TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

Master's Program
Land Management and Land Tenure

Centre of Land Management and Land Tenure

Master's Thesis

The Impacts of Land Conflicts on Women Livelihoods: The Case of Nakuru District, Kenya

Introduction

The problem: Rapid increase of land resource conflicts.

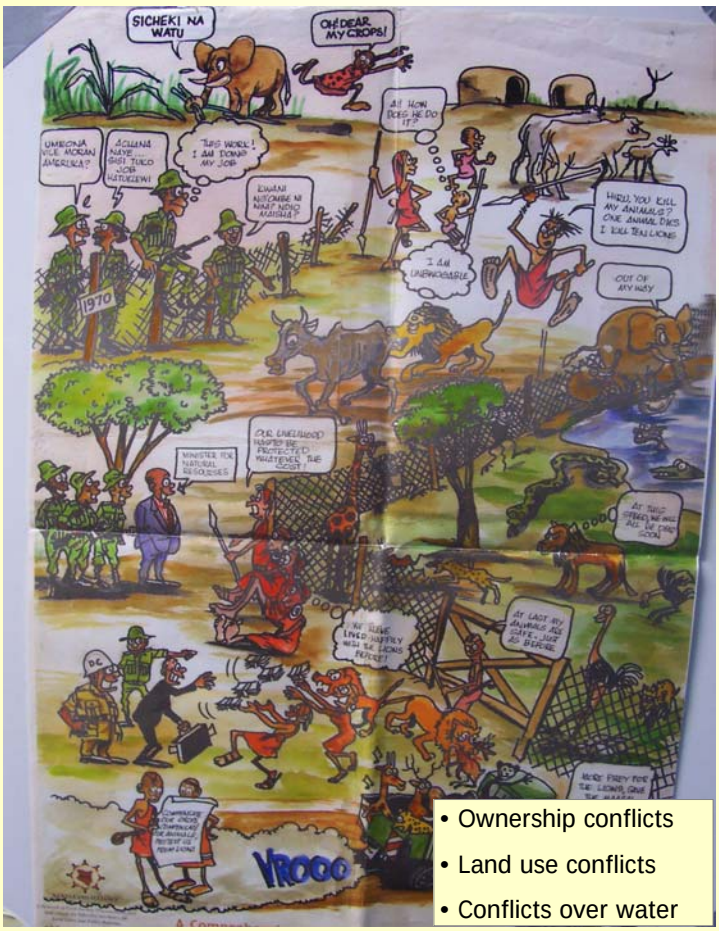
Objective: Classify the types of land conflicts, identify effects on affected women or households, identify coping strategies and recommend solutions.

Hypothesis: Despite adverse effects, affected women get more innovative in seeking alternative ways of life, thereby becoming more independent.

Research questions: What are the types, causes and effects of land conflicts? What are women's reactions (coping strategies) to it? How can the situation be improved?

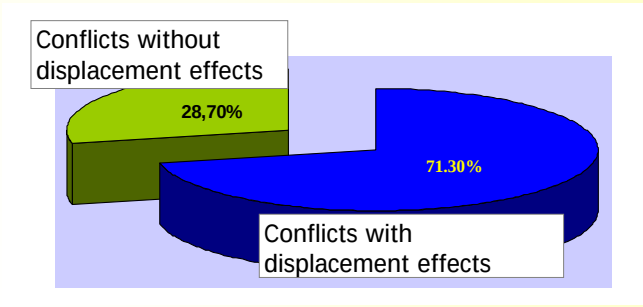
Methodology: Qualitative approach based on primary and secondary data collection and grounded theory analysis.

Types of land conflicts identified:



- Ownership conflicts
- Land use conflicts
- Conflicts over water

Conflict classification:



Impacts on women:

Conflicts with Displacement effects (severe effects):

- Traumatized society and low living standards
- Tenure insecurity, low investment rates
- Changes in economic roles of women

Conflicts without displacement effects (less severe effects):

- Poor social relations
- Water shortage

Conclusion:

Women do become very innovative in seeking alternative income generating activities in post conflict situation – generally dealing much better with this situation than their husbands – but do not become more independent. On the contrary, they are now more vulnerable than before – most of them wishing to return to their former life(-style).

Recommendations:

- Review Government policies on conflict resolution
- Women participation in all land administration related issues

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