

‘The Horn of Africa at a Cross Roads: A discussion on Shared History and The Root Causes of Environmental, Food and Livelihood Insecurities’.

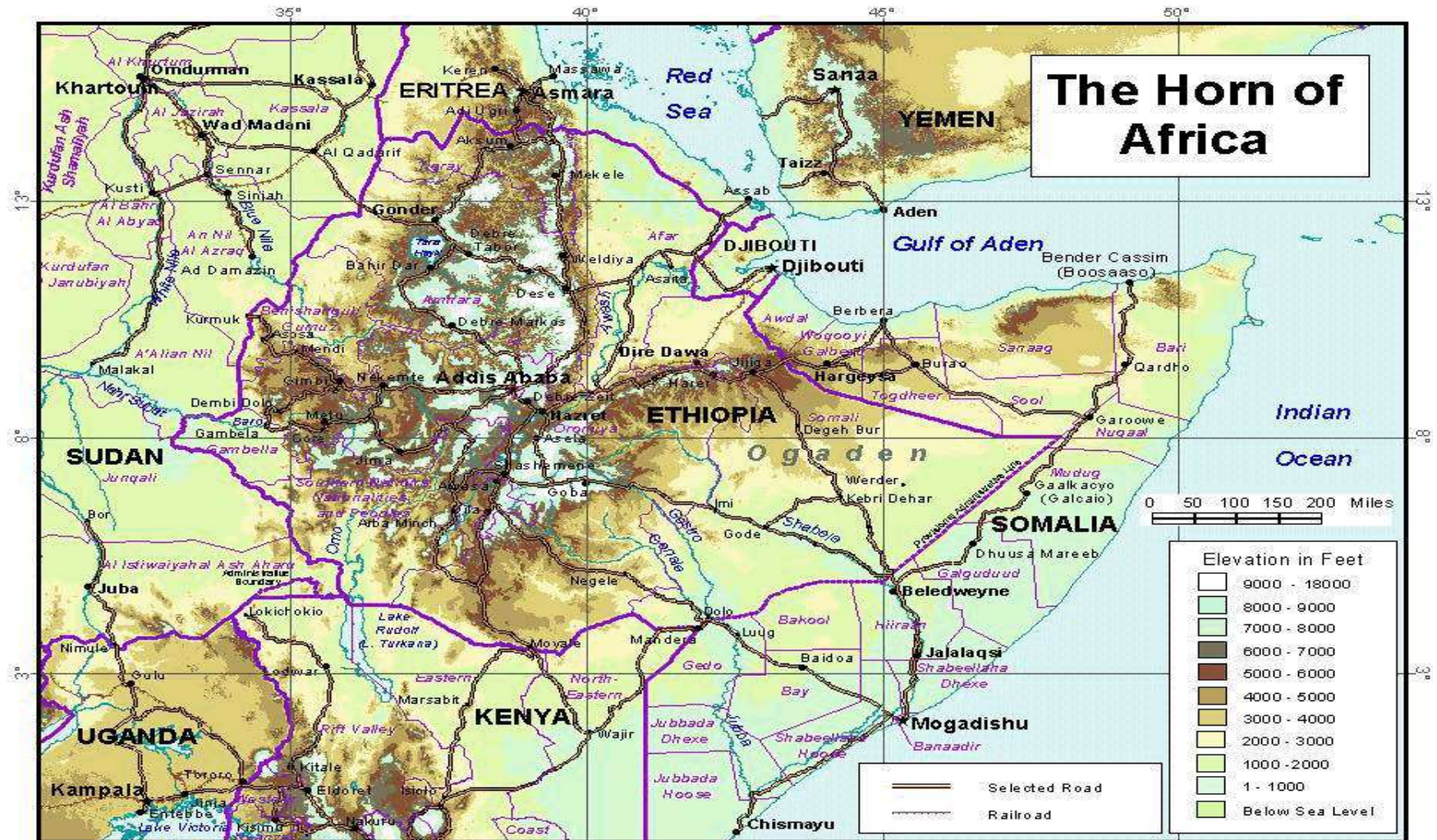
At: Victoria University Melbourne, October 2nd 2018.

