

Climate Change and Armed Conflict in Africa's Horn: A Legal Perspective Along with the Emerging Areas of Concern

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ABSTRACT: Climate change exacerbates the natural disasters that play a vital role in armed conflict detonation in Africa's horn. As intense weather events get worse, insecurity feeds the uprising of armed conflict in the horn of Africa's weak regions where frail institutions plus economies, unfairness, hostility as well as social uncertainty are already widespread in this region. The increase of armed conflicts puts these already deprived countries in Africa's horn in a brutal circle as critical climate adaption goals become unfeasible to attain with the numerous continuing armed conflicts an aspect that leaves the local communities in the horn's regions more susceptible to climatic troubles. These armed conflicts also degenerate climate effects through infrastructural alongside environmental devastation. The consequential situation strains each country's problem-solving ability in the region. This Paper amongst others recommends that efforts by the Horn of Africa Governments should be heightened in alleviating the impact of climate-related environmental alter alongside reinforcing toughness to climate change efforts; once initiated, this could lower the danger of violent armed conflict especially in Africa's horn.

KEYWORDS: Climate Change, Armed Conflict, Africa's Horn, A Legal Perspective, Emerging, Areas of concern

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Law and The Environment: A Case for the Unseen Climate Change Vanguard in Africa's Horn Armed Conflict-Ridden Zones

The present tempo of climate change-higher seas, decreased ice in the Arctic, melting glaciers, intense rainfall unpredictability, along with added recurrent and strong storms-are scenarios that established human communities have by no means experienced before.¹ These dynamics continuously impact the initial resources that citizens, nations-and the global order depend on for continued existence, safety and affluence: mostly food and water.² These impacts are already contributing to amplified state frailty alongside safety troubles on the globe's key regions such as Africa's horn which is a danger given a mixture of structural fragilities plus the contact to climate change dangers.- a situation that raises the probability of armed conflict on the peninsula.³

In spite of contributing incredibly minute carbon emissions, Africa's horn is suffering some of the most horrible climate change impacts.⁴ Climate pliability strategies instigated by regional Governments are crucial at this stage in addressing these challenges.⁵ However, weak Governments in Africa's horn along side deprived infrastructure merge to impede such policy, meaning that the climate change effects are presently hitting Africa's horn extra hard.⁶

Climate Change is any alter in climate overtime brought about by natural inconsistencies or human actions.⁷ The mass of scientific evidence shows that global climate is quickly shifting, mostly as a result of human behavior, leading to several global consequences.⁸ Several scientific studies review the real or probable impact of climate change on armed conflicts in Africa's

¹Bharat Raj Singh and Onkar Singh, 'Study of Impacts of Global Warming On Climate Change: Rise in Sea Level and Disaster Frequency,' available at: [intechopen.com/chapters/39.70](https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/39.70) accessed on 25th November 2024.

²Ibid.

³Karthala, 'Armed Conflict in the Horn of Africa,' *Politique Africaine*, 2024/No.173, available at: <https://shs.cairn.info/journal-politique-africaine-2024-1?lang=en>, accessed on 1st November 2024.

⁴'Climate Change in Africa,' available at: afdb.org/en/cop25/climate-changeafrica, accessed on 1st November 2024.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.

⁷'What is Climate Change?' United Nations, available at: un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change, accessed on 5th November 2024.

⁸Ibid.

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horn.⁹ Convincing results explain that the pathways through which climate change causes or contributes to armed conflicts are multifaceted, vastly context-as well as time- explicit; leading to important scientific contest on the topic.¹⁰ However, the globe's main stream researchers largely agree on aspects that offer momentum for armed conflict- sensitivity in climate change adaption. The primary issue is that climate change reportedly brings about scarcities of resources, which leads to struggle in the use of resources and as a result contributes to armed conflicts. The next issue is that climate change exacerbates presented threats to global tranquility as well as safety.¹¹

