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## INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ON LAND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AMONG NGORONGORO COMMUNITIES OF ARUSHA REGION, TANZANIA

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**Abstract:** *The overall objective of this study was to investigate how the Indigenous Knowledge on land conflicts management strategies influences peaceful coexistence in pastoral communities of Ngorongoro district, Arusha region. The study used the mixed-methods research design where both quantitative and qualitative perspectives are adopted to identify to examine the effects of land conflicts on peaceful coexistence in Ngorongoro district. The study sampled a total of 153 respondents. The multi-stage sampling technique was used to select the district, divisions, wards and households, while purposive sampling was used to select community leaders and members. Simple random sampling was used to select elders. Primary data was obtained using questionnaires, focus group discussions and interview guides. Secondary data were reviewed from reports of national and international NGOs and journals. Qualitative data were analysed using framework and thematic analysis, while the quantitative data were analysed using frequencies and percentages generated through Statistical Package for Social science (SPSS) version 20. Majority of respondents agreed that land conflicts may disturb the coexistence of peace to high probability where the respondents indicated that land conflicts resulted in violence. Community members confirmed that indigenous people were affected negatively by land conflicts; where respondents indicated that livelihoods were undermined. In conclusion, majority of respondents agreed that peaceful coexistence among communities, to a high extent, was disturbed. The study recommended that all stakeholders in lands management should encourage education through capacity building, cooperation and involvement of local community members during planning and decisions-making for lands management in order to sustain peace among communities of Ngorongoro district, Arusha Region, Tanzania.*

**Keywords:** *Indigenous Knowledge, land conflicts management, strategies, peaceful coexistence, pastoral communities*

## 1.1 Background to the Study

From the ancient Greek myths we know that in the beginning people lived happily together in simple harmony. This Golden Age of peaceful coexistence did not last. With the onset of the current Iron Age people divided the land among them and rendered it into private property, for which they have continued to fight one another to this day. Land conflicts are indeed a widespread phenomenon, and can occur at anytime and anywhere (Eschborn, 2008). Land is considered as a valuable commodity, it has economic value, political and cultural importance. Communities, individuals, private practitioners, the government agencies and other interested stakeholders exploit land for various purposes (Bruce et al, 2011).

Land has been observed as one cause of conflicts in Sub Saharan Africa. It is said that local land disagreements can progress into pronounced civil strife of greater magnitude and political movements. The underlying issues such as, population pressure, commercialization of agriculture, and rural urban migration, have been a contributing factor of increased amount of land conflicts (Mutava, 2016). Land conflicts can become tools of transformation if they lead to large protests and cause policy changes and implementation (Bruce, Holt, 2011, Mutava, 2016).

The vital importance of land issues to social and economic development in Africa is unquestionable. Land resource is very crucial in any production within a society whereby equitable and secure access to land is a critical factor for the development. In East Africa, land plays a big role in sustainable economic development whereby large population depends on it in industry, urban life and agricultural livelihoods (Gulliver, 2013). Conflicts among the farmers and pastoralist in Africa are not a new story, they are largely caused by competition over control of land and access to natural resources particularly water and pasture. They have existed for many years (Looloitai, 2014).

Traditional conflict resolution processes are part of a well-structured, time-proven social system geared towards reconciliation, maintenance and improvement of social relationships. The methods, processes and regulations are deeply rooted in the customs and traditions of people of Africa. The role of chiefs, elders, family heads, and others is not only to resolve conflicts but also to anticipate and stop/or intercept conflicts (Kwaku and Morena, 2010). Indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms focus on the principles of empathy, sharing and cooperation in dealing with common problems which underline the essence of humanity (ubuntu) (Murithi, 2006). Cultural approaches to resolving and managing disputes play a vital role in promoting peace and social order in communities. These also promote sharing and equitable distribution of resources, thus promoting a climate for peace (Kwaku and Morena, 2010).

In Tanzania, land conflict is not a new phenomenon. Rwechungura (2011) reported that, even though Tanzania remains relatively comfortable with arable tracts estimated at 44 million hectares for various uses, mostly agricultural activities, the country is not free from land related conflicts. The country has been experiencing an increasing magnitude of conflict among land-users especially in Ngorongoro district, Arusha region which is one of the places that have experienced land conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in recent years (Chawene, 2012, Maria and Tumpe, 2013).