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Outline

- Welcome by hosts,
- Part one: General Horn(History, ecology and livelihoods),
- Part two: The emerging livelihood systems/opportunities in the IGAD Region and policy implications,
- Part three - The role of the livestock economy across livelihoods and ecological systems,
- Part four: Somaliland - Climate Change, Cyclone Sagar & Impacts on Food and Livelihood Security (PENHA experience),
- Conclusion: New Directions – Change, Adaptation & Participation.

Part one: The Horn of Africa: The ecological context



Boundary Representation is not necessarily authoritative.
Ethiopian administrative boundaries are approximate and unofficial.

Political map of the IGAD Sub-Region pre-2011



The Horn: Political map post 2011



The Horn: Demography, geography, shared civilizations and culture

- Population in 8 countries = 220 million plus. 5 million square kms in area.
- Ecological diversity affecting livelihood systems and six distinct ecological regions with which cultures, economies and livelihoods systems etc. are connected.
- Coastal, sparsely populated hot arid areas along the Red Sea where fisheries, coastal trade and livestock production take place.
- Deserts and dry savannah where livestock are extensively reared and sparsely populated (Northern) Sudan. Low rainfall areas.
- Plateau or highland zones: densely populated, highly degraded, mixed farming areas with mild climate and high rainfall.

Trade and economic ties

- Due to geographical advantages and strong trading links with the Middle East in the form livestock, agricultural products, gum Arabic.
- Trade links with far East and Europe - petrol, minerals and agricultural products. China's influence has grown considerably in the last ten years.
- Professional and wage labour by thousands of migrants from the Horn.
- Formal and informal trade within countries including wage labour, exchange of grain and other commodities including petrol.
- According to sources, the Horn of Africa country spends an average annual 20 billion birr (USD 1.2 billion) to import fuel. Ethiopia is expected to import 2,176,188 tonnes of oil this year. (Sudan Tribune 2011)
- North-Sudan conflict impacting on oil supply for Ethiopia affecting economic growth

The Horn: Shared history and culture

- Region shares diversities of cultures, religions and different civilisations which cross colonial borders.
- Abrahamic civilizations: Ethiopia and Eritrea Christianized during the third century AD and Islam was introduced around the 7th century. Both great religions lived side by side for many centuries, e.g. the A Negash shrine.
- Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Northern Sudan were centres of old civilizations with written language, literature, art and old monasteries which go back to the 6th century.
- The Eastern Horn (along the Coast) was colonized by the Greeks (the name “Ethiopsis” meaning sun burnt/black, Eritrean Sea now called Red Sea), the Turks in the middle ages and then by colonial powers (Italy, Britain and France) during the Scramble for Africa in the 1880s.

Horn: Regional and Global politics

- Important strategic significance: Red-Sea, Gulf and Indian water ways (Soviet-USA during cold war and new powers in the last twenty years).
- Post Cold War: China, Middle East and super powers) both military and trade. Bab-el Mandeb in the Southern tip and Suez canal in Egypt further North (route to the Mediterranean).
- Somali piracy drawing negative global attention - locally perceived as “coast guards” in a failed state.
- During Bush era **“War on Terror targeted region” (Africom USA)** based in Djibouti and more actors in the last 10 years.
- Conflict proneness, drought and famine (very high military expenditure by national governments. For example the Ethio-Eritrean conflict, North–South Sudan conflict, Somali civil war.
- Recent developments in Yemen and Horn Alliance and strategic implications (Iran-Gulf countries-Israel-USA).

