

PfR Kenya country factsheet

Country: Kenya

Project Area: Merti, Isiolo district

Organization(s): Cordaid, Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID-P), Wetlands International, Wetlands Kenya



Key data about the project area (area of the beneficiaries):

Population:

Geography:

Main livelihood sectors:

Beneficiaries

Beneficiary groups: The programme will target pastoralist and agro-pastoralist, living on the downstream part of the Ewaso Nyiro North River basin (ENRB) in Northern Kenya, living from livestock and rain-fed and irrigated subsistence farming.

What types of hazards occur in project site?

drought, flooding, conflict, bush fire, Natural hazards have been increasing in frequency and severity partly due to global climate change. Example is rains in November and December destroyed homes and infrastructure.

How are these hazards exacerbated?

By human activity? (ecosystems degradation)

(?) Politics?

The socio-economic value of pastoralism is not sufficiently recognised by the government, therefore there is limited investment in the Arid and Semi Arid Land (ASAL) areas

(?) Economics?

land is taken for game parks, military use, and oil/mineral exploitation. This limits their mobility, access to seasonal grazing areas and to water resources. Population growth and growing settlements in major towns like Isiolo result in increased demand for domestic water use.

Sale of charcoal and firewood in times of drought further damages ecosystems. Land is being cleared for agricultural activities in the middle stream, which results in decreased soil water retention. Commercial farmers and users of the water catchments in the Mt. Kenya region need significant water resources to produce high value commercial crops. For that purpose, they divert large quantities of water from the upper stream level of the river.

Climate change?

In East Africa, unusually warm days and nights are expected to increase, and unusually cold days and nights are expected to decrease. Heat waves and warm spells are likely to occur more frequently, and heavy precipitation events are also likely to increase. A temperature increase of 3.2°C is projected for East Africa, with a range of

1.8-4.3°C possible by the end of the 21st century. Climate change leads to a melting and reduction of the glaciers of Mount Kenya affecting water flows in tributaries feeding into the Ewaso Nyiro. An average increase in total rainfall of 7% is projected, with possible changes in the range of a 3% decrease to a 25% increase by the end of the 21st century. El Niño (La Niña) typically brings above-normal (below-normal) rainfall conditions to Kenya during the months of October-December. More wet and dry extremes (floods and droughts) are projected for the region, which could have negative impacts on the most vulnerable people.

How are people's livelihoods affected?

Human

drought led to migration (of animals and people), which led to conflict
use of traditional risk reduction measures, dependency-syndrome (rely on external assistance in times of emergency).

The pastoralists move from place to place in search of water and pastures. Due to dwindling household herd sizes and loss of livestock through drought, more pastoralist households are settling. Young men and youth are moving with the animals and older people and children remain behind in small towns where social amenities like schools and health services are available.

The population uses traditional coping mechanisms to deal with natural hazards. However, the growing frequency and severity of the recurring hazards have made such coping mechanisms less effective.

Social

Physical

Roads between Merti and Isiolo are cut off due to conflict,

Increased risk of drought will negatively affect Kenya's wildlife and hence the tourist industry, as well as reduce water supply and hydroelectric power generation.

financial

Natural

Decreasing water levels threaten livelihoods.

rapid deterioration pasture due to influx of livestock because of drought. The river and swamp area are used for all-season grazing and irrigation. People's livelihoods depend fully on the availability of water from this river basin. Decreasing water levels threaten livelihoods. This leads to food insecurity, loss of lives and livelihoods during extreme drought periods. This is caused by the decreasing water availability in the lower river basin. While in the 80's the river was nearly permanent and ended in the Lorean marshes it has now become a seasonal river. Due to these lower water levels combined with the more frequent drought periods, the availability of good grazing land and sufficient water for their livestock is limited, and more frequently than before, there is not enough.

New groups are invading the traditional rangelands of the pastoralists, including farmers from the highlands.

The decreasing water levels are not only of importance for the direct target group and their environment. The river is also contributing to the recharge of the aquifer of the hinterland, and so influences the availability of water in groundwater sources like boreholes, shallow wells and for the wetlands and woodlands ecosystems. The increased risk of drought and persistent vulnerability of the poor is likely to have a serious impact on livelihoods. The pastoral community may be worst affected. Although mobility and migration are high, this can translate into pressure during drought on both the environment and services.

What are the solutions offered by the alliance?

Preparedness

Awareness creation of timely sales of livestock

Awareness creation against bush fire for Basa and Adado

Strengthening of pasture management committees

Peace reconciliation meetings among communities

Early warning

Developing and establishing EW/EA system (linking indigenous and modern EW) in Biliqo and Basa

Translation of early warning bulletins into locally understandable languages

Mitigation

Establishing community management committees to manage the effective use of community resources. In Bulesa, grazing committees have regulated the grazing areas and have been empowered to punish pastoralists whose livestock graze in the reserved grazing zones. The involvement of local authorities as members of the committees strengthened the operation of the institution through good will and support from the leaders where required.

Construction of water storage reservoir

Planting of trees

Construction of fence around Badana water pan

WASH Promotion

Initiate destocking project through transport subsidy initiatives.

Support Community Forest Action for afforestation programme (nursery establishment and mgt) in Biliqo

Supporting tree planting day during world tree planting day.

Training on natural resource management for Merti and GarbaTulla district for 30 participants per district.

Establishment of 2 afforestation centres along the riverine communities of Basa and Iresaboru

Establishment of environmental clubs in 5 schools in project area and linking them to afforestation programme

Formation of livestock traders group for Biliqo and Badana

Formation of livestock traders together with KRC

Strengthening of Pasture / rangeland mgt committee

Strengthening of water mgt committees

development

keeping few, productive, adaptive livelihood, rather than large herds of animals, diversifying livelihoods; traditional destocking in an earlier phase.

Fencing of Fororsa dam in Iresaboru for livestock water use

Adaptation of modern farming skills e.g. greenhouse farming, drip irrigation etc.

Support piped water extension from Alango to Dadacha Basa

Mobilization of lower users Association to develop strategy to link with upstream users

Support peace building initiative- Peace meetings, training of peace committees and fuel subsidy in all 5 centres

Linking CMDRR community approach to other project activities and other stakeholders

Exposure / learning visits for WUAs

Exchange visit to CMDRR project in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia