

Presentation paper (Prepared by: Abdikarim Aden Omar

The impact Private enclosures on the socio-economy in Somaliland

Climate

Somaliland can distinctly be divided into three ecological regions, the coastal plains “Guban” the water shed mountainous region “Golis” and the higher altitude plateau “Haud”. These three distinct ecological regions define the natural resources of the region. The rangelands, forests and wildlife reserves are determined within these three regions.

The importance of the Northwest regions (Somaliland) is further amplified by their importance to livestock, the main economic activity in Somaliland. The guban and golis provide good grazing for goat and camel while the haud provide good grazing for camel, goat and sheep at the same time in some pockets (Borama , Gabiley and Odwyene) the haud also referred to as “Ogo” is good for cereal production. Pasture and water availability are dependent on the rains which vary depending on the altitude of the region. The coastal plains, guban, have an annual average precipitation of 50 mm, the golis varying in altitude from 2483 m asl to 1900 m asl have an annual average precipitation of 550 mm and the haud stretching from Borama (1454 m asl) through Hargeisa (1280 m asl) Sheikh (1441 m asl) to Erigavo (1744 m asl) in the north-east have annual rainfall averaging 410 mm. Within the haud are pockets of low rainfall areas suitable only for livestock that include Burao (1042 m asl) and Las-anod (706 m asl) with an average annual rainfall of 130 mm. Droughts are common in the region.

occurring moderately every 3-4 years and severely every 7-9 years. The traditional production systems in the pastoral areas take into account the variances of pasture and water availability in the areas during the different seasons. This traditional system is characterized by well defined seasonal movement of livestock and pastoralists in relation to pasture and water availability.

Rangeland management colonial and post Somali governments

Since the colonial period up to the collapse of Somali central government 1991, there was rangeland management systems, including legislations, laws, laws enforcement and different development interventions that focus on the development of the rangeland management. Different grazing reserves were established and put on operation to cover the needs of the pastoral society and their livestock, and avoid the depilation of the rangeland resource. More over fodder banks and fodder production sites were established with multi-purpose including seed conservation, demonstration sites for extension and training.

Regarding North west regions of Somalia. The Somaliland British Colonial administration, established DNR (Department of Natural Resources). Which one of its mandate was Forest, wildlife and rangeland conservation and protection, then

developed many interventions on Forest, wildlife and rangeland conservation and protection, including recruitment and training of forest guards and range guards, and establishment of range grazing reserves, forest and wildlife reserves. Forest conservation and protection Act was issued 1956 by the British Administration.

Due to increase of conflicts between the agricultural society and the pastoral society, the British administration developed demarcation line between rangeland and agricultural land. The main objective was to ensure sustainable natural resource use and create proper land use system and avoid natural resource conflict between the pastoral and agricultural societies.

Further more, during 1960-1988, before the civil war and the political upheaval in Somalia. The Somali Republic issued Law No.15 of 1969 on Fauna and Flora conservation and protection. Many projects towards the rangeland management and sustainable utilization of the rangeland resources were implemented(Northern rangeland Development Project, funded by Kuwait, Rangeland development and reforestation project SOM/12).

Current situation

Somaliland has been functioning as an independent state since 1991 despite the lack of international recognition. Although not without some interludes of brief violent skirmishes, during this period political instability largely endured allowing the country to develop policies that are essential for its administration. Following the preceding years of multifaceted conflict that devastated much of the country's human and material resources including almost all social service infrastructures, the country seems to be relatively on track to recovery. Moreover, beset by the socio-political complexity of its secession from the country that used to be known as Somalia, Somaliland seems to have accomplished tremendous progress largely on its own and without the esteem-in both material and monetary terms-that is usually amassed by new self-inventing democracies in the developing world.

However, it was also this transitional period that gave rise to unparalleled level of illegal land grabbing and negative rangeland resource exploitation due to the absence of effective law. In addition to violent clashes over land ownership in urban and peri-urban areas, for the pastoral communities that to a large extent sustain the country's economy this has and continues to threaten their food and livelihood security. These communities have experienced considerable loss of right-to-use rangeland resources, which limits their opportunistic grazing to ensure better access to pasture and water.

4. THE MAJOR FACTORS INFLUENCING PRIVATE ENCLOSURES

Traditionally, areas of dry and wet season grazing in both Somaliland and Somali Region of Ethiopia were distinct and supported by the community traditional norms. During the dry seasons part of the livestock especially the lactating stock and transport camel were moved close to permanent water sources with reserved

pastures, while other stock move to pasture land far from water points. During the rainy seasons, they moved far away areas with pasture since water was less required by the herds. These allowed dry season rangelands to recover and diseases to disappear through time. However, such patterns drastically changed as community land use practices change toward private enclosures due to intertwined factors. The cumulative effect of rangeland encroachment as a result of private enclosures has shrunk pastoral rangelands (dry and wet seasons grazing/browsing areas) and restricted pastoral mobility within privately owned enclosures lead to intensive overgrazing allowing pasture no time to recover and unknown livestock diseases to appear.

1 Endogenous Factor

1.1 Weak Customary Institutions

Traditionally, customary institutions had a strong governance system in the pastoral settings and people had a trust with them. However, it seems that the system is not getting recently lot of recognition and acceptance.

