

**INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY IN RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN
TURKANA NORTH SUB-COUNTY, KENYA**

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Master of Science Degree in Governance, Peace and Security, in the Department of
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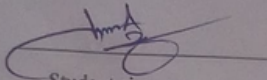
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DECLARATION

I declare that this research is my original work and has not been presented for award of any degree in any other university.

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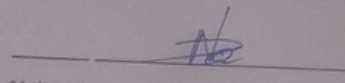
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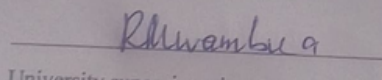
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research to my beloved family members for their unwavering effort towards its success. I will always remember the moral support I received from my family, particularly my dear sister Roselyn Lobeki and my father John Asiyer Palor, for their ongoing encouragement in my academic journey.

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ABSTRACT

Resource-based conflict has intensified and led to competition over limited resources. The depletion of resources like water and pasture has worsened the conflict. The purpose of this study was to assess the effectiveness of institutional capacity in resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana North sub-county. The study's objectives were : to determine the existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution in Turkana North Sub-County, to establish the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County, to assess the effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County and to evaluate the effect of institutional capacities in communities peaceful co-existence in Turkana North Sub-county. The resource scarcity and institutional theories guided the study. The research employed a descriptive design and took place in the north of Turkana Sub-County. The study targeted 13,119 individuals, including both men and women, in Turkana North Sub-County. The Yamane (1973) formula was utilized to determine the sample size of household heads. Multistage and simple random sampling were used to select 388 household heads, while community elders and county security committee officials were selected using purposive and snowballing sampling methods. Data was collected using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. Semi-structured questionnaires were administered to the selected household heads. Data was gathered from community elders using a focus group discussion guide, and key informant interviews were conducted with officials of the security committee across the seven counties. Preliminary research took place in the Laisamis Sub-County within Marsabit County. Data analysis included the use of statistical software for social sciences. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the quantitative data. A thematic analysis method was employed for qualitative data analysis. Findings revealed that community policing initiatives were largely perceived as ineffective, with 90% of respondents reporting low effectiveness, attributed to minimal involvement of community elders (14%) and irregular meetings by county government agencies (17%). Despite a moderate presence of the Kenya Police Service (82%), conflict resolution efforts heavily depended on community-driven approaches. Local government officials implemented agreements and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms were widely used. There was 60% disagreement on community willingness to participate (Mean=1.40; Std. Dev=0.49), perceptions of political support (Mean=1.49), peacebuilding engagement (Mean=1.47), legal frameworks (Mean=1.46), and sensitization efforts (Mean=1.47). Religious groups and schools, engaged actively despite challenges, while international agencies, seen as disconnected, underscored the need for improved strategies, coordination, and resources for conflict resolution. The study suggests improving government presence in rural areas, promotion of partnerships with NGOs and community groups, integrating traditional conflict resolution methods, and addressing corruption in conflict resolution approaches in Turkana County. The study concludes that the Kenya Police Service's limited presence and infrequent county meetings challenge conflict resolution. Rural communities feel neglected due to inadequate responses and prioritization of urban areas in peacebuilding efforts. The study recommends increased government engagement in rural communities to enhance conflict resolution. There should be frequent county meetings, swift conflict responses and improved communication with locals.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Community Participation	Involvement of community members in initiatives aimed at resolving conflicts.
Institution	Rules, norms and shared strategies that influence human interactions.
Institutional Capacity	Ability of an institution to accomplish its set objectives in conflict resolution.
Local Access to Firearms	Ease with which citizens acquire firearms.
Peace- Building Capacities	Ability of governments, institutions, systems and individuals to address the demands of sustainable peace.
Resources	Common-pool goods that are difficult to exclude others from using.
Resource-Based Conflict Resolution	Conflicts and disputes arise regarding the access to, control, and utilization of natural resources. These disagreements commonly stem from differing perspectives on the use and management of resources.

ABBREVIATIONS/ ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GoK	Government of Kenya
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
KAPS	Kenya Administration Police Service
KII	Key Informant Interview
NACOSTI	National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PE	Peace Education
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
UN	United Nations

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This section will discuss the study's context, problem statement, goals and aims, importance and extent, restrictions, boundaries, and presumptions of the study. Moreover, the study examines the theories that support it and emphasizes their importance. The chapter goes on to introduce a theoretical structure.

1.2 Background of the Study

The increasing global environmental challenges and population growth have increased resource demand. This has, in turn, led to contentious issues such as violent conflicts within communities, where disputes arise over the control of essential resources like grazing lands and water sources. Additional sources of conflict stem from deeply ingrained cultural beliefs, cattle raids and the growing proliferation of illegal weaponry (Yang, 2019). Conflict resolution serves as a means for conflicting parties to amicably settle their disputes, emphasizing negotiation as the primary tool for resolution. Conversely, peace building involves a comprehensive process undertaken by conflicting parties to establish lasting peace, addressing both the root causes and the repercussions of conflict. This encompasses reconciliation, institution-building, and socioeconomic transformation within the involved parties (Guiora, Minutolo, Vargas & Zoffer, 2023). To effectively address protracted conflicts, there's a growing need for a revised and regionally focused approach that coordinates the efforts of various stakeholders in the peacebuilding process (Guiora *et al.*, 2023).

Institutional capacity refers to the collective ability of organizations or governing bodies to efficiently perform their functions and fulfill their mandates. This capacity encompasses a range of resources, including skilled personnel, financial assets, organizational structures, and the ability to develop and implement effective policies (Kweyu, 2022). In the context of conflict resolution, institutional capacity is crucial as it empowers entities to address disputes and challenges systematically and responsively. The connection between institutional capacity and conflict resolution is intricate. Robust institutional capacity provides the necessary foundation for developing and implementing policies and mechanisms designed to manage and resolve conflicts effectively. Institutions with adequate capacity can devise clear and enforceable regulations related to resource use, land ownership, or other contentious issues, creating a structured framework for conflict resolution (Baum, 2023). Moreover, strong institutional capacity enables swift and transparent governance, allowing authorities to address conflicts promptly, promote dialogue, and implement solutions that contribute to long-term stability and harmony within a community or region.

The end of the Cold War in the 1990s marked a significant shift in global power politics. It transitioned from traditional pillaging and plundering to exploiting and trading natural resources, drawing business interests and foreign corporations into resource-related conflicts. Since then, nations have increasingly vied for control over natural resources, adopting an international perspective (Wollentz, 2020). Experts commonly argue that economic dependence and resource scarcity, like land and water, are primary conflict triggers. European countries have grappled with disputes over fishing rights in international waters for decades, such as the 2002 clash between Irish and Spanish fishermen over the Irish Box. Dasopang, Nasution and Lubis (2023) attribute

tensions to the European Union's lack of commitment to inform the Ministry for Communication, Marine, and Natural Resources about the Irish Box's status, potentially leading to overfishing.

Latin America witnesses widespread natural resource-based conflicts, particularly in Peru, with over 200 conflicts tied to mining and energy projects, often escalating into violence. Mexico faces rising tensions due to energy liberalization, attracting substantial foreign investment in the oil, gas, and electricity sectors. The government believes international oil company expertise is important to reverse declining oil production, which affects state finances. Bidayani and Kurniawan (2020) noted that this surge in investment could increase local conflicts, prompting the government to involve local communities in energy project approvals. In South Asia and China, conflicts mainly revolve around shared marine waters. Tseer, Musah and Avogo (2023) highlighted that shared waters and oil and gas discoveries in the South China Sea had strained relations and cooperation among neighbouring countries, leading to conflicts and tensions.

In Africa, natural resources have played a pivotal role in fueling and motivating conflicts that have afflicted numerous countries over the past decades. The revenue generated from exploiting these resources has not only sustained armed forces but has also been used for personal enrichment and garnering political support, involving various parties, including the ruling elite and entities such as private sector firms and multinational corporations (Varisco, 2020). This dynamic has posed a significant barrier to achieving Peace, as armed group leaders and vested interests are reluctant to relinquish control over these valuable resources. Sudan's oil reserves, particularly in the conflict-ridden southern region, have garnered international attention due to the country's civil war. Ojo (2023) revealed that soon after the oil discovery, the Nimeri government relocated the oil refinery from Bentiu in the south to Kosti in the north, ostensibly for industrial and agricultural

development reasons. However, this move was seen as an attempt to deprive the southern region of its oil wealth, as President Nimeri shifted control to the northern region. In recent years, coltan, a mineral found in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, has gained notoriety for its association with armed group violence. Popov (2018) highlighted the link between Western consumer electronics, such as mobile phones and laptops, and the atrocities committed in the DRC, where armed groups profited from the illegal coltan trade. These groups also levied illegal taxes and fees and exercised control over mining sites.

Pastoral communities in East Africa peacefully divided communal grazing lands. Because these lands were only viable for a few months annually, nomadic groups and other communities created timetables for sharing the land. Therefore, mutual agreements between institutions developed, with some communities permitting grazing on their territories at designated times in return for comparable privileges in nearby regions (Ojo, 2023). Yet, the introduction of colonial land policies and the intrusion on pastoral grazing lands via administrative actions disturbed this mutual exchange. The guarantee of mutual exchange among neighborhoods disappeared. Bride wealth was traditionally given in exchange for cattle, strengthening family and community bonds for future connections. However, the commoditization of cattle prevented possible reciprocal agreements, since cattle sold for profit could not be brought back into a reciprocal system (Kasim & Nurdin, 2020).

In Kenya, conflicts and displacement are closely linked to land tenure issues, which can be traced back to the forced displacement of indigenous African populations to make room for White settlements during colonial rule. The causes of the ongoing conflicts in the North Rift and North Eastern regions include ethnicity, environmental degradation, resource scarcity, the illegal

weapons coming from neighboring countries, and cultural activities such as cattle rustling. Additional factors that can lead to conflicts are lack of effective law enforcement, weakening of traditional leadership structures, land disagreements, political manipulation, ethnic bias, growing poverty, high rates of youth unemployment, and limited economic prospects (Ringo, 2023).

Pastoral communities primarily rely on animal husbandry for income, and competition for natural resources like pasture and water has led to conflicts among them (Young, Young & Aubert, 2022). Overgrazing, driven by population growth and improper borehole placement, has exacerbated environmental degradation. Climate change has altered nomadic pastoralists' resource-seeking patterns, resulting in conflicts over dwindling resources such as waterholes and pastures. Trans-border conflicts among pastoralists are common along the Kenya-Ethiopia, Kenya-Uganda, and Kenya-Sudan borders due to porous borders facilitating the illicit firearms trade, worsening conflicts (Hendra, Agustina & Lestarini, 2023).

Turkana's north sub county has been marred by resource-based conflict for a long time. Pastoralism is the backbone of many communities in Northern Kenya, including Turkana. The Turkana and Pokot communities, in particular, heavily rely on cattle herding, which is pivotal for their survival and contributes significantly to Kenya's economy. However, the increasing frequency and severity of droughts, attributed to global warming and climate change, are taking a toll on the region. Consequently, pastoralists suffer significant livestock losses each year as limited rainfall results in diminished pasture and water resources (Muigua, 2018). This scarcity of essential resources has become the primary driver of conflicts between pastoralist communities in Turkana County, with the focus primarily on livestock and related assets such as water, land, and pasture.

Conflict in the region often manifests as raiding, with communities using such acts to express their hostility towards rival groups, leading to a deep-seated distrust between them, which is a catalyst for further conflict (Kweyu, 2022). Kong'ani, Wahome and Thenya (2022) observed that drought in northwestern Kenya exacerbates conflicts among communities due to the competition for limited grazing land. This conflict results in the concentration of pastoral communities in smaller areas for grazing, leaving other land areas barren. Moreover, Wanyoike, Onkware and Okoth (2018) found that many dry-'seasons' grazing areas and water sources are often situated in disputed territories. Kweyu (2022) emphasized the interconnected nature of this conflict, which is evident in the profiteering associated with illegal weapons. Kasim and Nurdin (2020) elaborated on the development of the conflict, moving from small-scale fights using primitive weapons to more organized and widespread attacks utilizing modern firearms. These increasing highlights the growing spiral of conflict between these communities.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Turkana county has experienced conflict since the time of colonial rule, with the main drive being the pursuit of riches. Indeed, due to climate change, the conflict has intensified due to competition for limited resources (Wapukha, Okoth & Opondo, 2022). In the past, cattle theft did not usually result in extreme violence towards other communities, but this has shifted with the effects of global warming and climate change causing resource degradation and scarcity (Wahome & Ng'ang'a, 2020). Conflict is primarily caused by the degradation and competition for water and pasture. Limited resources, particularly during droughts, have led to a rise in migration as a strategy for communities, resulting in increased conflicts (Namenya and Lolemtum, 2021). Additionally, the region is now infested with *Prosopis Juliflora* invasive species, leading to a decline in the traditional grass and tree species that used to provide fodder, particularly in times of drought

(Namenya *et al.*, 2022). Poverty, vulnerability to drought and frequent droughts from climate change have led to a rise in resource-based conflicts in the county (GoK, 2023).

Turkana county security committees have a crucial role in organizing peace talks, serving as early warning mechanisms for conflict prevention, and promoting understanding among conflicting communities (Wapukha, Okoth & Opondo, 2022). However, these committees lack clear responsibilities, leading to a lack of effectiveness in resolving conflicts. Additionally, the organization of peace in the communities is also not tightly structured, not fully representative and not all-encompassing. Conventional initiatives also lack sufficient resources in terms of both logistics and finances, thereby reducing their effectiveness in preventing and resolving conflicts (Getahun, Wakjira & Nyingi, 2020). The peace committees also do not have enforcement mechanisms.

Despite security and communal efforts made by Turkana North Sub county to resolve resource-based conflict, the level of conflict is high, as evidenced by a report of Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan of 2023. According to the report, in Turkana north sub county, incidents of conflict increased between January–December 2022 compared with the same period in 2020 and 2021. With drought worsening, competition over scarce pasture and water has fueled increased intercommunal tensions and resource-based clashes. Cross-border attacks on the county stem from neighboring communities in Uganda and Ethiopia, a consequence of deep-rooted cultural practices like cattle rustling. This historical conflict exacerbates tensions, with instances of violence persisting as a result of territorial disputes and traditional practices, contributing to the region's challenges.

Resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County have hindered socio-economic development and regional stability. Despite intervention efforts, recurring disputes expose gaps in institutional capacity and conflict resolution strategies. This study examined institutional capacity in resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana north sub-county.

1.4 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to examine institutional capacity in resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana north sub-county.

1.5 Objectives of the study

- i. To determine the existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution in Turkana North Sub-County.
- ii. To establish the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County.
- iii. To assess the effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County.
- iv. To evaluate the effect of institutional capacities in communities peaceful co-existence in Turkana North Sub-county.

1.6 Research Questions

- i. What are the existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution in Turkana North Sub-County?
- ii. What are the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County?

- iii. How effective are the strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County?
- iv. What is the effect of institutional capacities in communities peaceful co-existence in Turkana North Sub-county?

1.7 Significance of the Study

Findings of this research will be significant for Turkana north subcounty. The county will comprehend how institutional capacity affects conflict resolution based on resources. The county could develop measures and plans to promote harmony between communities. The results of this research can provide guidance for decision-makers at the local, national and global scales. Understanding the pros and cons of existing institutional structures can help in creating better policies and strategies for managing conflicts and resources in Turkana North Sub-County and other comparable areas (Kabelo & Gakuu, 2019). The study will provide practical recommendations for institutions involved in conflict resolution. Identifying successful strategies and areas needing improvement can enhance the capacity of these institutions to manage and resolve conflicts more effectively. Findings of this study will contribute to long-term peace and stability in Turkana North Sub-County. A stable and peaceful environment is crucial for the socio-economic development and well-being of the local communities. The study's outcomes can empower local communities by involving them in the conflict resolution process and ensuring their needs and perspectives are considered. Strengthening institutional capacity in conflict resolution will ultimately benefit the community by reducing violence and fostering collaborative resource management (Rotich *et al.*,2020). The study's outcomes can empower local communities by involving them in the conflict resolution process and ensuring their needs and perspectives are considered. Strengthening institutional capacity in conflict resolution will ultimately benefit the

community by reducing violence and fostering collaborative resource management. Recommendations of the study might form a basis upon which resource-based conflict may be achieved in the county.

The general public will benefit from this study's findings. Resource-based conflicts have long been a topic of public discussion, and this research will illuminate the relationship between institutional capacity and conflict resolution in Turkana north subcounty. It will empower the public with a better understanding of how county governmental institutional capacity affects conflict resolution. This enhanced awareness can foster informed discussions, encourage civic engagement and potentially drive positive changes in policies and practices, benefiting both the local community and the nation.

This study will be beneficial to scholars. It will contribute significantly to existing knowledge on institutional capacity and resource-based conflict resolution. These findings will not only expand the academic understanding of these factors but also provide a foundation for future research. This research will identify gaps in the existing literature and suggest areas for future study, thereby paving the way for continued exploration and understanding of resource-based conflicts and institutional capacities in similar contexts. The study will contribute to the broader academic discourse on conflict resolution, institutional effectiveness, and resource management.

1.8 Scope of the Study

The research focused only on Turkana North Sub-County. The primary source of livelihood in the sub-county is pastoralism. The study primarily targeted households (the public), community elders, the county security committee, community-based organizations, international

organizations, the National Police Service, and Water Resource User Associations. The study variables included conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding capacity, community participation, and illegal firearms in relation to resource-based conflict resolution.

1.9 Delimitations of the study

The study focused on institutional capacity for resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana North Sub-County. It was limited to four independent variables: conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding capacity, community participation, and illegal firearms. The target population for this study included county administrators and community members in Turkana North Sub-County. These categories of respondents were best suited to outline the effect of institutional capacity on resource-based conflict resolution. Information for this research was gathered through surveys and interview protocols. The research was conducted within a three-month timeframe.

1.10 Limitations of the study

Mugenda and Mugenda (2006) clarified that limitations affect research and are often beyond the researcher's control. Several limitations were encountered in this study. Conflict over resources is a critical and fragile issue in Turkana County, which made it difficult for selected community members to allow the researcher to collect data. To address this, the researcher assured the relevant authorities of the anonymity and confidentiality of all information collected from respondents.

The research was specifically centered on Turkana North Sub-County in Kenya, which restricted the applicability of the results to other areas or situations. The distinct socio-political,

economic, and cultural features of Turkana North may not fully represent other regions facing resource-based conflicts.

Accessing all respondents in one location was challenging due to the pastoralist nature of the community, as individuals frequently moved to different areas. To mitigate this, the researcher administered research instruments in social places and designed them for quick data collection, ensuring they were completed and returned on the same day.

Traveling through the county's terrain posed risks due to steep slopes, valleys, and the challenging landscape. The researcher engaged a local guide to assist with navigation and ensure safe access to the field. The steep slopes and valleys required careful route planning and an understanding of the local topography, which was vital for overcoming navigation challenges.

The study area was also marked by extreme weather conditions, including scorching heat and high temperatures, which significantly affected the research process. To address this, the researcher planned fieldwork to avoid the hottest parts of the day, used protective gear such as sun hats and sunscreen, and incorporated allowances for weather-related delays in the study's timeline and budget.

Access to key informants, such as high-ranking officials and influential community leaders, was limited, restricting the depth of insights into institutional capacity and conflict resolution mechanisms. The researcher liaised with local security teams to identify safe areas for research activities and ensure guidance on avoiding dangerous situations.

The pastoralist lifestyle in the region, deeply rooted in cultural and economic significance, posed additional challenges, such as the prevalence of cattle rustling. Incidents involving hostile

communities due to cattle rustling disrupted research activities. To mitigate this, the researcher engaged with security officers for protection and advice, while also fostering relationships with local leaders and residents. Open communication, respect for local customs, and an understanding of the cultural context were prioritized to ensure the study's success.

1.11 Assumptions of the study

It was assumed that the resource-based conflict resolution concept was familiar among the respondents and that they were capable of providing relevant and accurate data and information required for the study. It was also assumed that resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana County was affected by institutional capacity. It was presumed that the respondents sampled for the study had a deep understanding of resource-based conflict resolution and could differentiate it from other conflict resolution mechanisms. Furthermore, it was assumed that the respondents would provide accurate and honest responses.

It was assumed that respondents, including government officials, local leaders, and community members, would offer accurate and honest information regarding their experiences, perceptions, and insights related to institutional capacity and conflict resolution mechanisms. The study assumed that existing institutional frameworks and mechanisms for conflict resolution were relevant and applicable to the context of Turkana North Sub-County, with the expectation that these frameworks were known and utilized by the local population.

It was assumed that the sample of respondents selected for interviews and focus group discussions was representative of the broader population in Turkana North Sub-County, encompassing a diversity of perspectives from various socio-economic, ethnic, and gender groups.

The study assumed that the area under investigation would remain relatively stable during the data collection period. Any significant disruptions or escalations in conflict could have affected the reliability of the data and the feasibility of the research.

The study assumed that secondary data sources, such as government reports, NGO publications, and academic articles, were reliable and valid. It was presumed that these sources had been compiled using rigorous methodologies and accurately reflected the situation on the ground. The study also assumed that the researcher would have adequate access to key informants and stakeholders, including high-ranking officials, community leaders, and other influential figures, necessary for comprehensive data collection.

It was assumed that effective communication would be established between the researcher and respondents, overcoming potential barriers related to language and cultural differences, including the use of translators or cultural liaisons when necessary. The researcher was assumed to maintain neutrality and objectivity throughout the study, minimizing any personal biases that could influence data collection and analysis.

It was assumed that all ethical guidelines and protocols would be strictly followed, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and the protection of participants' rights and well-being. Additionally, it was assumed that key concepts and definitions used in the study, such as "institutional capacity" and "resource-based conflict," would be consistently understood and interpreted by all participants and stakeholders involved in the research.

1.12 Theoretical framework

A theoretical framework is made up of interconnected concepts and ideas that are based on existing theories. It acts as a coherent framework of assertions based on and supported by empirical data or evidence. A theoretical framework seeks to clarify and explain observed phenomena by considering their causes. Kivunja (2018) stated that theories enable researchers to arrive at fresh conclusions, improve practical actions, and promote the growth of more sophisticated theories. The study is guided by the institutional theory, as the anchor theory, and the resource scarcity theory, as the supplementary theory.

1.12.1 Institutional Theory

Meyer and Rowan (1991) along with DiMaggio and Powell (1983) put forward the theory. Institutional theory examines how internal issues within a company can affect its strategy execution and organizational behavior. This theory articulates processes by which organizational structures transform into authoritative guidelines for social behavior. It systematically scrutinizes and identifies the implications that contribute to the survival and legitimacy of an organization's culture (Peters, 2022). The culture of an organization encompasses various elements, including the legal framework, regulations, historical context, traditions, cultural aspects, economic motivations and incentives and the social environment. Notably, this perspective acknowledges the overarching significance of resources in shaping organizational culture (Aksom & Tymchenko, 2020).

The crux of institutional theory lies in its definition of what is considered appropriate or legitimate. Additionally, the theory deems certain actions unacceptable or beyond consideration. This, in turn, significantly shapes organizational decision-making, particularly in the realm of

strategy implementation. As a comprehensive framework, institutional theory provides valuable insights for scrutinizing the relationship between organizations and their environments. It places emphasis on social norms, rules, values and expectations as the primary sources of pressure on institutions (Coates, Trudgett & Page, 2023). The theory is limited in that it overemphasizes stability and continuity, underestimating the role of change and innovation within institutions. The theory may also struggle to account for the agency of individual actors and the ways in which they can influence and transform institutional structures. Furthermore, its focus on broad institutional factors can lead to a lack of attention to specific contexts and micro-level dynamics, potentially oversimplifying complex social phenomena (Peters, 2022). Critics also argue that the theory might not adequately address power dynamics and conflicts of interest within and between institutions, which can significantly affect organizational behavior and social outcomes (Coates *et al.*, 2023).

The theory is applicable to the study as it provides a framework for understanding the behavioral patterns of individuals within Turkana county. Institutional theory emphasizes the role of established structures, norms, and practices in shaping organizational behavior and effectiveness. In Turkana North Sub-County, institutional structures and frameworks for conflict resolution—such as local peace committees, government agencies, and NGOs—are influenced by formal rules and informal community norms. However, the persistence of conflicts suggests a misalignment between institutional frameworks and local realities, underscoring the need for adaptive and context-sensitive approaches. Conflict resolution efforts can benefit from institutional theory's examination of implications for the legitimacy and survival of organizational culture. Understanding the potential effect of conflicts on the organization's legitimacy and overall survival can motivate parties to seek resolutions that align with the organization's long-term goals and values.

1.12.2 Resource Scarcity Theory

The origin of the theory can be traced back to Charles Darwin in the 19th century. Discussions about conflicts in natural resource management are driven by the theory of resource scarcity. Historically, within pastoralist groups, conflicts have typically been connected with drought, resulting in rivalry over the scarce resources and exhaustion of natural resources (McDermott & Butler, 2023).

From the viewpoint of scarcity and conflict, conflict is caused by the limited availability of natural resources in two main ways. Firstly, the lack of resources forces the elite to seize them, leading to the marginalization of the powerless. Furthermore, scarcity is believed to lead to conflict by depleting social and economic innovation. The connection between environmental stress and conflict is somewhat facilitated by communities' capacity to achieve shared objectives like adapting economically and innovatively to resource scarcity-induced changes in economic and societal circumstances. Although scarcity encourages creativity within society, it also limits the ability to innovate.

Violence can be caused by a lack of resources or not having enough resources compared to others, at both group and personal levels. However, conflicts can also arise from disputes over resources in times of plenty. Communities involved in violent conflicts are mainly driven by self-serving and unlawful economic interests, as opposed to grievances like inequality, ethnic discrimination, or historical enmity (Mahdavi, 2021). Although greed may seem more prominent, genuine grievances stem from circumstances such as religious and ethnic fractionalization, rapid economic decline, political repression and inequality.

The theory's strengths lie in its broad applicability across various fields, such as economics, political science, and environmental studies, providing a comprehensive framework for analyzing issues like climate change and resource-related conflicts. The theory's predictive power aids in understanding and addressing conflicts over scarce resources, promoting sustainable management and conservation efforts, and raising awareness about the critical issue of resource depletion (McDermott & Butler, 2023). However, the theory tends to oversimplify complex socio-political dynamics by attributing changes primarily to resource scarcity and underestimating human innovation's potential to overcome limitations (Mahdavi, 2021). It often overlooks how resource distribution and access inequalities influence outcomes, as well as the dynamic nature of renewable resources and technological advancements that can alter scarcity landscapes (McDermott & Butler, 2023). Additionally, while it emphasizes conflict, it may underrepresent scenarios where scarcity leads to cooperation and innovation, failing to capture the full spectrum of responses to resource limitations (Mahdavi, 2021).

Despite the fact that conflicts caused by drought typically center on the fight for grazing land, it is crucial to acknowledge additional factors that play a role in and set off violent disputes in Turkana County. Numerous violent conflicts in pastoral regions stem from a mix of political, economic, and socio-cultural factors that intertwine to restrict access to, availability of, and deplete natural resources (Tashman, 2021). This has been the primary reason for tensions among Turkana north sub-county communities. Competition for limited natural resources in Turkana County is caused by repeated droughts and worsened by political manipulation, unclear property rights, ineffective local institutions, increased availability of small firearms, and incidents of cattle theft. These factors contribute to the violent conflicts seen in the region. Creating comprehensive plans, regulations, and empowering community leadership institutions based on traditional conflict

resolution methods due to competition for limited resources are essential for ultimately addressing violent disputes (McDermott & Butler, 2023).

