

Evaluation of Existing and Future Challenges of Pastoral Livelihoods in River Basin Management Context: Evidence from Omo Gibe River Basin, Ethiopia (EEFCPLRBMC)

1. Background information and Justification of the research

Pastoralists in the Horn of Africa have become among the most marginalized and disadvantaged of minority groups. This is due to their wide dispersal, climatic and ecological conditions, state neglect, and development plans that have excluded them, seizure of their land, land tenure laws, national borders that restrict their freedom of movement, internal strife and national conflicts (MGI, 1998). Pastoralists in Ethiopia make an immense contribution to the national economy despite living in the most inhospitable and drought-prone parts of the country. Their traditional migratory lifestyle and knowledge of dry land resource management has allowed them to generally withstand drought and to maintain a healthy and biodiversity ecosystem in their communally-managed rangelands (Eyasu and Feyera, 2010). Currently, pastoralists are experiencing a period of intense change, which are driven by climatic shocks or inappropriate policies. These changes bring directly or indirectly to vulnerability increment in their livelihood. Pastoralist livelihoods are also affected by policies and laws on natural resources such as water, forests, wildlife, wetlands and environmental conservation. Water is the major constraints in all pastoral areas. Therefore, the pastoral development strategy of the government should be water-centred (Mussa, 2004).

This demand driven action research is designed to explore the existing and future challenges of pastoral livelihoods in the context of river basin management focusing in access to water. There has been a question of equity in accessing and utilization of water in the pastoral areas. The nexus between the community and investment need resulted a conflict between government and community or investors and community. Therefore, this research is intended to point out the existing and future challenges of water distribution and management for better access by pastoral community without jeopardizing the governments plan for advancing investment in the area. Moreover, the customary management systems were shifting to modern ways of decision making by local authorities in the case of any dispute up on water problems. The participatory approach we employee in the research will bring a mutual learning in which we learn their situation related to water management and propose bottom up solution.

2. Objective of the research

The study will attempt to evaluate the existing and future challenges of pastoral livelihoods in the context of River Basin Management taking case study of Omo Gibe. This is in relation to household water use for domestic, agricultural and livestock production and gender based management of water utilization.

The general objective of the research is to improve vulnerable way of life in pastoral livelihoods pastoral livelihoods through understanding of the existing and future challenges of water access.

Specific objectives of the research

The research has the following specific objectives

- to assess the existing and future challenges of river basin management and its determinants in pastoral areas;
- to assess the socioeconomic impact of River Basins in pastoral agricultural systems,
- to identify the opportunities for water resource development in the area,
- to propose an action plan to solve water management problems in pastoral areas, and;
- to find out the status of women participation in water management at local level,

Please refer below figure one and two about the modification of the general and specific objectives after the DDAR training held in Addis Ababa (18 to 20, August, 2011).

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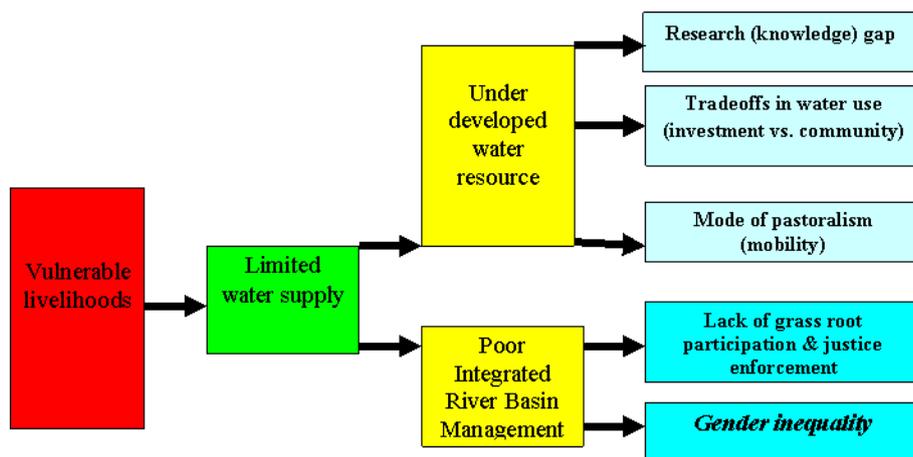