The conceptual understanding of the relationship between indigenous knowledge on land conflict management strategies and peaceful coexistence is that in all society peace depend on how

conflicts like land conflicts are managed. If the conflicts are well managed based to the knowledge required; the peace take place; but if the conflict management strategies failed due to the ignorance of some laws required; the result is the continuation of land conflicts among parties in communities. So peaceful coexistence depends on how indigenous knowledges on land conflicts management strategies are applied without bias. The contextual understanding of peaceful coexistence is based on different circumstances involved during land conflicts management where the maintenance of peace must take a greater place based to strategies used in addressing land conflicts among indigenous people in Ngorongoro communities. Therefore, there is a gap on the traditional mechanisms based on indigenous knowledge for resolving land conflict in Tanzania particularly in Ngorongoro district; the reason of this study to be undertaken in order to fill that gap through investigation on the indigenous knowledge for land conflict management strategies applied in maintaining peace among the Ngorongoro communities in Arusha region-Tanzania.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

For years now, there have been problems of land conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in many parts of the world even in Tanzania (Benjaminsen et al., 2009). Population pressures, commercialization of agriculture, and rural urban migration, have been contributing factors of increased amount of land conflicts (Mutava, 2016). Little has been done to mitigate that social issue. All land conflicts, no matter how peaceful or violent they are, produce negative consequences for individual people as well as for the entire society (Eschborn, 2008). Land conflicts have reached the extent to which people killed each other, properties destroyed and even human rights damaged as it was manifested several times in Kilosa and Kilombero districts in Morogoro region; in Kilindi district in Tanga region, and in Arusha between Wasonjo and Maasai tribes. Although great and deliberate efforts were taken to bring to an end the long and bitter land conflicts between these indigenous communities but positive peace and harmony are still very far to reach in those communities of Ngorongoro District. If the problem of inadequate knowledge on land conflicts management among indigenous people is not well addressed and resolved; there will be negative effects to indigenous communities of the district which will affect the all country. Therefore this study has been designed to investigate on the indigenous knowledge in lands conflict management strategies and specifically find out how land conflicts affect the life of people and for that reason suggest various ways which can help to bring a halt to all these misunderstandings, complaints and fights among communities of Ngorongoro District in Arusha, Tanzania.

## **1.3 Overall objective**

To investigate the Indigenous Knowledge on land conflicts management strategies and peaceful coexistence in pastoral communities of Ngorongoro district, Arusha region.