There is broad accord that climate inconsistencies and change exacerbate the dearth of natural resources in Africa's horn, where the majority of the region's citizens depend on land, water as well as oceans for their living.¹² This dearth happens during abrupt climate events or during slower changes and inconsistencies, such as changes in temperature and rainfall. Increases in excessive or abrupt events-such as flooding or protracted droughts-reduce the accessibility of arable land, water, food as well as fish stocks. Slower, subtle changes and inconsistencies in temperature and rainfall patterns-that bring about desertification, water alongside land shortages are no less dangerous, as they lay elongated term stresses on the horn's already susceptible communities.¹³

Climate Change pressures are already interacting with conflict dynamics in Africa's horn.¹⁴ For example, the already-tense Nile water allotment talks between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt are being made more hard by climate impacts that are making water supply more unpredictable, worsen water shortages, and probably impinge on the Nile flow downstream.¹⁵ Another example is in the Arabian Peninsula and Somalia, where unreasonably temperate weather tied with the civil war damage to Yemen's locust response scheme have made worse a locust outbreak that has already threatened the food safety of over twenty five million people in the region.¹⁶

1.2. Complex Armed Conflict Dynamics in Africa's Horn at a Glance:

In spite of its strategic geopolitical site plus a violent varied populace, Africa's horn is also a region of scarcity, food insecurity as well as political volatility. In the last fifty years, the area has experienced a series of distressing famines, all happening at the nexus of drought as well as armed conflict-Ethiopia in the 1980s, Somalia in the 1990's, Dafur in the mid 2000's, and again Somalia in 2011. In 1986, in recognition of this vulnerability, the Governments of six countries-Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti created the predecessor of IGAD[Inter-Governmental Authority Against Drought and Desertification].¹⁷

From a political point of view, Africa's horn is not alien to armed conflict at all levels.¹⁸ Violent armed conflict is a political plan that has often been utilized with triumph in the region; -several of this region's leaders assumed authority through force[Museveni in Uganda, Bashir in Sudan, Zenawi and Afewerki in Ethiopia and Eritrea]; armed hostility has also been utilized to oust disliked leaders[such as Said Barre in Somalia]. The weakness and armed hostility of South Sudan and Somalia co exist a long side the moderately stable civilian rule of Kenya; Ethiopia's along with Sudan's present rocky political transitions stand in contrast to Uganda and Eritrea behind time transitions.¹⁹

Cross-border armed conflicts in Africa's horn are frequent. Countries often get involved in their neighbour's armed conflicts, either straightforwardly by sending troops or not directly by sponsoring proxies or supporting rebel groups.²⁰ Occasionally two-sided disputes take the shape of sponsoring opposite proxies in a third country. Dr. Noel Healy calls it a practice of joint intrusion and rebellion that characterizes regional associations in Africa's Horn.²¹ A number of these armed conflicts in Africa's Horn have

⁹Urmilla Bob, Salomé Bronkhorst [eds.] *'Conflict-Sensitive Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa'*, available at: https://climatediplomacy.org/sites/default/files/202102/Conflict%20sensitive%20adaptation%20to%20climate%20change%20in%20Africa_full%20book.pdf, accessed on 15th December 2024.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹*'Climate Change and Conflict'*, Accord, available at: <https://www.accord.org.za/publication/climate-change-conflict>, accessed on 27th December 2024.

¹²Ibid.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Sagal Absir, *'Climate Change and Security in the Horn of Africa: Can Europe Help to Reduce the Risks?'*, European Institute of Peace, 2020.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Ibid, Sagal Absir, at note 15.

¹⁷Urmilla Bob, Salomé Bronkhorst [eds.] p.7, opcit at note 10.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰Sylvain Vite *'Typology of Armed Conflicts in International Humanitarian Law: Legal Concepts and Situations'*, International Review of the Red Cross, Vol 91, No.873, 2009, pp.69-94.

²¹Sagal Absir, 2020, opcit, note 16.

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resulted in the redrawing of state boundaries-Eritrea in 1993, South Sudan in 2011, and the continuing efforts of Somali land to split from Somalia.

