

# Natural Resource Conflict Management In Kotido District, Karamoja -Uganda

ECHO East Africa Symposium on:

*“ Best Practices in Areas of Conflict”*

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# Biography and Session Introduction

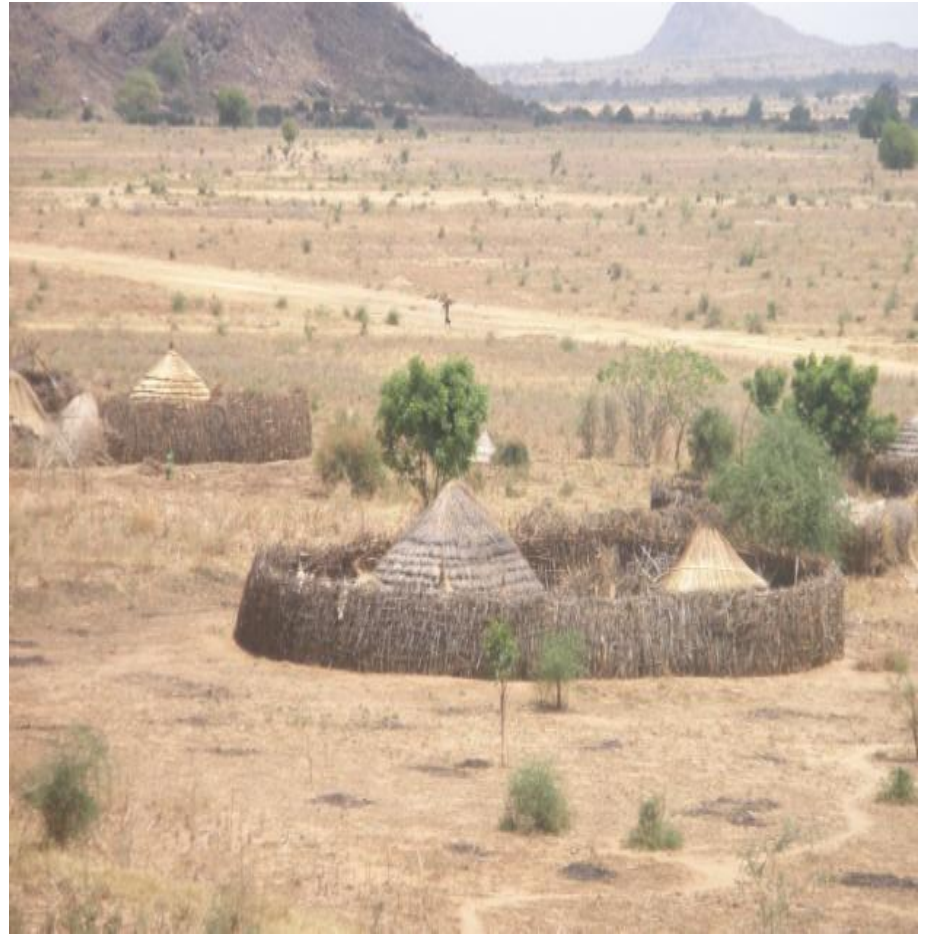
- **Robert Okumu, ECHO Kotido, works in the TOGETHER consortium of Church World Service, and MAP International in Kotido, Karamoja, Uganda. He holds a Bachelors degree in Agriculture of Gulu University, and a Post graduate Diploma student of Monitoring and Evaluation, at Uganda Management Institute. He has worked with rural farmers both in South Sudan and Uganda on sustainable agriculture, and his passion to contribute to the reduction of loss of biodiversity, desertification and acidification of the earth's natural bodies.**
- **His presentation addresses key community approaches towards a balanced use of resources in the semi-arid district of Karamoja, Uganda as well as looks at managing conflict on the use of the scarce natural resources in an agro-pastoral area, the pressing demands of wildlife conservation and biting food insecurity.**