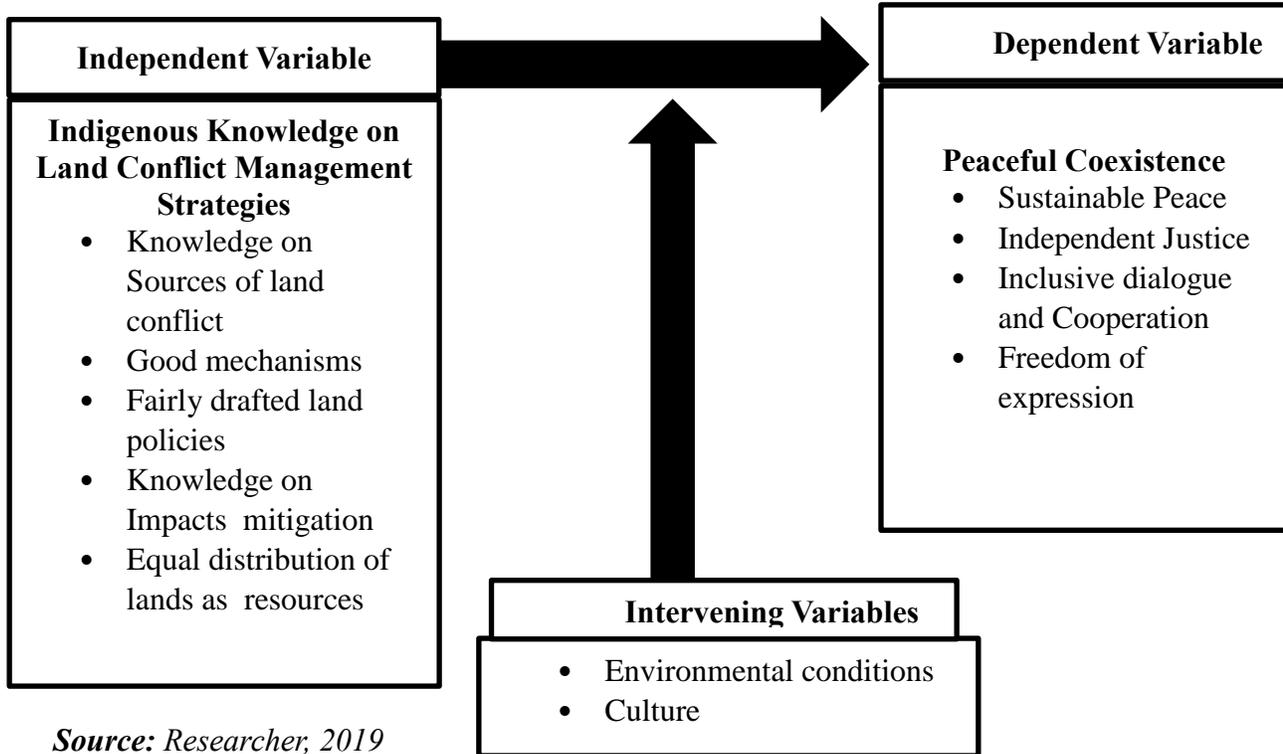
### **1.3.1 Specific Objectives are as follows:**

- i. To identify the causes of land conflicts among pastoral communities of Ngorongoro district.
- ii. To examine the effects of land conflicts on peaceful coexistence among the Ngorongoro communities of Arusha.
- iii. To determine the mechanisms applied in indigenous knowledge in land conflicts management among Ngorongoro communities of Arusha.

### 1.3.2 Study Questions

1. What are the causes of land conflicts among the Ngorongoro communities?
2. What are the effects of land conflicts on peaceful coexistence among the Ngorongoro communities?
3. Which are the mechanisms applied in indigenous knowledge in land conflicts management among Ngorongoro communities?

### 1.4 Conceptual Framework



*Source: Researcher, 2019*

Indigenous within a particular locality depend on number of factors but clear land management strategies are one of these factors. So if conflicts due to land emerge it is very difficult to experience harmonious and equitable development. In Tanzania, the major yardstick used to measure land conflict management strategies output; is the existence of peace within a particular community. This output, however, is achieved after various inputs into the land conflicts management process. The inputs into the indigenous land conflicts management strategies process include the government policies, social collaboration, equal distribution of resources, cultural practices, negotiation, mediation and conciliation, which are more flexible and produce results that are more acceptable to the parties as well as more sustainable in the longer term. Thus, the conflict management strategy output, in this case denoted by performance, is a function of how these land conflicts management strategies input interact. If the interaction is healthy, then output should be good and vice versa.

### 1.5 Theoretical Framework

The conflict theory, theory of peace and theory of common property are much relevant to the study as they justify the reasons for many conflicts which mostly are the struggle over available scarce resources. The conflict theory, suggested by Karl Marx claims that; society is in a state of perpetual conflict because of competition for the limited resources. It holds that social order is maintained by domination and power, rather than consensus and conformity. According to conflict theory, those with wealth and power try to hold on to it by any means possible, chiefly by suppressing the poor and powerless. Conflict theory seeks to scientifically explain the general forms of conflict in society in terms of how conflict starts, varies, and the effects it brings. The central concern of conflict theory is the unequal distribution of scarce resources and power. These resources are controlled by the powerful people and the waged people suffer. This is likely to encourage unequal distribution of the scarce resources including lands and opportunities. A researcher can use this theory to explain why land conflicts occur in society (Kombo and Tromp, 2016). The strength of conflict theory is that it helps to understand the social mechanics behind competing groups for which there is significant power differential. Conflict theory also is helpful in understanding situations when there is a conflict of interest. Conflict theory is strong at a group level of analysis and weaker at the individual level of analysis. But conflict theory doesn't often explain very well why people cooperate (Enoch, 2015). The conflict theory does not address very well how the peaceful coexistence can be achieved; the reason why the theory of peace comes to fill the gap.