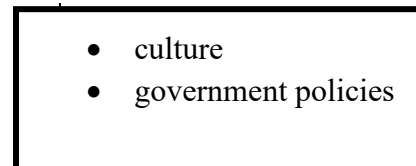
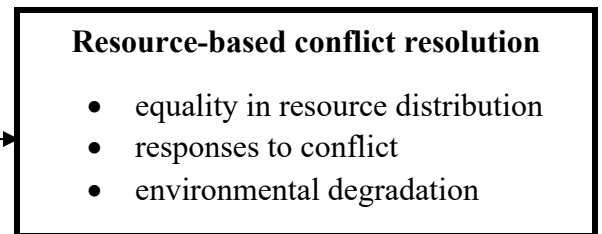
1.13 Conceptual framework

It consists of a connected group of ideas or beliefs that explain how a certain event works or how the parts of it are connected to each other (Crawford, 2019). A diagram is commonly used to visually represent and help understand the proposed relationships. A conceptual framework gives the fundamental organization to understand the connections between observations and their interpretations. The independent variables—conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding capacity, community participation and illegal firearms—directly influence the effectiveness of resource-based conflict resolution. Conflict sensitivity enhances awareness of how interventions influence tensions. Peacebuilding capacity ensures that communities and institutions have the necessary skills, structures and processes to resolve disputes peacefully. Community participation promotes local ownership and legitimacy of conflict resolution processes. Conversely, the presence of illegal firearms escalates tensions and violence. This is indicated in Figure 1.2 :-

Independent Variables



Dependent Variable



Moderating variables

Figure 1.1 : Conceptual framework

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of literature institutional capacity in resource-based conflict resolution. The chapter examines existing institutional structures and frameworks, challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts, effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts and effect of institutional capacities in communities peaceful co-existence. A summary of research gaps is also presented and discussed.

2.2 Review of literature

Resource based conflicts are mainly caused by disagreements over water, minerals and land. Conflicts over scarce resources must thus be handled with urgency (Kabelo & Gakuu, 2019). Natural resources are crucial to the economy of any given community. Both renewable and nonrenewable natural resources have the potential to spark violent conflict. Resource scarcity is a major factor in the escalation of violence. This is largely because the parties involved in negotiating and distributing these resources often lack effective and universally respected conflict management mechanisms (Muigua, 2018).). This section reviews relevant literature on institutional capacity on resource-based conflict resolution. The section is presented as per the research objectives.

2.2.1 Institutional structures and frameworks in conflict resolution

Inadequacy of institutional structures for resource-based conflict resolution is a global challenge that significantly hampers the achievement of lasting peace in many conflict-prone

regions (Varisco, 2020). Across the world—from post-conflict societies in Middle East and parts of Southeast Asia—conflict resolution is a challenge due to inadequate financial and logistical support (Richards & Syallow, 2018). This deficiency undermines the nations’ ability to monitor conflict dynamics, conduct timely interventions and respond to early warning signs of violence (Yang, 2019). In countries like Afghanistan and Myanmar, limited capacity at the grassroots level has weakened community-based conflict resolution efforts, despite strong international peacebuilding frameworks (Wollentz, 2020). Globally, resource-based conflict resolution increasingly depends on strengthening local structures with the resources, training and autonomy required to mediate disputes and maintain social cohesion (Young, Young & Aubert, 2022).

Noyon et al. (2023) examined legitimacy in conflict resolution institutions, noting its legal, normative and social dimensions indicating its complex and contested nature. Additionally, Seble and Kewir (2023) assessed IGAD's conflict prevention efficacy. Despite IGAD's early warning system and Mediation Support Unit, it struggled to avert conflicts due to significant internal and external limitations. Their qualitative study included interviews with eighteen informants and document analysis to support these findings; hence a limitation in data collection and analysis.

A study by Aasoglenang, Bonye and Yiridomoh (2023) analyzed the challenges of conflict resolution in Ghana. Through qualitative methods involving interviews and focus group discussions with 27 key informants—including chiefs, earth priests, and legal officials—the study identified reasons for past integration failures, such as mistrust and power struggles. It recommended a hybrid conflict resolution framework to merge both systems for improved outcomes. The study used a qualitative approach, hence a methodological gap. In the same vein, Lamidi and Olaleye (2025) assessed the effectiveness of traditional institutions in Southwest

Nigeria, finding that they significantly complement modern mechanisms in resolving intra-communal conflicts.

Nguni (2021) examined conflict management in the Horn of Africa, employing a desk study review methodology. The study conducted a thorough review of relevant empirical literature to identify key themes and knowledge gaps. It concluded that devolved governance systems could help mitigate regional conflict by enhancing citizen participation in development and peacebuilding programs, particularly in pastoral economies. These programs should focus on rebuilding livelihoods and mending relationships. The research also suggested addressing resource management, especially concerning land use and cultural shifts (Nguni ,2021). Additionally, it noted that political manipulation often hinders conflict management efforts, revealing a methodological gap as it relied primarily on desktop reviews.

Contemporary state-building interventions in fragile states often operate under the assumption that establishing a capable state is sufficient to enhance Peace. The onset of civil wars and existing literature on state capacity tends to support this assumption. Kifle (2020) explored the relationship between non-state conflicts and state capacity in sub-Saharan Africa through a mixed-method approach. Utilizing statistical analysis, the study examined the correlation between state capacity dimensions—legitimacy, monopoly of coercion, and effectiveness—and non-state conflicts. The findings indicated a statistically significant inverse relationship between state effectiveness and legitimacy and the occurrence of non-state conflicts. However, qualitative analysis suggested that while state capacity influences conflict levels (Kifle ,2020), it should not be overstated, as various factors like political agendas, intercommunity relationships, dispute

resolution methods, resource limitations, and government strategies also play crucial roles. The research has a methodological gap due to its qualitative nature, resulting in restricted analysis.

Locally, Asunah (2020) investigated ADR in the Nandi and Luo communities, finding that its inconsistent application hampers effective conflict resolution. Through fieldwork and desk reviews, the study highlighted gaps in ADR usage, advocating for its formalization as a constitutional right in Kenya to enhance access to justice and social cohesion. Challenges included inadequate legal frameworks, language barriers, and high illiteracy levels (Asunah ,2020). Recommendations were made for community involvement and better legal structures to support ADR processes. The study presents a contextual gap as it was conducted among the Nandi and Luo communities.

Similarly, Mach Era (2021) explored ADR in the conflict-ridden Migori-Narok border, revealing that while ADR is effective in various contexts, its effect there was underexplored. Based on a study with 384 respondents, findings indicated strong correlations between ADR methods, principles, and their acceptability. Recommendations focused on public awareness, improved documentation, and increased civic education to foster ADR's effectiveness in conflict resolution. Mutuku et al. (2022) analyzed formal justice and ADR in resolving land conflicts in Kenya. The study found constitutional recognition of both systems, highlighting ADR's benefits. The study presents a contextual gap as it focused on land conflicts, hence a narrower scope.

2.2.2 Challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts

A study by Froese et al. (2022) analyzed land-related social-ecological conflicts in the transboundary MAP region—Madre de Dios (Peru), Acre (Brazil), and Pando (Bolivia). Conflicts,

tied to gold mining, cattle ranching, and communal land access, have distinct historical and cultural contexts. Utilizing literature reviews and expert interviews, Froese et al. (2022) identified drivers, including contested land tenure, socio-cultural changes, state agendas and illegal activities. Recommendations aimed at improving institutions and resilience included clarifying roles, promoting local participation, combating corruption and addressing illegal activities. Zikos (2020) investigated natural resource conflicts, emphasizing the lack of a cohesive framework and the persistence of conflicts amid institutional changes.

Danielsen, Eicken, Funder, Johnson, Lee, Theilade and Burgess (2022) argue that community participation plays a crucial role in resolving resource-based conflicts. Communities engaged in resource-based conflict resolution can effectively manage local environmental issues and gather data for decision-making. Empowerment in resource management addresses health, social welfare, and climate change concerns. However, challenges include limited collective action, inadequate state responsiveness, and member harassment. Recommendations for improving participation focus on better data management, promotion of self-determination, enhancing conflict resolution efforts and integrating community approaches with broader frameworks (Danielsen *et al.*, 2022). The study was a systematic review of literature, hence a methodological limitation.

Kurniawan, Lujala, Rye and Vela (2022) investigated the important role of community engagement in managing natural resource extraction. The research identifies tensions between corporate strategies and community-driven methods in natural resource extraction. It underscores the significance of community participation in resolving conflicts over resource management, revealing the discord between formal regulatory approaches and local initiatives. The study's

strength lies in its recognition of various conflicts that arise during extraction processes and the necessity of considering both hierarchical and community perspectives for effective governance and conflict resolution. Kurniawan *et al.* (2022) study aligns with broader literature that champions local involvement in decision-making for sustainable development. However, the study has limitations, including a lack of focus on specific resource types and insufficient empirical data or case studies to support its findings.

Pona and Ouedrago (2023) examined natural resource conflict management in the Youwarou prefecture of the central Niger Delta, highlighting access issues, particularly for women, youth, and children, amid instability and radical groups. A survey of 71 community leaders indicated that 69.4% were satisfied with current conflict management, noting a decline in resource-related disputes, but 29.6% expressed dissatisfaction with institutions. The study involved only 71 respondents, a small sample, hence a limitation in analysis and conclusion. In the same breadth, Isong (2020) conducted interviews across Niger Delta states, revealing mixed perceptions of the government's amnesty program. While viewed as partially successful, many criticized it for not addressing underlying issues like poverty and environmental degradation, hence the need for structural solutions for conflict resolution. The study used only interviews in data collection, hence a limitation in scope.

Rotich and Ahmed (2020) investigated the relationship between the involvement of external actors and drivers of intra-clan conflicts in Garissa County. The qualitative study revealed that intra-clan conflicts in North Eastern Kenya stem from competition over resources like land and water, exacerbated by the porous Kenya-Somali border facilitating arms trafficking. Perceptions of injustice among Muslims have also enabled extremist groups like Al-Shabaab to

gain influence (Rotich & Ahmed ,2020). Recommendations include forming inclusive peace committees and collaborating with security agencies. The study focused on Garissa county, hence a contextual gap.

A study by Renner and Opiyo (2021) examined water resource conflicts in Kenya's Lake Naivasha basin. This competition has led to issues like poor management and declining water quality, amplified by unclear governance and a sense of marginalization among local communities. Renner and Opiyo (2021) recommended a comprehensive policy framework and stricter regulation enforcement for sustainable use and conflict reduction. A contextual gap is evident as it was conducted at the Lake Naivasha Basin. Lesrima, Nyamasyo and Kiemo (2021) evaluated persistent conflicts in the Ewaso Ng'iro North River sub-basin, which influence livelihoods and economic growth despite institutional reforms. The study used mixed methods and Game Theory to analyze dynamics between upstream and downstream users, revealing that lack of transparency in resource sharing breeds conflict. Lesrima *et al.*(2021) advocated for enhanced legal and institutional capacity. Ibrahim (2023) investigated Kenya's Administration Police Service (KAPS) and its role in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) for resource disputes in Kajiado County. The study found KAPS faces challenges due to a lack of formal legal support and resources, recommending capacity strengthening for improved conflict resolution.

2.2.3 Effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts

Resource-based conflicts continue to challenge peace and development efforts globally. In response, institutions have employed various strategies such as legal reforms, community-based negotiations, and policy interventions to address these disputes (Zikos ,2020). The effectiveness

of these approaches largely depends on their inclusivity, enforcement and adaptability to local contexts (Asunah ,2020). While some strategies have yielded positive outcomes in reducing tensions and promoting sustainable resource use, others have fallen short due to weak implementation or lack of community engagement. Syahputra et al. (2021) assessed land conflicts over mangrove resources in Indonesia. The study employed participatory observation and secondary data and proposed an institutional framework to address conflicts.

Additionally, Worku (2020) investigated indigenous conflict resolution among the Oromo. Recommendations included government's institutional support for sustainable peace. On the other hand, Masenya (2021) examined South Africa's indigenous resolution systems, identifying land disputes and succession issues as common conflict causes. The lack of formal policies limits their effectiveness, hence the need for governance institutions grounded in traditional values to enhance peace-building. Likewise, Ayodeji (2022) assessed farmer-pastoralist conflict in Nigeria, and identified climate change and instability as primary drivers. A qualitative analysis of policies revealed ineffective resolutions due to poor implementation. The study advocates for a combined management and political model to strengthen policy application and conflict resolution efforts (Ayodeji ,2022). The study adopted a qualitative approach, hence a methodological gap.

Further, Chelang'a and Chesire (2020) examined conflict resolution in pastoralist communities, and highlighted competition for natural resources, population growth, land tenure disputes and climate change as enablers to conflict. Their findings indicate that while some community-based strategies effectively mitigate conflicts, challenges in consistent implementation persist. Similarly, Achieng (2020) assessed peace education in Nairobi schools amidst rising violence. The study found that while peace education exists, it primarily appears in specific

subjects, and its effect on coexistence is limited, leading to recommendations for a curriculum review and further research on PE's role in peace-building. A contextual gap is evident as the study was conducted in Nairobi County.

Mugendi and Gitonga (2024) investigated the effect of reparation programs on peaceful coexistence in Isiolo Central Sub-County and revealed a significant positive relationship. The study recommended improving transparency and addressing corruption in these processes while suggesting further research on low utilization factors. A contextual gap is evident as the study was conducted in Isiolo county. Additionally, Muriungi and Mung'ale (2023) examined community policing in Kiambu County, and found a strong correlation between its nature, effectiveness, and dispute resolution. The study advocated for community awareness and incentives to enhance policing participation. Similarly, the study was conducted in Kiambu county, presenting a contextual gap.

Additionally, Schillinga, Akunoc, Scheffrana and Weinzierla (2019) focused on Turkana, a region in northern Kenya heavily reliant on pastoralism. Pastoralism in Turkana faces heightened violence due to prolonged droughts, socio-economic changes, and the availability of small arms, straining traditional coping mechanisms. A study analyzed climate data and conflict records, revealing that raiding primarily occurs during and just before rainy seasons when rainfall is sufficient. Conversely, during droughts and resource scarcity, raids intensify to secure pastures and water despite unfavorable conditions. Schillinga *et al.* (2019) noted a shift in commercialized raiding with reduced seasonality. Adaptation options remain limited due to the region's marginalized status. The study failed to link local access to firearms on resource-based conflict resolution, hence a conceptual gap.

