

Towards an Inclusive Social Protection Among Pastoralist Communities in the Horn of Africa.

*Research funded by
the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)*

Consortium Members

*Adigrat University (ADU) and Samara University (SU), Ethiopia
Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London
(UCL), UK*

*Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA),
UK*



Outline of the presentation

Part one:

Introduction to the Horn of Africa(HoA) region (the people, their environment and livelihood systems).

Part two: Our study among the Afar pastoral people in Ethiopia

Our research aims among the Afar pastoral people in Ethiopia , overview of the Productive Safety Net Programme (inclusive/exclusive PSNP) PRA-based findings and their significance to the PSNP and knowledge outputs.

- Main research findings and their potential policy implications, and our strategy of engagement at local, state and federal levels in Ethiopia as well as internationally .
- **Part Three:** The evolution of our new book on “**Social Protection, Pastoralism and Resilience in Ethiopia: Lessons For Sub-Saharan Africa**’: Main contents, contributors and our ambitions .

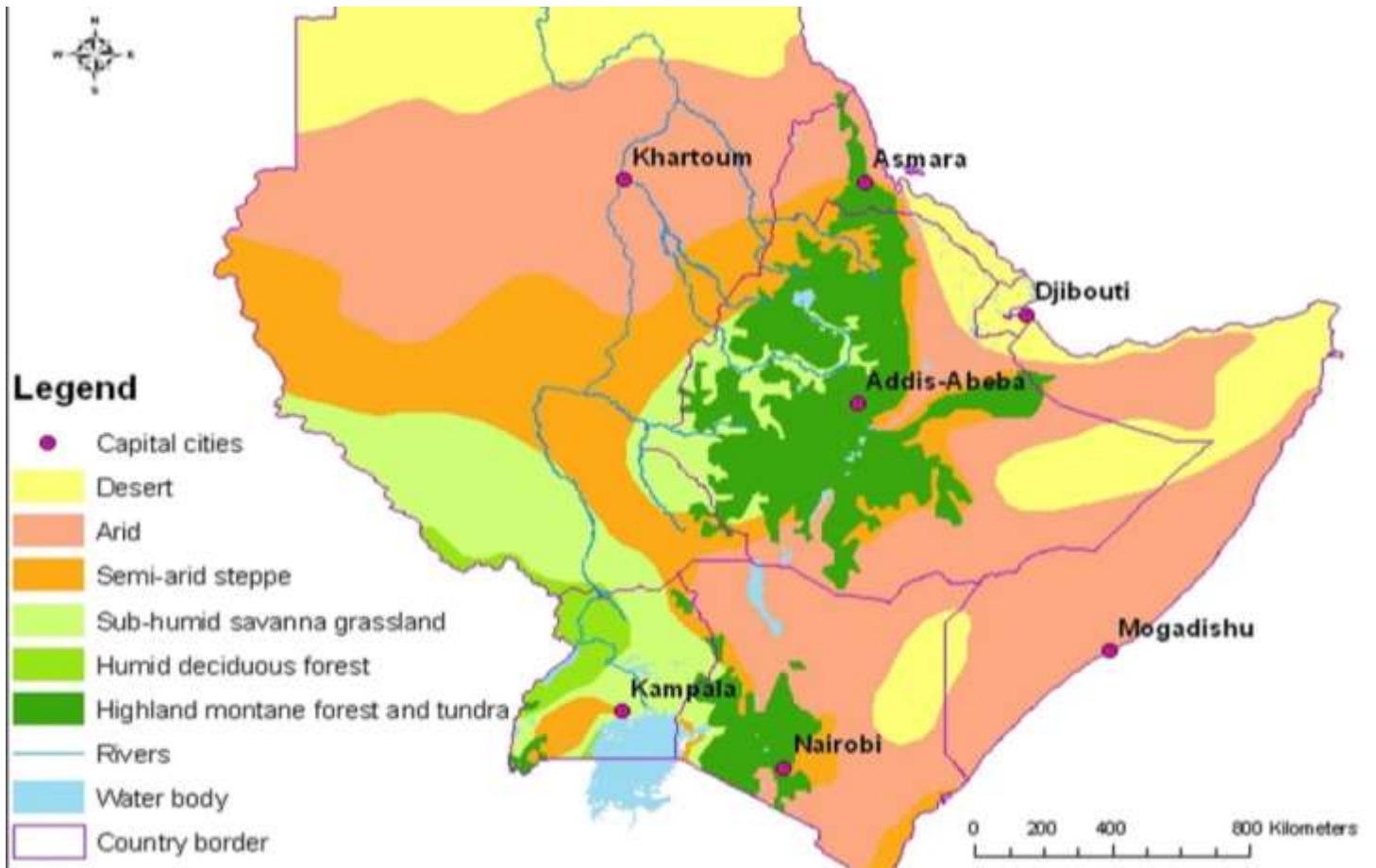
Horn of Africa (HoA) General ..