# Introduction...

- One of the 7 districts in the arid/semi-arid plain of Karamoja region with harsh climate
- Occupied by one ethnic group-Jie
- The current population is 178,909 (UNHPC, UBOS 2014)
- Two agricultural zones; the green belt which can support some limited agriculture and an agro-pastoral zone known for animal keeping and practicing limited agriculture.
- Rainfall is generally limited, unpredictable and unevenly distributed with an average annual rainfall of 400 mm in the east and 1,000 mm in the west of the region
- Given the climatic conditions of the district, it heavily depends on food produced by neighboring districts of Teso and Acholi in addition to international food aid
- There are seasonal rains between April-August characterized by heavy downpours, storms and occasional floods and heavy surface run-off

# Introduction

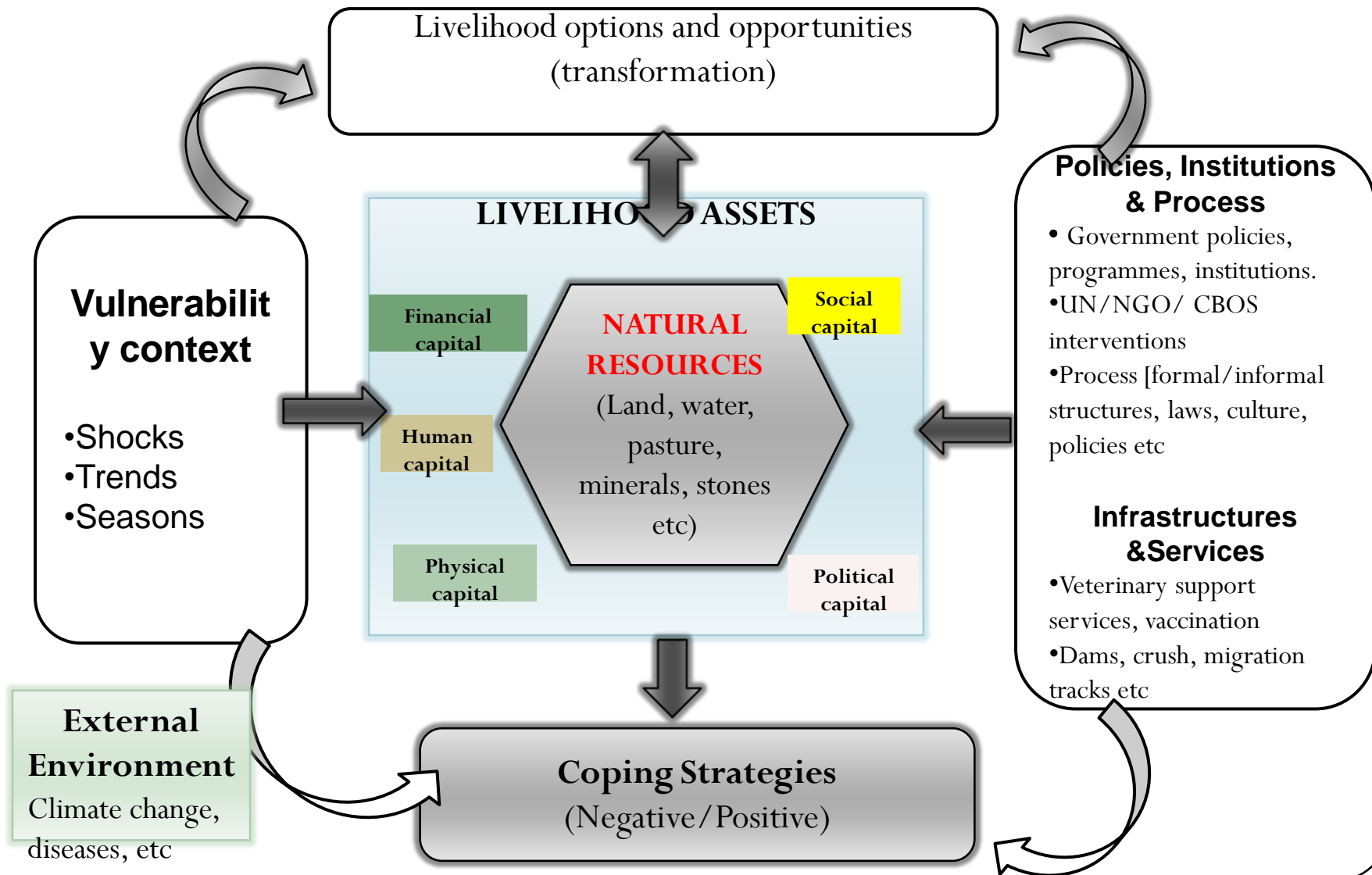
- The traditionally pastoral-dominated population is currently in a difficult transition phase towards an agro-pastoral way of life.
- The inhabitants of the villages already have some experience with agriculture-crop farming, and are increasingly settling in new areas due to the improved security situation
- Drought has become more frequent and severe