2.2.4 Effect of institutional capacities in communities' peaceful co-existence

Institutional capacity influence communities' ability to live together peacefully. Strong institutions contribute to conflict prevention and resolution by promoting justice, equitable resource distribution, and inclusive decision-making (Worku (2020). When institutions are well-equipped, transparent, and responsive, they foster trust and cooperation among community members. Conversely, weak institutional capacity often leads to mistrust, marginalization, and increased vulnerability to conflict (Syahputra et al.,2021). Fahlevi and Murziqin (2024) examined the Aceh Truth and Reconciliation Commission (KKR) and its effectiveness in addressing past human rights abuses stemming from the armed conflict between the Indonesian government and GAM. Their qualitative study highlighted the KKR's role in truth-telling and reconciliation. Neupert-Wentz (2025) found traditional authority policing affected communal conflict, with legal pluralism creating jurisdictional issues resolved by cooperation.

Additionally, Shoko (2022) analyzed the role of local churches in conflict transformation in Zimbabwe. The study compared a Pentecostal church and an African Independent Church. Findings indicate both churches engage with the community, but their effect is limited by outreach constraints, financial issues, restrictive laws, and fear among leaders. Likewise, Lamidi (2024) highlighted land disputes as a significant conflict source in Africa, advocating for traditional peace-building systems as more effective alternatives to bureaucratic judicial processes, fostering social cohesion and restorative justice within communities.

A study by Kimani (2021) analyzed the role of the Church's Justice and Peace Commission in mitigating conflicts in pastoral communities and noted the influence of religious organizations in mediation and peace efforts while advocating for neutral religious leadership to discourage

youth violence. Dahiye and Mbataru (2023) , on the other hand, evaluated traditional conflict resolution in Garissa County and found that negotiation and arbitration significantly enhance peace and security. They recommend that governments support these practices legally and developmentally. In the same vein, Maratani and Omboto (2024) focused on multi-agency security management in West Pokot County, revealing challenges like resource shortages and coordination issues, and suggesting integrating community policing to improve collaboration and effectiveness in security operations.

2.3 Summary and research gap

Peltola *et al.* (2023) evaluated effectiveness of management plans in addressing conflicts that arise within the context of conservation planning and management and noted specific characteristics that enhance the responsiveness of these management plans to power imbalances that often arise in planning situations. The research concentrated on preserving and managing resources, while the upcoming study will target the institutional capacity of Turkana County, thus bridging a conceptual gap.

In a study by Ojo (2023), it was found that the absence of inclusivity in policy development was a major factor in causing resistance within communities in Nigeria. The study reveals a methodological gap as it was quantitative. On the other hand, Nguni (2021) examined conflict management in the Horn of Africa, employing a desk study review methodology and emphasized the potential for mitigating conflict in the region through the implementation of devolved governance systems. The study used secondary data in its analysis, presenting a limitation to only reviewed studies.

Kifle (2020) examined the relationship between non-state and state capacity conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa using a mixed-method approach and indicated that the effectiveness and legitimacy of a state were correlated negatively with non-state conflicts. Sharifi *et al.* (2021) conducted a systematic review of recent literature and explored the interactions between factors that undermine Peace and climate change. The study found that climatic stressors could act as driving forces or aggravating factors. The studies present a conceptual and methodological gaps as only secondary data was used. In another study, Kabelo and Gakuu (2019) noted that resource-based conflict resolution had a considerable effect on project. The study summarized that resource adequacy had the most substantial effect on project success, followed by government policy and community leadership while cattle rustling had the least effect. The study was conducted in Garissa County, hence a contextual gap.

Kurniawan, Lujala, Rye and Vela (2022) examined the vital role of governing natural resource extraction by local participation. The study emphasized the crucial role of community participation in addressing resource-related conflicts. Ghebretkle (2017) analyzed the effect of formal legal systems in Ethiopia and Kenya on traditional conflict resolution methods, particularly within the realm of natural resource conflicts and noted that both countries can benefit greatly from a hybrid approach to natural resource conflict resolution. These studies used secondary data, while the proposed study will collect primary data for analysis.

Rotich and Ahmed (2020) investigated the complex relationship between the involvement of drivers and external actors of intra-clan conflicts in Garissa County. Their qualitative approach involved key informants from various sectors and recommended the establishment of inclusive peace committees, collaboration between the community and security agencies, and the

involvement of politicians in advocating for impartial conflict resolution and countering violent extremism and impartial conflict resolution through policy frameworks. The research was qualitative but the suggested research will utilize a combination of methods in collecting and analyzing data. Meanwhile, Hussein and Kisimbii (2019) investigated how community participation affects project implementation in semi-arid and arid areas. They discovered that involving the community in conflict resolution played a significant role in the successful completion of road construction projects, as indicated by most survey participants. The project implementation was the dependent variable in the previous study, whereas the current study is focusing on resolving resource-based conflicts.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a thorough description and justification of the selected research methodology. The population is recognized, and the method for choosing a representative sample is explained. Furthermore, the data collection tools are described and the analysis of the data is also addressed. Ethical concerns are also emphasized.

3.2 Research design

It is a systematic and carefully planned approach used by a researcher to conduct a scientific investigation (Abutabenjeh & Jaradat, 2018). The research project employed a descriptive research approach. This approach involved observing and analyzing the study variables in their natural state, without any deliberate manipulation or changes (Siedlecki, 2020). The main objective was to ensure that the 'subject' understood, with no effect on the variables. The researcher's goal was to collect valuable insights and information to enhance the overall knowledge in their field of study. Descriptive research included not just gathering data, but also sorting, quantifying, examining, and interpreting data. The study's design was crucial as it aimed to enhance Turkana County's institutional capacity in resolving conflicts related to resources. In detail, the design evaluated conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding capacity, community involvement, and the availability of illegal weapons in Turkana County for resource-based conflict resolution.

3.3 Research site

Due to persistent resource-based conflicts, the study was conducted in Turkana County, Kenya in Turkana North Sub-county (Getahun, Wakjira & Nyingi, 2020). The Sub-county has six wards (Kaeris, Lakezone, Nakalale, Kibish and Lapur). The sub-'county's main economic activity is pastoralism although recently the sub-county has also experienced a growing population of households practising agro-pastoralism according to the Turkana County Integrated Development Plan of 2023-2027(GoK, 2023). Turkana North Sub County was selected as the study site due to its persistence in resource-based conflict resolution with the neighbouring Marsabit County, South Sudan, and Ethiopia. The study mainly focused on institutional capacity in resource-based conflict resolution.

The scarce resources, especially during drought periods, had contributed to increased migration as an adaptive strategy (Namenya and Lolemtum, 2021), which led to heightened resource conflicts during migration with neighboring communities. To make matters worse, the area had been colonized by the *Prosopis Juliflora* invasive species, which contributed to the extinction of traditional grass and tree species that used to serve as fodder, especially during drought periods (Namenya *et al.*, 2022). All these factors, coupled with the high vulnerability of communities to drought due to elevated poverty levels and frequent droughts caused by climate change, had exacerbated resource-based conflicts (GoK, 2023) in the sub-county and the county in general. Study variables included conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding capacity, community participation, and illegal firearms in resource-based conflict resolution.

3.4 Target population

Target population is the total number of elements that's the focus of a study (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The target population for this study is 13,119 (11,970 males and 1,149 females) in Turkana North Sub county. The low number of females targeted in this study is due to the pastoralism nature of 'households' activity, therefore, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2019 National Census figures. Table 3.1 illustrates the target population.

Table 3.1 Target population

Ward	Male	Female	Households
Kaeris	2479	232	2711
Lakezone	2428	241	2669
Nakalale	1233	130	1363
Kibish	1274	131	1405
Lapur	2671	237	2908
Kaaleng/Kaikor	1885	178	2063
Total	11,970	1,149	13,119

Source : KNBS (2019)

3.5 Study sample

3.5.1 Study sample size

Sample size is a proportion of the target population (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Choosing the correct sample size is crucial in achieving a trade-off between the expense of gathering data and the precision of the outcomes. Having a sample size that is too big may result in unnecessary costs, as well as requiring more time and resources. On the other hand, a sample that is too small may not accurately reflect the population, which could undermine the study's reliability (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Researchers must calculate the ideal sample size to make sure the chosen sample accurately represents the available population and achieves the research goals. The Yamane (1973) formula was used to determine the sample size of household heads.

That is:-

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n is the sample size; N = the population of the study and e = the margin error , 0.05. From the formula,

$$n = \frac{13119}{1 + 13119 (0.05)^2}$$

$$n = 388$$

3.5.2 Sampling procedure

Sampling is the process of choosing a particular group for gathering data in research (Gumpili & Das, 2022). The main goal of sampling is to collect pertinent information about a specific topic from a larger population without needing to analyze each individual in that population (Maduga, 2020). When conducting a study, researchers seek to make conclusions about the entire population by examining the characteristics observed in a sample. This procedure includes selecting a sample that effectively represents the variety and characteristics of the entire population. The findings from the sample can be generalized to the whole population, increasing the importance and usefulness of the study outcomes (Saroj & Singh, 2016). The research used a simple random sampling method to choose two neighborhoods, Lakezone and Kibish. The two wards represented over 10% of all wards in the sub-county, making them representative of the entire area (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). Resource-based conflicts were also affecting these wards. The research employed stratified random sampling to group the population into strata, to

allow an equal chance of selection. The layers served as the lower levels for households. Household heads were selected using a mix of multistage and simple random sampling methods.

Hence, the household was considered the unit of observation, and the household head served as the unit of analysis. As children were part of the target population, the household heads had to be adult males or females who were 18 years old or older. This ensured that every individual in the population had an equal chance of being chosen (Gumpili & Das, 2022). Community elders and county security committee officials were selected using purposive and snowball sampling methods. Community members were chosen for participation in focus group discussions using quota sampling. Table 3.2 shows the sampling frame.

Table 3.2 : Sample size

Study population	Sampling method	Sample size	Data collection
Household heads	Multi stage and simple random	388	Questionnaire
Community elders	Purposive and snowballing	7	Key informant interview guide
County security committee officials	Purposive and snowballing	7	Key informant interview guide
Focus group discussion members	Quota	30	FGD Guide

3.6 Data collection

3.6.1 Data collection instruments

Data was collected using a combination of different research techniques. Semi-structured questionnaires were provided to the household heads who were selected for the study. Questionnaires aid collect data from a large sample. However, they are expensive to administer.

The questionnaire had five sections, including demographic details about the participants and variables related to the research. Instructions were given to participants on how to fill out the surveys. The open-ended questionnaire collected data on conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding capacity, community participation and access to illegal firearms in resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana County.

The researcher organized a total of five focus group discussions (FGDs), each comprising six community elders. FGDs enable respondents to give more explanation; however, they may be prone to bias. The selection of five groups was based on considerations such as diversity within the community, different geographic locations, or variations in socio-economic status. The inclusion of elders acknowledged their role as repositories of cultural knowledge, tradition, and community history. Participants had the flexibility to elaborate on their responses, providing a deeper understanding of their perspectives.

Face-to-face interviews with key informants were conducted to gather information from officials of the security committee in the seven counties. Interviews provide a better understanding of research objectives; however, that are subject to human bias. Interviews offered additional information about the topic (Jain, 2021). The interviews gathered data on conflict sensitivity, peacebuilding capacity, community involvement, and availability of illegal firearms in resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana County.

3.6.2 Pilot testing of research instruments

A pilot trial was conducted to assess the efficiency, suitability, and sufficiency of the data-gathering instruments. The primary goal was to improve the tools and rectify any possible flaws

in their construction. The preliminary research was conducted in Laisamis Sub-county within Marsabit County. The pilot sub-county experienced comparable conflicts over resources, much like Turkana County. A preliminary sample of 15 participants was chosen at random. Connelly (2008) pointed out that the pilot sample size should be around 10% of the anticipated sample size for the main study. The researcher communicated the study's goals to the pilot participants. While conducting the pilot test, the researcher evaluated any possible problems. The duration needed to finish the surveys was also determined. In addition, the researcher made sure to record any issues that the participants had while filling out the questionnaires.

3.6.3 Instrument reliability

Consistency was the level of reliability with which a tool gauged the particular factors it was designed to evaluate (Mohajan, 2017). The instrument's capability to consistently generate similar or virtually identical outcomes during repeated testing was examined. Two approaches were used to assess the dependability of the data collection tools. Test-retest was employed to assess the reliability of responses across different time points. This involved giving the same tool to the same set of participants at various times and analyzing their answers to ensure reliability. Internal consistency evaluated how consistent the questions were within the instrument. It assessed the degree of alignment between questions designed to assess the same construct. A Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.7 or above signified a dependable tool, indicating that the questions consistently assessed the desired variables in the instrument (Segal & Coolidge, 2018). The reliability results from the pilot research are indicated in Table 3.3

Table 3.3 : Reliability results

Variable	Item	Alpha Value	Recommendations
Institutional structures	4	0.724	Reliable
Strategies and approaches	5	0.741	Reliable

Source : Field data (2024)

The Cronbach Alpha Coefficient was calculated for each variable. Coefficient for existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution was 0.724 and effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts was 0.741. All the variables had reliability values higher than 0.7, which was adequate.

3.6.4 Instrument validity

The researcher assessed if the tools adequately represented the desired ideas (Taherdoost, 2016). Only questions that were pertinent and truly represented these ideas were added to the survey. Content validity focused on ensuring that the tools accurately reflected the research goals. All irrelevant questions found in the pilot study were substituted. Criterion validity was used to assess the instrument test's dependability. The researcher documented how the results from various tools given to the participants in the pilot study were connected. This helped establish whether the instruments produced dependable and uniform results. Through a comprehensive assessment of validity, the researcher sought to enhance and optimize the data collection tools to accurately assess the desired variables for the primary investigation. Upon adequate advice from the supervisors, the questionnaire was examined, revised and accepted. The questionnaire provided data that accurately answered the study's research questions.

3.6.5 Data collection procedure

The researcher enlisted and instructed two research aides. The assistants received an explanation of the research objectives. They distributed the questionnaires directly to the specified groups. The aims of the study were shared with the participants, and those interested in taking part were given the questionnaires and enough time to fill them out. The researcher and assistants helped participants facing any challenges with filling out the questionnaires. Afterwards, the gathered surveys were examined to ensure they were accurate and complete.