Horn Region : Regional

- Over the last 40 years thousands of civilians exiled due to internal oppression and conflict crossing by small boats to the Middle East and Southern Europe. Mainly coming from Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan.
- Brain drain within Africa, the Middle East and the West. For example, in the UK there are more than 500 medical professionals from Sudan.
- Huge contribution from Diaspora – remittances greater than development aid flows.
- Somali coastal areas became dumping ground for toxic waste.
- Growing unplanned urbanisation and high levels of poverty among the urban poor including pastoral peoples. Internal displacement.
- Expansion of land grabbing phenomenon after the recent global food crisis (food production outsourcing).
- **Expansion of Prosopis across the Horn Africa and its negative impact.**

Key debate / theme one

- “The often held/perceived highland-lowland dichotomy, i.e. *“highland farmer”* and *“lowland nomad”*, which informs much of the current pastoral development intervention by the various actors should be re-examined”.
- ‘observations on the evolving nature of pastoralist and agro pastoralist livelihoods across the Horn of Africa, by providing critical reflections on the role of the state and non-state actors in managing such evolution

Part two: The emerging livelihood systems/opportunities in the IGAD Region and policy implications

Creating stronger rural-urban socio-economic linkages

- The adaptation mechanisms taken up by these communities increased rural-urban interaction, enabling former pastoralists to have access to goods and services in nearby towns.

Income source diversification

- As part of their adaptive strategy, they are gaining new skills to generate alternative incomes which complement livestock production.

Involvement in local government processes (Ethiopia /Kenya cases)

- Pastoralists are asserting their rights by actively involving themselves in civic and political matters and asking for greater representation in state affairs.

Emerging...

Improved communication facilities

- The improved communication facilities serve multiple purposes, among which better communication between the pastoralist families in the settlements and herders in remote grazing areas; communication with towns regarding livestock markets and commodity prices.

Change in gender roles

- Pastoralist communities are and have been traditionally male dominated with very limited political, social and economic roles for women beyond domestic chores. This is changing slowly.

Examples: Afar Ethiopia



Afar Ethiopia salt production (state resource grabbing).



