

Pastoralism, land and gender

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SPARC

Supporting Pastoralism
and Agriculture in Recurrent
and Protracted Crises

Land tenure and governance characteristics of pastoralist areas

Areas have low and variable rainfall, high temperatures, poor quality soils, and high risk of drought or other climatic events

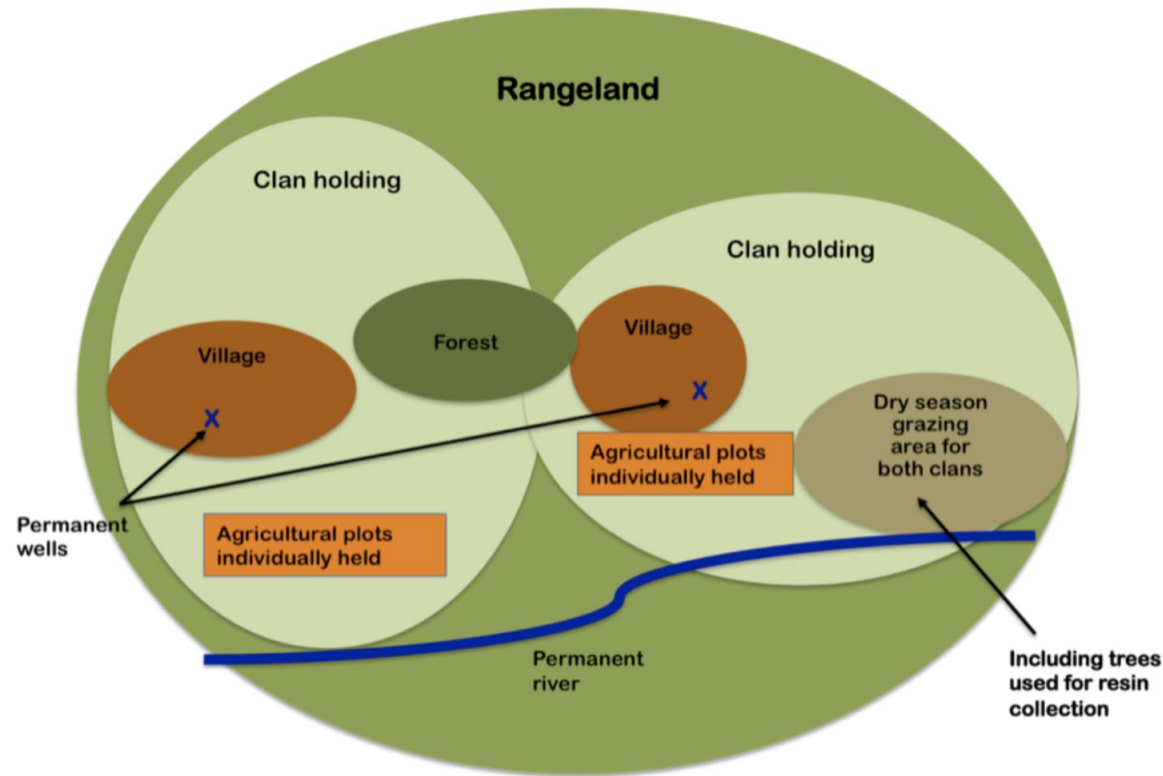
Results in sparsely and variably distributed vegetation – areas of higher productivity and potential for agriculture (around permanent water such as rivers) and low productivity i.e. “the rest”.

To optimize the use of the land (including low productivity areas) a large area of land must be used including the higher productivity areas i.e. those with permanent water used in dry season

Because it is not possible for one person to own such a large territory or rangeland, or for the land to be divided up between individuals, the land is normally accessed, used, managed and governed communally. This could be either private communal such as a group ranch (with a landholding certificate) or non-private where land is held by the state in custody for land users – pastoralists have a use-right rather than ownership.

Within this rangeland landscape or territory there can be different layers of

Figure: 'Nested' system of governance in the rangelands (Source: Flintan 2013)



Complexity of nested governance system

Multiple land uses

Multiple land users

Multiple land tenure and governance systems

A tree can be used by many people and for different uses e.g. as fodder for camels, for food (leaves/fruit), for medicine, fuelwood, shade for livestock and people, beehives, gums & resins. Conservation or REDD+ programme, community forestry. Multiple people may feel that they have a right to that tree – tenure and governance complicated.