Following the distribution of the questionnaires, the researcher conducted interviews. This began by scheduling appointments with seven officials from the county security committee at least two weeks prior to the interview dates. The seven county security committee officials received an explanation of the study's goals. Each interview session lasted approximately 45 minutes in order to gather detailed information from the participants (Oben, 2021). Recording interviews was done to help with later reviews and analysis (Al-Yateem, 2012).

3.7 Data analysis

The precision and reliability of the questionnaires were confirmed. Editing, coding, and tabulation were used to conduct data cleaning and analysis. This was done to detect any anomalies in the answers and assign a particular numerical score to each one for further evaluation. Data analysis required using the statistical package for social sciences. Both numerical and descriptive data were examined to obtain important insights into the research inquiries. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, means, and percentages were used for the quantitative data analysis. The

statistical measures provided a thorough understanding of how the data was spread out and where its center lay, helping to grasp the patterns and trends seen in the responses.

Regarding the qualitative data, the method of choice was thematic analysis. The analysis of interview responses and open-ended survey questions was conducted to identify repeated themes, patterns, and valuable insights. Through the categorization of qualitative data into themes, researchers could methodically delve into the complexity and fullness of participants' viewpoints and encounters. Different types of visual aids such as graphs, narratives, and tables were used to effectively present the study findings. Graphs and pie charts aided in representing numerical data visually, enhancing readers' understanding of quantitative patterns and comparisons. Stories offered in-depth descriptions of qualitative data, enabling a more thorough comprehension of the perspectives of the participants. Moreover, tables were utilized to display brief and organized information, especially when contrasting outcomes or outlining main discoveries.

3.8 Legal and ethical considerations

The research was authorized by Africa Nazarene University, guaranteeing that it was conducted with the required institutional approval. Furthermore, the research sought ethical endorsement from NACOSTI. The research went through multiple stages in order to safeguard the rights and privacy of the participants. A research instrument included an introductory letter that sought participants' informed consent before they could participate in the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of institutional capacity in resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana North sub-county. This chapter presents demographics, descriptive statistics, and thematic analysis. Consequently, the chapter analyses data collected as per the objectives; To analyze the existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution in Turkana North Sub-County, to identify the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in the region, to evaluate the effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts and to measure the effect of institutional interventions on peace and stability in Turkana North Sub-County.

4.2 Response rate

The response rate represents the percentage of individuals or groups from the sampled population who participated in the study by providing responses. Table 4.1 highlights the response rates for different segments of the study population. Among household heads, 357 out of the sampled 388 responded, yielding a 92% response rate. For county security committee officials, 4 out of 7 participated, resulting in a response rate of 57%. Additionally, all 5 community elders sampled for the focus group discussion participated, achieving a 100% response rate. Out of the total sample of 400 individuals or groups, 366 responded, resulting in an overall response rate of 92%. These rates indicate a strong level of engagement, though participation varied across the study segments.

Table 4.1 : Response rate

Study population	Sample	Responses	Response rate
Household heads	388	357	92%
County security committee officials	7	4	57%
Focus group discussion with community elders	5	5	100%
Total	400	366	92%

Source : Field data (2024)

4.3 Demographic data

The study assessed demographic data of the respondents. The study considered: gender, age , education level and years lived in Turkana North Sub-County.

4.3.1 Respondents' Age

Table 4.2 illustrates the age of the respondents. Results indicated that 5(1%) of the respondents were aged 26-35 years. Fifty-one (14%) of the respondents were aged 36-45 years, 183(51%) of the respondents were aged 46-55 years. One hundred and eighteen (33%) of the respondents were above 55 years. Most of the respondents were aged 46-55 years. Hence, most of the respondents age was adequate for credible responses and analysis. The age distribution of respondents, with the majority (51%) aged 46–55 years and 33% above 55 years, suggests that most participants had significant life and institutional experience, which likely influenced their perspectives on the study's key variables—institutional capacities and resource-based conflict resolution. Older respondents are more likely to have engaged with institutional systems over time, enabling them to provide informed assessments of institutional strengths, gaps, and effectiveness. Their long-term exposure to local dynamics also positioned them to offer valuable insights into historical and current approaches to resolving resource-based conflicts. This demographic profile,

therefore, added credibility to the study's findings by capturing views grounded in practical experience and deep contextual understanding.

Table 4.2 : Respondents' Age

Old	Frequency	Percent
26-35	5	1
36-45	51	14
46-55	183	51
above 55	118	33
Total	357	100

Source: Field data (2024)

4.3.2 Respondents' Education

Table 4.4 illustrates the level of education of respondents. Results indicated that 181(51%) of the respondents had primary level of education, 152(43%) of the respondents had secondary level of education and 24(7%) of the respondents had diploma level of education. Most of the respondents had primary level education. Hence, their responses were reliable for credible conclusion. The level of education among respondents significantly influenced their perceptions and engagement with institutional capacities and resource-based conflict resolution. A majority (51%) had attained only primary education, which suggests limited exposure to formal conflict resolution mechanisms or institutional processes. However, this also means that the effectiveness of institutional strategies largely depends on how accessible and understandable they are to individuals with basic education. Respondents with higher education levels, though fewer, may have had a broader understanding of policy frameworks and institutional roles.

Table 4.3: Respondents' Education

Education	Frequency	Percent
Primary	181	51
Secondary	152	43
Diploma	24	7
Total	357	100

Source: Field data (2024)

4.3.3 Years lived in Turkana North Sub-County

Table 4.5 illustrates how long the respondents had lived in Turkana County. Results indicated that 11(3%) of the respondents had lived 6-10 years, 24(7%) of the respondents had lived 11-15 years. One hundred and seventy-eight (50%) of the respondents had lived 16-20 years and 144(40%) of the respondents had lived over 20 years. Most of the respondents had lived in Turkana county for 16-20 years. Hence, they had lived long enough to provide credible responses for analysis.

Table 4.4: Years lived

Lived	Frequency	Percent
6-10	11	3
11-15	24	7
16-20	178	50
Above 20	144	40
Total	357	100

Source: Field data (2024)

4.4 Existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution

The study analyzed existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution in Turkana North Sub-County. Results in Table 4.6 indicated that 323 (90%) of the respondents' experienced low effectiveness of the community policing initiatives and 34 (10%) of

the respondents' experienced moderate effectiveness of the community policing initiatives. Fifty (14%) of the respondents' mentioned little level of involvement of community elders in peace building and 307 (86%) of the respondents' mentioned moderate level of involvement of community elders in peace building. Sixty (17%) of the respondents' noted that irregular meetings were held by county government agencies and 297 (83%) of the respondents' noted that moderate meetings were held by county government agencies. Sixty-four (18%) of the respondents' reported low presence of Kenya Police Service in the region and 293 (82%) of the respondents' reported moderate presence of Kenya Police Service in the region.

Table 4.5: Institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution

institutional structures and frameworks	Category	Frequency	Percent
community policing initiatives	lowly effective	323	90
	moderately effective	34	10
involvement of community elders in peace building	Little	50	14
	Moderate	307	86
county government agencies meetings for peace building	Irregular	60	17
	Moderate	297	83
presence of the Kenya Police Service in the region	Low	64	18
	Moderate	293	82

Source: Field data (2024)

In response to the question about how the county conducted peace building activities, respondents highlighted several approaches used by the county to address resource-based conflicts. These included organizing community dialogues and forums that brought together conflicting

parties to discuss grievances and seek resolutions. The county also facilitated training and workshops aimed at equipping community leaders, elders, and other stakeholders with skills in conflict resolution and negotiation. Additionally, partnerships with non-governmental organizations and interfaith groups were leveraged to mediate disputes and promote harmonious coexistence. Respondents also mentioned the establishment of peace committees at the grassroots level to monitor and address emerging conflicts promptly. Finally, respondents noted the role of local government officials in enforcing agreements and ensuring compliance with resolutions reached during peacebuilding efforts.

The researcher interviewed the county security officers and inquired the type of resource-based conflicts that existed in the county. County security officer 1 indicated,

“The main resource-based conflicts in the county are disputes over grazing land and water sources. These conflicts typically occur between pastoralist communities, especially during drought periods when resources are scarce. We also see clashes over fishing rights along shared water bodies.”

County security officer 2 said,

“The key resources attracting conflicts are water points, grazing land, and fishing areas. Water and grazing land are limited, especially during dry seasons, forcing communities to compete for access. Fishing conflicts arise because of overlapping boundaries and unregulated fishing practices, which lead to disputes over ownership and exploitation.”

The interviewer sought to know the resources that attracted conflicts. County security officer 2 indicated,

“Grazing land and water points are the most significant drivers of conflict. These resources are essential for the survival of livestock, which is the primary source of income for most residents. Scarcity during dry seasons and increased competition create tension. Charcoal

production also causes conflict as communities disagree over the ownership and management of forests.”

The interviewer sought to know how these resource-based conflicts were different from other community conflicts. County security officer 1 remarked,

“Resource-based conflicts are more widespread and cyclical, recurring during specific seasons, such as droughts. They often involve larger groups and can escalate into violent clashes due to their economic implications. In contrast, other community conflicts, such as disputes over cultural practices or family issues, are more localized and less likely to involve violence or long-term effects on livelihoods.”

Focus group discussions with elders inquired on the kinds of conflicts related to resources in the county. Elder 1 indicated,

“The main causes of resource-related conflicts in our county are grazing land, water sources, and fishing rights. During the dry season, disputes often break out among pastoralist communities over access to water wells and pasture. Fishing is another area of conflict, especially along shared water bodies, where unclear boundaries and overfishing lead to tensions. Charcoal production and logging also bring problems, as some people encroach on our forests without consulting the community, causing environmental damage and disputes over who owns these resources.”

The community elders were asked the insights the community had gained from past experiences with resource-related conflicts. Elder 9 responded,

"One thing we have learned is that early dialogue is key to stopping conflicts from escalating. Involving all parties in the discussions builds trust and helps ensure everyone follows the agreements. We've also seen that external mediators, like the government or NGOs, can be helpful when their efforts respect our traditions. Another important lesson is addressing the root causes, like resource scarcity. Constructing more water points and creating grazing corridors are examples of solutions that reduce conflicts. These

experiences have taught us that we need both short-term and long-term approaches to manage conflicts effectively."

4.5 Challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts

The study sought to identify the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County. Results in Table 4.6 indicated that 40% of respondents strongly disagreed that local institutions lack adequate resources to effectively resolve resource-based conflicts, while 30% disagreed, 15% were not sure, 10% agreed, and 5% strongly agreed ($M = 1.57$; $SD=0.325$). Thirty seven percent strongly disagreed that there is limited coordination between government and community institutions, 28% disagreed, 17% were not sure, 12% agreed, and 6% strongly agreed ($M = 2.45$; $SD=0.494$). Forty one percent strongly disagreed that institutions handling resource conflicts often face political interference that hampers their effectiveness, 26% disagreed, 18% were not sure, 11% agreed, and 4% strongly agreed ($M = 2.52$; $SD=0.672$). Forty percent of the respondents strongly disagreed that delays in institutional response worsen tensions in conflict areas, 25% disagreed, 15% were not sure, 13% agreed, and 7% strongly agreed ($M = 1.93$; $SD=0.236$). Forty two percent strongly disagreed that most community members have low confidence in the ability of institutions to resolve conflicts over natural resources fairly, 27% disagreed, 16% were not sure, 10% agreed and 5% strongly agreed ($M = 1.37$; $SD=0.448$).

Table 4.6 : Challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts

Statement	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	5	4	3	2	1
Local institutions lack adequate resources to effectively resolve resource-based conflicts.	357	1.57	0.325	5%	10%	15%	30%	40%
There is limited coordination between government and community institutions in addressing resource-based disputes.	357	2.45	0.494	6%	12%	17%	28%	37%
Institutions handling resource conflicts often face political interference that hampers their effectiveness.	357	2.52	0.672	4%	11%	18%	26%	41%
Delays in institutional response worsen tensions in areas affected by resource-based conflicts.	357	1.93	0.236	7%	13%	15%	25%	40%
Most community members have low confidence in the ability of institutions to resolve conflicts over natural resources fairly.	357	1.37	0.448	5%	10%	16%	27%	42%
1.91								

Source: Field data (2024)

County security officers were asked the primary challenges and limitations institutions faced in resolving resource-based conflicts in the region. Security officer 1 indicated;

"One of the biggest challenges we face is the lack of adequate resources and funding to implement long-term conflict resolution programs. Most of the funding is allocated to immediate responses, leaving little room to address the underlying causes of conflicts. There is also a shortage of trained personnel to handle resource-based conflicts effectively. This leads to a reactive approach rather than proactive measures to prevent conflicts.

Additionally, logistical challenges such as lack of transportation and communication tools hinder timely interventions. These resource constraints often leave affected communities feeling neglected and distrustful of institutional efforts."

Another security officer 3 remarked,

"Cultural and historical grievances are significant factors fueling resource-based conflicts. Many disputes have origins deeply rooted in historical injustices and tribal rivalries, which institutions find difficult to navigate. Addressing these issues requires cultural sensitivity and trust-building, which are often lacking in institutional approaches. Institutions also face resistance when external solutions are perceived as undermining traditional practices. The lack of understanding of community dynamics results in solutions that are either ineffective or outright rejected. Building trust and incorporating traditional leaders into the resolution process are essential steps often overlooked."

Community elders were asked the primary challenges and limitations institutions faced in resolving resource-based conflicts in the region. Elder 2 indicated,

"... institutions often do not consult us as elders before making decisions. We know the history of the conflicts and the underlying issues, but they prefer to impose solutions without understanding the local dynamics. This creates resentment among the communities, making it harder to implement resolutions. Additionally, there is a lack of trained mediators who understand our cultural practices. Many of the younger officers sent to handle these issues have no knowledge of traditional conflict resolution methods. This disconnect fuels tensions instead of easing them."