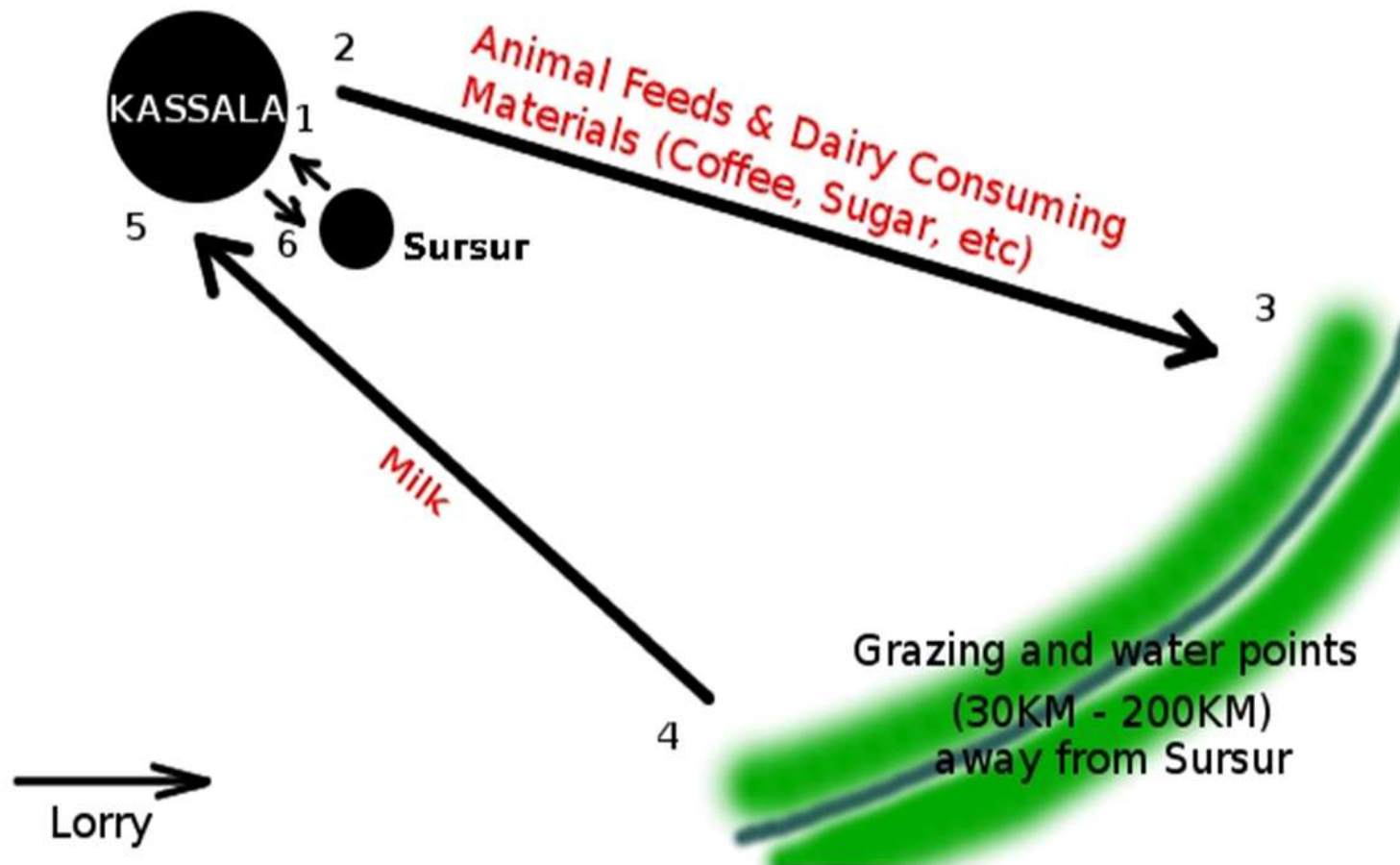
Afar primary education Ethiopia



Beni-Amer Eastern Sudan and Western Eritrea(Urban-rural interactions)



