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About Joto Afrika

Joto Afrika is a series of printed briefings and online resources about adapting to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. The series help people understand the issues, constraints and opportunities that poor people face in adapting to climate change and escaping poverty.



Community Based Adaptation to climate change strengthens pastoralists' resilience

Editorial

Adaptation is a key feature of productive systems in rangelands given the climatic uncertainties they experience. With climate change adding an additional challenge to livelihoods in arid lands, innovations and economic changes are introducing effective new adaptation elements that should be promoted alongside traditional approaches.

Climatic stresses are well known by pastoralists due to the dynamics of the ecosystems they profit from. Their livelihoods have historically included powerful adaptation tools for centuries or even millennia, such as livestock mobility, communal land tenure, rangeland monitoring, extensive information networks and adapted breeds. In all of the mentioned tools, the household scale has remained too small to be successful in systems where the magnitude of stresses operates at a large geographical scale.

Unfortunately, investments and regulations in pastoralist areas have often been designed and imposed from centres of power based in higher potential areas or even in other countries— and with little understanding of the dynamics of marginal lands. The disruption of traditional adaptation mechanisms that has followed has stigmatized pastoralists as chronically food insecure and created a vicious circle, further imposing inappropriate measures that climate change and increasing population growth and burden on natural resources are likely to exacerbate.

There is increasing recognition of the value of traditional adaptation measures and the role of communities in them (some compiled in *Joto Afrika* issue 7: <http://bit.ly/1oznAyY>), and new technological and market improvements are providing great opportunities to increase the resilience of pastoralist populations.

The incorporation of customary law into formal legislation and bylaws allows for a more effective and secure regulation of the communal resources under the modern context where the role of the central state

is much stronger, therefore protecting the traditional system against external attempts to undermine it. We can see some examples of it in this issue, on pages 2, 5 and 6.

The reduction of isolation provided by increasing infrastructure allows not only for sources of complementary income, but also for increasing the added value of pastoralist products and for accessing products originating far from the communities when needed. Recognizing the role of women and incorporating their tasks and products in the monetary economy is a key step. Increasing the available income and the alternative activities is of paramount importance in socio-ecological systems that are very stressed by population growth. We can see some examples of it in this issue, on pages 3, 4 and 8.

Innovations in terms of monitoring systems and ways to transmit this information and weather information to communities on the ground (as described in *JotoAfrika* issue 12: <http://bit.ly/1nAhvm0>) can greatly improve the ability to react to upcoming stresses. We can see some examples of this on pages 3, 4 and 8.

Increased deployment of financial services in remote areas facilitated by mobile phone technology is enabling credit and savings to reach pastoralists, thus allowing them to have more control on the marketing process and coping with crises in ways that reduce livestock loss as well as the burden on natural resources. Other services such as veterinary or health care can also be more efficiently delivered thanks to new technologies. It is often forgotten that pastoralists are usually rich in assets but poor in service provision, leaving them vulnerable and with poor living standards. A better service delivery can contribute to greater adaptive capacity and resilience as shown in the articles on pages 4 and 8.

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Analyzing climate vulnerabilities and capacities with pastoralists in Kenya and Niger

Market gardening as an adaptation strategy, Azagor, Dakoro, Niger ©Awaiss Yahaya, 2012.

Pastoral communities in Garissa, northern Kenya and Dakoro in Niger are accustomed to dealing with harsh climates with erratic rainfall and frequent droughts. They have traditionally utilized knowledge, systems and practices that minimized the impact of climate-related shocks to their livelihoods. More frequent extreme events such as strong winds, droughts and floods combined with increased climate uncertainty are undermining resilience and overwhelming their ability to recover, adapt and develop.