- Population in **8 countries 230 million plus (40,million pastoralists)**
- 5million square KMs in Area
- Ecological diversity affecting livelihood systems
- Region shares diversities of cultures, religions and different civilisations
- Important strategic significance Red-Sea, Gulf and Indian water ways (Soviet-USA during cold war now China, Middle East and super powers) both military and trade
- Conflict proneness, drought and famine (very high military expenditure by National Governments).Refugees and displacement internal/external
- Brain drain within Africa, the Middle East and the West
- Growing unplanned urbanisation and high levels of poverty among the urban poor including pastoral peoples.

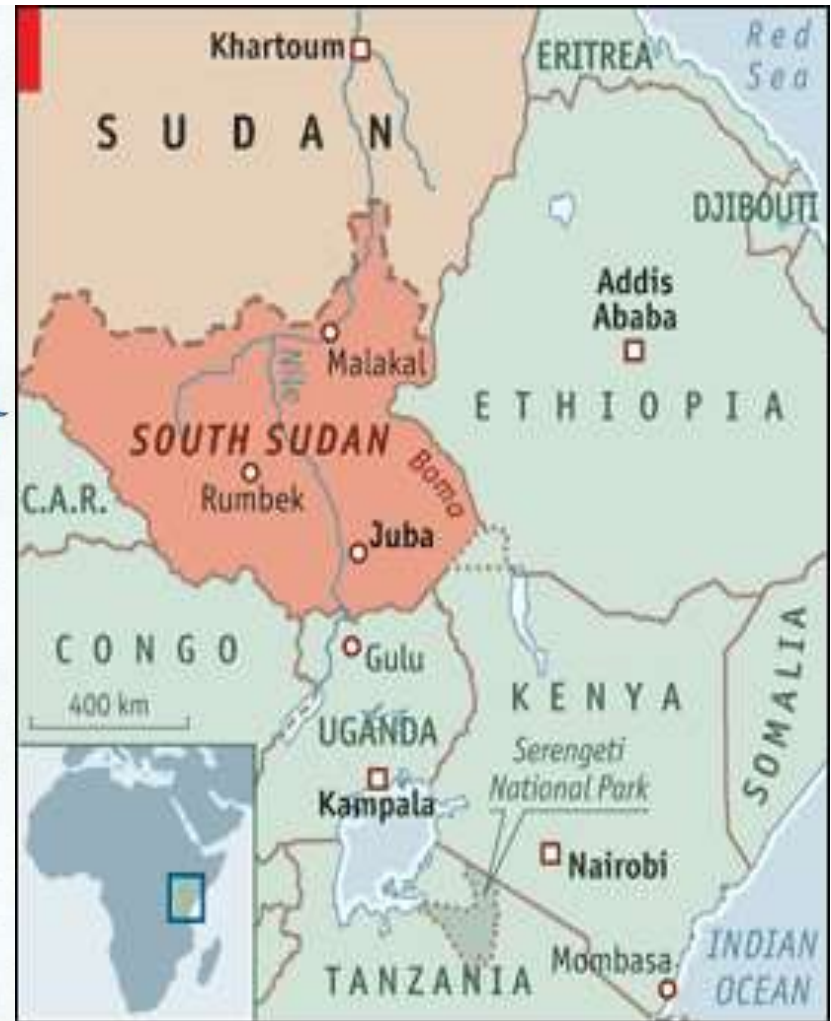
Ethnic diversity



Ecological setting of the Horn Region



Political map of the HoA.