Figure 1 Problem tree developed and commented during the DDAR training

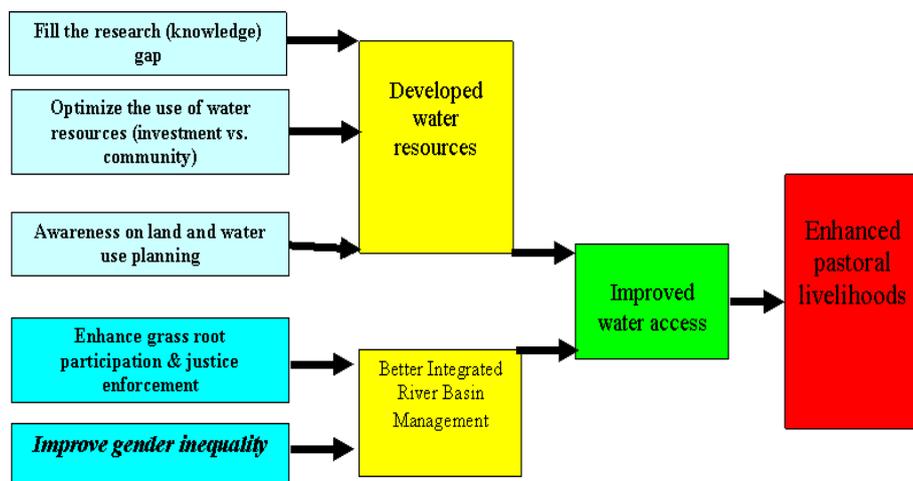


Figure 2 Objective tree developed and commented the during DDAR training

3. Geographical location of the research

This research will be conducted in South Omo pastoral communities. The South Omo zone covers an area of 22,000 square kilometres. It is livestock-dependent area and it is found in the basin of the Omo Gibe. It is regarded as a typical marginalized region, where infrastructure and social services are very poor or non-existent in most areas. The pastoral part of the South Omo zone is one of the most remote and sparsely populated areas in Ethiopia (SNNPRS, 2006).

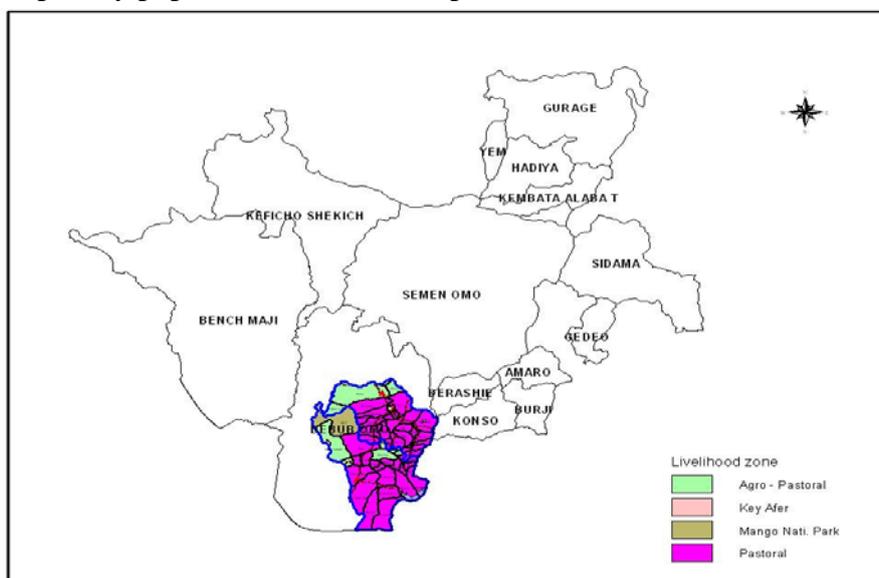


Figure 3: map of the study area

4. Material and methodology of the research work

The purpose of the project is to establish sustainable systems for developing water development projects involving farmers. It is hoped that this will lead to improvement in water use efficiency and livelihoods of resource-poor pastoral households. The major assumption that underlies in this project is that Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Rapid Appraisal of Agricultural Knowledge Systems (RAAKS) and Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) will be employed; see Figure 4. This is a cost-effective way of generating and spreading appropriate solution for pastoral livelihoods in the context of River Basin Management. This research promotes research in which pastoral communities' play a leading roles in identifying the challenges. The study will involve informal and formal surveys at community and household levels.