According to John Galtung, (1967); peace is a relation between two or more parties. The parties may be inside a person, a community, a state or a Nation, a region or civilisation, pulling in different direction. In theory of peace; peace is not a property of one party or community alone; but a property of relation between parties. The strength of theory of peace is that it shows different kind of relations which can be found in communities like Negative and disharmonious. The theory of peace shows also the indifferent relation among communities where there is no relation because people do not care about each other, so there is negative peace. Other strength of theory of peace is how it shows ways communities may use in order to achieve positive and harmonious relations where; what is bad or good for one is bad or good for other which lead to positive peace. The weakness of theory of peace is that it does not shows how rights for property operate, so that the respect of those property rights may be one of the tools to use in addressing land conflicts.

The study needs other theory which shows the rights for property in order to maintain the peace. The debate surrounding property rights has been long and contested. The theory of "common property rights" whether falls under "Governing the Commons" or "Tragedy of the Commons" still are vital in discussing the existing tenure systems. Yet where there is "shift in resource use" and demands tend to occur when there is "growing scarcity of land for cultivation purposes," and up to now "non-agricultural" areas are individualized and allocated to other different usage (including turning to wildlife or urban areas). From such ideologies and experiences, pasture lands have been put under privatization through partition that ultimately grazing lands disappears. Also, other experience is when the extensive agricultural or huge territories land traditionally used by mobile pastoralists is gradually taken into private ownership for thorough exploitation (Platteau, 2000). The strength is that the theory of commons property rights is very central in discussing indigenous land tenure system. Indeed, indigenous including pastoralists and farmers have developed measures to govern their grazing land, stock-routes and water resources overtime (Ayantunde et al. 2014). Therefore the theory of property rights approach leads us to focus on the organization and governance of land resource which lead to peaceful coexistence in community

(Looloitai, 2014). The weakness of that theory is that it is not really show the place of indigenous knowledge which may be applied during land conflicts management strategies. The reason why the use of the three theories are crucial in order to fulfil that gap using the strategies of land conflict management from the conflict theory and theory of peace.

## 1.6 Review of Empirical Literature

Conflict is a reality of social life and exists at all levels of society. Actually conflicts are as old as the world itself. Individuals, villages, tribes, political parties, nations and other types of groupings engage in conflicts. The existence of a conflict shows that something in a relationship or the whole relationship between involved parties cannot continue as it was. It is an opportunity for adjustment and for constructive change. A relationship without conflict stagnates; a society without conflict does not make progress (Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD), 2015). Conflict becomes problematic when societal mechanisms and institutions for managing and resolving conflict break down, giving way to violence. Societies with weak institutions, fragile political systems and divisive social relations can be drawn into cycles of conflict and violence. Conflict is not in itself a negative phenomenon. Non-violent conflict can be an essential component of social change and development, and is a necessary component of human interaction (European Union- United Nations, 2012). Conflict is a widespread phenomenon, and there are many different types (political, social, economic, religious, land conflicts, etc.) all of which may or may not result in violence. They can also be categorized according to the groups or individuals involved (generations, castes, ethnicities, nationalities, etc.) (Search for common ground, 2013).

Consequently, land conflict can be defined as a social fact in which at least two parties are involved, the roots are different interests over the property rights to land: the right to use the land, to manage the land, to generate an income from the land, to exclude others from the land, to transfer it and the right to compensation for it. A land conflict, therefore, can be understood as a misuse, restriction or dispute over property rights to land. Here, there are different factors which influence people's fears and desires to be identified, as well as institutional aspects that affect the situation: Behaviour, Attitude and Position, Interests, Material Needs, Emotional Needs and Psychological factors (Wehrmann, 2005). Land conflicts can become tools of transformation if they lead to large protests and cause policy changes and implementation. For the purpose of this study, the word conflict refers to challenge, difference, argument, dispute or quarrel, a struggle, confrontation, turmoil chaos over land (Mutava (as cited in Bruce and Holt, 2011).

