

# CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN RURAL WATER RESOURCES

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## CONFLICT

- ◉ Disagreements, differences among, between or within individuals, groups or structures
- ◉ Caused by change in:
  - Benefits
  - Policy or legal context, etc
  - Power centre, etc, etc

It becomes a conflict when it has devastating effects on individuals or groups.

## HISTORY OF WATER USE CONFLICTS IN MVUMERO VILLAGE

- ◉ The village was established in 1968, comprising of farmers and livestock keepers.
- ◉ There was no village Landuse Plan.
- ◉ Main source of water was River Mlali.
- ◉ 1971 there was a conflict between Domestic users (drinking, cooking, washing) i.e women and Livestock keepers (mainly Maasai tribe).

How it was Managed

- ◉ Elders consisting of Farmers and Maasai.
- ◉ Dialogue between the two groups.

## CONTINUE...

- ◉ Reached a conclusion of “time-schedule”.
- ◉ That is Women to fetch water from 6 am-11am and Maasai from 12noon-6 pm.
- ◉ There was no legal contract.
- ◉ This strategy worked for a short period of time.



## CONFLICTS DURING VILLAGIZATION

- ◉ 1973-1974, there was a Villagization Program, simply put it, was attempt by the Government to resettle people in order to share the available social services.
- ◉ The Village government was established and it prepared a Landuse Plan. Farming and grazing area was separated.
- ◉ This move forced more people and more livestock to live together and eventually another conflict surfaced.

## CONTINUE...

How it was managed

- ◉ Elders, consisting of Farmers and Maasai called a meeting.
- ◉ Village Executive Officer and Ward Executive Officer attended to facilitate dialogue between the two.
- ◉ Agreement was made but only for a period of time.



## CONFLICTS DURING IRRIGATION SCHEME

- ◉ Irrigation scheme was started in the early 1980.
- ◉ Increased the intensity for water demand especially in the dry season.
- ◉ More people and livestock migrated to this village from other areas because of irrigation.
- ◉ Increased land productivity, irrigated crops are such as tomatoes, onions, maize, to mention a few.
- ◉ Water conflicts increased such that one farmer died



## CONCLUSION

- ◉ This is one of the many examples of the conflicts in water as a resources in the country.
- ◉ Despite the success of the short-term strategies, better management and lasting agreements are important to all stakeholders and sustainable water resources.
- ◉ Better management of conflicts has to;
  - Be more collaborative by all actors i.e. men/women (e.g. after establishment of irrigation scheme- land allocation excluded female farmers), young/old, single/married, etc.

- ◉ Form strong institutional framework to address management issues.
- ◉ Village Land use Plan has to be prepared in a participatory way, involving all groups of people and put into action effectively.

**ASANTE  
(THANK YOU)**

**CONTINUATION**