

Pastoralists' strategies for adapting to climate change

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In 2017, like in years before it, a massive drought hit Kenya





Meanwhile, on the Ugandan side...

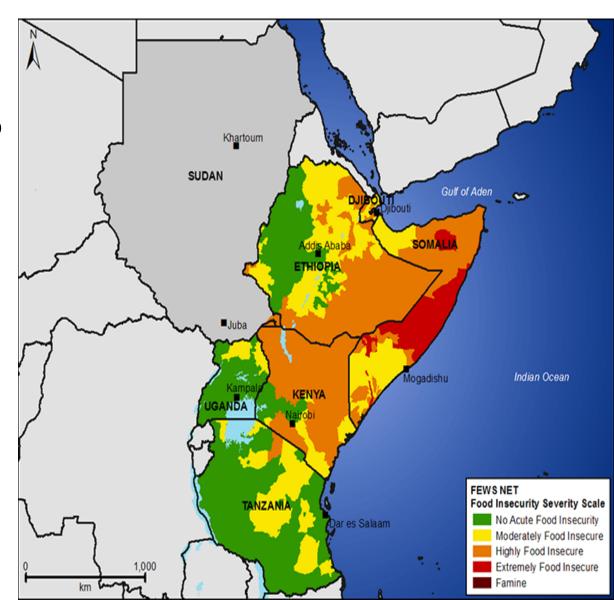
"Pastoralism is mobility, mobility is pastoralism" (Borana Proverb)





The East African food security crisis:

- Politics & policy?
- Climate Change?
- Science?
- Or pastoralism





Some key strategies to adapt to CC:

- Herd diversification
- Maintenance of female-dominated herds
- Herd size building up herds in between droughts to avoid total wipe-out
- Herd splitting
- Livestock feed supplementation common during drought

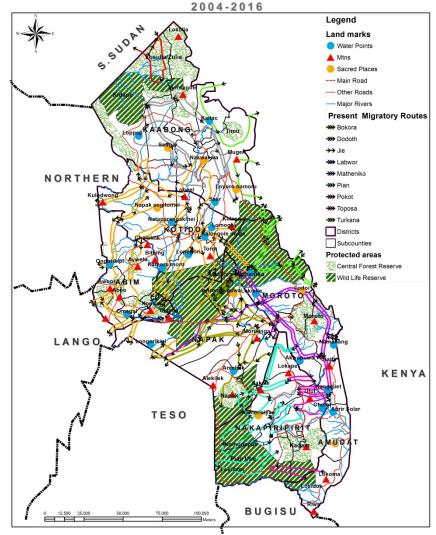


Some strategies

- Management of diseases e.g. through controlled burning
- Sharing, loaning and giving livestock as gifts
- Changing to goats and camels as they are more adaptable to extreme conditions
- Strategic exposure to feeds water & salt (water for thirst, salt to retain water in the body)

Karamoja – some patterns in land USE

1950-2004 5.5UDAN Legend Land marks Water Points Mountains Sacred Places Past Migratory Routes Groups >>> Bokora > > Dodoth > > Jie >>> Labwor > > Matheniko →→→ Pian NORTHERN >>> Pokot >>> Toposa >>> Turkana -- Main Road Other Roads Subcounties Districts Protected areas Central Forest Reserve Wild Life Reserve RO LANGO KENYA TESO BUGISU 54,000 13,500 27,000 81.000 108,000 Meters



KDF & partners, 2017



SDGs & livestock

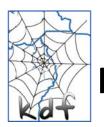




The problem in a nutshell

- Tenure security problems in all pastoralist communities
- Unfavorable government policies sedentism in all of eastern Africa
- Poor investment in pastoralist production infrastructure by governments
- Dominant discourse continues to portray pastoralism as economically inefficient, ecologically destructive and socially backwards in public discourse

this should change!



--What do we need to do to increase research to better understand the economic and environmental contribution of pastoralists?--