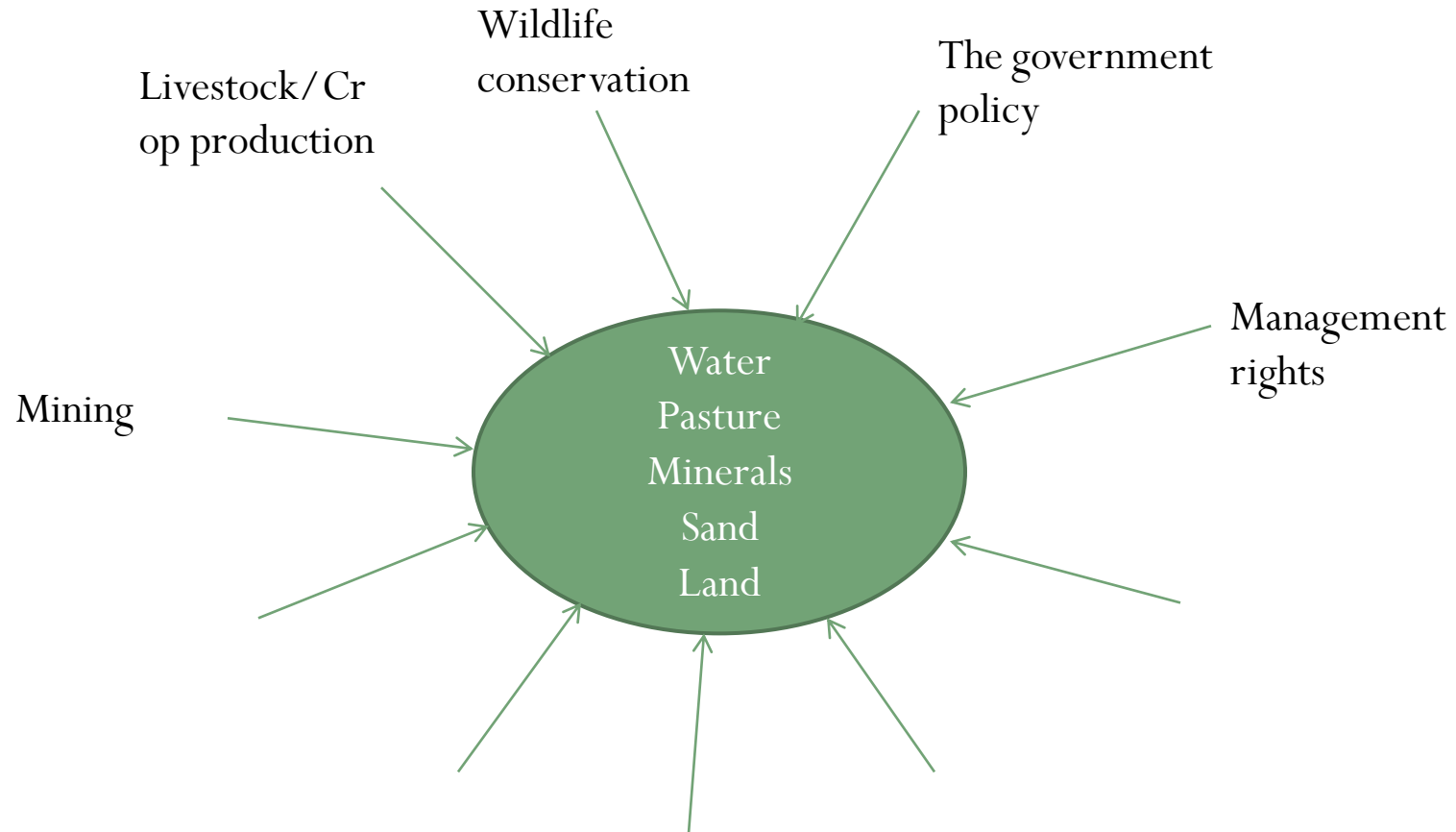
# Introduction...