Wealth in Garissa and Dakoro is largely determined by the number of livestock owned, wealthier households being assumed to be more resilient. However as livestock is highly climate-sensitive, exclusive reliance on it for income and food is becoming risky. Pastoralists are experiencing livestock loss and reduced productivity through degradation of pasture, lack of water and increased incidence of disease, unsustainable exploitation of and competition over land, water and other natural assets, unemployment, high food prices and undernourishment of children. These issues are further exacerbated by population growth, poorly planned development as well as impacts of drought. Traditional systems of resource management and livelihoods have been sidelined by external actors' view of development and policies that do not value the pastoral way of life. Low education levels and resultant illiteracy pose significant barriers to development especially for the most vulnerable women. All these issues have affected the available asset base for adaptation and created complexity in decision-making.

Traditional pastoralist perceptions on wealth, destocking and restocking, degrees of mobility and resilience all need to be reassessed in the light of expected climate change. Some households have transitioned into an agro-pastoral way of life, combining traditional livestock rearing with irrigated crop production and other economic activities. While this shift represents an innovation for communities

in Garissa, it has also exposed them to new and evolving risks requiring learning in new areas, such as markets and financial services. In Dakoro, some households have not fully recovered their livestock since the severe drought in 1984, resulting in more sedentary communities dependent on drought tolerant crops such as millet and cowpeas, which are also vulnerable to erratic rains, wind and storms.

Differential vulnerability exists within communities; women particularly face restricted access to information, resources, services and decision-making power. The cumulative effects of more frequent shocks with insufficient 'recovery time' to re-accumulate assets, and weak governance and safety nets are resulting in chronic food insecurity, malnutrition and constraints on the resources available to people to build their resilience and adapt to climate change over time.

Capacities

Despite these challenges, within the bounds of their knowledge and skills, households do have differentiated roles to address adverse circumstances and provide a buffer during crises. Decisions on livestock offtake, migration to seek pasture or employment, developing new income generating options which have less climate sensitivity, storage of food and fodder, investing in veterinary care to sustain their livestock are all helpful. Longer term actions to protect environmental resources such as naturally assisted regeneration of trees and to manage water and grazing resources through mobility and planned water points, all support resilience. Diversifying herd composition and crop production, or seeking complementary income generating activities, are emerging options for risk and asset spreading among communities who have access to a range of options and are able to make informed choices. But if climate impacts are too extreme, these options may quickly become ineffective.

In Niger the national Rural Code also protects pastoralist livelihoods through designated livestock corridors and rules on cropping and livestock spaces. But in both Niger and Kenya these institutional support systems are being eroded by loss of assets, competition for resources and in Kenya, political pressure to reduce mobility.

Recommendations

- Support safeguards through pastoralist traditional institutions, social safety nets and community-based organizations (CBOs) e.g. focusing on savings and loans or productive

activities and collective efforts for inclusion of the most vulnerable.

- Support strengthened and more informed and forward looking decision making, systems and institutions, taking into account impact on resources and climate risk.
- Revitalize and align traditional rangeland management systems with formal governance systems and institutions.
- Strengthen use of local knowledge whilst facilitating access to new information, skills and knowledge such as climate information, mobile phones, radios.

Such efforts can lead towards integration of adaptation, systems for early warning and emergency response, social protection and support for sustainable livelihoods, informed by climate information.

Adapted from Kenya and Niger CVCA reports, Angie Dazie, 2013 and 2014.

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Join the JotoAfrika debate online



Joto Afrika Eldis Community Group:

<http://bit.ly/bM3ESo>

Joto Afrika Facebook Group:

<http://bit.ly/aMNLth>

Useful link

Report on climate change vulnerability and adaptive capacity in Garissa County, Kenya
<http://bit.ly/1phN7fw>



Honey producers group at the Nanighi farmer field day, Garissa, Kenya © Nicola Ward, 2013

Gender and adaptation: from concepts to practice in Northern Kenya drylands

Climate change impacts are challenging norms and shifting the traditional barriers to change in gender relations, which open opportunities for linking adaptation with improved gender equality. There is a growing recognition of the need for a gender-conscious response informed by the differences in needs, responsibilities and unique contributions of both women and men.