A further frequent trait in the region is the promptness of ethnic overlaps, affinities as well as loyalties that rise above national borders[for example Somalis in Ethiopia-Kenya-Djibouti; Karamajong in Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan; Afars in Djibouti-Eritrea-Ethiopia; Borans in Kenya-Ethiopia]. On one hand, these overlaps make easy casual trade and commerce, but on the other they are seen by State authorities as a danger and a budding source of armed conflict insecurity in the region. In several of these countries in Africa's horn, the borderland communities are marginalized economically as well as politically, thereby making neighbouring countries utilize this ethnic overlap as an admission point for the aforesaid cross-border decline.²² In a good number, if not all, cases, these borderlands in Africa's horn are inhabited by pastoralists, key actors in much of the climate-conflict studies.²³

3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARMED CONFLICT: THE DEFINITIONS

3.1. Climate Change:

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[UNFCCC], 1997 defines Climate change as 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.'²⁴ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] on the other hand defines climate change as any change in the state of climate that persevere for an extensive epoch, characteristically decades or longer, whether from usual unpredictability or human activity.

3.2. Armed Conflict:

Armed Conflict is the sustained contest between two or more organized adversaries making purposive use of armed force. Crucially, it involves combat, rather than the one sided application of lethal force.²⁵ Armed Conflict must be fought between two or more adversaries, which may be states or non-state actors. The antagonists must demonstrate a level of organization sufficient to be able to plan and execute the attacks. Whether at the strategic or tactical level, these attacks are directed at attaining a purpose that is opposed by the other Party or Parties to the conflict.²⁶

According to *Prosecutor v. Dusko Tadic*,²⁷ an armed conflict exists whenever there is a resort to armed conflict between states or protracted armed violence between Governmental authorities and organized armed groups or between such groups within a state.

Domestically, these groups exert a material effect by disrupting the political order or posing an existential challenge to the state. Internationally, these groups can have a profound impact on international relations and the formulation and conduct of defence and security policy.²⁸

4. THE CLIMATE- ARMED CONFLICT LINK IN AFRICA'S HORN

A large body of scholarly literature on climate related environmental changes and violent armed conflict in Africa's horn shows that environmental changes such as the shifting rainfall patterns, droughts, changes in vegetation cover and the ever increasing resource scarcity continuously contribute to various types of violent armed conflict.²⁹ The link is particularly evident for armed conflicts involving livestock herders.

Case study research also shows that local resource conflicts in Africa's horn are sometimes drawn into more intense power struggles related to armed conflict such as those witnessed in the Sudans and Somalia. This does not necessarily mean that

²²Ibid, Sagal Absir, 2020 at note 21.

²³Ibid.

²⁴What Is The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[UNFCCC]? available at: <https://www.ise.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/explainers/what-is-the-un-framework-convention-on-climate-change-unfccc>, accessed on 10th November 2024.

²⁵Chapter One: Thematic Essays: 'The Essence of Armed Conflict: Armed Conflict Survey,' Vol.4. Issue 1, 2018, available at: <https://doi.org/10.080/23740973.2018.1482048>, accessed on 28th January 2025.

²⁶Ibid, Chapter One: Thematic Essays: 'The Essence of Armed Conflict: Armed Conflict Survey,' at note 25.

²⁷IT-94-1-AR72, Appeals Chamber, Decision 2, October 1995.

²⁸Ibid, IT-94-1-AR72, Appeals Chamber, Decision 2, October 1995, at note 28.

²⁹'The Relationship Between Climate Change and Violent Conflict,' Sida, 2018, available at: <https://cdn.sida.se/app/uploads/2020/12/01105650/working-paper-climate-change-and-conflict.pdf>, accessed on 1st December 2024.

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climate-related environmental change automatically causes violent armed conflict in Africa's horn; but it should be noted that aspects such as the political, economic and cultural context are often key in this regard.³⁰

5. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ARMED CONFLICT: THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

5.1. Basic Climate Change Legal Framework

5.1.1. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC], 1992

Signed in 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC], is the foundational treaty that provides a basis for global climate negotiations since it was established, including landmark agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol [1997] and the Paris Agreement [2015].³¹ The Convention ratified by one hundred ninety seven global states sets out to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system within a time frame that allows global citizens alongside the planet to adopt as well as global economies to develop sustainably. In joining the Convention, Parties acknowledge the existence of climate change threats as well as agree to efforts in combating it.³²

The Convention itself has not established concrete targets; rather, it provides a framework for future agreements and policies, calling for ongoing research negotiations, agreements as well as obligations through a few important mechanisms.³³