- The Agro-pastoral and pastoral systems is highly heterogeneous, but they have one outstanding commonality: mobility of livestock as an adaptive tool to the varying ecological conditions in the district.
- Among the Jie & other Karimojongs, any factor that threatens livestock also threatens their lives, because livestock defines their way of life.
- Pastoralism among the Karimojong cannot be understood independent of natural resources, access to land and environmental factors

# Sustainable livelihoods analysis of natural resource conflict



# The Natural resource Conflict Web





# Moru-itit peace Resolution



- Issues relating to security threats between the Jie and the Dodoth communities (Warring )
- Illegal guns still in the hands of the Communities that have provoked raids/ cattle theft.
- X 2 plus 1 (relatives be raided, whole village bear the weight of the course)

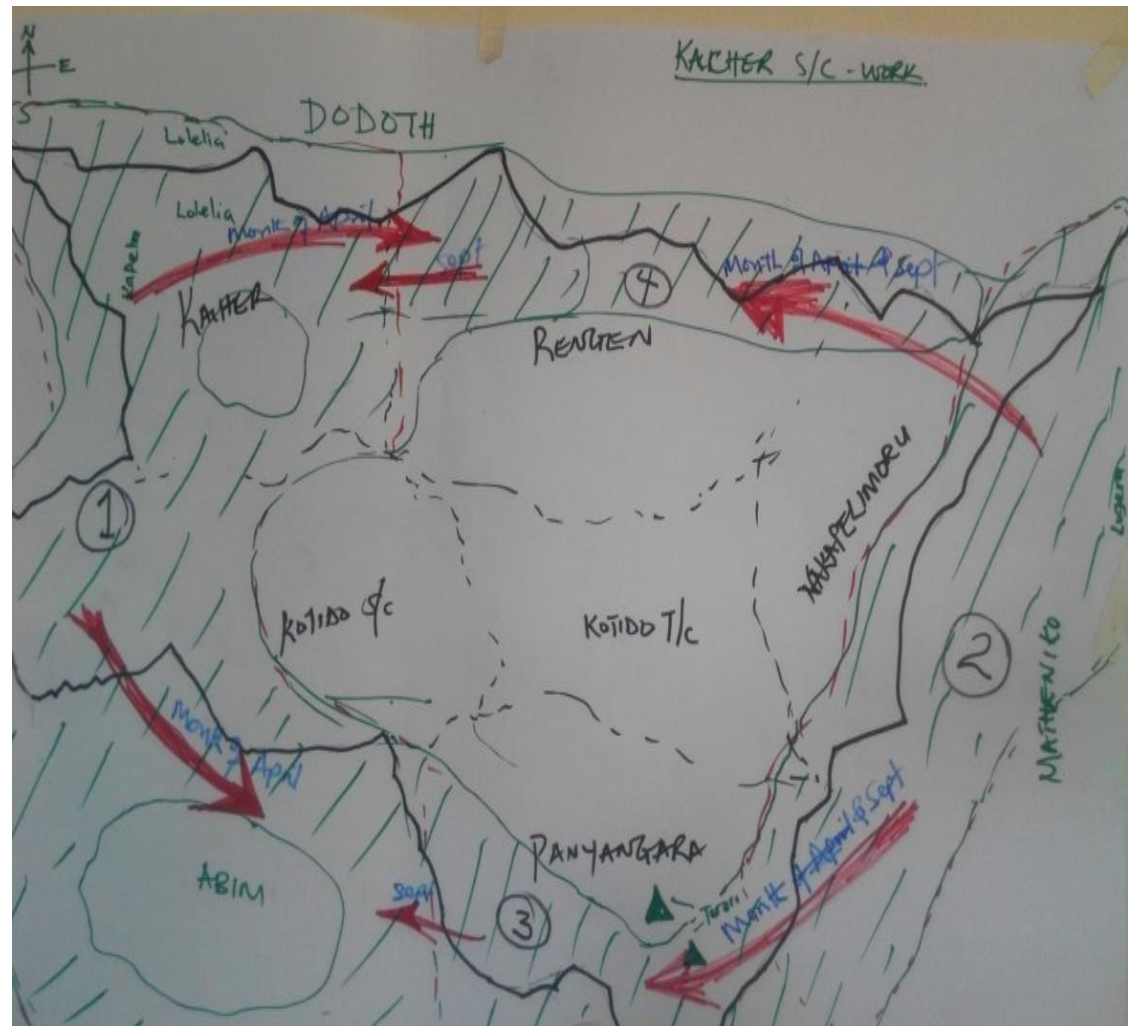


# Water and Pasture Conflict-Mapping



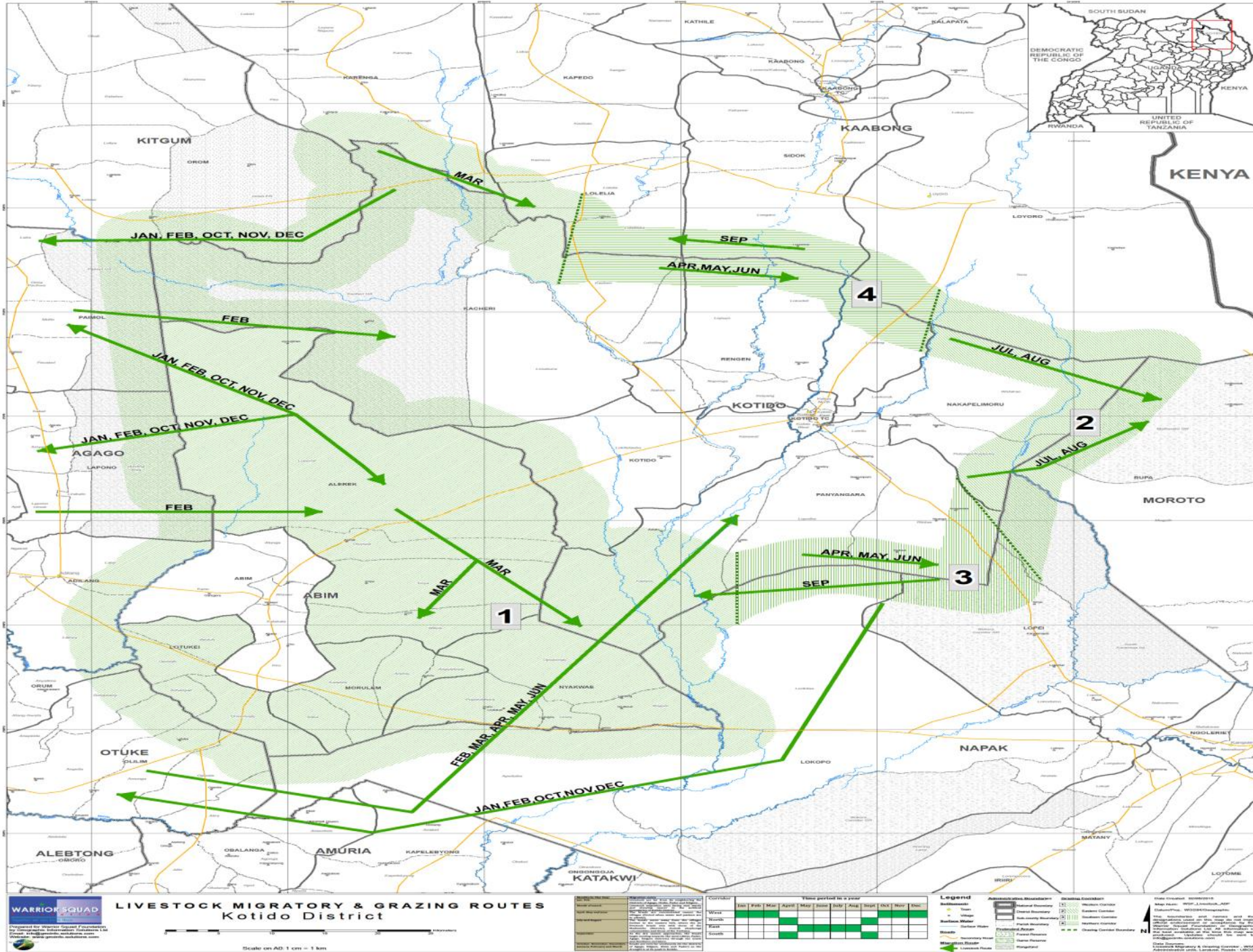
# Mapping out of Grazing routes

**Identification,  
demarcation,  
Documentation of the  
livestock migratory  
routes for effective  
service delivery in the  
migration corridors**



Courtesy of Warrior Squad Foundation-Kotido





# Migratory routes...

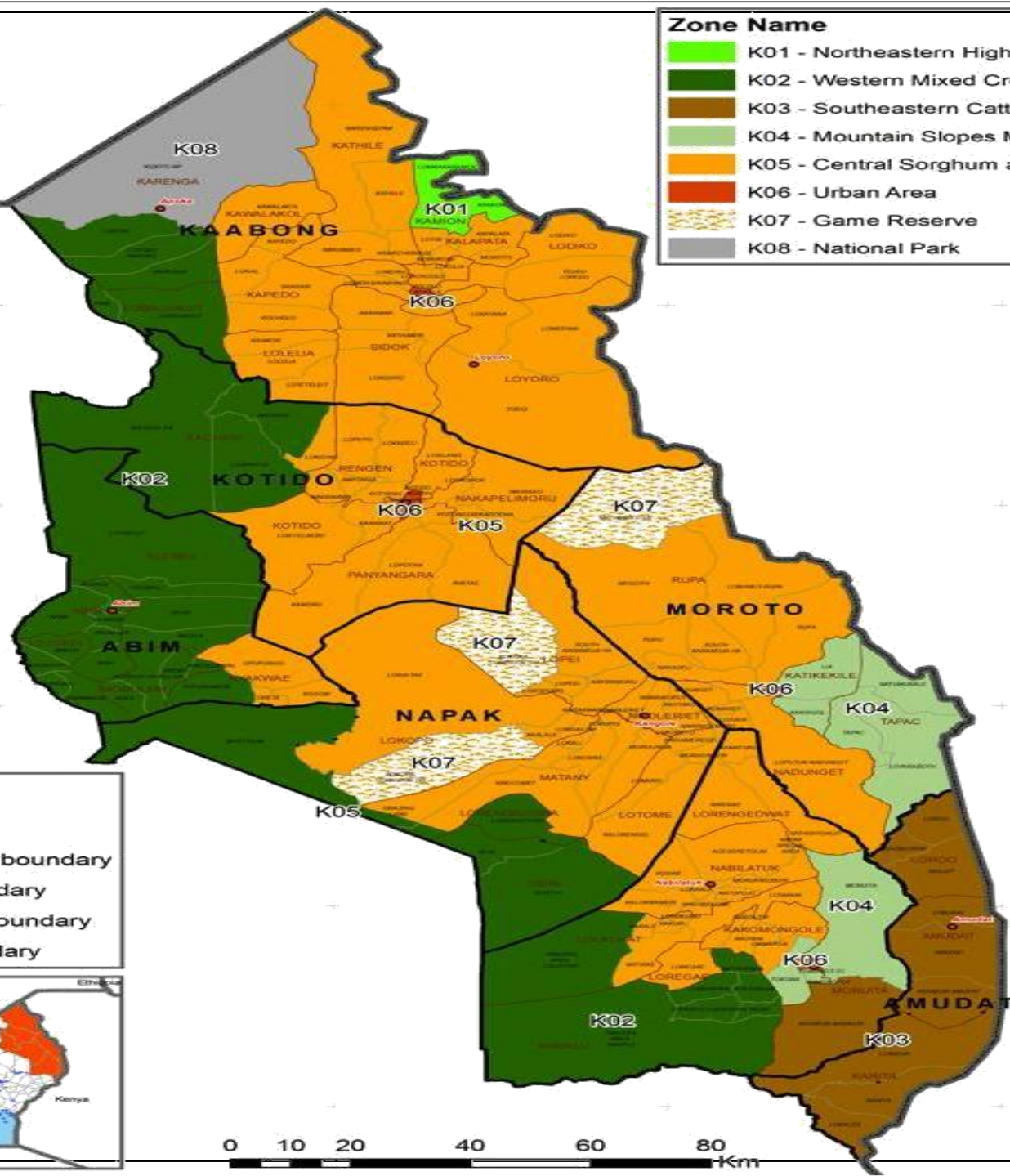
Months In The Year	Migration notes
Jan- Feb	Livestock are far from jie neighboring the Districts of Agago, Otuke, Pader and Kitgum.
March	Livestock migration start facing east wards and drawing nearer to the political boundaries of Kotido district
April ,May and June	The kraals are concentrated nearer the villages (Period when water and pasture are in plenty),
July and August	The kraals move away from the villages further to the eastern belt, where the Jie livestock kraals mix with those of the Matheniko (Moroto), Dodoth (Kaabong) communities and those of the Turkana.
September	As the dry season approaches, the kraals begin moving towards the west (Abim, Pader, Agago, Kitgum districts) through the South and Northern corridors.
October, November, December, January, February and March	Kraals are very far westwards (in the districts of Agago. Kitgum. Abim and Pader) as the drought is at its peak in Kotido.