Among the nomadic pastoralists in a traditional Somali household in North Eastern Kenya, roles of women and men are clearly spelled out with limitations in interactions between them. Men own and take care of animals, while women look after the children and the household. Women have access to the animals and can milk them for domestic consumption and for sale in petty trade. Whenever in public women need to be accompanied by men and are not allowed to address men's groups or public gatherings.

Changing roles

Following changing climatic conditions, with ongoing loss of herds and natural resources and changing aspirations among other issues, the Somali community is slowly transitioning into more sedentary lifestyles, especially around water points, and either completely dropping out of pastoralism, or combining some mobile herding with other livelihood strategies such as crop farming, petty trade and casual labour. These changing lifestyles and the challenges in accessing sufficient resources to sustain the family are changing the way men and women interact.

Instead of the traditionally separate and clearly defined roles, men and women are increasingly able to interact openly and recognise the value of each other's contribution to the family. Women have had to find ways to contribute more to the household income by diversifying and engaging in activities less exposed to climate impacts.

With improved access to information and resources, a number of women in Garissa's rural communities are improving their small businesses by using seasonal climate information to determine what stock to keep in their shops and kiosks, anticipating needs through the season and using capital generated from group savings and loans. The men, in turn, are respecting women's business skills and men and women are interacting to plan for planting seasons and

farm produce sales together, making sure their skills complement each other during the farming seasons to better manage climate and disaster risks.

Key lessons learnt

- Interaction between changing adaptive capacity and changing relations between and among men and women is a critical factor, given the large differences in rights, voice, access and control over assets for different social groups.
- A deep understanding of gender dynamics is essential to avoid risks of creating more inequality or conflict between genders. Understanding what is driving change in relations and how it impacts on equality, and discussing these issues with community members, is equally important for ensuring that adaptation – and other programmes – respond sensitively to differences and avoid assumptions.
- Learning how men and women influence each other's decisions 'behind closed doors' in the household and the dynamics and factors involved, rather than assuming that men make decisions alone is essential. This includes how women use their role as household managers and income earners to raise bigger issues such as girls' education, women's rights to capacity building, having a direct voice or 'through' the men (husbands, brothers, uncles and sons).
- Communication of gender issues is better received if 'differences' between men and women are discussed as opposed to comparative words like better, worse, more or less.
- Support for 'hardware', such as improved crop varieties or training in savings and loans and business skills, has provided a diversity of new opportunities for men and women and helps to buffer against risks. Women have gained confidence, self-esteem and power of unity through activities directed specifically towards their own independent livelihood actions.
- Facilitating not only activities that support women and men separately, but also those that encourage them to work better together and appreciate their complementary nature is key. For example, men support women in activities which will bring benefits to the household. So women in Garissa are working more closely with men and through this they can gain access to needed climate information and participate in women's groups.

It is this investment in discussions on gender relations, taking time to strengthen the capacity of men and women to analyse their own situation including the risks they face and their criteria for resilience, as well as access to information and collective planning processes, that has resulted in successful outcomes which are likely to be long lasting.

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Useful links

Women get a say in Kenya's climate change decision making:
<http://bit.ly/1v8cwKy>

How Kenya can turn its gender and climate change commitments into reality:
<http://bit.ly/1lr7Bnd>

Gender and CBA communique:
<http://bit.ly/VpO111>

ALP gender brief:
<http://bit.ly/szooS6>

WISP-IUCN page on gender and pastoralism:
<http://bit.ly/1lr7GHZ>

IFAD publications on gender and livestock/pastoralism
<http://bit.ly/1plyVqu>
<http://bit.ly/1mumIMJ>

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CBA enhances pastoral livelihoods in Kenya and Niger

Cowpea harvests in the household store, Dakoro, Niger © NEF Consulting, 2013.