Some important factors that create vulnerability to land conflict include: **Land scarcity:** Scarcity can leave many pastoralists and farmers with little or no land and create intense competition for land. **Insecurity of tenure:** When land users fear that they may be forced off their land, insecurity of tenure can create a response that, in combination with the threat of eviction, can generate conflict. **The lure of valuable resources:** When valuable resources are discovered people are motivated to exert control over, and benefit from the sale of, these assets. This is the case in the East Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of Congo where conflicts over land and minerals are widespread. **Historical grievance:** Most often rooted in earlier displacements and land takings, historical grievance can generate a demand for redress that can fuel conflict. **Normative dissonance:** There may be normative dissonance where coexisting bodies of law of different origins are poorly harmonized and are used as tools by parties in contention over land in that context. The displacement and sense of grievance generated by neglect of customary rights are

pregnant with land-related conflict, and with a potential for violence (USAID, 2013).

A variety of global trends have also led to a heightened awareness of land issues at the international level. Population growth is placing rising demands on arable land, water and other natural resources; similarly, environmental degradation, exacerbated by climate change, intensifies perceived 'land scarcity'. Furthermore, the globalization of economies has generated a surge in investments related to land and other natural resources in many parts of the globe, notably in Africa; land markets are expanding and land values are rising. Consequently, people and their livelihoods systems are brought into increased contact and competition: competition between users and land-uses increasingly results in confrontation and, at times, in violent conflict. Land conflicts commonly become violent when linked to wider processes of political exclusion, social discrimination, economic marginalization, and a perception that peaceful action is no longer a viable strategy for change. Communities, therefore, can readily mobilize around land issues, making land a central object of conflict (European Union-United Nations, 2012).

Land Conflicts also arise when local traditional practices are no longer viewed as legitimate or consistent with national policies, or when entities external to a community are able to pursue their interests, while ignoring the needs and requirements of local people (Desalegn, Mukand, Ashim and Seleshi (as cited in Constantinos, 1999 ). Based to what seen above; our view is that; land conflict may occur because of ignorance of culture of some communities including pastoralists where in their everyday life they need to provide foods for their livestock seeking places where there are pastures which lead them to move from the place to another place and at the end of the time result to the loss of their places occupied by other people like farmers or government which lead to conflict among community members.

In Tanzania, land conflict is not a new phenomenon. Rwechungura (2011) reported that, even though Tanzania remains relatively comfortable with arable tracts estimated at 44 million hectares for various uses, mostly agricultural activities, the country is not free from land related conflicts. The country has been experiencing an increasing magnitude of conflict among land-users particularly between the cultivators and pastoralists. Areas such as Kilosa and Kilombero districts in Morogoro region, Kilindi and Handeni district in Tanga region, Mbarali district in Mbeya region and Ngorongoro district in Arusha Region are some of the places that have experienced land conflicts between farmers and pastoralists in recent years. Farming and livestock rearing are the main economic activities that influence clashes over land in Tanzania especially in Ngorongoro district, Arusha region. Being agro-pastoral community, land is very essential both for crop cultivation and animal keeping. Despite these activities, however, the allocation and distribution of land as well as their inheritance brings the rise of misunderstandings and land conflicts among pastoral communities in Ngorongoro district (Maria and Tumpe, 2013).

From global, regional, National and local understanding on sources of lands conflict the study found that the scarcity of natural resources, cultural, political, economic, technical, social privileges, demographic, legal/juridical individual interests over the property rights to land, behaviour, Classes, material Needs, Psychological factors, historical grievance, dysfunctional institutions, worsening environmental degradation, population pressure, migration, urbanization and dispute on marketing & settlement areas and disasters are the common and main causes of lands conflicts among communities. Based to that; the study identify the gap from the grassroots

where the inadequate indigenous knowledge on lands conflict management strategies can be also one of the sources of lands conflict among pastoral communities.