Beni Amer..... Kassala Town Eastern Sudan

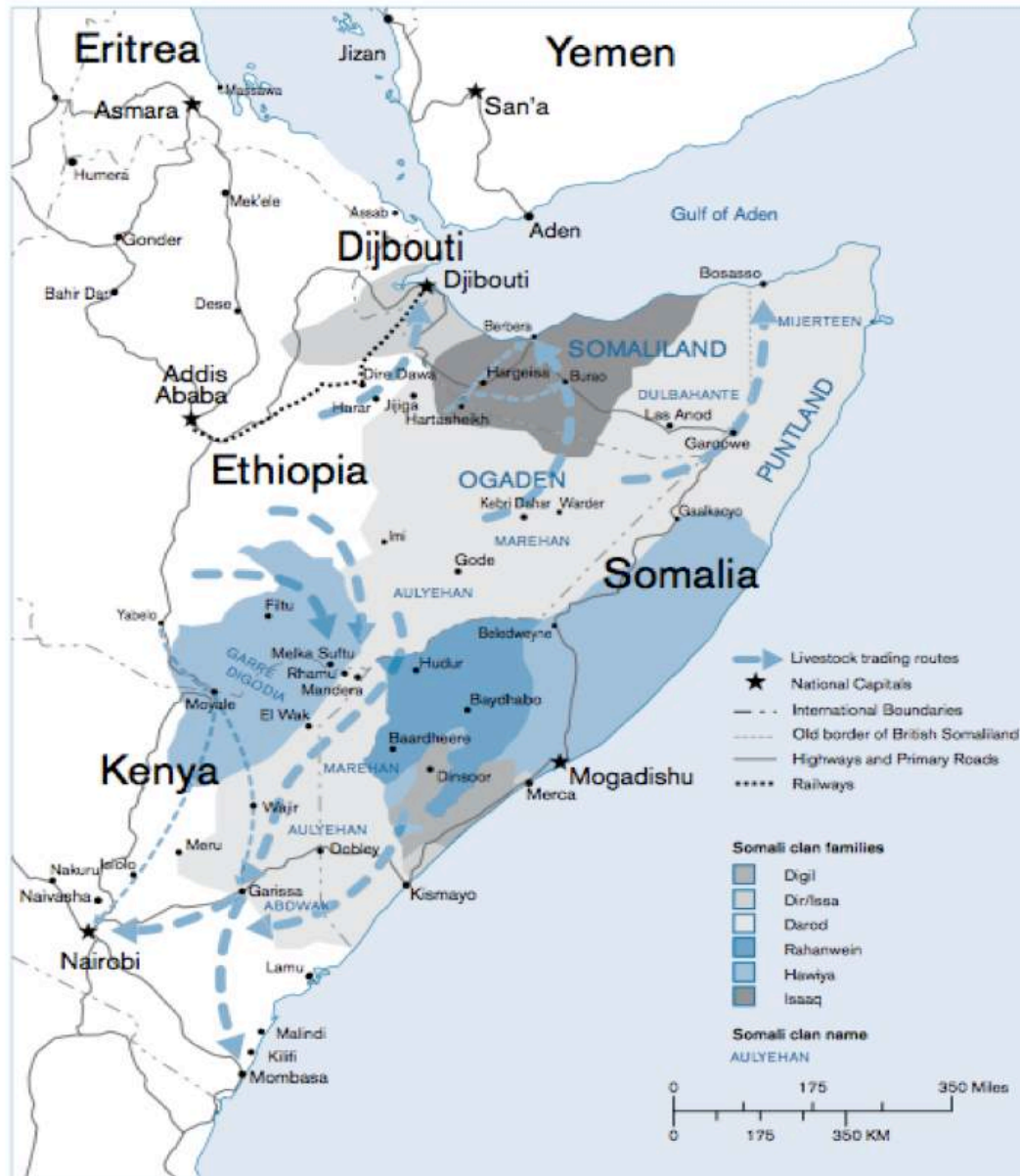


Part three - The role of the livestock economy across livelihoods and ecological systems.

‘Bird’s eye overview on the *major socio-economic contribution of livestock including pastoral production to local, national and regional economies* - while such contribution goes unstudied, largely unrecognized and unsupported by the various state and non-state actors including academic institutions, in any coordinated manner’.

Visible and invisible - but substantial - socio-economic contribution of livestock across ecological zones and livelihood systems.

Livestock Trade Networks - Eastern Horn (Somali traders)



Examples of economic contributions

(All data from Salih, 1993, except for Kenya (Republic of Kenya, 2000).)

- Pastoralism is a significant contributor to national GDP but **visible and invisible such statistics do not include highland based livestock production**
- Uganda's pastoralist and small holder livestock producers contribute 8.5% of total GDP, providing the country's fourth biggest foreign exchange earner (Muhereza and Ossiya, 2004).
- Ethiopia's pastoral dominated livestock sector contributes more than 20% of Ethiopia's total GDP, probably much more if other intermediate values of livestock are properly assessed (Aklilu, 2002).
- The leather industry is Ethiopia's second largest source of foreign exchange after coffee and, in 1998 alone, it exported US\$41 million of leather and leather goods, primarily to Europe, Asia and the Middle East (STAT-USA, no date).

Mekelle livestock market in Ethiopia and Mbarara market in South Western Uganda



Khartoum main livestock market, Sudan



Livestock trade through Berbera Port in Somaliland



Part four: Somaliland - Climate Change, Cyclone Sagar & Impacts on Food and Livelihood Security (PENHA experience)

- Cyclone Sagar hit Somaliland on **May 19, 2018**.
- Climate change dimension - North Indian Ocean cyclones are tending to make landfall further west, in Somalia, Yemen and Oman.
- Major impact on livelihoods, which were just recovering from severe drought in 2016/17

Sagar and Eastern Horn including Yemen.



