

# **A Review on Unresolved Major Causes of Land Conflicts in Tanzania: A case of Kiteto District, Manyara Region.**

Asiana Mohamed

asianamohamed@gmail.com

Assistant Lecturer, Department of Strategic Studies – Centre for Foreign Relations.

---

## **Abstract**

Conflicts are unavoidable in many circumstances and generally they include relational disputes between two or more parties such as land conflict between farmers and pastoralists as stipulated in this study. The study was conducted in Kiteto district, Manyara, Tanzania. The objective of the study was to find out unresolved major causes of land conflict in Kiteto district, Manyara, Tanzania. The study followed a positivism research philosophy whereby descriptive research design was used as well as quantitative research approach. Means and standard deviations were used to analyze data on unresolved major causes of land conflict in Kiteto district, Manyara, Tanzania. Findings revealed nine unresolved major causes of land conflict in Tanzania which were; competition over resources like land and water, land policy deficiencies and contradictions, imbalance political representation in leadership, bad governance and corruption, human rights violations, pastoralists' grazing cattle in farmers' farms, no proper demarcation of land use plan, increased human and livestock population scored and insecurity of land tenure. The study concludes that resolving unresolved major causes of land conflict in Tanzania is key to peaceful and harmonious relationships between communities in Tanzania especially those conflicting over land use.

Keywords: Land Conflict; Pastoralists; Farmers

---

## **Introduction**

Conflicts are unavoidable in many circumstances and generally they include relational disputes between two or more parties, for example farmers and pastoralist as stipulated in this study. Several researchers such as Semberya (2014) and Massay (2017) argue that conflicts between farmers and

pastoralists are not new phenomena in different parts of the world including Africa. Most conflicts related to land use are as a result of factors such as inadequate grazing reserve and stock routes; changes in land tenure system; insufficient legislation pastoralism; expansion in agricultural policies; economic factors and climate changes have also been identified as the long-term causes of the conflict. Experience has shown, however, that an entirely passive approach to land grievances may ultimately be far more destabilizing than an informed and conflict-sensitive approach. Handled carefully, land issues can become an important entry point for peace-building and rural/urban development (UN-HABITAT, 2009).

In Africa, Saruni et al (2018) observes that for many years sub-Saharan Africa has experienced unresolved conflicts between and among farmers and pastoralists, for instance, in South Sudan, the conflicts are frequent and take form of inter and intra-communal conflicts which are driven by cattle raids. Other drivers of conflicts include a resolving through violent means, increasing competition of access to grazing land and water, weakening of state institutions, promotion of culture of impunity, heightened demand and competition for land and appropriation of large tracts of land for agricultural expansion as well as inflation in the 'bride price' among the pastoralists. The loss of land is also contributed by the governments views that transhumance pastoralism is backwards and would like communities practicing it to change their way of life and settle in one place (Kipuri & Sorensen 2008).

In Tanzania, conflicts over land use especially between farmers and livestock keepers are contributed by land tenure contradictions between customary and granted land rights (Simbarashi 2012) and accumulation of land in the hands of big national and multinational companies, leaving small-scale producers land less (Chachage 2010). These two problems have affected the pastoralist more than other resources users. Urassa et al (2016) reports an occurrence of a bloody crashes pitying farmers and pastoralists occurred in Kilosa in December 2000, whereby 38 people were killed among them women and children which directly affect development chain as human resources.

Massay, (2017) noted that the repeated of land use conflict between farmers and pastoralists is caused by shortage of land resource to cater for both groups, other causes includes drought whereby in search for pastures and water lead to sometimes animals graze on crop farms. James, (2015) provide evidence that nomadic pastoral communities have been perceived as sources farmers-pastoralists conflicts in manner that they involved in destruction of good lands suitable

for cultivation. A good example of such conflicts has regularly occurred in Kilosa, Kiteto, Hanang, Arumeru and other areas whereby nomadic life and peasantry are practiced

Furthermore, Mwambashi, (2016) adds that the causes of these conflicts are insufficient allocation of pastures allocated to pastoralists, centralization of powers, absence of land use plans, influx of people in the area, and corruption leading pastoralists to search for water and grazing land outside rural pastoral community areas and accumulation of land in the hands of big national and multinational companies, leaving small-scale producers landless (Chachage, 2010). Those problems have affected the pastoralists and farmers' development within their areas more than other resource users.

On the other hand, poor governance structures which encourage bad behavior such as corruption, regulatory shortfall, socio-economic and ecological factors are stand as main reasons for the recurrence of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists that continue to affect rural/urban development structures (Falanta & Bengesi 2018). However, little is known about the unresolved major causes of land conflicts in Kiteto District, Tanzania of which this study intends to find out.