Social cost benefit analysis studies using a forecastive and evaluative approach to analyse data gathered from pastoralist and agro pastoralist communities in Garissa, Kenya in 2011 and in Dakoro, Niger in 2013, show that investing in community based adaptation (CBA) generates positive social, environmental and economic benefits and makes strong economic sense.

Both studies compared systematic and planned adaptation with a scenario of business as usual - which assumed unplanned and spontaneous adaptation - across the full range of available climate projections and using several discount rates. Returns to communities where found to be between \$1.45 and \$3.03 per \$ invested in Kenya and more than \$4 in Niger.

The data clearly shows that investing in adaptive capacity reduces the overall costs of adaptation over time, while benefits continue to accrue into the future. Even if only purely economic benefits are assessed, data from Niger shows that there is still a positive return on investment of between \$1.09 and \$2.06. These benefits are even more significant under worse climate scenarios but even without negative climate impacts; CBA supports development outcomes and reinforces the argument of no regrets adaptation.

A range of benefits

In Kenya, the most profitable livelihood scenarios involved enhanced mobile livestock herding with attention to water management and additional economic activities including drought tolerant crop production. In Niger, communities implementing CBA plans have experienced on average a 40% increase in agricultural returns since the start of the programme. Crop returns have increased due to strategic choices of varieties, informed planting dates, and storage systems which have reduced debt – all adding economic value to what is produced. While livestock headcount is decreasing, improved health of the herd, with more money spent on vaccines and food supplements has increased the percentage of healthy livestock and therefore their monetary value.

Traditionally held attitudes and practices are changing, so decision making is becoming more flexible, forward looking and inclusive, particularly of women's voices. Health and education indicators have also improved. Adaptation is broadening a range of possible options supported through flexible planning systems with multiple stakeholders. Multi-dimensional processes support improved institutions, social structures and collective knowledge and skills in communities.

Wider ecological characteristics and impacts across landscapes and different land users must be considered when planning adaptation. CBA in Niger has led to reducing deforestation and land degradation, with increased attention to land use agreements and value of trees - both economic and their ability to regulate temperature and soil moisture and to protect against climate hazards such as strong winds and dust storms.

Resilience through CBA

Adaptive capacity includes knowledge, skills and confidence to manage, adapt and use resources, and enables communities to avoid depleting their economic capital to finance their responses to shocks and stresses and become more resilient overall. For example, communities in Niger believed they could recover lost income and assets after a drought in half the time than they could before they implemented CBA. They perceived that their adaptive capacity had more than doubled in three years with clarity on both the likely future climate scenarios and the ways in which they could be more resilient to their impacts. This is in contrast to the Kenyan communities in 2011, who expressed a sense of confusion, uncertainty and helplessness about the future before they had started applying CBA approaches.

Recommendations

- 'Soft' skills which build adaptive capacity are critical for continued adaptation over time – that is; analysis of risks, differential vulnerabilities and capacities; decision making; access to climate information services; innovation, as well as good development practice enabling greater access and control over assets and strengthening institutions and rights.
- Adaptive capacity must be linked

to hard interventions or adaptation strategies - such as agriculture or water use management technologies, financial services, early warning systems and enabling infrastructure, with strategic choices relevant for the local context.

- The combination of productive livelihood choices with risk reduction and management actions, and integrated across sectors, provides for good returns and climate resilience.
- Co-production of adaptation plans and strategy choices with community and local government actors allows for flexibility to work with and manage uncertainty. Flexibility, dynamic planning at a relevant level and coordination can magnify the benefits of CBA into the future.

The studies show that CBA should be a priority for multiple-scale development and DRR investment, as part of holistic programming, whilst also building longer term adaptive capacity. Planners may find the methodology a valuable tool for costing planned adaptation actions and assessing potential returns.