Understanding Pastoral systems ,communities and their socio-cultural economic contributions and their relation to the State

- Traditional pastoralism in the Horn Region in general is predominantly semi-sedentary, and has the following characteristics:
- It lacks uniformity and specialization; there is almost no clan which can be referred to as 'purely' pastoralist;
- It cuts across ethnic, cultural and ecological boundaries; communities interact economically and share available range resources;
- Highland-lowland economic interactions among peasant (agro-pastoral groups) and pastoral communities is much more symbiotic than is often recognized;
- Rural-urban linkages and economic diversification are hugely very significant :
- It is based on multi-species-based herding and single species herding based on a **huge pool of very sound indigenous knowledge systems and practices** (Fre 2018);
- It contributes significantly to the local economy through animal sales at local and regional markets including the Middle East

Local and Regional economic contribution: Berbera port Somaliland



Understanding..

the policy intervention constraints among the Horn of Africa countries and elsewhere can be summed up as follows:

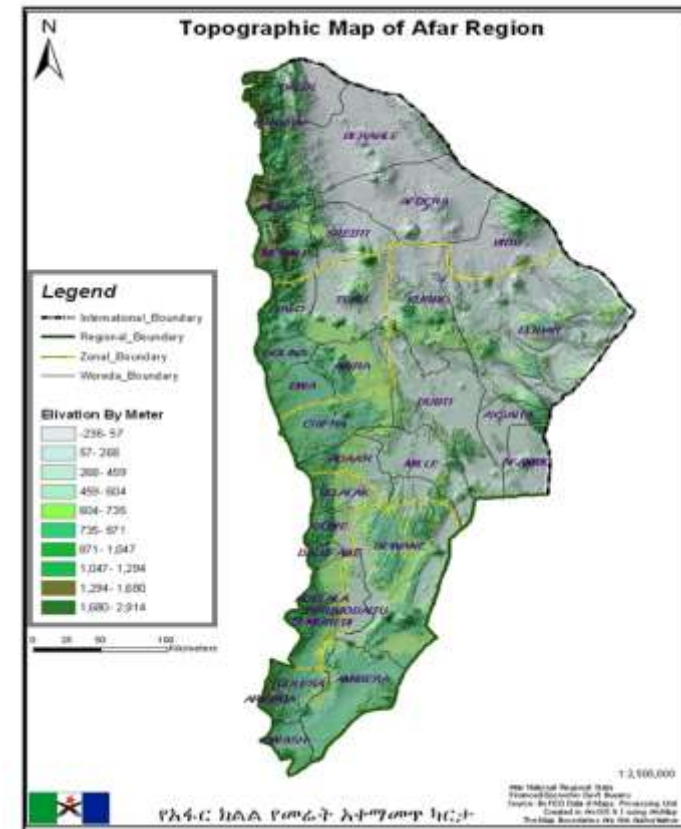
- The variable/unpredictable political environment.
- The weak capabilities of the private sector (in livestock trade and marketing).
- The disincentive to establishing functional and promoting pastoralist and other community based organizations.
- There is absence of active livestock policies at state and national levels.
- A low livestock profile in national economic planning, particularly observed in poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) which contains only general issues(**According to Ibnoaf2008**).

2.The Productive Safety Net Programme(PSNP) in Ethiopia and a quick overview

- Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net programme (PSNP) launched in **2005** in the highland agricultural regions is one of the biggest social protection programmes in the Sub-Saharan region.
- It reaches a **population of about 10 million** across the states of the country (including sedentarised farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists).
- The PSNP was introduced in the lowland pastoral regions of the Afar and Somali during **2009**.
- Relevance of the study consortium and the significance of engaging with the Afar communities (challenging our own perceptions about them).
- The inclusion /exclusion debate around PNSP is perceptual and a political public policy issue which is still unresolved in many of the pastoral and farming areas.

2.1. The Afar case in Ethiopia and the limited impact of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) Challenges and opportunities

- The Afar Regional State, one of the nine Federal states in Ethiopia bordering Eritrea
- Land size of 270,000 sq. km
- Population size 1,602,995 (in 2012)
- Nearly 87% of the population are rural and mainly dependent on pastoral & agro-pastoral livelihood systems.
- Huge mineral deposits like potash etc.