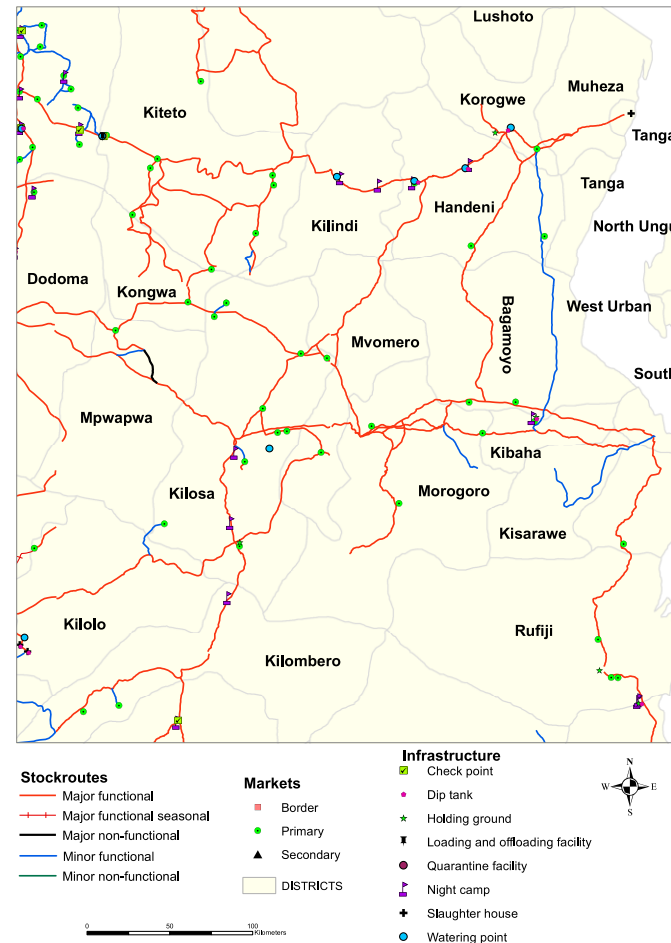
Tenure insecurity



Flexibility is required – changes temporally and spatially: mobility.



Protecting,
negotiating, this
mobility is
important – even
across country
boundaries