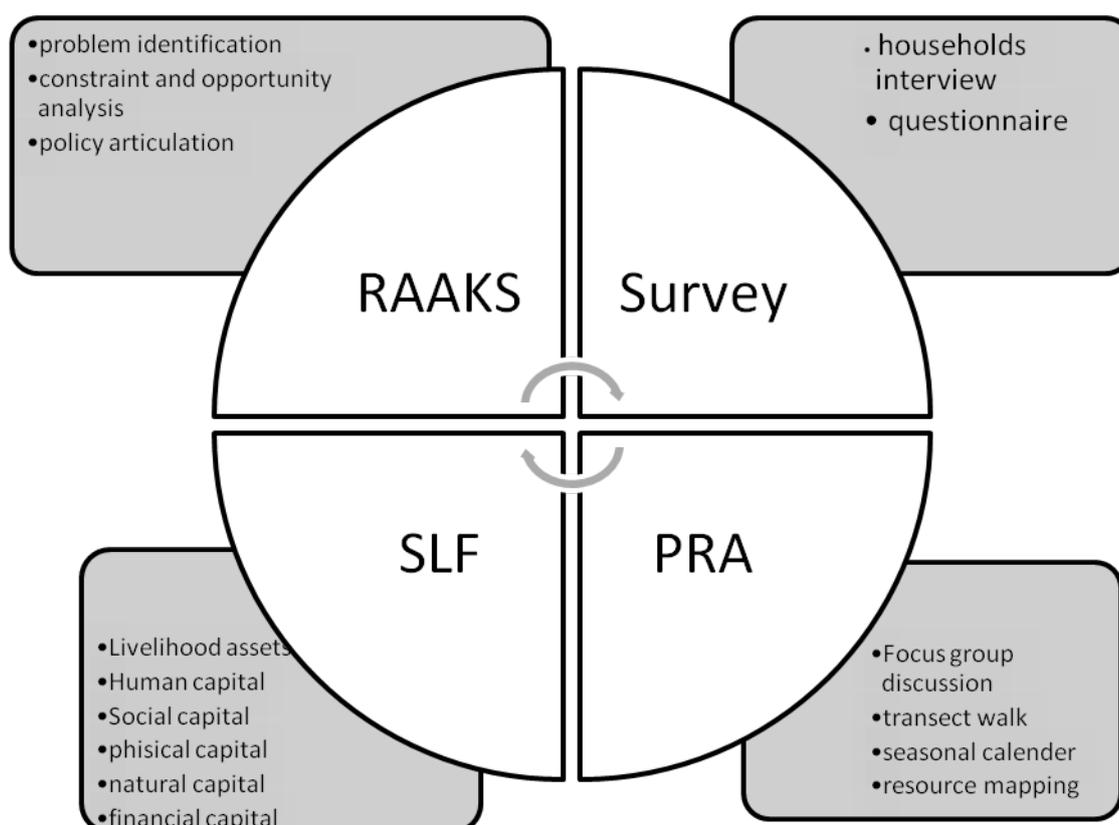


Figure 4: Conceptual framework

5. Relevance of the project and its stakeholders

Identified knowledge gaps, from previous research project, on pastoral livelihoods of the study area are needed to look for an opportunity for practitioners (pastoralists and outsiders) to combine multiple sources of knowledge generated from different learning experiences of years in water development and River Basin Management. Therefore, the outcome of this research will be used by those governmental and nongovernmental organizations involved in improving pastoral livelihoods. Specifically, Irrigation Development and Scheme Administration Agency, Pastoral Affairs Office and Pastoral Community Development Program (PCDP) will benefit from the research by incorporating the findings in any development program. Regional Irrigation Development and Scheme administration bureau will examine the effects of Irrigation Schemes on pastoral livelihoods and gain a lesson on River Basin Management from different stakeholders' perspectives.

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6. Project period

This research work is expected to take one year with the following time and activity framework.

Activities	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012
Logistic preparation and 1 st stakeholders meeting	✓	✓									
Data collection		✓	✓	✓							
Data compilation and processing		✓	✓	✓	✓						
Data analysis and conclusion				✓	✓	✓	✓				
Results and conclusions							✓	✓	✓	✓	
Communication with stakeholders and 2 nd stakeholders meeting				✓	✓					✓	✓
Workshop /seminars together with stakeholder meeting		✓	✓							✓	✓

7. Research team members

The research team is composed of multidisciplinary profession and two stakeholders from South region.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dr. Nejib Mohammed</u> a veterinarian and working with assistant professor post at College of Agricultural in the Department of Animal Science. • <u>Mr. Ermias Alemu (PhD candidate)</u> is currently a PhD in Water Management Department of AgroParisTech-University Montpellier II, Montpellier, France. • <u>Mr. Adugna Enyew</u> has M.Sc. in Rural Development and agricultural extension from Haromaya University and staff of RDAE department; • <u>Mr. Abebe Demissie</u> is lecturer in Arba Minch University Department of water Resources and Irrigation Engineering. • <u>Mrs Shewadinber Mekonin</u> is currently M.Sc. student in Addis Ababa University in the field of Environment and development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mr. Tadele Muguro</u> is a director of Irrigation Scheme Development and Scheme Administration of Southern Nation Nationalities People Regional state; • <u>Mr. Shewangizaw Shibire</u> has MSc in Agronomy, BSc in Plant Science and Diploma in Plant Production and Dry Land Farming System. He is working in Irrigation Development and Scheme Administration Agency of Southern Nation Nationalities People Regional state; • <u>Mr. Dawit Bekele</u> has BSc degree in Water Resources and Irrigation Engineering. He is working as Water Supply and Irrigation Infrastructure building expert in Pastoral Affairs office, SNNPRS. • <u>Mr. Yeshitila Seifu</u> is currently a Pastoral Community Development Program Coordinator in SNNPRS
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