Land conflicts can become tools of transformation if they lead to large protests and cause policy changes and implementation (Mutava (as cited in Bruce and Holt, 2011). Land conflict can be benefit if it was well managed. In the early stages of life; conflicts can assist one to assert his/her personal identity as different from the aspirations, beliefs and behaviour of other, Intensity of conflicts demonstrates the closeness and importance of relationships. Intimate relationships require us to express opposing feelings. While sometimes the intensity of emotions can threaten relationships, they can help to measure the depth and importance of a relationship, Sometimes conflicts create new relationships. During the process of conflict and resolutions, conflicting parties may find out that they have common interests and they may agree to start an on-going relationship (Mutava (as cited in Bruce and Holt, 2011).

Land related disputes can turn increasingly violent and may result in some population displacement which disturbs the coexistence of peace in households. Land grievances may be linked to broader security, livelihoods, political and identity issues. Situations of open conflict are characterized by large-scale population displacements. Abandoned land is occupied, sometimes out of necessity or in good faith, at other times as part of an orchestrated plan to change the ethnic composition of territory. State and customary institutions will further weaken or collapse because of land conflicts, where the coexistence of peace is undermined (European Union- United Nations, 2012). Land ownership conflicts have negative effects on individual households as well as on the nation's economy. They increase costs, slow down investment, can result in the loss of property for a conflict party and reduce tax income (land tax, trade/commercial tax) for the state or municipality (Babette, 2008).

In our view land conflicts are associated with high transaction and agency costs or vice versa, that high transaction and agency costs indicate a high probability of land conflicts. Conflicts over the use of land generally have a negative impact on the poor or on the natural or building environment. They either decrease quality of life for parts of society or, if they are addressed and ameliorated, contribute to additional state expenditures and therefore have an impact on the national wealth. Land conflicts also increase social and political instability. Where ever there occur a lot of multiple sales, evictions, land grabbing etc., people lose confidence in the state and start mistrusting each other. Social and political stability suffers even more when land conflicts are accompanied by violence. Dealing with land conflicts therefore also means to re-establishing trust and confidence in public as well as private institutions.

Land conflicts often have extensive negative effects on economic, social, spatial and ecological development. This is especially true in developing countries especially in Africa and countries in transition, where land market institutions are weak, opportunities for economic gain by illegal action are widespread and many poor people lack access to land. Land conflicts can have disastrous effects on individuals as well as on groups and even entire nations (Babette, 2008). Conflicts including land conflicts may help a group to gain recognition. In this situation, an ethnic group may erroneously be considered homogenous and be treated as such (Botchwey, 2006). The land conflicts have resulted in high destructions in livelihoods of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities and their lives. Furthermore, the conflict in the area is characterized by multiple

interests and causes among the pastoral and agro-pastoral groups which resulted in massive displacement of people from their original settlement. A case in point is the Oromo who displaced from Baka of Somali region and settled in Meiso town, and the Somali who displaced from Boredede and Meiso district of Oromia region and settled in Mulla district of Somali region in a new settlement site named Hardim (Fekadu, 2013).

land conflict in Tanzania mostly resulted into loss of lives, destruction of property and the turning the areas into war zones, as they try to clinch the right to use the land (Chawene, 2012). Land conflicts among agro-pastoral or pastoralists communities have been major threats to the community and a nation at large. This is because land resource is the most useful for both crops cultivation and livestock keepers. Pastoral communities in Ngorongoro district, Arusha region is not exceptional in facing conflict over land, however little has been studied and recorded about the pastoral communities (Maria and Tumpe, 2013).

From global, regional, national and local level of view; where Mentrup (2004) in his study showed that land conflicts resulted in high level of violence, injury, damage of property and even in death. Babette (2008) said that land conflicts affect more the poor than the rich in communities where land conflicts have negative effects on economic, social, and ecological development. It affects individual, groups even the nation. Awedoba (2010) emphasized on the positive side of land conflicts; where he said that land conflicts may improve decision-making. Issahaku Francis (2017) supported the positive effects saying that land conflicts may help a group to gain recognition. Botchwey (2006) specified some restructuring needed as effects of land conflict, where involvement of environmental, socio-economic and political transformation manifested majority in negative way. The reviews from literature above didn't show the experience of different households in situation of land conflicts, so this is the gap the study search to fulfil using strong suggestions from grassroots on improvement of indigenous knowledge on land conflicts management among indigenous people of Ngorongoro district, Arusha Tanzania by identifying the really causes of land conflicts and the effects of that land conflicts to the members from different households of Ngorongoro district; which will help to avoid and prevent lands conflict among pastoral communities in future.

