



WHY CONSIDER CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND CONFLICT SENSITIVITY IN MANAGEMENT PLANS, CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECTS?

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Climate resilience and conflict sensitivity seek to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of intended impacts of management plans, conservation and restoration projects. Climate resilience refers to the ability of a system to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, absorb and recover from the impacts of changes in climate and extreme weather events. Conflict sensitivity refers to the ability of an organization, group or person to accurately assess, analyze, and respond to the conflict context in which they work—and their work's relationship to that context.

Considering how climate change may affect the target system and designing interventions that have the capacity to minimize the potential impacts of climate change are critical in a rapidly changing world. Similarly, understanding the dynamics of social and human-wildlife conflict can reveal opportunities for minimizing unintended harmful impacts and managing potential conflicts, ensuring that communities benefit from and support a plan or project in the long-term.

This brief presents examples of climate-resilient and conflict-sensitive interventions and summarizes good practices for integrating climate resilience and conflict sensitivity in management plans and conservation or restoration projects. While this brief was prepared for projects and plans implemented in African rangelands, most of the good practices presented are applicable to projects and plans conducted in other ecosystems and regions. The recommendations are intended to support practitioners, communities, local governments and other actors in strengthening or highlighting climate and conflict considerations as new projects or plans are being developed.



Examples of climate-resilient interventions for management plans, conservation and restoration projects in African rangelands:

In the context of African rangelands, climate-resilient interventions are those that:

- a) consider existing or future climate impacts on the target system, including on rangelands, on forage production, water sources, crop production, Livestock production, grass species used in restoration, biodiversity, livelihoods or on any other aspect of the restoration or conservation work,
- b) minimize climate impacts by reducing the impacts of climate change and weather extremes,
- c) are resilient to climate change, i.e., provide the expected benefits even under climate change.

Some examples of interventions that can be considered climate-resilient (if a and b above are addressed) include:

- Rotational grazing;
- Limiting grazing pressure on riparian areas;
- Using enclosures in certain areas for grassland recovery;
- Managing livestock by controlling the size of the herds (sustainable stocking rates);
- Using cattle breeds adapted to droughts;
- Using crop varieties adapted to droughts;
- Using breeds that are tolerant to some prevalent pests and diseases/parasites;
- Removing invasive species;
- Controlling soil erosion;
- Protecting and restoring wetlands or water resources for people, livestock or wildlife ;
- Water harvesting and efficient water use technologies;
- Implementing Conservation and Climate-smart Agriculture;

Examples of conflict-sensitive interventions for management plans, conservation and restoration projects in African rangelands:

Conflict-sensitive interventions should respond to an understanding of:

- a) the impact of conflict dynamics on the plan or project,
- b) the impact of the plan or project on conflict dynamics, and
- c) how to minimize negative impacts or risks and maximize positive impacts or opportunities.

Some examples of interventions that can be considered conflict-sensitive (if a, b, and c above are addressed) include:

- Capacity building opportunities for groups that are affected by plan or project activities to provide alternative or complementary sources of income or opportunities as needed and decided on fair terms, ensuring selection criteria for participation and benefits are clearly understood by relevant stakeholders;
- Implementing livelihood activities that can facilitate shared understanding or yield mutual benefits for different groups;
- Implementing activities that strengthen local governance, improve coordination between actors or institutions, build communication skills for conflict management, create and sustain dialogue and strengthen social cohesion between groups;
- Establishing an early warning system for climate change impacts to facilitate proactive actions that minimize the potential for conflicts related to resource competition;
- Establishing a participatory monitoring system that reflects local communities' interests and concerns, and that comprises regular opportunities for sharing plan or project status with and receiving feedback from relevant stakeholders.

Conflict sensitivity necessitates that projects and plans reflect certain practices across all stages of development and across the implementation of proposed interventions. While not all projects or plans may explicitly seek to address the root causes of conflict, promote conditions conducive to peace, or build social cohesion, all projects and management plans can apply conflict sensitivity good practices to minimize harm and maximize benefits.