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*The studies were conducted by **nef consulting**, the social enterprise of UK think tank **New Economics Foundation (NEF)** on behalf of **CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme**.*

Useful links

Policy brief: why CBA makes economic sense in Kenya
<http://bit.ly/1pDqXXh>

The economic case for CBA in North East Kenya - full report and annexes
<http://bit.ly/1iyVB3s>

An economic evaluation of CBA in Dakoro, Niger - full report
<http://bit.ly/1yEvqNP>

Simplified guidelines for Social Cost-Benefit Analysis
<http://bit.ly/UzJiJi>
<http://bit.ly/1pDsvk4>



Policy-makers learn from pastoralists and dryland farmers in Kenya

Chief from Nanighi village, Garissa explains how his community are adapting to climate change © Tim Njiru/CVS, 2013.

Climate change demands a different approach in addressing the problems it poses, engaging the resources of multiple stakeholders to discuss and agree on suitable responses, rather than predetermining solutions.

In response to this, in 2013 a policy maker visit was hosted in Northern Kenya by Procasur together with CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme and the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Programme (CCAFS). This 'Learning Route' brought together 18 national decision makers and researchers from across East Africa, to interact with pastoralists, farmers, local institutions and their communities. Through a week-long in-the-field training, interacting with and learning from pastoralist communities in Isiolo, Garissa and Makueni counties, the policy makers learnt first-hand about their challenges and how they are adapting using innovative, more sustainable and long-term approaches.

Mixing old with the new

In Isiolo, the route visited Kinna, an area inhabited mainly by the Borana community, who are traditionally nomadic pastoralists. The local community has strengthened indigenous governance systems and integrated traditional rules into County government by-laws to enhance community based natural resource management. Daoud Tari, Resource Advocacy Programme (RAP) Coordinator explained the value of this approach:

"We have relied on our traditions and customs to manage our natural resources and this has always worked for us [...] It is essential that policy makers at local, national and international levels acknowledge the roles played by traditional resource management systems in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and incorporate these into their plans".

In Wote, Makueni, a dryland farming community from the CCAFS climate smart village joined with the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) to raise awareness on the nutrition and economic value of traditional high value crops which are better adapted to dryland environments. Emphasis was on strengthening linkages between researchers and communities to ensure that research on animal and crop varieties in the drylands is demand driven and informed by communities.

Led by the Garissa Climate Change Working Group (GCCWG), agro-pastoralist communities and local government from Garissa demonstrated the impact of Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) workshops through a play about how traditional and scientific weather forecasters come together with community members, NGOs and local government to interpret the seasonal forecast and develop scenarios and advisories for each sector and livelihood group.

Putting learning into practice

Throughout the Learning Route, participants developed innovation plans for their own individual activities and their organizations, which reinforced practical application of the learning acquired. The participants reflected in their plans that:

- Provision of the right information at the right time to the right people is vital.
- Combining indigenous knowledge with scientific knowledge enhances ability to adapt.
- Livelihood diversification is an important adaptation strategy, but not the only one.
- Addressing underlying causes of vulnerability is paramount to enabling effective adaptation.

Reflecting on the impact of the learning route Dr. Charles Kajura, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hoima, Uganda explained:

"The learning route methodology is different from the policymaker field trips that I'm used to. Here, the communities don't just share a list of problems and demands on finances - they showcase community led strategies and systems that are innovative and work in the face of climate change, and are working well. They have reminded us to improve our services to communities, especially in terms of playing a facilitator role and ensuring an enabling environment (including policies, markets and investment), as opposed to top down approaches that don't build on the communities' knowledge and capacities".

Wangari Kirumba, a Senior Planning Officer from the National Environment Management Authority, (NEMA), Kenya added:

"People in ASALs are usually portrayed as weak and needy. There is nothing weak about these communities. It's clear that with an enabling environment, and better targeted investment, they are able

to analyse their problems and identify sustainable solutions that are specific to their contexts. The communities need to lead these [adaptation] processes and ensure sustainability."

The Learning Route has since influenced policy responses in Kenya to be more sensitive to pastoralist realities. For example, participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and NEMA are better able to decide on priority areas for integrating Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan into agricultural plans and good adaptation practices to include in Kenya's submission to the Adaptation Fund.