Additionally, elder 6 noted,

"... institutions fail to address the root causes of the conflicts, such as land ownership disputes and resource scarcity. Instead, they focus on managing the symptoms, like providing temporary security or relief aid. This approach doesn't offer long-term solutions, and the conflicts keep recurring. Furthermore, institutions rarely engage the youth, who are

the ones most often involved in these clashes. If the younger generation isn't part of the solution, they'll continue to be part of the problem. This lack of inclusion makes peace initiatives unsustainable."

Elder 8 indicated,

"Corruption is significant challenge. Resources meant for peacebuilding and conflict resolution often don't reach the ground. Instead, they are misused by individuals in power, leaving communities without the support they need. This breeds anger and frustration, especially when people see their grievances being ignored or dismissed. In some cases, corrupt officials even benefit from prolonged conflicts, as it justifies their continued control or funding. This makes resolving conflicts a lower priority for those in charge."

Elder 11 remarked,

"The scarcity of resources such as water and grazing land is a core issue, but institutions have not done enough to provide alternatives or manage these resources fairly. For instance, some areas have had projects like boreholes or dams initiated, but they remain incomplete due to poor planning or lack of follow-through. This creates competition among communities that rely on these resources for survival. Without tangible solutions to these resource challenges, tensions are bound to persist. Institutions need to step up in ensuring equitable access and resolving disputes over usage rights."

Hence, community policing initiatives were ineffective due to minimal involvement of community elders and irregular county government meetings, aligning with previous research on weak institutional engagement in marginalized regions. Despite moderate police presence, conflict resolution relied on community dialogues, training workshops, and partnerships with NGOs and religious groups, reinforcing the importance of stakeholder collaboration in peacebuilding. Local government officials played a crucial role in enforcing agreements, with resource-based conflicts—mainly over grazing land and water—identified as recurring, seasonal issues with

economic implications. Traditional conflict resolution methods, such as barazas and shared-use agreements, were valued for their fairness and long-term peacebuilding potential, supporting literature advocating for integrating indigenous and modern approaches. Respondents emphasized that resource conflicts were cyclical, economically driven, and distinct from other disputes, highlighting the need for proactive dialogue and comprehensive conflict management strategies.

4.6 Effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts

The study evaluated the effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County. The questionnaire responses revealed low levels of agreement across all statements related to community involvement and institutional support for conflict resolution, as reflected by the mean scores and response patterns. Among the listed strategies, community willingness to be involved in conflict resolution initiatives received the lowest mean score ($M = 1.40$), indicating the least perceived engagement. This was followed by perceived political willingness to involve the public ($M = 1.49$), and the extent to which the community engages in peacebuilding activities ($M = 1.47$). Similarly, the presence of adequate policies and laws ($M = 1.46$) and community sensitization on conflict resolution ($M = 1.47$) also scored low, suggesting limited public awareness or trust in these mechanisms. These rankings highlight the community's perception of weak engagement and limited institutional effectiveness, laying a foundation for further analysis using the Likert scale. Table 4.7 shows that out 357 respondents, 40% disagreed and 60% strongly disagreed that community members were willing to be involved in conflict resolution initiatives (Mean=1.40; Std. Dev=0.49). Forty nine percent disagreed and 51% strongly disagreed that there was political willingness to involve the public in conflict resolution (Mean=1.49; Std. Dev=0.50). Forty seven percent disagreed and 53%

strongly disagreed that the community engaged in various activities to enhance peace building (Mean=1.47; Std. Dev=0.50). Forty six percent disagreed and 54% strongly disagreed that there were adequate policies and laws that guided the community in conflict resolution (Mean=1.46; Std. Dev=0.50). Forty seven percent disagreed and 53% strongly disagreed that community members were sensitized to resolve conflicts (Mean=1.47; Std. Dev=0.50).

Table 4.7 : Effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts

Statements	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Community members are willing to be involved in conflict resolution initiatives.	357	1.40	0.49	0	0	0	40	60
There is political willingness to involve the public in conflict resolution.	357	1.49	0.50	0	0	0	49	51
The community engages in various activities to enhance peace building	357	1.47	0.50	0	0	0	47	53
There are adequate policies and laws that guide the community in conflict resolution.	357	1.46	0.50	0	0	0	46	54
Community members are sensitized to resolve conflicts.	357	1.47	0.50	0	0	0	47	53
		1.46						

Source: Field data (2024)

The respondents were required to indicate areas communities made contributions in resource-based conflict resolution. It was noted that elders played a key role in resolving disputes by bringing conflicting parties together to discuss their grievances. Respondents indicated that women also contributed by promoting peacebuilding initiatives, often acting as neutral parties to

encourage dialogue. Respondents indicated that youth groups participated by spreading awareness about the importance of coexistence through community meetings and local campaigns. Religious leaders contributed by offering moral guidance and emphasizing unity through shared values. Respondents indicated that communities engaged in resource-sharing agreements, such as rotational use of water points and grazing land to reduce tensions.

Respondents were required to indicate the policies or laws that enabled communities' participation in resource-based conflict resolution. Respondents indicated that community land laws provided a legal framework for addressing land disputes and involving local communities in decision-making processes. Policies such as the National Land Policy emphasized equitable access and community-driven conflict resolution mechanisms. Respondents indicated that the establishment of County Peace Committees allowed communities to actively participate in dialogue and peacebuilding efforts. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms were recognized under the constitution, which encouraged the use of cultural practices in solving conflicts. The National Cohesion and Integration Act promoted the involvement of communities in fostering peaceful coexistence. Devolution policies also empowered communities by ensuring their participation in governance and resource allocation decisions at the county level.

Respondents indicated that mistrust among community members and towards government institutions made it difficult to reach consensus during negotiations. A lack of adequate training and capacity-building programs for community leaders limited their ability to mediate effectively. The absence of financial and logistical support from institutions left communities struggling to organize peacebuilding activities. Political interference often exacerbated conflicts, as leaders prioritized personal or tribal interests over community welfare. Additionally, cultural and language

barriers between different groups created misunderstandings, further complicating resolution efforts.

The researcher conducted interviews with the county security officers and asked the mechanisms/strategies that existed on resource-based conflicts. Security officer 1 stated,

"The main mechanisms we use include the establishment of County Peace Committees that involve elders, religious leaders, and youth representatives. We also rely on early warning systems where community members report potential conflicts before they escalate. Joint patrols by security forces across conflict-prone areas help maintain order and prevent flare-ups. There are regular inter-community dialogues facilitated by NGOs and government agencies to address grievances. In addition, resource-sharing agreements are often negotiated to manage access to scarce resources like water and grazing land. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms led by elders also remain an important part of these strategies."

The interviewer inquired the effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts. Security officer 2 noted,

"The effectiveness of these strategies varies. Some initiatives, like inter-community dialogues and resource-sharing agreements, have been quite successful in de-escalating tensions. However, the lack of follow-through and monitoring often undermines long-term peace. Early warning systems are helpful, but responses are sometimes delayed due to bureaucracy. County Peace Committees have shown promise, but they need more financial and logistical support to operate effectively. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms work well in some cases, but they're limited when conflicts involve modern legal or political issues. Overall, the strategies need better coordination and community involvement to achieve lasting solutions."

County security officers were asked how the community addressed resource-based conflicts. Security officer 3 said,

"Communities have traditionally relied on elders to mediate and resolve disputes through negotiation and consensus-building. They have organized peace meetings between rival groups to discuss their differences and agree on sharing resources fairly. During times of conflict, some communities have established informal agreements, such as rotating access to grazing land or water sources. Religious leaders have also played a significant role by promoting reconciliation through sermons and prayers. Youth groups have mobilized to raise awareness about the importance of peace and discourage retaliatory violence. Women have acted as peacemakers by fostering dialogue and encouraging unity between conflicting groups."

Interviews inquired on the lessons that the community had learnt on resource-based conflicts. Security officer 4 remarked,

"The community has learned that violence only leads to further suffering and loss, making dialogue a more sustainable solution. They now understand the importance of involving all stakeholders, including women and youth, in conflict resolution efforts. Communities have realized that trust and transparency are essential for lasting peace, as mistrust often reignites tensions. They have also learned the value of adhering to resource-sharing agreements to prevent disputes from escalating. Another key lesson is that relying solely on institutions is not enough; local initiatives and collaboration are equally important. The community has recognized the need to address root causes like resource scarcity and land ownership disputes instead of just managing the symptoms."

Focus group discussions with community elders inquired on the capabilities that were available for resolving conflicts associated with specific types of resources? Elder 19 indicated,

"Our community has the wisdom of elders who have long been mediators in disputes, using traditional knowledge to resolve conflicts fairly. We also have established networks of trust

among different groups, which help bring conflicting parties to the table for discussions. Local resource-sharing agreements, such as rotational grazing or water usage schedules, have proven effective in reducing tensions. Religious leaders offer moral guidance, emphasizing unity and peaceful coexistence based on shared spiritual values. Youth groups and women's associations are increasingly becoming active in peace initiatives, helping spread awareness and promoting dialogue. Furthermore, we have access to County Peace Committees, which facilitate discussions and mediate conflicts when local efforts are not enough."

Community elders were asked the deficiencies that existed in addressing resource-based conflicts. Elder 22 stated,

"There is often a lack of trust between conflicting groups, which hinders any meaningful dialogue or resolution. Resources for monitoring and implementing agreements, such as funds or logistical support, are limited, making follow-through difficult. Political interference frequently worsens disputes, as leaders sometimes exploit them for personal or political gain. Modern legal systems often clash with traditional methods, creating confusion over which process should take precedence. Education on resource management is lacking, especially on how to address issues like climate change, which effects resource availability. Finally, there is insufficient involvement of all stakeholders, such as youth and women, in key decision-making processes."

Focus group discussions inquired on that the community could do to enhance conflict resolution. Elder 27 said,

"The community could work on strengthening the role of elders and other traditional leaders by providing them with better training and tools for mediation. Promoting greater inclusivity by involving women and youth in conflict resolution processes would bring diverse perspectives and foster unity. Investing in education and awareness programs about sustainable resource management would help prevent conflicts from arising. Building stronger partnerships with local and international organizations could bring in much-

needed resources and expertise. The community should also focus on promotion of inter-group trust through joint projects and regular social engagements. "

Hence, communities played a significant role in resource-based conflict resolution through elders' mediation, women's peace initiatives, youth awareness campaigns, and religious leaders' moral guidance. Legal frameworks such as community land laws and County Peace Committees facilitated participation in peace efforts. However, challenges such as mistrust, inadequate training, financial constraints, and political interference hindered resolution efforts. Security officers emphasized the effectiveness of community dialogues, early warning systems, and traditional dispute resolution. Key lessons included the importance of stakeholder involvement, transparency, and addressing root causes. Strengthening traditional leadership, inclusivity and resource management education were recommended for improved conflict resolution.

4.7 Effect of institutional interventions on the peace and stability

The study assessed the effect of institutional interventions on peace and stability in Turkana North Sub-County. Results in Table 4.8 indicated that 41% of respondents strongly disagreed and 28% disagreed that local institutions have adequate capacity to promote peaceful co-existence among conflicting groups, while 15% were not sure, 10% agreed, and 6% strongly agreed(Mean=1.93; Std. Dev=0.483). Similarly, 42% strongly disagreed and 30% disagreed that community members regularly participate in peacebuilding initiatives organized by local institutions, with 14% not sure, 9% agreeing, and 5% strongly agreeing(Mean=2.74; Std. Dev=0.582). On the effectiveness of institutional conflict resolution mechanisms in promoting long-term peace, 42% strongly disagreed, 27% disagreed, 16% were not sure, 11% agreed, and 4% strongly agreed(Mean=1.91; Std. Dev=0.227). On institutions providing sufficient education and awareness programs on peaceful co-existence, 42% strongly disagreed, 26% disagreed, 15%

were not sure, 12% agreed, and 5% strongly agreed (Mean=2.48; Std. Dev=0.603). Forty two percent of the respondents strongly disagreed and 25% disagreed that the presence of strong local institutions has reduced the frequency of resource-based conflicts in their area, while 14% were not sure, 13% agreed and 6% strongly agreed (Mean=2.07; Std. Dev=0.528).

Table 4.8 : Effect of institutional interventions on the peace and stability

Statement	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	5	4	3	2	1
Local institutions have adequate capacity to promote peaceful co-existence among conflicting groups in the community.	357	1.93	0.483	6%	10%	15%	28%	41%
Community members regularly participate in peacebuilding initiatives organized by local institutions.	357	2.74	0.582	5%	9%	14%	30%	42%
Institutions have effective conflict resolution mechanisms that promote long-term peace.	357	1.91	0.227	4%	11%	16%	27%	42%
Institutions provide sufficient education and awareness programs on peaceful co-existence.	357	2.48	0.603	5%	12%	15%	26%	42%
The presence of strong local institutions has reduced the frequency of resource-based conflicts in our area.	357	2.07	0.528	6%	13%	14%	25%	42%
2.21								

Interviews inquired that kind of institutions that addressed resources-based conflict. County security officer 1 indicated,

"The local government primarily addresses conflicts related to land disputes, especially when it comes to land ownership or access. They step in when there are issues like land grabbing or unclear boundaries. The Ministry of Water handles conflicts over water rights, ensuring fair distribution and resolving disagreements between communities or between

pastoralists and farmers. Religious institutions focus on personal conflicts, such as disputes within families or among individuals, often using mediation and reconciliation methods. Community-based organizations are active in addressing conflicts over grazing land and natural resources, particularly by organizing community dialogues and offering negotiation platforms. The police get involved when conflicts escalate into violence or illegal activities, ensuring law enforcement and public safety."

The county security officers were required to explain how capacities existed in resource-based conflict resolution. County security officer 2 remarked,

"Governmental institutions, such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water, have the capacity to intervene in resource-based conflicts through policy development and enforcement, ensuring that resources are distributed fairly. These institutions have the legal mandate and logistical support to manage disputes over land, water, and other essential resources. Local peace committees and elders have traditional knowledge and conflict resolution skills, allowing them to mediate and resolve conflicts at the grassroots level, especially around grazing land and crop farming. NGOs and community organizations possess the capacity to raise awareness, provide training and advocate for peaceful coexistence and resource-sharing agreements. The police and judiciary have the capacity to intervene in cases of violence, enforcing laws and ensuring justice for resource-based conflicts. However, these capacities need to be better coordinated for greater effectiveness."