## **Material and methods**

### **Study area and Target Population**

The study was conducted in ten selected wards of Kiteto District, Manyara region. The selected wards include: Bwagamoyo, Chapakazi, Dongo, Dosidosi, Engusero, Kibaya, Kijungu, Lengatei, Loolera and Magungu. These wards comprised of 111,523 population according to 2012 population census. The selection of this study district is based on the following criteria: prominence persistence and severity of conflicts in terms of loss of human life, property damage ad presence of a higher population of farmers and pastoralists.

### **Sampling Procedure**

A two-stage cluster sampling was used in this study, therefore after the selection of the clusters a simple random sampling was used to select respondents from each of the clusters. Hence, the selected clusters qualified to be involved in the study because they have most farmers and pastoralists who are conflicting daily on land use conflict issues and their areas remain underdeveloped.

## Sample Size

In this study, a sample of 384 was determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for determining population and sample size.

## Data Analysis

In this study quantitative analytical procedures were used to analyze data. The specific analytical procedures for quantitative data analysis constituted statistical measures namely frequencies, percentage distributions, and mean and standard deviation counts. Computations of scores on questionnaire responses answering the study objectives were done using IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 20). The presentation of data was made using tables. While for qualitative data analysis, thematic analysis was employed to supplement findings derived from quantitative data.

## Results and discussions

The data was analyzed according to the objective of the study which was; To find out the unresolved major causes of land conflict in Kiteto district, Manyara Tanzania. This objective had 10 items whereby the respondent was asked to rate him/herself on the given items using a scale ranging from a minimum of one (for strongly agree) to a maximum of four (for strongly disagree).

To interpret the mean scores the following values and interpretation were utilized.

**Table 1: Interpretation of mean scores**

Mean Range	Description	Interpretation
3.26-4.00	Strongly Agree	Very High
2.51-3.25	Agree	High
1.76-2.50	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.75	Strongly Disagree	Very Low

Findings on unresolved major causes of land conflicts in Kiteto district, Manyara Tanzania are presented in table 2 below;

**Table 2: Major causes of land conflict in Kiteto district, Manyara Tanzania (N=384)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. deviation</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Competition over resources like land and water	3.33	0.65	Very High
Land policy deficiencies and contradictions	3.06	0.45	High
Imbalance political representation in leadership	2.87	0.68	High
Bad governance and corruption	2.81	0.70	High
Human rights violations	2.79	0.63	High
Pastoralists' grazing cattle in farmers'	2.77	0.61	High
No proper demarcation of land use plan	2.66	0.74	High
Increased human and livestock population	2.53	0.78	High
Insecurity of land tenure	2.50	0.70	High
Lack of coordination in planning for resettlement	2.35	0.76	Low
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.77</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>High</b>

Mean score from table 1 indicate that Respondents rated very high one item out of 10 which was competition over resources like land and water with (mean=3.33, std. deviation= 0.65). This imply that most of respondents strongly agreed on competition over resources like land and water to be one of the major causes of land conflict in Kiteto district, Manyara Tanzania. Findings from this study concur with Baha et al. (2008), who established that competition over resources especially land and water has been a major contributor of frustration and endless tension between cultivators and herders. Moreover, Baha et al noted that such conflicts can even lead to displacement of people, death and breakdown of social services. Findings of this study also correspond with Urassa and Massawe (2018) who noted that most land conflicts in Tanzania are resource-based conflicts whereby parties compete over resources like land, water, grazing pastures, etc. in rural and per-urban areas.

Additionally, respondents rated high eight items out of ten whereby land policy deficiencies and contradictions scored (mean=3.06, std. deviation= 0.45), imbalance political representation in leadership scored (mean=2.87, std. deviation= 0.68), bad governance and corruption scored (mean=2.81, std. deviation= 0.70), human rights violations scored (mean=2.79, std. deviation= 0.63), pastoralists' grazing cattle in farmers' scored (mean=2.77, std. deviation= 0.61), no proper demarcation of land use plan scored (mean=2.66, std. deviation= 0.74), increased human and livestock population scored (mean=2.53, std. deviation= 0.78), and insecurity of land tenure scored (mean=2.50, std. deviation= 0.70). This imply that most of respondents agreed on land policy deficiencies and contradictions, imbalance political representation in leadership, bad governance and corruption, human rights violations, pastoralists' grazing cattle in farmers', no proper demarcation of land use plan, increased human and livestock population scored and insecurity of land tenure as the major causes of land conflict in Kiteto district, Manyara Tanzania.