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Useful links

Learning Route
<http://bit.ly/1qKiT95>

Learning Route Video
<http://bit.ly/1gzrcik>

Useful links

CBA brief
<http://bit.ly/1jXwxBc>

REGLAP/DLCI journal
<http://bit.ly/1ftCAF>

IUCN report On Climate Change Adaptation in Africa
Main study: <http://bit.ly/1muoFcc>
Briefing note: <http://bit.ly/1nJFWEt>

WISP report on the e-conference on Climate Change, Adaption and Pastoralism
<http://bit.ly/1qd76QH>

IIED research on pastoral livelihoods and climate change adaptation in Niger
<http://bit.ly/1ilvCXw>



Advocating ecosystem protection to support adaptation in Niger

Animals in a green time of year in Azagor and Kouggou, Dakoro
© Marie Monimart September 2012.

The traditional natural resource governance system of the Tarka Valley in Niger has been deteriorating during the last decades resulting in conflict and hardship. Facilitated by local CSOs, the local community are now participating in decision making, increasing ownership and restoring sustainable practices, with positive outcomes in their adaptive capacity.

The Tarka Valley runs from east to west of the department of Dakoro, in the central part of Niger. It is an important ecosystem for communities living in and around it due to the presence of fertile soils, vegetation that provides fodder for animals, fuel wood and timber, and a shallow water table which enables easier access to water. The different ethnic groups living in the Tarka Valley depend on crop farming, agro-pastoralism and mobile pastoralism. The valley also serves as a boundary between the designated agro-pastoral zone to the south and the pastoral zone to the north of Niger.

Interaction between pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the Tarka Valley has been guided over the years by an unwritten social agreement on the management of natural resources, which also provided for complementarity between crop and livestock activities. Law 61-5 passed on 26th May 1961 and the Rural Code, which has been a national regulation since 1993, both set the northern limit for agricultural land.

But since the late 1970s a combination of climate change and demographic pressure has broken down these agreements and natural resources in the valley, which are critical to many thousands of households, are under threat. There is increased

competition for grazing land and degradation of pasture, uncontrolled wood harvesting, and negative water and soil conservation and management practices. These factors drive conflicts over resources between crop farmers and pastoralists, and damage Tarka Valley's potential both as a buffer area and as a source of livelihood resources. This has serious implications on the quality and availability of water and pasture and for the overall health of the ecosystem.

Good governance of natural resources in the Tarka Valley is therefore essential for the resilience of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities who live in the valley as well as for mobile pastoralists who migrate through it.

In recognition of this, the Association for the Revitalisation of Livestock Keeping in Niger (AREN) is leading a network of local CSOs in advocating for the conservation of the Tarka Valley with the support of the Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP). AREN is setting up consultative meetings for local actors to dialogue on issues affecting livelihoods in the Tarka Valley. Numerous multi-stakeholder meetings were held in 2013 to plan the process that will lead to conservation of the valley, starting with an assessment of its resources. The meetings aimed at gaining commitment by key actors, including local NGOs and CSOs, the regional and departmental branches of the permanent secretariat for the Rural Code, local administrative and traditional authorities, decentralized technical services, local communities and other development projects working in the Tarka valley.

There is need for a land use management plan that supports rationalised resource use by the different livelihood groups, aiming towards greater resilience for all who depend

on the Tarka Valley. To ensure the process is supported politically and technically, terms of reference for a baseline assessment that will inform the land use management plan have been submitted to the National Committee for Niger's Rural Code and at regional level in Maradi.

In this way, ALP Niger and AREN are hoping to ensure pastoralists' rights over access to natural resources are taken into account locally when developing the land use management plan for the Tarka Valley. At the national level, AREN organised a high level meeting with the Minister for Livestock, the Secretary General of the government of Niger and administrative and traditional authorities from regional and departmental levels to discuss the concerns of pastoralists. This led to clear demands for finance from the state and other funding partners for improvement of the conditions for pastoralism.