5.1.2. Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015

The Paris Agreement a legally binding global treaty, that entered into force on 4th November 2016³⁴ calls upon global states in reducing their emissions and working together in getting adapted to climate change impacts.³⁵ The Agreement provides a pathway for developed global nations to assist those other developing nations in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts while creating a framework for the transparent monitoring and reporting of states' climate goals.³⁶ The Paris Agreement further provides a robust structure guiding the global endeavors for decades to come, marking the start of a swing towards a net-zero emissions worldwide. The implementation of this Agreement is also vital for the attainment of the global sustainable development goals.³⁷

5.2. Basic Armed Conflict Legal Framework

5.2.1. Hague Conventions, 1899, 1907

The Codification of contemporary International Humanitarian Law [IHL] began at the end of the nineteenth century. A Peace conference was held at the Hague, Netherlands in 1899, followed by a second conference, which met in the same metropolis in 1907, coming up with a series of global conventions related to the non-violent resolution of international armed conflicts and the laws of war, which are known collectively as the Hague Conventions.³⁸ The Hague Convention [HCs] of 1899 and 1907 are a progression of global treaties as well as declarations negotiated at two global peace conferences at the Hague in the Netherlands, the first HC of 1899 and the second HC of 1907. Along with the Geneva Conventions [GCs], the HCs were amongst the earliest official statements of the laws of war and war crimes in the structure of secular International law. Convention Four, which is the most pertinent here proclaimed the laws and customs of war on land. Presently in force, this convention imposes upon the parties the duty to issue directives to their armed land forces in compliance with the regulations annexed to the Convention. Every Party to a conflict is accountable for all acts committed by individuals forming part of its armed forces, as well as militia and volunteer corps commanded by an individual in charge, having a fixed distinctive emblem and carrying arms openly. A hostile party who violates the provisions of the Regulations shall, if the case requires, be liable to pay compensation.

On 9th July 2004, the ICJ, in its advisory opinion on the Wall Opinion³⁹ referred to the 1907 fourth Hague Convention as customary International Law binding on all global states in the twenty first century.

³⁰Malin Mobjock & Sebastian Van Baalen, 'Climate Change and Violent Conflict in East Africa-Implications For Policy,' Stockholm University and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2016, p.1.

³¹United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, available at :<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/hr/initiatives/un-framework-convention-climate-change>, accessed on 2nd November 2024.

³²Ibid.

³³Ibid.

³⁴The Paris Agreement 'available at: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>, assessed on 10th December 2024.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸The Hague Conventions, 1907, available at: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/international/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/hague-conventions-1907>, accessed on 21st November, 2024.

³⁹Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory :adv.Op.[2004]ICJ Rep 1.

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5.2.2. Fourth Geneva Convention, 1949

Adopted in August 1949 and coming into force in October 1950, the Fourth Geneva Convention is one of the four treaties of the Geneva Conventions;⁴⁰ a foundational global treaty paying attention entirely on defending civilians in times of warfare. Amongst its several provisions, the fourth Geneva Convention establishes that persons in the adversary hands must have documented position, overtly forbidding torture, hostage taking, collective punishment as well as population transfers in occupied territories. Drafted in the wake of World War Two, this landmark treaty filled the overwhelming gaps absent in earlier conventions that only protected military persons.

5.2.3. Additional Protocol I, 1977

Additional Protocol One, 1977 is an amendment to the Geneva Conventions [GCs] that considerably expands the legal protections for civilian victims setting stricter rules for the conduct of warfare during global armed conflicts, prohibiting all global attacks on the civilian populace as well as civilian objects.⁴¹ The Protocol also prohibits as well as defines 'indiscriminate attacks' as 'incidental slaughter of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a mixture thereof, which would be extreme in relation to the real and straight military benefit projected.'⁴² This law is referred to by scholars as the principle of proportionality. Until well after World War Two ended in 1945, the reciprocity norm provided a good reason for behavior in armed conflict situations.⁴³