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	Good practice to incorporate climate resiliency in projects and plans	Why is this good practice important?
Analysis	Use a climate risk tool, a climate vulnerability assessment, or consultations with communities to identify current climate impacts in the target area.	To understand how climate change is impacting the target area, including its people, ecosystems, livelihoods, and resources and the interactions among those and to engage communities in the designing of interventions.
	Use a climate risk tool, a climate vulnerability assessment, or consultations with communities to identify future climate impacts in the target area.	To understand how climate change will impact the target area, including its people, ecosystems, livelihoods, and resources and the interactions among those.
	Consider the impacts of climate change on men and women, on people from different age groups, and pastoralists and farmers.	To ensure the proposed interventions are sustainable in the long-term as different groups (e.g., men and women, pastoralists and crop farmers, youth and elderly) are likely to be impacted by climate change differently due to their roles in livelihoods, their reliance on ecosystems and natural resources and the ways they respond to climate change.
	Consider migration, spatial distribution and/or use of the area by wildlife.	To understand the connections between land use and potential human-wildlife conflicts in the target area.
Design	Consider the information on current climate impacts in the identification of the proposed interventions in the plan or project.	To ensure that the proposed interventions consider and/or address current climate change impacts so they can achieve their proposed goal.
	Consider information on future climate impacts used in the identification of the proposed interventions in the plan or project.	To ensure that the proposed interventions consider and/or address future climate change impacts so they can be sustainable in the long-term.
	Consider information on current and future migration routes and/or spatial distribution of wildlife in the design of interventions in the plan or project.	To ensure that the proposed interventions do not increase or lead to human-wildlife conflicts.
	If a climate risk tool, a climate vulnerability assessment, or consultations with communities was not used, consider a list of existing climate-resilient interventions in the identification of the interventions proposed in the plan or project.	To ensure that the proposed interventions are climate-resilient and consider and/or address climate change impacts, and that there is involvement of communities impacted by climate change.
	Propose climate-resilient interventions in the plan or project.	To ensure that the proposed interventions consider and address the impacts of climate change.
	Identify interventions in the plan or project considering the impacts of climate change on men and women, on people from different age groups, pastoralists and farmers.	To ensure that interventions are identified considering the different ways in which climate change impacts different groups (e.g., men and women, pastoralists and crop farmers, youth, elderly).
	Identify interventions in the plan or project considering the diverse interests of men and women, people from different age groups and pastoralists and farmers.	To increase the long-term sustainability of the proposed interventions and the support from communities.
	Consider climate mitigation potential of the proposed climate-resilient interventions.	To improve the chances that the proposed interventions can also reduce the drivers of climate change.
MEAL	Consider the long-term sustainability, in the face of climate change, of the proposed interventions.	To ensure that the proposed interventions will continue to achieve their goals even with climate change.
	Recommend or require the monitoring of mitigation and adaptation benefits of the proposed interventions.	To assess whether the proposed interventions are contributing to avoiding or minimizing climate change impacts.
	Include activities to regularly inform communities on the progress of the proposed interventions.	To ensure that communities are satisfied with the proposed interventions, the outcomes achieved and the way the plan or project is being implemented, leading to ownership beyond the project design phase.
	Stipulate conditions for evaluating or re-designing proposed interventions in situations where interventions are not delivering outcomes as expected to promote adaptive management.	To ensure that the proposed interventions deliver what they are supposed to and as planned.

