

PfR Kenya country factsheet

Country: Kenya

Project Area: Meru, isiolo District

Organization(s): NLRC, KRCS, 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, flood, conflict, bush fire, Natural hazards have been increasing in frequency and severity partly due to global climate change.

How are these hazards exacerbated?

By human activity? (ecosystems degradation)

(?) Politics?

restricted movement organisations and communities due to conflict (Al Shabaab)

(?) Economics?

land is taken for game parks, military use, and oil/mineral exploitation. 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

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

Increased risk of drought will 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.

This limits their mobility, access to seasonal grazing areas and to water resources.

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.

Increased risk of drought will negatively affect Kenya's wildlife and hence the tourist industry

What are the solutions offered by the alliance?

Preparedness

Early warning

Translation of early warning bulletins into locally understandable languages

Mitigation

traditional destocking in an earlier phase. Establishing community management committees to manage the effective use of community resources.

Basic organizational development training (leadership) for Gafarsa, Kinna, Burat for three days for 15 people for each site

Planting of trees

Establishment of community tree nurseries in Burat

Awareness creation of timely sales of livestock

Initiate destocking project through transport subsidy initiatives.

Strengthening of Pasture / rangeland mgt committee

Dialogue with stakeholders around rangeland use

Training on CMDRR

development

keeping few, productive, adaptive livelihood, rather than large herds of animals, diversifying livelihoods;

Support to farmers in provision of certified seeds in the 4 sites
Construction of water storage reservoir and water pipes for farming
Establishment of greenhouses in Kinna and Bulesa
Adaptation of modern farming skills e.g. greenhouse farming, drip irrigation etc.

Establishment of M&E tools at community level
Establishment and strengthening of 5 environmental clubs in school
community level documentation/video training
capacity building of community organisations
Exchange visit to CMDRR project in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia
capacity building of community organisations