### **1.7 Data Collection Methods**

The study used primary data and secondary data. Primary data were gotten using three types of instruments for data collection. Interview guides were used for community leaders, focus group discussion for Elders and some members of communities and questionnaires for Community members with level of education from different households in order to collect data concerning the causes of land conflicts, their effects on peaceful coexistence and the mechanisms applied to address them, and the suggestions for mitigation and solutions, while secondary data were found from different report of national and international organizations, journals and books.

This study used the mixed methods research approach where both quantitative descriptive survey and qualitative explanatory research designs were used. Descriptive survey research design was used in this study in order to obtain data at one point from population which were composed by the community leaders, elders and community members. The naturalistic design that was used in this study is explanatory design which attempts to explain why and how there is a relationship between two aspects of a situation or phenomenon. This type of research design attempts to find out how indigenous knowledge on land conflicts management strategies influences peaceful

coexistence. On the contrary, qualitative research is deficient because the researcher's subjective interpretations and the ensuing biases make it difficult to generalize the findings. This supports the adoption of using a mixed methods research approach in this study.

This study used the sample size of  $153 > 100$  respondents gotten referring to the table of Glen, (1992), using the precision ( $e$ )  $\pm 10\%$  with a total population of 174, 278 residents of Ngorongoro district  $> 100,000$  population. To support the reason of choosing more than 100 respondents as the sample size from Ngorongoro district the following formula of Yamane (1967) was used:

$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$ . Where:  $n$  is the sample size,  $N$  is the population size, and  $e$  is the level of precision.

When the above formula was applied in this research with  $e = 10\% = 0.1$  and  $N = 174,278$ , the following equation was gotten:

$n = 99.94$  respondents  $\sim 100 < 153$  respondents.

This study used probability and non-probability sampling procedures to sample target groups namely community leaders, elders and other community members experienced land conflicts. To get the required sample size the researcher used the multi-stage sampling technique to select the district, divisions, wards and household. Multistage sampling was used in this study because it is appropriate for surveys when there are no lists of population, or when the population is dispersed over a wide space as it is the case of Ngorongoro district, Arusha region.

The respondents were divided by selecting (18) elders using simple random sampling from three divisions of Ngorongoro district. Purposive sampling was used to choose forty five (45) community leaders from three divisions. Purposive sampling also was used to select ninety (90) community members experienced land conflicts from the three divisions. The sampling resulted in one hundred and fifty three (153) respondents as sample size. The researcher conducted a focus group discussion for two groups which were composed by six (6) and seven (7) elders which in total were thirteen (13) elders. The researcher interviewed twenty eight (28) community leaders. The researcher distributed the questionnaires to ninety (90) community members and got responses from fifty five (55) community members. The number of respondents added up to ninety six (96) who represented the sample size of 153 respondents from Ngorongoro district.

Data in this study were analysed using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis techniques. Qualitative data were analysed using a framework analysis; where the findings were examined with a pre-defined framework, which reflects the aims, interests and objectives of the study. The second approach to analyse qualitative data is the thematic analysis which took a more exploratory perspective by motivating the researcher to consider and code all data, identifying, analysing and reporting themes within data and allowing for new impressions to shape the interpretation in various directions. Quantitative data analysis was done through the use of frequencies and percentages generated using SPSS Version 20 and the findings were presented in form of graphs, charts and tables.

## 1.8 Study Findings

### *Effects of land conflicts on peaceful coexistence among communities*

Land conflicts in Ngorongoro district brought negative effects to the livelihoods of indigenous people. Community members specified the following effects:

**Negative effects:** lands confiscation, starvation and hunger (lack of foods), price fluctuation, selfishness among community members, lack of peace in communities, limited cooperation among indigenous people, indigenous people are not allowed to build permanent houses, agricultural activities stopped or disturbed, lands scrambling, scarcity of lands, watering points and pasture for grazing, diseases, wild animals attacks, human rights violation, division among communities members, conflict between local leaders and community members, force displacement and unplanned settlement, no unit and peace among community members, no good relations between livestock keepers and Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) management, poverty, poor social interaction and death of community members. Babette, (2008) in her study confirmed the findings by show how land conflicts influence the increase of costs, slow down the investment and also can result in the loss of property for parties in conflict and reduce tax income (land tax, trade/commercial tax) for the municipality even the state.

