

## **Conflict, corporation, and environmental peacebuilding from below: insights from Somaliland**

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There is a growing focus on climate change impacts in African contexts affected by conflict and political fragility. While the risk of climate change acting as a ‘threat multiplier’ in these contexts (aggravating resource conflicts, instability, state fragility, extremist mobilization etc.) has been much debated, comparatively limited attention has been paid to the various ways in which local communities and institutions seek to cope with as well as collaborate around responses to climate change related impacts. Exploring these processes in further detail will be crucial as a basis for thinking of contextually relevant assistance. This paper aims to address this lacuna through an analysis of the many adaptations to climate change in the climate ‘hot spot’ of Somaliland. We focus on pastoralist communities, which are of central importance to livelihood and the economy in the region, while hard hit by consecutive climate change-induced draughts. In developing the analysis, we combine perspectives from the literatures of environmental peacebuilding and human security. This allows us to convey a more complex picture – beyond the threat-based outlook, which ultimately privilege state security – of a multitude of responses to climate change among pastoralists in Somaliland. These involve both collaboration, local innovation, and conflict. Based on this analysis we consider what context sensitive approaches to external support may look like – particularly in addressing the risks climate change poses to human security and integrating natural resource management in conflict prevention. The paper is based on a review of the relevant literature, combined with fieldwork and interviews from Somaliland’s Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer regions.