The advocacy strategy is building agreement between all actors to ensure the rational and sustainable management of resources in the Tarka Valley. Development of the land use management plan through inclusion of all local actors and its support by public authorities and the law will put an end to actors operating outside of any regulatory framework and provide for local and multi-actor voices in future decisions.

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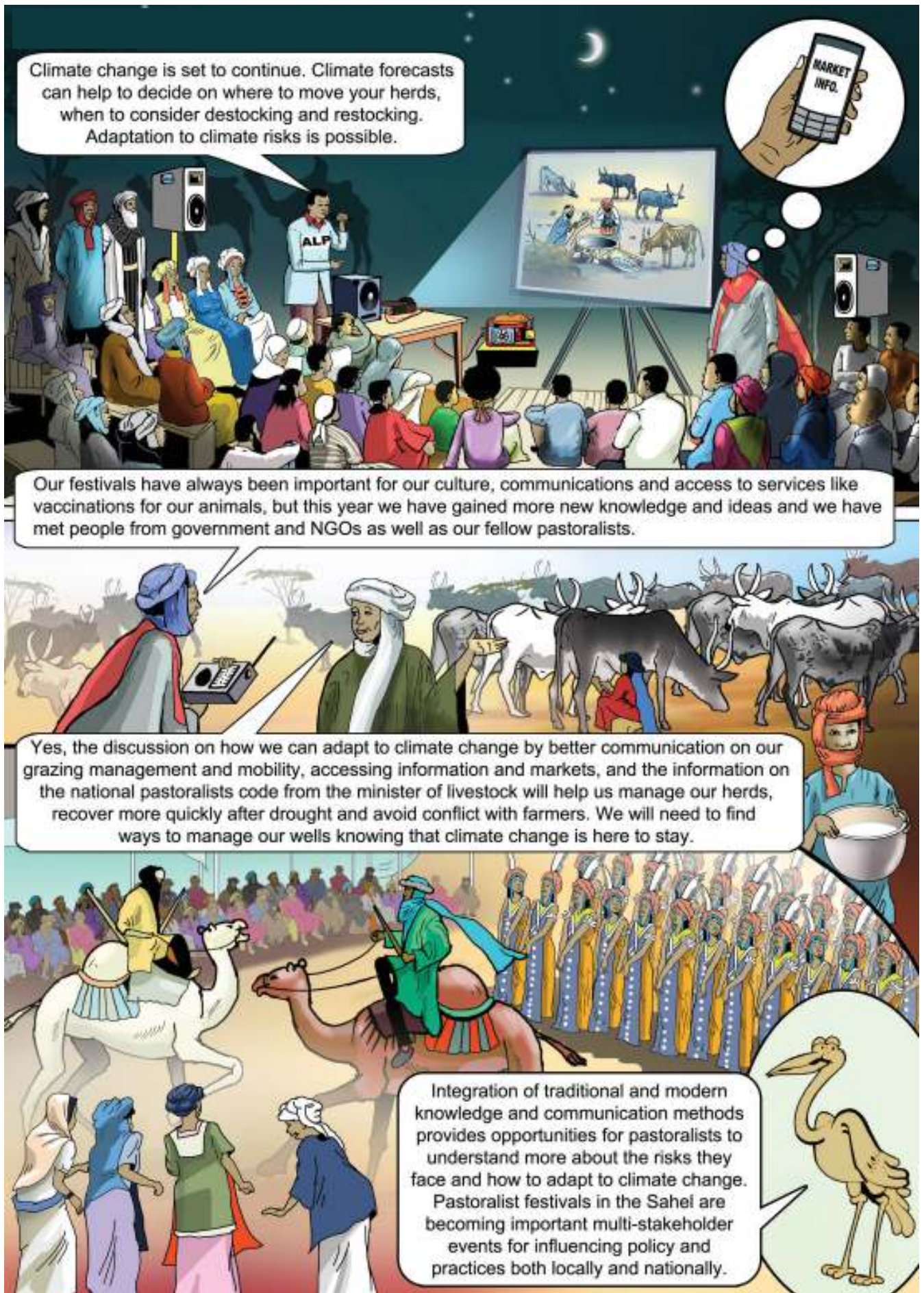