The researcher asked the county security officers the capacities that lacked in addressing resource-based conflict. County security officer 4 said,

"There is a lack of sufficient technical expertise in sustainable resource management, which is essential for addressing long-term land and water disputes. Many local institutions, including the government and community groups, struggle to effectively manage resources like water and grazing land, particularly in the face of changing environmental conditions. Additionally, there is inadequate funding for programs that

would help prevent conflicts before they arise. While elders and local leaders are skilled in mediation, they often lack formal training in legal frameworks and modern conflict resolution techniques. There is also a lack of coordination between different institutions, such as the government, law enforcement, and local communities, which can lead to ineffective interventions. There is a gap in monitoring and evaluation, which makes it hard to assess the effectiveness of existing interventions in resolving resource-based conflicts."

Hence, government institutions-maintained peace, though their presence was often felt as distant and slow in addressing local issues. Local institutions, such as religious groups, schools, and community organizations, contributed to peace-building through workshops and mediation efforts. Challenges included limited funding, poor coordination, and cultural barriers. International institutions provided some support but were seen as disconnected from local needs. The study highlighted the need for long-term solutions, better resource allocation and improved coordination to address the root causes of conflict.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS , CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a discussion of study findings. Conclusions of the study are made. Recommendations of the study are then proposed. The suggestions for further studies and research are also presented.

5.2 Discussion of findings

5.2.1 Institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution

The study sought to analyse the existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution in Turkana North Sub-County. Findings indicated that community policing initiatives were not effective. There was little involvement of community elders in peacebuilding, and county government agency meetings occurred irregularly. The presence of the Kenya Police Service in the region was moderate. These findings align with Odhiambo (2018), who argues that marginalized regions often experience limited engagement from formal institutions and underutilization of local elders in peace initiatives. Similarly, Mkutu (2020) highlights that inadequate coordination between local and national stakeholders, compounded by limited police presence, weakens the effectiveness of conflict resolution mechanisms in pastoral communities.

The research found that the county utilized several strategies to address resource-based conflicts, including organizing community dialogues and training workshops aimed at enhancing conflict resolution skills. These efforts were complemented by partnerships with non-governmental organizations and religious groups to mediate disputes, alongside the establishment

of grassroots peace committees to monitor and manage emerging conflicts. This is consistent with Zartman (2000), who emphasizes the importance of hybrid approaches involving community participation, NGO collaborations, and grassroots initiatives to build sustainable peace. Additionally, Brockhaus *et al.* (2017) note that stakeholder partnerships significantly enhance conflict mitigation in resource-scarce regions, particularly when complemented by local capacity-building programs.

Local government officials played a key role in enforcing peace agreements. Resource-based conflicts, primarily involving disputes over grazing land, water points, and fishing areas, were identified as recurring issues, particularly during dry seasons, which often led to violence due to the economic implications of these resources. These findings align with Pkalya *et al.* (2004), who note that resource scarcity, especially during dry periods, exacerbates tensions over grazing and water rights, often resulting in conflict. Similarly, Nyang'oro (2016) highlights the role of local government officials in enforcing agreements and mitigating disputes in resource-strapped areas.

Community elders described their traditional conflict resolution methods, which included barazas for dialogue, shared-use agreements during droughts, and compensation for the aggrieved parties. These methods were rooted in fairness and aimed at long-term peace. This reflects the insights of Kariuki (2015), who documents the effectiveness of culturally embedded mechanisms, such as barazas, in fostering reconciliation and maintaining community harmony. Zartman (2000) further advocates for incorporating such traditional methods into formal conflict resolution frameworks to enhance their legitimacy and acceptance.

Respondents emphasized that resource-based conflicts differ from other community disputes because they are more widespread, cyclical, and economically driven, often involving larger groups and escalating into violence. Brockhaus *et al.* (2017) argue that the economic significance of natural resources, coupled with their scarcity, often triggers large-scale conflicts, especially in regions heavily reliant on agriculture and livestock. These observations are also supported by Pkalya *et al.* (2004), who note that resource-driven disputes tend to have a cyclical nature, with underlying economic pressures exacerbating tensions.

The elders also noted that early dialogue and addressing the root causes of conflicts, such as resource scarcity, were crucial in preventing escalation. They advocated for a combination of traditional methods and modern interventions to manage resource-based conflicts more effectively. Zartman (2000) and Odhiambo (2018) both emphasize that integrating traditional conflict resolution methods with modern institutional strategies offers the most effective approach to addressing the root causes of conflicts, fostering sustainable peace, and preventing future escalations.

5.2.2 Challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts

The study identified the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County. County security officers highlighted issues such as insufficient funding for long-term conflict resolution, a shortage of trained personnel, and logistical challenges that hinder timely interventions. These findings resonate with Mkutu (2020), who emphasizes that resource-based conflict resolution in marginalized areas often suffers from underfunding and inadequate infrastructure, which limits timely responses. Odhiambo (2018)

similarly underscores the importance of investing in well-trained personnel and logistical support to enhance institutional capacity in conflict-prone areas.

They also pointed out poor coordination between stakeholders, cultural and historical grievances, and inadequate policies with weak enforcement mechanisms. The lack of trust between communities and institutions, alongside corruption and favoritism among leaders, further complicated the resolution process. Pkalya *et al.* (2004) argue that stakeholder coordination and addressing historical grievances are essential for effective conflict resolution, as these factors often exacerbate distrust and hinder peacebuilding efforts. Nyang'oro (2016) also highlights how corruption and favoritism undermine institutional credibility and exacerbate tensions in resource-scarce regions.

Security officers also noted the economic pressures, such as poverty and unemployment, that fueled competition over resources like grazing land and water, exacerbating conflicts. Community elders echoed similar concerns, emphasizing that institutions often failed to consult with them, resulting in solutions that ignored local dynamics. These observations align with Brockhaus *et al.* (2017), who note that poverty and unemployment heighten resource competition, often leading to conflict. Zartman (2000) also highlights the significance of involving local leaders in conflict resolution to ensure solutions align with community realities and dynamics.

They also pointed out the slow response times, lack of trained mediators, and the failure to address the root causes of conflicts. Elders noted that the youth, who were most involved in conflicts, were often excluded from peace efforts, making the initiatives unsustainable. These findings are supported by Kariuki (2015), who argues that slow institutional responses and the exclusion of youth from peace initiatives undermine the sustainability of conflict resolution efforts.

Mkutu (2020) similarly emphasizes the importance of integrating youth into peacebuilding processes to reduce their vulnerability to recruitment into conflicts.

Additionally, corruption, weak enforcement of agreements, and a lack of transparency undermined institutional efforts. Both security officers and elders stressed the need for stronger institutional support, better communication, and more effective resource management to resolve these conflicts sustainably. These findings are consistent with Odhiambo (2018), who highlights the role of transparency and accountability in building trust and fostering effective conflict resolution. Zartman (2000) further stresses that sustainable resource management and stronger institutional frameworks are critical for addressing the root causes of resource-based conflicts.

5.2.3 Effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts

The study assessed the effectiveness of strategies and approaches used by institutions to address resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County. There was a lack of community and political willingness to engage in conflict resolution initiatives. Community members were not willing to participate in these initiatives, and there was little political will to involve the public. There was minimal engagement in peacebuilding activities, and concerns were raised about the adequacy of policies and laws guiding conflict resolution. These findings align with Mwagiru (2006), who notes that political will and community involvement are critical in sustaining conflict resolution initiatives. Similarly, Kariuki (2015) highlights the detrimental effect of weak political commitment and inadequate public engagement on the effectiveness of peacebuilding efforts.

There was insufficient sensitization of community members on conflict resolution. Hence, there were significant gaps in institutional efforts to address resource-based conflicts effectively in the region. This corresponds with Mkutu (2020), who asserts that sensitizing communities is essential for creating awareness and fostering ownership of conflict resolution processes. Odhiambo (2018) also emphasizes that lack of awareness among community members limits their participation and weakens the effectiveness of institutional interventions.

The study examined community contributions and institutional strategies in addressing resource-based conflicts in Turkana North Sub-County. Findings revealed that elders played a central role in resolving disputes through mediation, while women promoted peacebuilding and dialogue. Youth groups raised awareness through local campaigns, and religious leaders provided moral guidance. Communities also engaged in resource-sharing agreements, such as rotational grazing and water access, to ease tensions. These findings are supported by Pkalya *et al.* (2004), who document the effectiveness of traditional leaders, women, and youth in grassroots conflict resolution. Brockhaus *et al.* (2017) further highlight the importance of community-based initiatives like resource-sharing agreements in mitigating conflicts over scarce resources.

Institutional policies such as community land laws, the National Land Policy, and County Peace Committees provided legal frameworks and platforms for community involvement in conflict resolution. Traditional dispute resolution methods were recognized under the constitution, and the National Cohesion and Integration Act supported peaceful coexistence. However, respondents highlighted challenges including mistrust, lack of training for community leaders, insufficient financial and logistical support, and political interference. These observations are consistent with Nyang'oro (2016), who discusses the role of legal and institutional frameworks in

conflict resolution while highlighting their limitations due to poor implementation and political interference. Zartman (2000) also stresses the need for institutional capacity-building and trust-building measures to enhance the efficacy of legal frameworks.

Security officers noted the effectiveness of strategies like inter-community dialogues and resource-sharing agreements but emphasized the need for better follow-through and coordination. They pointed out that while traditional mechanisms were effective in some cases, they were limited in addressing modern legal or political issues. These findings align with Mwagiru (2006), who argues that while traditional mechanisms are valuable, they must be integrated with modern conflict resolution approaches to address contemporary challenges effectively.

The community learned that violence exacerbates suffering, and dialogue is a more sustainable solution. They recognized the importance of transparency, trust, and addressing root causes like resource scarcity and land disputes. This resonates with Mkutu (2020), who underscores the significance of dialogue, transparency, and addressing root causes as foundational elements of sustainable conflict resolution. Brockhaus *et al.* (2017) also emphasize that addressing root causes, such as resource scarcity, is crucial in breaking the cycle of resource-based conflicts.

Elders acknowledged the community's capabilities, including the use of traditional knowledge and local networks. However, they identified deficiencies such as limited resources, political interference, and inadequate education on sustainable resource management. The study concluded that enhancing training, inclusivity, and partnerships would strengthen conflict resolution efforts. These conclusions are supported by Kariuki (2015), who highlights the role of community empowerment and partnerships in building sustainable conflict resolution

mechanisms. Zartman (2000) also advocates for enhancing training and inclusivity as critical steps in fostering effective and lasting peace.

5.2.4 Effect of institutional interventions on the overall peace and stability

The study assessed the effect of institutional interventions on peace and stability in Turkana North Sub-County. Respondents highlighted the importance of governmental institutions in maintaining peace and stability, noting their role through security agencies, police patrols, and occasional peace talks. However, there was a sense of disconnect due to slow responses, lack of communication, and a focus on urban areas, leaving rural communities feeling neglected. These findings align with Nyang'oro (2016), who emphasizes that government institutions play a central role in ensuring stability but often face challenges in addressing rural community needs due to urban-centric policies and weak communication channels.

Local institutions, such as religious organizations and schools, were seen as pivotal in peace-building, organizing workshops, promoting forgiveness, and educating the youth. Despite these efforts, challenges included limited funding, lack of coordination, cultural barriers, and personal interests interfering with peace initiatives. This is consistent with Brockhaus *et al.* (2017), who highlight the importance of local institutions in fostering community dialogue and promoting peace while acknowledging that financial constraints and cultural barriers limit their effectiveness.

International institutions were seen as somewhat effective but often disconnected from local needs. Their effect was limited, with short-term interventions failing to address deeper social issues. One key issue was a past government intervention in land disputes that failed due to insufficient consultation with the community, leading to worsened conflicts. These observations

resonate with Zartman (2000), who notes that international institutions often design interventions without adequately engaging local stakeholders, leading to ineffective solutions. Similarly, Mkutu (2020) points out that land disputes require culturally sensitive and community-driven approaches for sustainable resolution.

Respondents stressed the need for long-term solutions, better resource allocation, community involvement, and coordination among local, national, and international institutions. They also highlighted gaps in addressing resource-based conflicts, such as a lack of financial resources, sustainable management knowledge, and effective coordination between institutions. These findings align with Pkalya *et al.* (2004), who advocate for the integration of community-driven approaches and resource-sharing mechanisms in conflict resolution strategies. Kariuki (2015) further emphasizes the necessity of resource allocation and capacity building to empower institutions in managing resource-based conflicts effectively.

Interviews with county security officers revealed that while certain institutions have capacities to address resource-based conflicts, there are gaps in technical expertise, funding, and coordination, which hinder effective conflict resolution. This is consistent with Mwagiru (2006), who highlights that institutional effectiveness is often compromised by inadequate funding, technical skills, and lack of inter-agency collaboration. Addressing these gaps, as noted by Odhiambo (2018), is critical to developing sustainable and inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms.

5.3 Conclusions

This study concludes that while institutions are present and play a role in addressing conflicts, their effectiveness remains limited. The study concludes that while the Kenya Police

Service's presence is moderate and county government agency meetings occur infrequently, efforts like community dialogues, training workshops, and grassroots peace committees are being implemented to address resource-based conflicts. These initiatives are supported by partnerships with NGOs and religious organizations, with local officials playing a vital role in enforcing peace agreements. Despite these measures, recurring disputes over grazing land, water points, and fishing areas remain prevalent, particularly during dry seasons, often escalating into violence due to their economic significance. Community elders' traditional conflict resolution methods, such as barazas, shared-use agreements, and compensation, are essential to manage resource-based conflicts.

Challenges and limitations faced by institutions in resolving resource-based conflicts include insufficient funding, lack of trained personnel and logistical barriers that delay interventions. Poor coordination among stakeholders, cultural grievances and weak enforcement of policies further hinder effective resolution. Corruption, favoritism, and a lack of trust between communities and institutions exacerbate these challenges. Economic pressures, including poverty and unemployment, drive competition over resources like grazing land and water, fueling conflicts. Community elders emphasize the failure of institutions to consult them, leading to solutions that overlook local dynamics. They also note slow response times, insufficient trained mediators, and neglect of underlying causes of conflict. Furthermore, the exclusion of youth from peace-building efforts, coupled with corruption and lack of transparency, weakens institutional interventions. Both security officers and elders call for enhanced institutional support, better communication, and improved resource management to ensure sustainable conflict resolution.