Impacts of Cyclone Sagar



Impacts of Cyclone Sagar

- The cyclone hit arid coastal areas of the Northwest, where pastoral livelihoods predominate.
- Six districts including inland areas, parts of Djibouti, Ethiopia and Puntland were affected.
- 53 people killed in Awdal region
- Heavy livestock losses – some 370,000 goats and sheep, nearly 10,000 camels.
- Some 80% of the livestock of affected households died.
- A severe impact on livelihoods, coming on top of the unprecedented 2017 drought.

Impacts of Cyclone Sagar (continued)

- Fisheries (small-scale/nascent, artisanal fishing) hit – small boats damaged or destroyed.
- Damage to homes and property along the coast
- Nearly 700,000 people affected, directly (170,000) and indirectly, across Somaliland.
- Berbera Town: 900 HH families from surrounding villages (Xudhuunka, Barwaaqo and Daarroole) forced to take shelter in Berbera school buildings.
- PENHA-Seawater Greenhouse Project buildings severely damaged.

Impacts of Cyclone Sagar (continued)



Animals killed in one of the villages in Lughaya district. Sheep and goats are the most affected animals. Picture 2: A valley left after the floodwater has eroded soil. The Cyclone has destroyed approximately 60% of the vegetation.

Drought in Somaliland – “Sima”, The Leveller

- Severe drought hit the region in 2006 and 2011. Another severe drought hit Somaliland in late 2016/early 2017.
- This one was named “The Leveller”, as it reduced the herds of rich and poor to the same minimal sizes.
- Many local people say drought is becoming more frequent and more severe, and rains less reliable.
- Livestock is the main basis for livelihoods and incomes – for both pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.
- 70-80% of the livestock was wiped out by the 2016/17 drought.

Drought in Somaliland – “Sima”, The Leveller



Drought in Somaliland – “Sima”, The Leveller

- In Batalaale and other coastal areas, livestock survived by grazing on prosopis. (Cactus in the mountains.)
- Pastoral movements took place across districts and borders. Farming communities in Awdal hosted pastoralists from as far away as Puntland.
- People shared food and their own resources in an impressive, domestic humanitarian effort.
- Herd recovery in 2018 has been steady. But people are more willing than before to diversify their livelihoods and seek alternatives.

Camels Grazing on Prosopis (Batalaale, 2017)



New Directions – Change, Adaptation & Prosopis Utilization

- PENHA is working with FAO and local cooperatives to mill prosopis pods for use as dry-season feed.
- This invasive species has taken over vast areas of range and farm land – but it can be turned into a valuable resource.
- In a pilot project, PENHA is working with Seawater Greenhouse Ltd (UK) to desalinate seawater for “drought-proof” horticulture along the coast.
- Pastoralism has demonstrated its resilience, by surviving and recovering from drought – but pastoralist communities are adapting to changing conditions.

Conclusion: New Directions – Change, Adaptation & Participation

- Pastoralists can be excellent stewards of the environment - they are the expert natural resource managers - when their common property rights are clearly established and protected.
- NGOs and government have important roles to play - expanding access to information, in enhancing communication and in promoting agricultural innovation.
- But, people's own organizations – local institutions – are also vital players, as resource users and as the makers of rules and norms that govern resource use.
- Participatory agricultural knowledge systems and approaches are needed – working with local people to adapt and deal with environmental and development challenges.

Conclusion

- Research on root causes of conflict ,impact and conflict mitigation.
- the impact of **resource grabbing(land, water and mineral resources)** on pastoral rangelands including wetlands and peri-urban centres and design innovative and community based interventions for its proper management and utilization.
- More studies on the pastoral transformation, self driven adaptation, state sponsored development interventions(i.e. education, health, communication, infrastructure etc.) among the pastoral communities in order to inform policy makers.
- Proper studies on the extent of urbanization among the nomadic pastoralist communities and its future impact on pastoralism and culture.

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