

Merti

KEY FINDINGS

FORWARD PLANNING

Participants engaged in pastoralism emphasised that information on cross-border rainfall was vital to their planning process as it helps them manage negotiations in advance before people and livestock are already “on their doorstep”.

HYBRID NRM INSTITUTIONS

The Merti Rangelands Users Association (RUA) represents the most functional natural resource management (NRM) institution in the County. If supported by County Government, it could serve as a model for NRM support under the Climate Adaptation Fund (CAF).

FEMALE VOICES

The importance of domestic water supply, health services and other key factors (prioritised by women) in mediating the effects of climate hazards on children, suggests the need for robust female representation on CAF committees.

TAILORED INFORMATION

Participants engaged in agriculture requested that KMD provide them with a forecast for the Aberdares Mountains during June, July and August. It is vital for farmers to know how long the Ewaso Nyiro River will keep flowing in order that they can select appropriate crops to plant.

Conducted 7th-12th March 2012

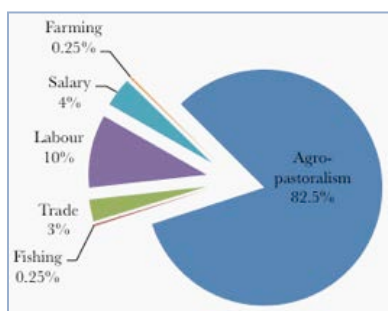
Resilience Assessment Summary

Delegations from different parts of Isiolo County (Merti, Yamicha, Malkagala, Korbasa, Gafarsa and Sericho) travelled to take part in the first day of the Resilience Assessment (RA) in order to receive the long rains seasonal forecast from the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD). The previous seasonal forecast had proved accurate, and advance warning of flooding was believed to have saved livestock.

“You must keep coming and communicating directly with us. This is not idle talk- these are things that affect real life”

Participants sought clarification on concepts (e.g. ‘average rainfall’) and terminology and KMD resolved to modify provision of information based on their feedback. Prioritised content for the community radio included: accessible climate information, livestock market prices, disease outbreaks, security reports, announcing meetings, cultural content, and job opportunities.

Proportion of Livelihood Types in Merti Ward



Key factors undermining the adaptive capacity of the community included: open access dams in drought grazing reserves; lack of enforceability of local NRM regulations; underutilised grazing zones due to lack of water points, weak quarantine regulations; inadequate veterinary services and poor availability of drugs and trained dispensary staff.

Differentiated Resilience

Marginalised Groups

As well as prioritising many of the same challenges and actions as men, women placed a greater importance on domestic water. Women cited time spent fetching water, firewood and pasture during drought as detracting from their ability to diversify income sources and tend to the small/young/weak stock left at the household. Rehabilitation of water pipes, training on pasture storage, small enterprise loans and training for women's groups were considered the best forms of support in addition to improving NRM.

The youth also supported the focus on NRM institutions but emphasised that their longer-term resilience depended on employment opportunities and access to further education and group enterprise loans. Both women's and youth groups had successfully submitted proposals and received funding from government agencies and donors which suggests ‘marginalised groups’ do not lack the capacity required to engage with the CAF model.

Participants highlighted the transition from cattle to camel keeping as a local innovation among richer families which requires support if benefits are also to be realised by poorer families. The transition is hindered by lack of knowledge on camel diseases and husbandry. As ‘browse type’ plants are predicted to become more prevalent under heightened atmospheric CO₂ levels, a transition to camel-keeping may well be an effective long-term strategy, particularly because of the increasing need for livestock mobility as rainfall distribution becomes more variable.