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Pastoral festival in Niger





Private sector enhances pastoralists' adaptive capacity in Ethiopia

Livestock traders discuss a sale at the livestock market in Jigjiga in the Somali Region © USAID - K Lynch, 2013.

Pastoralism is predicated on the efficient and sustainable management of pasture and water in vast rangeland landscapes for the production of livestock and livestock products. Pastoral communities suffer from a number of stressors that significantly constrain adaptive capacity in a context of more severe and unpredictable weather patterns. Many of these stressors have clear solutions in the creation and expansion of options for communities to access finance, inputs and markets for the sale of livestock, livestock products and other agricultural commodities. Stimulation and engagement with the private sector can support climate change adaptation.

Climate vulnerability and capacity assessments (CVCA) were conducted under the USAID-funded, Pastoralist Areas Resiliency Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME) project in Ethiopia. Mercy Corps leads the PRIME consortium and its market expansion methodology, while CARE provides technical assistance on integration of climate change adaptation. The CVCA revealed that communities' vulnerabilities to climate change were significantly affected by several factors. Lack of inputs to tackle animal and crop disease, isolation from market centres which increases transaction costs and lowers terms of trade for sale of livestock and livestock products, inability to readily access animal feed/fodder to supplement grazing in times of drought, and poor access to credit options that could expand business and increase income were key. Communities articulated the importance of moving from a subsistence economy to a commercial

one, as profit and savings helped them to withstand climate shocks relative to livestock assets. Through dialogue during and after the CVCA, communities identified priorities for private sector action.

A traditional approach to addressing the issues outlined above has been for non-governmental actors to step in and act as the market, providing 100% of seed costs for often poorly evaluated income generating activities, distributing needed inputs - seeds, feed, fodder, veterinary medicines - and themselves engaging in livestock destocking or supply. This approach in fact contributes to increasing vulnerability, as it sets up a parallel economy that undermines viable businesses, while providing only transient solutions to systemic and structural problems.

A more compelling approach is to carefully assess potential for addressing barriers in local markets, and tackling these through a facilitative rather than direct service delivery approach. In Ethiopia, PRIME's market-based adaptation model identifies viable businesses through a competitive process, and provides them with 30-60% of match funds to buy-down their risk of expanding into marginal pastoral economies where their goods and services are badly needed. This has included match funds for private veterinary pharmacies, distributors of micro-solar products, and feed suppliers that demonstrate business management capacity and ability to come up with the matching funds. It has also included partnership with private equity firms who can identify higher-level SME business ventures that can provide more viable input and output markets that service remote

pastoral communities. Here again, matching PRIME funds buy-down the risk of entering new, remote and more risky ventures. In the process, PRIME works with service providers to build further technical capacity in the business, contributing to the likelihood of its success. PRIME's funds cover 1-3 years of business expansion plans, and matching funds from PRIME are provided based on a financial projection of sustainability and profit after 3 years.

Private sector expansion into remote, rural areas can boost the local economy and support local development. Importantly, it also provides more permanent and locally appropriate solutions - driven by community demand - for reducing climate vulnerability and supporting adaptive capacity. Support to lasting, viable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can provide communities with readily accessible, diverse inputs to improve production in shifting weather patterns. It can also provide accessible markets for the sale of livestock and other agricultural products for pastoral and agro-pastoral households, which are particularly critical in periods of expected or current weather shocks. Ultimately, private sector stimulation can provide pastoral and agro-pastoral households with new business and livelihood options, increased income and savings, all of which are critical to household resilience and climate change adaptation.

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