6. SPECIFIC CLIMATE DRIVEN CONFLICTS IN AFRICA'S HORN:

Many current on-going African conflicts are prejudiced by the continent's climatic changes.⁴⁴ The Darfur conflict is one such conflict primarily considered a totally climate-change motivated conflict; rainfall patterns are thirty to seventy five percent less the projected levels and the resultant water shortage is an important aspect in the civil war's eruption.⁴⁵ Mali, Burkina Faso as well as Niger have an incredibly elevated size of citizens below the poverty line who depend on the land for survival. The latest droughts have displaced millions of people, who find themselves endangered by on-going Islamic clashes in Burkina Faso, or extensive communal disputes owing to resource shortages.⁴⁶

Africa's horn in the East has lately experienced unparalleled drought, alongside the reappearance of locust swarms.⁴⁷ Both Ethiopia and Somalia encompass incredibly low down human growth index as well as more than eighty percent of the populace engaged in the farming industry with susceptible rain fed agriculture. Once acute events put huge scores of people in lack of sustenance, severe conduct comes up which currently explains the social triggers for armed conflict in Africa's horn.

6.1. Climate and Violent Conflict in Africa's Horn: Emerging Areas of Concern

Climate change is already apparent in Africa's horn- as evidenced by the unparalleled increasing waters in the Kenyan rift valley lakes, the most horrible incursion of locusts in twenty five years.⁴⁸ The 2019, 2020 World Meteorological Organization State of Climate Change in Africa Reports documents the threats from increasing temperatures and sea levels, altering precipitation patterns, as well as more severe weather. Human health and security, food and water safety as well as socio-economic growth are all affected.⁴⁹

Scholars deliberate the precise nature of the link between conflicts, security and climate change, save for the threats to political constancy that are apparent. A thirty- year appraisal, from 1989 to 2019, reported twenty five dynamic state – based conflicts in Africa in 2019- the highest number since 1946.⁵⁰ Against this back drop, the budding areas of concern in relation to climate and violent conflict in Africa's Horn include:

⁴⁰Jelena Pejic, 'The Other Side of Civilian Protection: The 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention' available at: <https://lieber.westpoint.edu/other-side-civilian-protection-fourth-geneva-convention/accessed> on 1st October 2024.

⁴¹'Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12th August 1949 and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, available at: <https://www.humanium.org/en/further-conventions/protocol-i-additional-to-the-geneva-conventions/>, accessed on 2nd October 2024.

⁴²Ibid, at note 43.

⁴³'The Principle of Proportionality', available at: International Committee of the Red Cross, available at: https://www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/war-and-law/04_proportionality-0.pdf, accessed on 20th November 2024.

⁴⁴Owen Mulhern, 'Climate Change and Conflict in Africa,' available at: https://earth.org/data_visualization/climate-change-and-conflict-in-africa, accessed on 25th November 2024.

⁴⁵Ibid.

⁴⁶Ibid, Owen Mulhern, 2024, at note 45.

⁴⁷Ibid.

⁴⁸Philip Osano 'Climate Change Amplifies the Risks For Violent Conflicts in Africa', <https://www.sei.org/perspectives/climate-change-amplifies-risks-violent-conflicts-africa>, accessed on 14th December 2024.

⁴⁹Ibid.

⁵⁰Ibid.

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6.1.1. Worsening Livelihood Conditions As a Pre-Cursor For Violent Armed Conflict in Africa's Horn

Economic hardship in Africa's horn has in certain situations considerably increased the danger of armed conflict viciousness in the region.⁵¹ Droughts, dwindling rainfalls, degraded soils and sparser vegetation cover are currently having such destructive effects on livelihood circumstances in this region, where a huge section of the populace relies on rain fed farming as well as pasture.⁵² With their livelihoods already endangered, the horn's citizens believe that they lose nothing through using armed fighting or by joining armed groups.

Unexpected climate linked environmental changes in Africa's horn such as droughts or floods, are often more harmful as citizens living in this region have a smaller amount of time in adopting or even building up non-violent resource distribution mechanisms.⁵³ Numerous studies on this aspect in addition show that periods with moderately unfavourable situations such as droughts, are more expected to experience communal armed conflict.⁵⁴ As violent armed conflict leads to the collapse of societal relations and often forces citizens to adopt unsustainable livelihoods, there is a danger of livelihoods armed conflict cycle being perpetrated by all the involved parties, a situation that could result into chronic insecurity in Africa's horn.