1.2 Intra Clan Competition

Traditionally different Somali clans had the receptiveness of hosting other tribes or clans to own territories during droughts as mobility was free within clan territories and negotiated between different clans for access to the rangelands. The emergence of private owned enclosures disrupted then clan transitional customs of allowing access to rangelands after negotiations for use. As a result such cultural changes, Sub clan members started grabbing communal land for enclosures. This has created a situation where intra clan conflict became rampant and caused hatred and breakdown of the social support system known for pastoral communities.

1.3 Population Growth and Poverty

A bulk of literature has indicated pressure created by the population on rangeland and pastoral resources and impoverishment of pastoral communities as one of the causes of land enclosures. Linking population and environmental issues is becoming increasingly important for the pastoral communities of Horn of Africa, where natural resources, environment and pastoral well-being are often negatively affected by factors such as population pressures and poverty. Understanding these connections-including the economic and social context in which they occur-and addressing such issues in an integrated manner is critical for achieving sustainable development. Population pressure was sighted as one of the major causes of rangeland degradation in.

The consequences of environmental change are particularly severe and the problems is most acute in poor pastoral communities, where production systems are heavily dependent on natural cycles and means to insure against disasters are lacking. In addition, the common form of environmental degradation in pastoral areas of this study area is associated with rangeland enclosures.

Restricted mobility, intra clan resource completions, and increased individualism and failure of customary institutions were also cited as the result of population growth by both FGDs and HHs respondents.

1.4 Weak Government Institutions

Generally, land use and rangeland management policies and laws are not yet formulated and national regulations are hard to enforces in the absences of such polices and laws. This was exacerbated by the mandate confusion over land use and range management between the state institutions (Ministry of Agricultural and Ministry of Pastoral development) in Somaliland. Significant proportion of the household interviews and focus group discussions revealed that proposed development interventions such as livelihood diversification, expansion of basic services such as water schemes, education, and health services motivated people to enclose lands for settlement expecting that such proposed benefits would change their lives.

Secondly, concerned government institutions at local levels are weak and lack institutional capacity to deal with the formation of the rampant enclosures of which most of them negatively affect the environment and livelihood of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in both countries. Thus, one of the causes of rangelands enclosures for private use is as a result of weakness of the government institutions in fulfilling their social obligation to pastoral communities.

1.4 Expansion of Settlement and services

Population growth within clan territories and increasing rangeland resource scarcity encourages proliferation of sedentary culture into the pastoral rangelands. In addition to these, government, humanitarian and private development actors also motivated the development of rampant villages on the pasture land.

1.5 Commercialization of the rangeland resources

Lack of contextual Land use systems concocted with the government claims of its ownership and individualistic culture of pastoral resources management both study areas, induced trade-off between government inability to impose its claims as the owners of the land and pastoral users who demonstrate the real ownership of the rangeland. Drought has weakened pastoralists' resilience to shocks and subsequent depletion of livestock assets as more pastoral become vulnerable in the face of environmental change and weak terms of trade. Thus, pastoralists that lost their livestock increase there dependency on the natural environment.

These interacting forces and processes have accelerated the need and dependence of natural forest and woody vegetation as alternative source of income through charcoal production and business. There was a high tendency of adopting a distress coping mechanism such as sell of woody trees for charcoal.

The motivation for commercialization of the enclosed parcels is the increasing market value of enclosure through time. Widespread selling of grass and rangeland

products is a new phenomenon as rangeland resources failed to fulfill the needs of the rangers. For example, relatively better off households revert to such market whenever the livestock feed on common pasture becomes inadequate. In this particular context, the owners of the parcels arrange contractual agreements with the livestock owners that can graze on the enclosed land for some time who in return pay for its use either in cash or kind. The cash value of the enclosed land depends on the grass quality and total area enclosed and the income obtained varies with the number of animals grazed in the parcel and number of days the pasture lasted.

Negative impact of the private enclosures

The major impacts, is included:

- 1. Loss of carrying capacity:** While there is rangeland resource competition and establishment of private enclosures in the potential communal rangeland. The movement of the livestock from place to place in seasonal calendar was restricted, which was some how traditional method to conserve the rangeland resource. This factors resulted the loss of rangeland carrying capacity, that also lead to over grazing and finally desertification.
- 2. Biodiversity depletion:** The serious over grazing and recurrent drought and lack of rangeland management system also resulted the depletion of the biodiversity. Many grass species are almost endangered and some of them disappeared due to the unsustainable utilization od the rangeland resources.
- 3. Development of unplanned water points:** The lack of proper rangeland management system also encouraged the development of unplanned water points (Berkads, Ballies and boreholes) in the rangeland, which increased the establishment of permanent settlements (Villages).
- 4. Serious soil erosion and formation of galleys:** Lack of water runoff management system (Water spreading, water diversion, etc) most of the rangeland especially the plains is experiencing a serious soil erosions and formation of galleys. This also decreased the rangeland production.
- 5. Development of unplanned feeder roads:** The establishment of the private enclosures and unplanned water points resulted the restriction of the traditional livestock movement, which compelled the nomads to be semi-settled society. This in turn made possible the development of the unplanned feeder roads
- 6. Permanent settlements.** The increasing water points in the rangeland, more over the increase of the pastoralists destitute who lost their livestock in the recurrent droughts encouraged the rapid process of permanent in the rangeland, which in turn created a rapid process of rangeland degradation.
- 7. Rangeland resource Conflicts:** There will be increasing conflicts over the the rangeland resurce between the pastoralists and the individuals that close the enclosures, this will gradually turn over to clna conflicts



Private enclosures are also used for charcoal production sites



Private enclosure