**Positive effects:** maintaining conservation of environment and tourism in NCAA, equal distribution of resources, high income generation from tourism. The study of Bruce and Holt, (2011) supported the findings of this study showing how land conflicts can become tools of transformation if they lead to large protest, and cause policy change and implementation. Awedoba, (2010) said that land conflicts may be the source of improvement in decision-making process among inter and intra-ethnic communities and groups. So land conflicts may help a group of people to gain recognition.

As revealed by the findings again, the specified effects on economy and peace stability were: the unhealthy/weak livestock among pastoral communities due to the shortage of grazing areas (pastures), watering points because of confiscation of potential areas which lead to the failure of the economy of indigenous people which based on milk business. There were also degradation of healthcare and education due to lack of enough income generated from their livestock, high rate of poverty, no agricultural activities which contribute in food shortage because of limited food production; where community members spend more money outsourcing foods from other places, lack of jobs opportunities which affected the income generation, no rights over the use of lands for indigenous people which undermined the stability of peace, wild animals killed livestock where productivity and economy were undermined, failure of community members to have a good shelter and living conditions. In summary the specified effects affected negatively the basic livelihoods in different households of Ngorongoro district and the stability of peace because of the violence occurred during land conflicts which at the end resulted in poor productivity and undermined the development of the households and the district in general.

## 1.9 Conclusions

Based on the findings of this study, the following conclusions were pinpointed by the researcher: Limited use of natural resources, climate change, investment, unequal distribution of resources, increase of population, poor public relation between the government agencies especially Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and the local communities manifested in lack of participation of community members during decision making on land use process were pinpointed as causes of land conflicts. Lack of education for local community members, poor laws and land policies, big number of livestock, scramble for land ownership, shortage of grazing and watering points were also the main causes which influenced land conflicts and its effects among communities of Ngorongoro district.

Negative effects of land conflicts among communities were evidenced by the lands confiscation, lack of enough foods, price fluctuation, selfishness and limited cooperation among community members which undermined the coexistence of peace. Indigenous people are not allowed to build permanent houses. Agricultural activities stopped or disturbed because of lands scarcity and water, insufficient pasture for grazing, Human rights violation through forced displacement, unplanned settlement and death of community members were also negative effects identified by respondents. Some positive effects of land conflict related on maintaining of the environment conservation and tourism in NCAA because of the lands acquired after land conflicts which influenced the increase of income generation from tourism were also pinpointed by respondents but with little importance to the well-being of households and community members in general.

Educations, equal participation in decision making and sharing of public resources were highlighted by respondents as tools needed for mitigation of land conflicts and their negative effects. This study contributed to the existing pools of knowledge through valid findings which will help policy makers especially government to make informed decisions in order to sustain the coexistence of peace in different communities of Tanzania, and Ngorongoro district in particular.

## 1.10 Recommendations

The study recommended the community members, government and other stakeholders to recognize the decisions made in pastoral communities meetings concerning land conflicts. The government was also advised to maintain a good public relation and involvement of indigenous communities during planning and decision making. Indigenous people to be given equal opportunities for resources ownership especially lands for running their activities such as agriculture and livestock keeping were recommended.

The study recommended that indigenous people especially the leaders and elders must be educated through trainings (capacity building) concerning land conflicts management. Improvement of cooperation was recommended between NCAA, local community members and government through interaction, inclusive dialogue and negotiation. Government and NCAA management should review their laws concerning lands use allowing freedom of access to lands and pastures and the rights to land ownership.

The study recommended to indigenous people to be patience during land conflicts by waiting the justice to be done in order to avoid violence. The government again was recommended to create jobs opportunities, establish a program of minimizing old species of livestock which require a big

number for production and adopt modern species of livestock which require a small number and produce more.

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