6.1.2. Aspect of Increasing Migration in Africa's Horn

Regional Migration in Africa's horn has most of the time led towards violent clashes over natural resources in areas of elevated migration.⁵⁵ In situations where citizens have not been able to sustain themselves, they have moved to other areas in the horn where there are more available resources. In this case, the horn's citizens have used this as an adaptation strategy.⁵⁶ It should be noted that migration in most cases has led to armed conflict violence in Africa's horn due to lack of common peaceful conflict resolution mechanisms over resources by groups from different parts of the region.⁵⁷ Research shows that groups with a strong sense of identity have been seen to be better mobilizers of their citizens for vicious purposes. Outstandingly, migration-induced armed conflict has more often taken place in areas where there are additional resources and where livelihood situations are improved.⁵⁸ In this respect it should be noted that the choice to migrate is rarely brought about by environmental shifts alone but this is frequently a consequence of numerous factors that network over time.

6.1.3. Shifting Mobility Pastoral Patterns in Africa's Horn

One more slightly different shape of migration relates to the shifting pastoral mobility patterns in Africa's horn.⁵⁹ Pastoralists in Africa's horn have always earned their livelihood largely through herding livestock alongside relying on mobility as a way of coping with the horn of Africa's harsh climatic conditions. In this case, it should be noted that it is not migration per se that is imperative here but the actuality that pastoralists are ever more shifting their standard mobility patterns especially in Africa's horn.⁶⁰

These changes have been imposed by both climate-related environmental shifts and by non-climate factors.⁶¹ The overriding climate-related feature in Africa's horn is drought. Beside their conventional trekking routes, pastoralists have negotiated admission and followed customary laws that control their access to resources. In cases where there has been change of route, armed conflicts have often arisen over water and pasture with groupings already there in the area—conflicts that now and then turn vicious. This prototype has been pragmatic in Africa's horn particularly in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and the Sudans.

⁵¹ *Report on State of Climate, Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa*, available at: https://www.icpac.net/documents/648/State_of_Climate_Peace_and_Security_in_the_Horn_of_Africa_2022_gttu3PO.pdf, accessed on 11th November 2024.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Tor Richardson Golinski' *Drought and Communal Violence: A Study of the Relationship Between Drought and Communal Violence in Kenya From 1997 to 2012*, Masters Thesis, submitted to Uppsala University, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, 2023.

⁵⁵ *East Africa and the Horn Light the Way For Climate Migrants*, Institute For Security Studies, available at: <https://issafrica.org/iss-today/east-africa-and-the-horn-light-the-way-for-climate-migrants>, accessed on 1st December 2024.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid, *East Africa and the Horn Light the Way For Climate Migrants*, at note 56.

⁵⁸ *Climate Change and Violent Conflict in East Africa: Implications For Policy*, available at: <https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/Policy-brief%2C-Climate-change-and-violent-conflict%2C-April-2016.pdf>, accessed on 3rd October 2024.

⁵⁹ *Pastoralism in the Horn of Africa, Diverse Livelihood Pathways, Future*, Agriculture available at: <https://www.future-agricultures.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf-archive/CAADP%20Policy%20Brief%2006.pdf>, accessed on 4th December 2024.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

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6.1.4. Impact of Weather and Climate on Armed Group Tactical Considerations in Africa's Horn

Weather and short-term climate fluctuations have also affected the strategic considerations of armed groups, particularly the livestock raiders in Africa's horn.⁶² During the wet season, it can be seen that livestock raiding is less costly, when the thick vegetation provides cover. Livestock are also stronger during the wet season, which has made it easier for raiders to walk big distances with stolen livestock in Africa's horn.⁶³ Numerous studies exhibit that livestock related hostility has normally occurred during damp periods of the year.⁶⁴

This explanation differs from the previous three arguments in this Paper since this aspect concerns how the climate has affected the decisions of the belligerent Parties in the horn especially on when to employ in armed violence and not on why groupings wish to engage in armed violence in the first place. Additionally, this argument also shows how climate-related environmental shifts have affected violent armed conflict dynamics especially in Africa's horn.