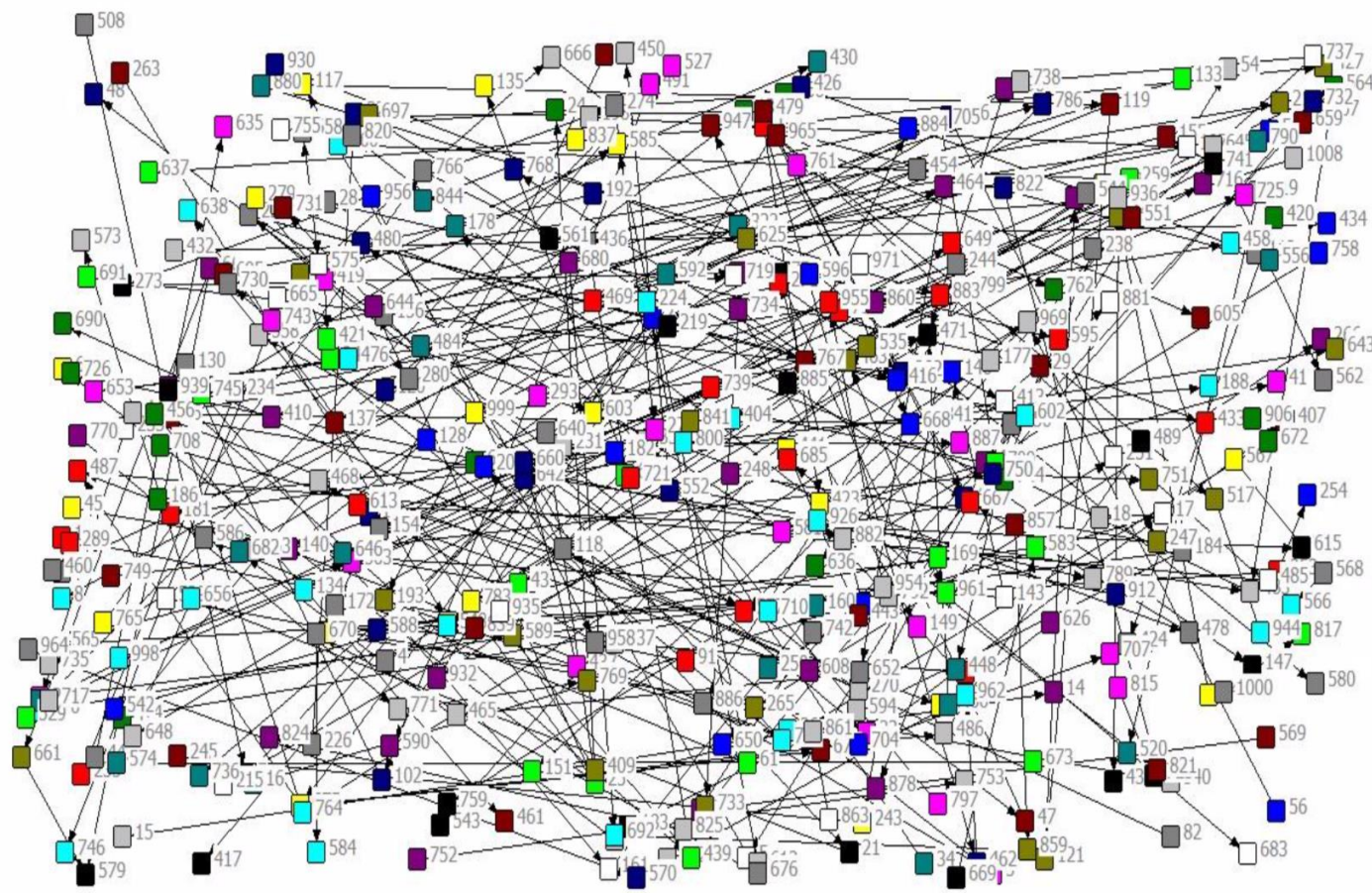


So what does this mean for gender and land administration and governance in

- The complexities of land, land use and governance need to be understood
- As part of this we need to understand how men and women use and access land, and are involved in decision making processes
- We might find that men and women access and use land in similar or different ways, different rights, we might find equalities or inequalities, we might find different levels of participation in decision making processes
- What we will probably find is that overall there is a system of rights for the group to access, use and manage land (even to own) and then men and women have different degrees of rights within this.

Importance of the collective and central role that women play in this

Figure 4.16 The social network map of food aid received from given another HH during 2016/17 drought period in Asli kebele, Somali region
Arrows flow from the one giving to the one receiving. Note: those transactions to outside the kebele have been removed.



**How best to protect and
improve women's rights? Do we
want to protect women's rights
as individuals or part of the
group?**

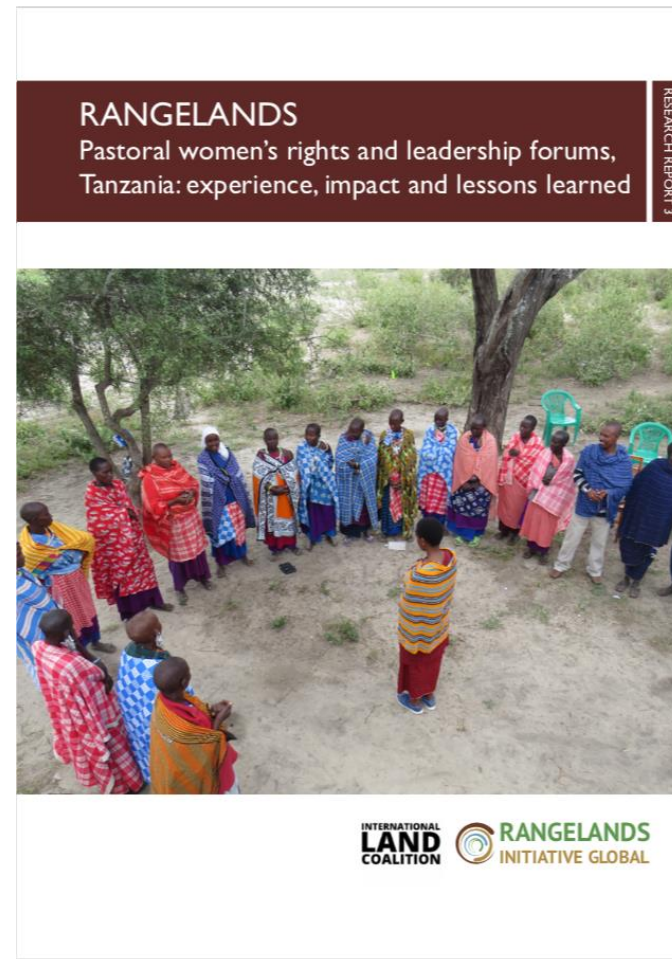
Some challenging issues

- In pastoral areas, the group, the collective is very important - for managing the land and resources, for assisting each other to get through drought, for sharing management of livestock, for identity etc.
- So how do we keep or make the group strong whilst also assisting individuals who might be marginalized to get more equal access etc.
- Pastoralists often have weak tenure security. Women may have weaker tenure as women.
- By giving women individual tenure 'outside' the group can weaken the group/collective itself, which may not benefit women in the longterm.