Seasonal mobility and extremely harsh environment



Changing aspirations from animal herding to becoming pilots or teachers !!!



Research on 'Social Protection for Inclusive Development in Afar(SPIDA) Phase One: August 2015 to March 2018

Partners : (2.5 years a team of 7 researchers from ADU,PENHA and UCL and plus associates from SU) and key objectives

- To evaluate the effectiveness of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on poverty, food security, and livelihoods in Afar region;
- To investigate whether the delayed implementation of the PSNP in the Afar region has had an impact on the efforts of ensuring food security and poverty reduction;
- To understand and evaluate whether the predominantly pastoralist nature (with its own pastoralist institutions and livelihood patterns) of the Afar region has posed difficulties in designing and implementing appropriate social protection strategies and implementation modalities; and
- To assess whether the extreme weather conditions in the study area have had an effect on the development efforts taking place in the Afar region.

PRA in action



Summing up our main findings and key limitations

- The PSNP activities season-wise (January -June) are fine for highland conditions, but do not suit the pastoralist mobility calendar (June-December is the Afar preference).
- The PSNP is not tailored to the pastoralists' production and livelihood systems, particularly in the timing of the public work and activities.
- The supply of conservation tools and equipment does not match the needs of those participating in the public works.
- The PSNP only provides food to sustain the daily life of the beneficiaries. It lacks complementarity that can build assets.
- The PRA findings indicate that there are multiple factors which curtail the full realisation of the PSNP programme in the Afar region:
- Economic diversification among the Afar is growing significantly; they do not just survive on livestock production alone (due to lengthy droughts, climate change etc.).

Using the research outcomes: Policy dialogue by sharing the research outcomes with multiple partners

- Key strategy bottom up approach by directly engaging with the Afar pastoralist communities and some of the highland communities bordering and interacting with the Afar communities and relevant institutions on the ground using participatory research methods including PRA,
- Closely collaborating with two emerging institutions namely Adigrat University (ADU) in the highland Tigray region and Samara University (SU) in the lowland Afar Region: mutually sharing PENHA and UCL research experiences ;
- Having completed the two year long research efforts we produced a research report and jointly organized November 25th – 26th 2017, University of Adigrat, Ethiopia(add photo) and Samara Univ.July 2018.
- To engage policy makers from the Federal level, stakeholders and the community representatives of the Afar Region in a knowledge and practice sharing dialogue process;
- Produce the research report and share widely.

3. The evolution of our new book on Social Protection: Main contents, contributors and our ambitions phase Two 2018-2022(5 main authors and 11 co-authors and contributors).

Purpose and outcomes: Some highlights

- Widening the scope of the Afar research for a wider coverage beyond the Afar pastoralist communities in Ethiopia and beyond under the title of “Social protection ,Pastoralism and Resilience in Ethiopia :Lessons for Sub-Saharan Africa’.
- **Value addition** to the original Afar communities based research by inviting other researchers and practioners of multidisciplinary experience from Addis Ababa and Mekelle Universities and other institutions.
- **Team composition** :Based on extensive literature and practical experience in other of Ethiopia, the authors ground their frameworks and impacts, pastoralist livelihood systems and institutions, and Ethiopian policies and programmes.
- **New themes** and reflections added(e.g. Highland –lowland interactions, the negative impact Covid 19 and the recent conflict in Ethiopia.

The evolution

- **The book provides better insights** to the fact that community-based mechanisms have positive features that can inform the design of government interventions. The book thus draws attention to such a “missing link” between formal and informal systems which is often overlooked.
- Rather than one displacing the other, the two systems should complement each other, reinforcing the positive features of both and compensating for their deficiencies.
- **The authors recognize that women and youth** are marginalised among pastoralist and communities because they occupy subordinate positions relative to men within pastoral communities. Such multi-level intersecting inequalities generate elevated vulnerabilities for pastoral women and youth.
- **“The book also warns against homogenising lowland livelihoods.** There are significant differences across geographical territories (e.g. between the Afar and Somali regions in Ethiopia), and between pastoralists, agropastoralists, and former pastoralists now residing in and around lowland towns”.

The end

The end!!!! And thank you all