6.1.5. Exploitation By the Inter-Group Violence Political Elites in Africa's Horn

Most of the resource-related violent conflicts in Africa's horn have always been moderately low concentration conflicts amongst slackly organized groupings at local level. Conversely these local conflicts have now and then turn out to be incorporated into bigger processes of full blown armed conflict, ethnic cleansing and insecurity through exploitation by the horn's elites.⁶⁵ Political elites have most of the time viewed fuelling inter-group violent behavior as an efficient means of diverting concentration away from their own shortcomings, crushing political opponents or ensuring the continuous support of their constituencies.⁶⁶ In such instances, local struggles over meager resources have been situations ready for privileged abuse since the horn's elites have capitalized on presented grievances as well as tensions since the organizational structures essential for armed violence are already there. This is predominantly obvious in the Sudans, where local resource conflicts are essentially connected to regional as well as nationwide power struggles. Related processes have been pragmatic in other countries in Africa's horn such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda.⁶⁷

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Climate Change and climate-related conflict are at once a problem to livelihoods for natural resource management as well as peace building in Africa's horn. Climate Change has exacerbated the likely disasters that play a central part in armed conflict ignition or exacerbation in Africa's horn. In the midst of worsening severe weather events, insecurity has fed the insurgence of armed conflict in the horn's delicate regions where fragile institutions, economies, inequality, violent behavior as well as social insecurity have by now prevailed. The rise of armed conflicts in the horn has put these deprived countries in a ferocious circle as vital climate adaptation goals have become almost impractical to attain with on-going armed conflict in the horn's region which has made local communities more exposed to climatic troubles. These armed conflicts in Africa's horn have also worsened climate change efforts through infrastructural as well as environmental devastation. The resultant situations have in turn strained each country's problem solving capacity. It is in this light that one of this Paper's recommendation centers around the need to support impact mitigation and resilience in Africa's horn.

This Paper in its arguments highlighted the worsening livelihood conditions that have made the region's citizens stick together with armed groups or engage in hostilities. This argument suggests that efforts by the Horn of Africa Governments should be heightened in a bid to alleviate the brunt of climate-related environmental shifts as well as reinforcing resilience to climate change efforts if once initiated, could lessen the danger of violent armed conflict in Africa's horn.

The other recommendation fronted by this Paper is the aspect of enabling and adopting to mobility and migration in Africa's horn. One way of breaking the sequence of susceptibility as well as armed violence is to construct an institutional infrastructure that facilitates nonviolent recurring migration and designing strategies for harmonizing the mobility needs of pastoralists with the wants of sedentary farmers.

Strengthening existing conflict resolution mechanisms in Africa's horn is yet the other recommendation fronted by this Paper. Sufficient as well as efficient conflict resolution mechanisms is the way to go in preventing violent armed conflict in

⁶² 'Climate and Security in the Horn of Africa,' Africa Confidential International Crisis Group, Royal African Society, available at: <https://royalafricansociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Horn-Expert-Group-Background-Paper.pdf>, accessed on 7th October 2024.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Patrick Wennstrom, 'Cattle, Conflict and Climate Variability; Explaining Pastoralist Conflict Intensity in the Karamoja Region of Uganda,' Springer Nature Link, Vol.24, No.54, available at: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10113-024-02210-x>, accessed on 1st August 2024.

⁶⁵ Redie Bereketab[eds] 'The Horn of Africa,' *Intra State and Inter-State Conflicts and Security*, 2013.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ See Ana Elisa Cascao, 'Resource-Based Conflict In South Sudan and Gambela[Ethiopia]: When Water, Land and Oil Mix with Politics,' Open Edition, available at <https://books.openedition.org/cei/295>, pp.143-165, accessed on 7th December 2024.

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the horn. Since most countries in Africa's horn already have such mechanisms, this Paper recommends that peripheral actors such as Governmental and non- Governmental organizations should center on how to adopt local conflict resolution mechanisms such as intensification of out of court conflict management procedures through building capacity amongst local or traditional institutions or by scheming institutions that punish destabilizing practices such as the rampant livestock raiding in Africa's horn. This whole effort would in the short or long run meet fresh demands rather than introducing totally fresh mechanisms in this regard.

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