There is a lack of community and political willingness to engage in conflict resolution initiatives, with minimal participation in peacebuilding activities and concerns about the adequacy of policies and laws. Community members are insufficiently sensitized on conflict resolution, resulting in significant gaps in institutional efforts. Elders, women, and youth groups contribute to peacebuilding through mediation, awareness campaigns, and resource-sharing agreements, but challenges such as mistrust, lack of training for community leaders, insufficient support, and political interference hinder progress. Institutional frameworks, including community land laws and peace committees, exist but are often ineffective due to these barriers. Security officers highlight the need for better follow-through and coordination in strategies like inter-community dialogues and resource-sharing agreements. Improving training, inclusivity, and partnerships among institutions and communities is crucial for strengthening conflict resolution efforts and addressing underlying issues such as resource scarcity and land disputes.

The study concludes that governmental institutions play a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability through security agencies, police patrols, and peace talks, but their effectiveness is undermined by slow responses, poor communication, and a tendency to prioritize urban over rural areas, leaving rural communities feeling neglected. Local institutions, such as religious organizations and schools, are instrumental in peace-building by organizing workshops, promoting forgiveness, and educating the youth. However, these efforts are hindered by challenges such as limited funding, lack of coordination, cultural barriers, and personal interests that interfere with peace initiatives. Addressing these issues is essential for improving the effectiveness of conflict resolution strategies in the region.

5.4 Recommendations for practice

This study recommends that institutional capacities should be strengthened through coordination, adequate funding, cultural integration and long-term planning. The study recommends that governmental institutions increase their presence and engagement in rural communities to improve the effectiveness of conflict resolution initiatives. There is a need for more frequent county government meetings and quicker responses to emerging conflicts. These institutions must prioritize communication and coordination with local communities, ensuring that they are involved in the decision-making process. Government agencies should allocate more funding and resources to conflict resolution efforts and ensure that the necessary personnel are trained and available to manage these initiatives. Furthermore, a focus on empowering local leaders, such as community elders and youth groups, to take more active roles in conflict resolution will help strengthen trust between institutions and the communities they serve.

There should be increased partnerships between governmental institutions, NGOs, religious organizations, and community groups to create a more cohesive approach to addressing resource-based conflicts. This collaborative effort should involve the development of joint action plans that address underlying issues such as resource scarcity, poverty, and unemployment, which fuel competition over resources. NGOs and religious organizations should continue to play a vital role in organizing community dialogues and workshops, but these efforts must be backed by adequate logistical and financial support to achieve lasting results.

The study also recommends the need for the incorporation of traditional conflict resolution methods into modern institutional frameworks. Community elders' involvement in conflict mediation, such as barazas, shared-use agreements, and compensation systems, should be

formalized and supported by legal frameworks. These traditional methods, rooted in fairness and local customs, have proven effective in managing resource-based conflicts and should be integrated into formal peace-building strategies. Additionally, the study recommends that local communities receive training on sustainable resource management practices to reduce dependency on limited resources, thereby preventing conflicts over grazing land, water points, and fishing areas.

The government should address political interference and corruption in conflict resolution efforts in Turkana County. Transparency, accountability and the establishment of clear and enforceable policies are essential for building trust between communities and institutions. The study suggests that youth be actively included in peace-building processes, as they are often the most affected by and involved in conflicts. A more inclusive approach and better institutional coordination and resource allocation, will significantly improve the effectiveness of conflict resolution efforts and lead to sustainable peace in the region.

5.5 Recommendations for further studies

The study assessed institutional capacity for resource-based conflict resolution in Turkana North sub-county. Future research should examine broader areas in northern Kenya, examining traditional conflict resolution mechanisms alongside formal institutions. Investigating the integration of traditional practices with modern approaches may reveal their influence on successful conflict resolution in resource-scarce environments. Further studies could assess the perceptions of local communities regarding the capacity and effectiveness of institutions involved in conflict resolution.

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Letter of Introduction

My name is Asiyer Alan, a master's student at Africa Nazarene University. As part of my course, I am doing research with on '**Institutional Capacity and Resource Based Conflict Resolution: the case of Turkana north sub county.**' Findings of this study will be important to Turkana county. Consequently, the county might come up with policies and strategies that will foster Peace among communities. The study's outcomes hold significance for the national government. These findings will be important, as they will shape policy and strategy formulation for resolving resource-related conflicts in Turkana County. Consequently, the study's insights will play a pivotal role in promoting stability, prosperity, and harmony in Turkana County, aligning with the government's mandate. You are kindly requested to fill out this questionnaire appropriately. Information given will be treated with confidentiality. Thank you.

Yours Faithfully,

Asiyer Alan

Registration No: 21j01dmgp034

Appendix II: Questionnaire for household heads

SECTION A : Demographic information

Tick as appropriate.

1. How old are you?

- | | | |
|------|----------------|--------------------------|
| i. | 18-25 years | ☐ |
| ii. | 26-35 years | ☐ |
| iii. | 36-45 years | ☐ |
| iv. | 46-55 years | ☐ |
| v. | Above 55 years | ☐ |

2. Indicate your highest level of education

- | | | |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| i. | primary | ☐ |
| ii. | secondary | ☐ |
| iii. | diploma | ☐ |
| iv. | 'bachelor's degree | ☐ |
| v. | 'master's degree | ☐ |
| vi. | PhD | ☐ |

3. How long have you lived in Turkana county?

- | | | |
|------|----------------|--------------------------|
| i. | 1-5 years | ☐ |
| ii. | 6-10 years | ☐ |
| iii. | 11-15 years | ☐ |
| iv. | 16-20 years | ☐ |
| v. | above 20 years | ☐ |

SECTION B: Existing institutional structures and frameworks involved in conflict resolution

4. What is the effectiveness of community policing initiatives in the county?

lowly effective () moderately effective () very effective ()

5. What is the level of involvement of community elders in peace building in the county?

little () moderate () a lot ()

6. How often does the county government agencies hold meetings for peace building?

irregular () moderate () regular ()

7. What is the level of presence of the Kenya Police Service in the region for conflict resolution?

low () moderate () high ()

8. In what ways does the county conduct peace building activities? Explain.

SECTION C : Challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts

In this section, and the subsequent sections, use the below scale and tick (✓) the score that you agree with most scale: *5=strongly agree ,4= agree, 3=not sure, 2=disagree and 1=strongly disagree*

9. Statement	5	4	3	2	1
Local institutions lack adequate resources to effectively resolve resource-based conflicts.					
There is limited coordination between government and community institutions in addressing resource-based disputes.					
Institutions handling resource conflicts often face political interference that hampers their effectiveness.					
Delays in institutional response worsen tensions in areas affected by resource-based conflicts.					
Most community members have low confidence in the ability of institutions to resolve conflicts over natural resources fairly.					

SECTION D: Effectiveness of strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts

9. Statement	5	4	3	2	1
Community members are willing to be involved in conflict resolution initiatives.					
There is political willingness to involve the public in conflict resolution.					
the community engages in various activities to enhance peace building					
There are adequate policies and laws that guide the community in conflict resolution.					
Community members are sensitized to resolve conflicts .					

SECTION E: Institutional capacities in communities' peaceful co-existence

9. Statement	5	4	3	2	1
Local institutions have adequate capacity to promote peaceful co-existence among conflicting groups in the community.					
Community members regularly participate in peacebuilding initiatives organized by local institutions.					
Institutions have effective conflict resolution mechanisms that promote long-term peace.					
Institutions provide sufficient education and awareness programs on peaceful co-existence.					
The presence of strong local institutions has reduced the frequency of resource-based conflicts in our area.					

THANK YOU

Appendix III: Interview guide for county security officers

- i. What type of resources-based conflicts exist in the county?
- ii. What resources attract conflicts and why?
- iii. How are these resource-based conflicts different from other community conflicts?
- iv. What are the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in the region.
- v. What mechanisms/strategies exists on resource-based conflicts?
- vi. How effective are the strategies and approaches employed by institutions to address resource-based conflicts?
- vii. How has the community addressed resource-based conflicts in the past?
- viii. What lessons has the community learnt on resource-based conflicts?
- ix. Which institution addresses which type of resources-based conflict?
- x. What capacities exists in which type of resource-based conflicts resolution?
- xi. What capacities are lacking in address a particular resource-based conflict?

Appendix IV: Focus group discussions for community elders

- i. What kinds of conflicts related to resources are present in the county?
- ii. In what ways do these conflicts related to resources differ from other community conflicts?
- iii. How has the community historically dealt with conflicts linked to resources?
- iv. What insights has the community gained from past experiences with resource-related conflicts?
- v. To identify the primary challenges and limitations institutions face in resolving resource-based conflicts in the region.
- vi. What capabilities are available for resolving conflicts associated with specific types of resources?
- vii. What deficiencies exist in addressing a particular resource-based conflict?
- viii. What could the community do to enhance conflict resolution?

Appendix V: University introduction letter



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22nd October 2024

RE: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Africa Nazarene University is a private Christian University and an institution of the Church of the Nazarene International, who follows the Wesleyan holiness traditions.

Mr. Asiyer Alan Reg. NO. 21J01DMGP034 is a postgraduate student at Africa Nazarene University pursuing a master's degree in Governance, Peace and Security Studies. This program entails coursework and research. He has successfully completed his course work and defended his thesis proposal entitled: -

“Institutional Capacity in Resource-Based Conflict Resolution in Turkana North Sub-County, Kenya”.

To complete his program and graduate, he is required to conduct research. This involves collecting and analyzing data, hence write a report. In that regard, I present Mr. Asiyer to you for approval to conduct research.

Any assistance you will grant him will be highly appreciated.

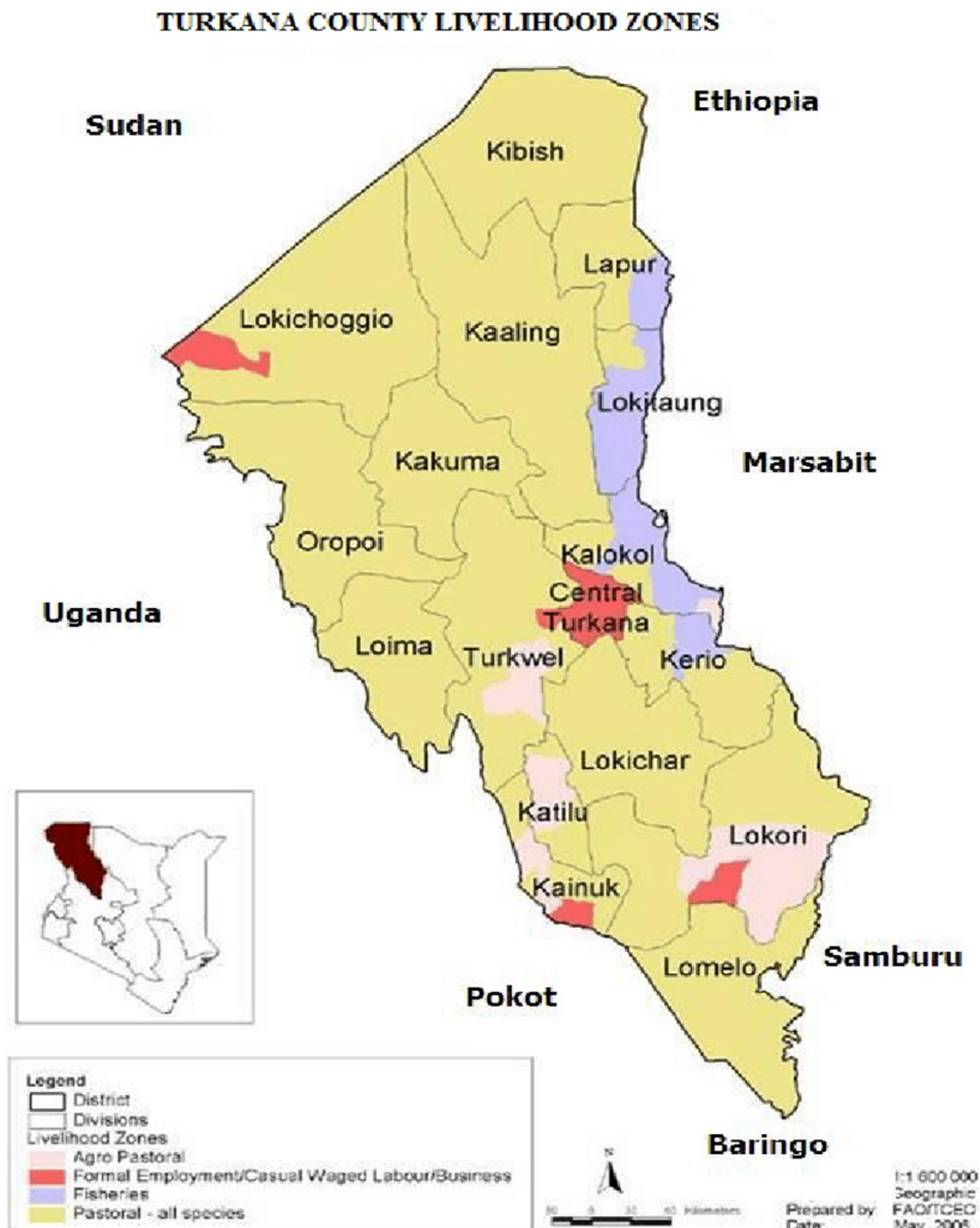


Prof. Orpha Ongiti
Dean of Postgraduate Studies & Director of The Institute of Research

Appendix VI: NACOSTI Permit

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This is to Certify that Mr. ASIYER EKAI ALAN of Africa Nazarene University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Turkana on the topic: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY IN RESOURCE-BASED CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN TURKANA NORTH SUB-COUNTY, KENYA for the period ending : 10/February/2026.	
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Appendix VII. Turkana County Livelihood Zone.



Map of Turkana district with administrative divisions adapted from FAO (2006).

Source: (Author, 2025).