Executive Summary

This is study intended to analyse the risk of climate change impact on the pastoral community of Turkana, particularly on their source of livelihood. Climate change is claimed to influence other climatic and non-climatic risks in the district. The researcher undertook a community-based disaster risk assessment to assess whether communities perceive climate change impact as a risk, and whether it is significant in their context. Moreover, a review and analysis of historical meteorological data and climate change projections were undertaken. The study found that all sources converge to the conclusion that there are indications (trends) that confirm the community perception of climate change impact.

The researcher analysed the added value of the Turkana livelihood and its contribution to the local and national interests. In addition, a review of traditional livelihood strategies and coping mechanisms of Turkana was done. This was necessary to analyse the community’s current vulnerabilities, capacities and adaptive capacities to climate change. Vulnerability and access models were applied to inform the adaptive capacity analysis, which was conducted by using a community-based capacity and vulnerability analysis to climate change.

The analysis concluded that the current vulnerabilities are rooted at various levels from national central to household and individual levels. There are long-term socioeconomic factors at all these levels which are shaping the current vulnerability of Turkana to climate change and its future adaptation.

The study provided recommendations that are based on the output of the analysis of various aspects of Turkana community. In short, it is necessary to undertake an integrated approach, which mainstreams disaster risk reduction and incorporates climate change impact. A mix of long-term and relief activities are necessary to strengthen the adaptation capacity in Turkana, with particular emphasis on addressing acute and chronic vulnerabilities and poverty.