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	Good practice to incorporate conflict sensitivity in projects and plans	Why is this good practice important?
Analysis	Conduct a conflict analysis to understand the context where the plan or project is to be implemented.	To identify potential social, political and/or economic risks to avoid or mitigate.
	Consider the variety of impacts of conflict dynamics on different groups (e.g., men and women, youth, and pastoralists and crop farmers).	To avoid an uneven burden of negative impacts or inequitable access to benefits and opportunities among different groups, which can amplify problem dynamics or contribute to conflict.
	Consider the unique interests or perspectives of different groups (e.g., men and women, youth, and pastoralists vs. crop farmers).	To ensure that different groups are engaged appropriately and establish conditions for sustained community support.
Design	Use information from the conflict analysis to identify the interventions proposed in the plan or project.	To strategically and equitably design, prioritize and select interventions that can produce sustained, intended impact in the target area.
	Where needed and appropriate, the plan or project may include activities and interventions that specifically avoid or minimize the risk of conflict.	To ensure that the plan or project does not create or worsen the risk of conflict in or around the target area.
	Where needed and appropriate, the plan or project may include activities or interventions that support conditions of positive peace, even if indirectly.	To help establish or promote conditions that contribute to positive peace ("attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies, including thriving economies, ecological performance, and resilience or adaptability to change"), which may directly or indirectly help to sustain the intended impacts of the intervention.
	Where needed and appropriate, the plan or project may include activities explicitly aimed at building peace or contributing to peace outcomes.	To help generate peace-related outcomes that are important to the sustainability of the proposed interventions.
	Recognize and reflect an understanding of traditional or informal knowledge, norms and institutions in the design of intervention proposed in the plan or project.	To ensure that proposed interventions are culturally relevant and respectful or complementary to traditional or informal knowledge, and to protect or strengthen social, cultural and political institutions that may have international legal protections and should otherwise be respected to avoid conflict.
	Include measures for transparency and communication with relevant stakeholders, integrating considerations about cultural relevance and accessibility.	To fulfil requirements related to accountability, set and maintain expectations, and build trust essential to collaboration with communities and relevant stakeholders. To help ensure there are channels to promote awareness and share/collect concerns from communities to enable proactive responses to issues, adaptive management, and other good practices.
	Include activities that target or facilitate participation of groups that are marginalized and likely to be disproportionately negatively impacted by conflict dynamics – including those that may be linked to the plan or project – such as women and youth.	To ensure that the plan or project and the design, prioritization and selection of its interventions respond to patterns of marginalization or other power dynamics, minimizing the potential for uneven harm or benefits and maximizing the potential for delivering transformative benefits.
	Recognize (and where appropriate, address) the uneven burdens and benefits (and associated issues) of activities proposed in the plan or project.	To ensure that the plan or project and its interventions do not undermine social cohesion and security, especially for particularly vulnerable groups, and do not unintentionally harm different groups.
	Monitor indicators or information that describes contextual factors or conflict dynamics that may impact the implementation of proposed interventions.	To assess contextual factors or conflict dynamics that may affect the implementation of the proposed interventions and enable the plan or project to take measures to avoid or mitigate corresponding risks.
	Monitor indicators or information that address how the implementation of interventions may affect conflict dynamics.	To assess whether interventions are causing or worsening conflicts and enable the plan or project to adjust as needed in order to minimize harm.
MEAL	Monitor indicators or information that might reveal unintended impacts or unexpected opportunities coming from interventions (to avoid doing harm and maximizing potential positive impacts).	To adjust the plan or project as needed to prevent potential contributions to conflict and to make the most of previously unforeseen opportunities.
	Depending on the intended outcomes of the plan or project, monitor indicators or information that can be used to describe attribution of improved peace outcomes to interventions.	To assess whether the plan or project is having intended peace outcomes, where applicable, and to build evidence for learning.
	Acknowledge and plan for the potential need to adjust interventions depending on information and learning related to conflict dynamics to promote adaptive management.	To adjust the plan or project as needed depending on evolving contexts and dynamics so that it remains relevant, appropriate, and inclusive, and that its intended impacts can be sustained in the long-term.
	Involve communities (and groups such as men and women, youth, pastoralists and crop farmers) in the monitoring, evaluation, accountability & learning activities.	To ensure that impacts on, and the experiences of, communities (including different vulnerable groups) can contribute to evaluation, learning and accountability processes, allowing the plan or project to adapt if needed.

