelihood systems into formal policy-making processes
- Study areas: Turkana District
- Other partners (PAR): Practical Action, NEMA, Kenyatta University,

Guiding PAR findings

- promising local adaptive responses
 - But not supported by the existing policy frameworks
- Need for increased understanding of the opportunities and constraints that may hinder integration of such evidence into policy-making processes

Research questions for RPA

- Why do adaptation policy statements (where they exist) say one thing, but quite another is observed in the field?
- How do the realities at the micro-level get fed into the policy making process?

Conceptual Framework

- for understanding the process of policy making => 'policy processes'
- To understand opportunities and constraints to policy influence=> and 'policy spaces'

Scope and methods

- Two sites— agro-pastoralist and pure pastoralists
- Adopted a top-down and bottom-up approach in mapping out
 - actors and institutions
 - their associated narratives and interests in order to identify policy spaces and barriers to policy influence

- The top-down approach
 - Policy content analysis
 - Interviews with policy makers in order to identify existing or lack of policy statements and measures put in place to facilitate policy implementation
- The bottom-up approach
 - Interviewed actors in formal and informal implementing institutions where adaptive decisions are made
 - Aimed at assessing relative importance of the prevailing policies as a constraint or facilitator on decision making process at local levels, as well as identifying what drives practice

Mapping of the adaptation policy context

- National level
 - Water policy
 - Land policy
 - Legislations & Policies impacting on both
 - Water Act
 - Environment Management and Co-ordination Act
 - River Basin Development Authority Acts (various)
 - Forest Act and
 - Agriculture Act
 - Low integration of land and water use issues at planning stage resulting in duplication of projects and efforts
 - Leads to sector conflicts and confusion among stakeholders

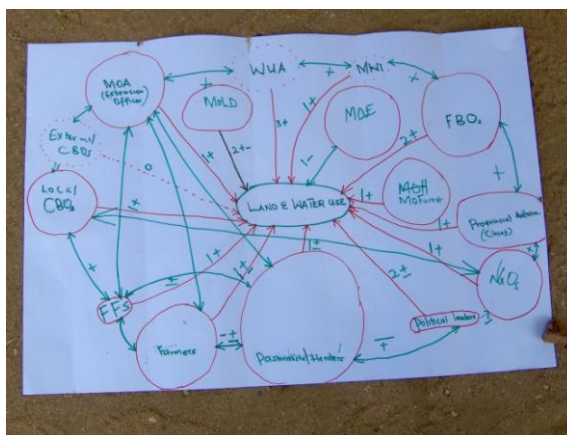
Mapping of the adaptation policy context at the local level

- Formal strategies
- Several measures but key:
- Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) provided under the Water Act
 - WRUA is to promote dialogue between water users and the Government
 - Traditional practices, but CC making it untenable
 - also
 - Conflicts between local practices and sub-national/national policies

Mapping of policy processes and actors



Whose voices matter in land and water use management



Constraints to adoption of adaptive policies

- High levels of illiteracy and poverty
- Traditions e.g. *emuron (seer)*
- The very arid conditions prevent even good meaning farmers to adhere to policy
- Use of international organisation and tendency to ignore CBOs, FBOs

Spaces for Policy Influence identified by policy makers and implementers

- *District steering group meetings*
 - But weak grass-root representation
 - Not clear who is responsible for passing on the recommendations of the DSG to the national level
 - But even when channelled to the national level, no action seems to be taken
- *The Interim National Boundaries Review Commission* -- land boundary related issues MPs have a lot of influence on outcomes
- *The Ministry of Water and Irrigation*
 - space available through WRMA and Catchment Advisory Committee
- *Frontline extension workers*- Practical space
 - the interaction between the extension workers and communities provides an opportunity for local people to influence policy. However,
 - The vastness/remoteness of Turkana constrains coverage and therefore policy/practice influence

Identified spaces by the community

- *Media platforms* – raise grass root voices
- *FBOs*: Trusted, by the communities, have a good working relationship with government; they have resources to implement their programmes and have demonstrated commitment over the years
 - They participate in the invited policy space, the bureaucratic space and the practical space
- The NGOs also provide an effective practical space
 - Have a close association with local communities and therefore can pass down government policy messages and voice community policy concerns

Conclusions

- Although communities are not entirely ignorant of formal policies affecting water and land use in the area, only a few seemed to know and understand the policies and how they are arrived at well
- Erosion of the traditional natural resource management system threatens to weaken the voice of the pastoralist in influencing policy matters affecting their resources
- Limited interaction between various actors in water and land sector also affects the understanding and subsequent application of policy and the management strategies
- A high presence of both NGOs and FBOs—trusted actors who can form an interface between policy and practice



Thank you

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