Based on this fact, in regards to land policy deficiencies and contradictions, the study findings agree with James (2015) who noted some misalignment between the National Land Policy and the Livestock Policy (of 2006) as the cause of contradictions and confusions which lead to conflicts. James observed that the National Land Policy discourages nomadism and all its different forms. However, in contrast, the Livestock Policy recognizes seasonal migration of herders and their livestock as an important characteristic of pastoralism. Such contradictions are proof that land policy deficiencies and contradictions as noted in this study findings stand as the major cause of conflicts in Kiteto district, Manyara Tanzania. Furthermore, this study findings also coincide with Abebe and Solomon (2013) study in Ethiopia who noted that: “—*While the 1994 constitution of Ethiopia includes a provision guaranteeing that pastoralists are not [to be] displaced from rangelands, other provisions in existing federal policy and law reaffirm the powers of the state to expropriate land in pastoral areas for development.*” Hence, from this provision land related conflicts erupt because of the loopholes found in the constitution.

In relation to imbalance political representation in leadership, findings of this study correspond with Benjaminsen, Maganga and Abdallah (2009) who found that there is imbalance of political power between farmers and pastoralists in Kilosa District of Tanzania with farmers being over-represented in village governments. Due to such imbalances, farmers and pastoralists end up in conflict.

The study findings on bad governance and corruption also agree with Walwa (2020) who identified corruption to be one of the cause of continuing conflict between farmers and pastoralists whereby marginalized pastoralists were observed offering a bull to members of the education committee and villagers as not only a symbol of wealth, prestige or a good heart, but it is also takrima (traditional hospitality), which is a practical living strategy to please villagers and government officials. Hence, this leaves farmers marginalized because pastoralists already have a strategy to gain favors from the village government and the majority of villagers who are not pastoralists. Moreover, findings of this study agree with Vinck, Pham and Kreutzer (2011) whose findings revealed that majority of Liberian population (64 per cent) identified, among other factors, greed and corruption are the main causes of conflicts which escalated into the Liberian civil war. Likewise, findings concur with the study of Voz di Paz and Interpeace (2010) and Zenoumenou and Okeke (2012) whose findings established that in Guinea-Bissau, bad governance and corruption are deeply rooted in the social, political, judicial and economic system leading to bitter unexpressed feelings among the local population which are sometimes expressed through violence.

Findings on pastoralist who graze cattle in farmers farms agree with Mbonde (2015) found that most of pastoralists living in Mkoka and Songambebe have a tendency of grazing their cattle into various farmers farms. The respondents established that during dry season, pastoralists do graze their cattle in farmers farms. This situation brings a lot of complaints to the farmers by pastoralists. Additionally, study findings on no proper demarcation of land use plan correspond with findings of Mbonde (2015) who established that lack of proper demarcation of land use plan which indicates land for different purposes such as land for farming and land for grazing cattle is a serious cause of land related conflicts. Findings also agree with Mworira and Ndiku (2012) who reported that causes of land use conflict between the newly created districts of Tigania and Tharaka in Kenya was due to lack of clear boundaries, lack of policy and laws on land use.

Despite the fact that most of respondents strongly agreed and agreed on nine major causes of land conflict in Kiteto district, Manyara Tanzania, the same respondents disagreed on one cause of land conflict which was lack of coordination in planning for resettlement scored (mean=2.35, std. deviation= 0.76.).

## Conclusion and recommendations.

The study concludes that resolving unresolved major causes of land conflict in Tanzania is key to peaceful and harmonious relationships between communities in Tanzania especially those conflicting over land use. However, there is a need for the government, national and international organizations to consider the possibilities for providing livelihoods outside agriculture of which most of Tanzanians depend on, and thereby lessening the severity and potential of land disputes. In other words, a society-broad structural based approach for improving lives of people may also be locally integrated as a durable solution. Separate but equally important legal, economic, social, and cultural aspects to local integration require efforts by all parties involved, including the integrating individual and the receiving society.

Finally, the researcher recommends that land conflicts constitute a complex system with many factors and sectors involved. Frequently, it's not just the people (as farmers or pastoralists) who are to use land in a particular area. It is also the social structure, the legal structure, (as for roles of courts and the police), the district and local governance system, and the land policies and laws, among other elements. Thus, land conflict resolution measures that call for a holistic approach i.e. one that integrates a variety of interventions targeted for a variety of contributing elements and that call for efforts of various stakeholders who aim at one positive end should be employed as a means to address unresolved major causes of land conflicts in Tanzania.