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	Good practice to incorporate human-wildlife conflict sensitivity in projects and plans	Why is this good practice important?
Analysis	Consider current human-wildlife conflict issues (e.g., prevalence, root causes, trends).	To avoid or mitigate potential risks to people and wildlife.
	Consider potential future human-wildlife conflict issues (e.g., prevalence, root causes, trends).	To avoid potential unintended impacts to people and wildlife in the mid- to long-term.
	Consider current and future strategies used to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.	To understand what has been implemented to address human-wildlife conflicts, and its effectiveness.
Design	Use information about current and potential future human-wildlife conflict dynamics to identify and prioritize proposed interventions.	To design, prioritize and select interventions that are relevant, effective, and sustainable for people and wildlife.
	Where needed and appropriate, the plan or project may deliberately pursue activities that avoid, prevent or mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.	To avoid or mitigate risks related to human-wildlife conflicts that could affect the plan's or project's implementation or outcomes.
	Acknowledge traditional approaches to mitigating human-wildlife conflict.	To ensure that relevant interventions proposed include, respond to, or provide culturally relevant alternatives to existing approaches rather than interfering in a way that may cause tension or ineffectiveness.
MEAL	Monitor indicators or information describing human-wildlife conflict incidents and impacts to ensure the plan or project is not exacerbating conflict dynamics as an unintended impact.	To ensure that proposed interventions do not lead to increased or worse human-wildlife conflicts and are effectively minimizing human-wildlife conflicts (if that is the goal of the proposed interventions).



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Recommendations from reviewing existing management plans and conservation and restoration projects in African rangelands

The tool “Methodology to facilitate inclusion of climate resilience and conflict sensitivity in rangeland restoration projects and management plans” was developed based on the good practices listed in pages 3-5 of this document. A review of four instruments (landscape management plans, a rangeland restoration project concept and a rangeland restoration project) using this tool yielded ten key recommendations. Summarized below, these recommendations can support practitioners, communities, local governments and other actors strengthen or highlight climate resilience and conflict sensitivity as new management plans and restoration or conservation projects are being developed:

1. **Understand the context** of the project or plan, using best-available and participatory data. This includes understanding current and future climate change impacts on different groups as well as precedent and current conflict dynamics. Groups may include women and young people, crop farmers and pastoralists, in-migrants and host communities.
2. **Identify partners and other actors** interested in, impacted by, or able to influence a project or plan and develop a system for engagement regardless of whether these will be included at different stages of the process. Examples of relevant actors include NGOs or community organizations, community members, in-migrant communities, government officials, and local and traditional leadership. Impacted actors may include women and young people, crop farmers and pastoralists, in-migrants and host communities. These diverse perspectives should be considered in identifying and prioritizing interventions.
3. If budget or other resources do not allow for **standalone assessments or analyses** of conflict dynamics, including human-wildlife conflict, and of climate change vulnerabilities, **integrate relevant information** into social, ecological or risk assessments. Consider whether partnering with different actors can yield data or insights essential for understanding context dynamics at the beginning and throughout the implementation of the project or plan.
4. **Consider local and traditional knowledge, norms and institutions** in the identification of the proposed interventions. This can yield opportunities or challenges essential to consider in project or management plan design and implementation.
5. **Document methodologies** used for assessing context and **justification** for identifying and prioritizing interventions. Present the information that was collected prior to the preparation of the plan or project, for example in assessments, workshops, meetings and interviews. Documentation can be included as annexes in the project or plan and can serve as a mechanism for establishing shared understanding among different actors and be revisited over time for adaptive management.
6. **Understand how the proposed interventions might impact different groups presently and in the face of social, economic, political and climate change.** Groups may include women and young people, crop farmers, pastoralists, in-migrants and host communities, and impacts can include uneven burdens or benefits and unintended conflicts.
7. Projects and plans seeking climate change mitigation outcomes should also **consider whether and how different interventions will perform in the face of climate change** to ensure that those interventions also contribute to climate change adaptation where needed and can deliver lasting impacts.
8. **Develop a monitoring framework and identify indicators** that accurately track the progress of each intervention, including unexpected outcomes or impacts, and facilitate the adjustment of interventions as needed. Critically, management plans and projects should identify mechanisms for reporting on intervention progress and impacts in an accessible and relevant manner to communities and other actors.
9. **Build in mechanisms and explicit opportunities for adjusting the interventions or other elements of the plan or project** to respond to contextual changes or new information to ensure relevance and appropriateness. Those mechanisms and opportunities can contribute to achieving the long-term outcomes of the project or plan.
10. Some management plans or projects target biodiversity conservation or species protection outcomes explicitly, but many do not. Even those that do not should seek to **understand current and potential future spatial distribution and migration patterns of different species** to ensure that interventions do not accidentally worsen human-wildlife conflict, which could lead to negative impacts for communities and wildlife, and to identify appropriate conflict mitigation strategies if needed.

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