

Improving Access to and Use Of Seasonal Forecasts for Food Security in Africa: Lessons from CCAA PAR Projects

CCAA Learning Forum

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Enhancing Adaptation to Climate Change Among Pastoralists in Northern Kenya

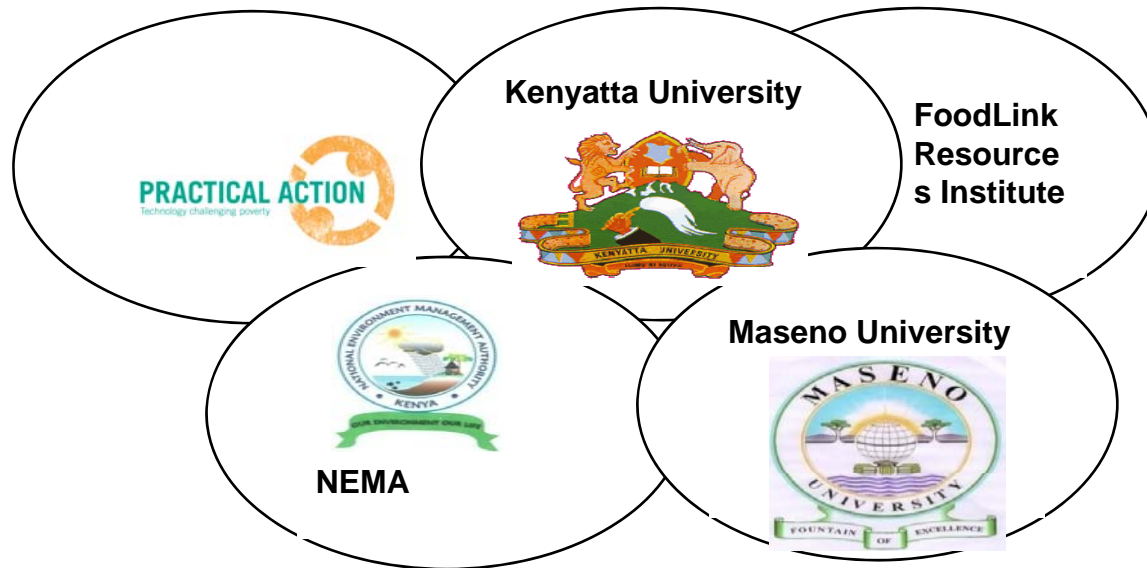
Ayub Macharia – NEMA

&

Eric Kisiangani – Practical Action

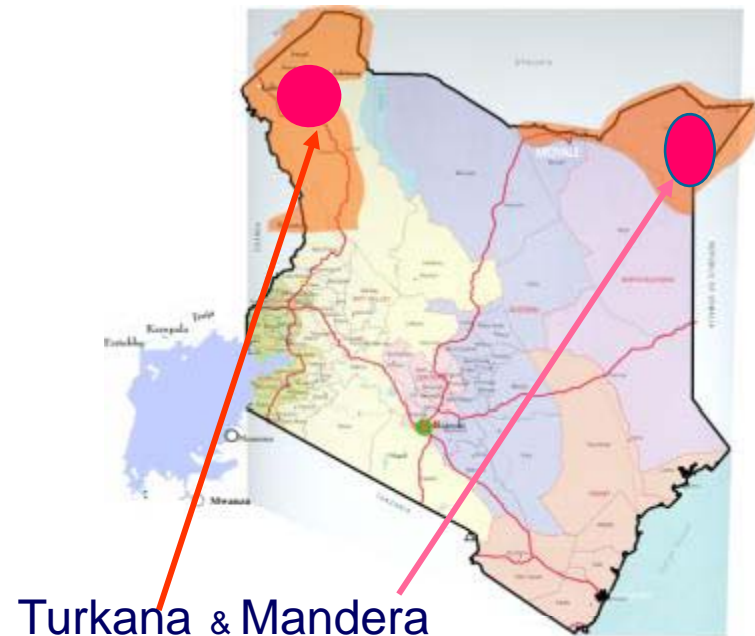
Implementing Partners

5 Partners



Case Study Sites

- Livestock a key source of livelihood
- Frequent and severe drought and Flush floods
- Different cultures and ethnic groups



Two-year project - 2008/09

Purpose: To inform climate change adaptation among pastoralist communities in the arid and semi-arid lands of Northern Kenya.

Objectives

1. Identify structural issues characterizing low development and ecological factors contributing to vulnerability of pastoralist communities to climate change in Turkana and Mandera districts.
2. Identify and evaluate gender dimensions of vulnerability to climate change among the social groups in Turkana and Mandera communities.
3. Undertake participatory identification of traditional and emerging climate change adaptation options and strategies at household and community levels and test them against future scenarios.
4. Identify factors constraining pastoralists' access to and use of climate change adaptation options and strategies in pastoral ecosystems of Turkana and Mandera districts.
5. To identify and analyse the institutional barriers to and opportunities for incorporating climate change adaptation measures into national development policies.



Stakeholders

Government Officers

Civil Society Organisations



Communication enhanced through visits to government officers and CSOs and regular debriefing

Stakeholders contd

Community members

Nomadic herders



Participatory Action Research (PAR) in action

Stakeholders contd

Women only

Men only



Gender issues well articulated in homogenous groups

Methodology Used

- Questionnaire interviews (involving 922 hhs in Turkana and 423 hhs in Mandera)
- Workshops
- Focus Group Discussions and reconstructions of life histories of communities
- Literature review
- Observation
- Downscaling of regional climate models



Do communities appreciate forecasting?



- Have incurred livestock losses due to
 - Droughts
 - Livestock swept by sudden flashfloods in river valleys
 - Diseases
- Loss of critical dry season grazing areas and wild food sources

Key Relevant Results

- A large population (65%) hardly accessed information from formal channels.
 - ✦ Remoteness/isolation
 - ✦ High illiteracy levels (80%) in Turkana.
 - ✦ Insecurity and conflicts cited by 46% of the respondents
 - ✦ Inadequate extension officers



Key Results Cont...

- Many people depend on indigenous knowledge from diviners (emorons in Turkana) for early warning.
- Indigenous knowledge recognized by the policy implementers but there was no evidence of efforts to enhance its relevance and use
- According to government officers, “IK is not scientific and hence not reliable”
- Government officers appreciated that Metrological forecasts do not reach the grassroots

Forecast communication channels

■ Include

- Radio - widely accessible in Mandera as BBC or Somali Radio
- word of mouth especially for advice coming from elders and chief's meetings (*barazas*). Chief complained of not being adequately equipped
- Religious gatherings e.g. Mosques

Challenges

- Possibility of wrong interpretation of Meteorological information
- Meteorologists do not tell communities what to do
- More focus on radio on daily forecast and little on seasonal and long term forecasts
- Weak linkage between MET Dept and other extension officers
- Micro forecasting lacking

Thank you