### Zone Name

- K01 - Northeastern Highland Apiculture Zone
- K02 - Western Mixed Crop Farming Zone
- K03 - Southeastern Cattle and Maize Zone
- K04 - Mountain Slopes Maize and Cattle Zone
- K05 - Central Sorghum and Livestock Zone
- K06 - Urban Area
- K07 - Game Reserve
- K08 - National Park



### Legend

- Towns
- International boundary
- District boundary
- Subcounty boundary
- Parish boundary

0 10 20 40 60 80 Km





# Bokora and Jie making peace- Bone breaking-Sealing the agreement from a “special clan”.





# Ajale-a tamarind tree used by elders



**Elders gather together under a tamarind tree**





# Dodoth-Jie Community, a symbol of resource sharing



# Crop production promotion Vs Livestock





# Involvement of Youth & women





# Ajale- tamarind tree used by elders



# Dramas-Livestock theft

Women &  
Children trapped  
in the resource  
contested web





# Land rights and tribal issues, policies

- Tribal/clan area boundary disputes among tribes/clans
- Administrative boundaries cutting across tribal boundaries
- Leadership disputes among clans/factions within the tribes
- Certification, sale and donation of tribal land to outsiders without consent from the tribes
- Construction of public buildings on tribal lands without the consent of the tribes
- Policy designed to help public officials understand the origins of the conflicts, the implications of the policies, inconsistencies between policies and implementation, and also the need for a coordinated response to the emerging conflicts.

# Wildlife Nature Reserve

- Boundary markers deviating from official government Map
- Reserve boundaries include agricultural land and residential/settlement areas
- Construction of public infrastructure Projects within the nature reserve
- Illegal logging and hunting
- Local residents given free access to sacred sites; allowed to build shrines, but should maintain the environment



# Economics, agriculture, & livestock

- Loose cattle destroying gardens
- Imposition and failure of some government Projects
- inadequate agricultural extension services
- Unfair distribution of agricultural inputs esp-inorganic fertilizers
- Outstanding agricultural loans-Charcoal Burning
- Inadequate veterinary assistance from the Livestock Service during disease outbreaks
- Competition among different players in the opening of new land clearings – “Lobanya”
- Burning of grasslands by the pastoralists

# Conclusion

**Natural resource conflict management needs a concerted effort from all development players. It's the major base on which all other livelihood is built on.**

**Humanitarian and Emergency responses must incorporate Natural resource management so that making peace is possible while not waging war.**

Any Questions?

**Thank You.**