What are some good practice examples from other countries?

How then to best secure women's rights? Experiences from Tanzania

Women's leadership
forums: Building
capacity of women to
lead and contribute to
decision making
processes



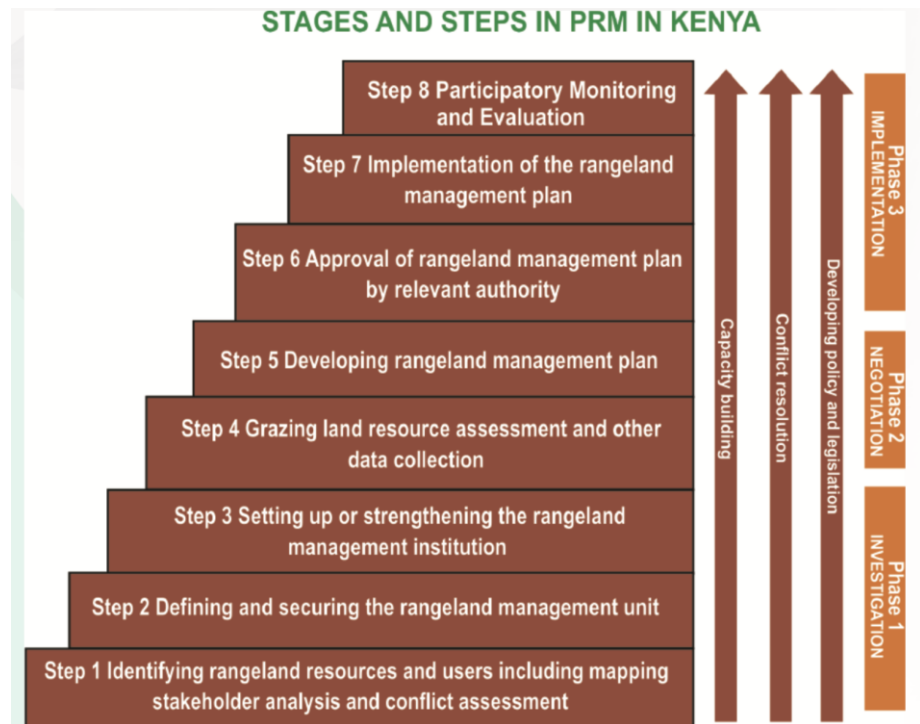
How then to best secure women's rights? Experiences from Ethiopia

Economic
empowerment:
working with
women on aloe
vera enterprises



How then to best secure women's rights: experiences from Kenya

Securing men and women's rights through participatory rangeland management (PRM)



So, what can we do?

We can understand the situation by listening without assumptions



Understand and work with community institutions and leaders (including women)



**Based on this we can define
interventions with the
communities**

Options to consider

- Pastoral tenure security needs to be strengthened with women as part of this.
- Working with community leaders and others, women can be given additional rights to individual plots as part of the communal system – but decision should come from community not from outside. It should not be seen as challenging authority of the groups
- Women's capacity can be built by such as Women's Leadership Forums
- Ensuring women are part of decision making processes – organizing meetings at times suitable for them – may need separate meetings, strategies

Options to consider

- Quotas for number or %age of women in committees etc.
- Data collected in gender disaggregated way
- Supporting and enabling policy and legislation
- Community bylaws
- Certification and registration to protect women's land rights as well as men.
- **What else based on your own experiences?**

Conclusions

- Pastoral land tenure and governance is complex – gender adds further complexity
- Women need long term protection from the group - the strengthen and rights of group needs to be strengthened
- Women can also acquire stronger individual rights – as part of this
- Women's empowerment will allow them to push for stronger rights from inside
- Strengthening enabling environment and building capacity from outside is also important
- Good opportunities for improving understanding e.g. IFAD-CGIAR WLRs, CGIAR Gender Platform and SPARC research work, IFAD HTD Note on Gender and Pastoralism.

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