## References

- Baha, B., Attito, T., Axwesso, S., Luhwago, R., & Charles, B., (2008). The price of a half functioning Land Management System in Tanzania. A masters' thesis, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro – Tanzania.
- Benjaminsen, T.A., Maganga, F.P., & Abdallah, J. M. (2009). The Kilosa killings: political ecology of a farmer-herder conflict in Tanzania. *Development and Change*, 40(3): 423-445. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.14677660.2009.01558.x>
- Chachage, C. (2010). Land acquisition and accumulation in Tanzania: The case of Morogoro, Iringa and Pwani regions, Available at; <http://www.commercialpressureonland.org/research-paper/land-acquisition-andaccumulation-tanzania>.
- Gwaleba, M., & Masum, F (2018). Participation of Informal Settlers in Participatory Land Use Planning Project in Pursuit of Tenure Security. *Urban Forum*, 29 (2), 169-184.
- Falanta, E. M., & Bengesi, K. M. K. (2018). Drivers and consequences of recurrent conflicts

- between farmers and pastoralists in Kilosa and Mvomero Districts, Tanzania. *Journal of Sustainable Development*; 11(4): 13-26.
- Kipuri, N., and Sorensen, C (2008). Poverty, Pastoralism and policy in Ngorongoro. Lessons learned from ERETO 1 Ngorongoro Pastoralist Project with Implications for pastoral development and the policy debate: ERETO/IIED
- Krejcie, R. V. & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Determining Sample Size for Research Activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30(3): 607-610
- Massay, G. E. (2017). In Search of the Solution to farmer-pastoralist conflicts in Tanzania, SIIA Occasional Paper, 257 pp. 1-17. Available at [www.saiia.org.za/](http://www.saiia.org.za/).
- Mbonde, F. J. (2015). Assessment of land use conflicts in Tanzania: A case study of Songambele and Mkoka villages in Kongwa district, Dodoma region. Masters' dissertation, Mzumbe University.
- Mworia, L., & Ndiku, J. M. (2012). Inter-ethnic conflict in Kenya: a case of Tharaka Tigania conflict, causes, effects and intervention strategies. *Journal of Research in Peace, Gender and Development*, 2(7): 162-170.
- Mwambashi R.E., (2015). Assessing the impact of land conflict between farmers and pastoralists In Tanzania. A case of Ulanga District Council. Master's thesis, Mzumbe University.
- Saruni P.K, Urassa J.K., & Kajembe G.C., (2018). Forms and Drivers of Conflicts between Farmers and Pastoralists in Kilosa and Kiteto Districts, Tanzania. *Journal of Agricultural Sciences and Technology*, A 8 (2018) 333-349. DOI:10.17265/2161-6256/2018.06.001
- Semberya, B. Y. D., (2014). Farmers, pastoralists conflicts: Where have we failed? *Guardian Newspaper*, (January). Retrieved from <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/?l=63745>
- Simbarashe, M. (2012). `Land: Efforts needed to end conflicts between farmers and Cattle elders, ' Available at; <http://www.dairlynews.co.tz/index.php/features/popular/features/5820-land-effortsneeded-to-end-conflict-between-farmers-and-cattle-holders>.
- Urassa K.J., & Masawe D.G., (2016). Causes and Management of Land Conflicts in Tanzania: A Case of Farmers versus Pastoralists. *Uongozi Journal of Management and Development Dynamics*, 27(2): 45 – 68.
- UN-HABITAT, (2009). Land and Conflict: A Handbook for Humanitarians. Accessed on July 16, 2020 from [https://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction/documents/02\\_03-04\\_03-08.pdf](https://postconflict.unep.ch/humanitarianaction/documents/02_03-04_03-08.pdf)
- Vinck, P, Pham, P. N. & Kreutzer, T. (2011). Talking Peace: A population-based survey on attitudes

about security, dispute resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction in Liberia. Berkeley, CA: Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley.

Voz di Paz & Interpeace (2010). Root causes of conflict in Guinea-Bissau: The voices of the people.

Guinea-Bissau: Voz di Paz/Interpeace. Accessed on 17 July, 2020 from

[http://www.interpeace.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/08/2010\\_GB\\_Interpeace\\_Voz\\_Di\\_Paz\\_The\\_Voice\\_Of\\_The\\_People\\_EN.pdf](http://www.interpeace.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/08/2010_GB_Interpeace_Voz_Di_Paz_The_Voice_Of_The_People_EN.pdf)

Walwa, W. J. (2020). Growing farmer-herder conflicts in Tanzania: the licensed exclusions of pastoral communities' interests over access to resources. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47(2): 366–382.

Zounmenou, D., & Okeke, J. M. (2012). The challenge of ending political violence in Guinea Bissau. Pretoria, South Africa: Institute for Security Studies (ISS). Available at [http://www.issafrica.org/iss\\_today.php?ID=1471](http://www.issafrica.org/iss_today.php?ID=1471)