CHAPTER FIVE

FROM INTEGRATED SLOPE MANAGEMENT TO FRAGMENTED USE: COMMON-POOL RESOURCES, INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, AND CONFLICTS IN PANGANI RIVER BASIN, OF SAME DISTRICT (TANZANIA)

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Abstract

This paper examines and analyses institutional changes and power relations in the management of common-pool resources, particularly forests, water for irrigation and pasture among the Pare and Maasai pastoralists in Pangani Basin, Same District in Tanzania. This chapter differs from the other chapters in this volume, as the author does not only look at floodplains, but at livelihoods as well and institutional change in mountain areas, which are close to the floodplains. While the Maasai pastoralists have used the floodplain on their migration routes as rich dry season pasture, the Pare mountain peasants have only used small parts of the plains belonging to the mountain slope, they used to occupy. As these people are now moving to the floodplains close to the river, competition over resources now occurs. The analysis of political and economic changes in the history of Tanzania indicates a progressive increase of government control in the management and utilization of common-pool resources from colonial rule to the independence, specifically through Ujamaa (Tanzanian version

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of African Socialism), when the government transformed traditional institution structures to accommodate the new policies and development ideology. The policy changes at the national level, which replaced traditional norms and rules of access to common-pool resources and sanctioning mechanisms, simulated change of ideology towards common-pool resources management among the Pare agriculturalists and the Maasai pastoralists. This included change in territorial boundaries, leadership and organization structures that characterised common-pool resources management in the pre-independence era, during which mountain slopes had been an integral resource area managed by respective communities. After the colonial and post-colonial period, a major problem was centered on the delineation of the socio-ecological resource boundary, where the upstream-downstream resource management changed to accommodate the new political boundaries that separated the upstream and downstream villages, resulting in the management mismatch of the common-pool resources.

1. Introduction

Common-pool resources particularly forest, irrigation water and pasture in the Pangani River Basin, specifically in the Same District have been being degraded and depleted for the last four decades (IUCN 2003, Shaghude 2006, Mbeyale 2009). According to water utilization Act No. 42 of 1974 and its amendment Act No. 10, 1981, and written laws (miscellaneous) Act No. 17, 1989, and General (Regulations) Amendments, which divided Tanzania into nine hydrological basins, Pangani was identified as most seriously affected by anthropogenic activities that needed immediate attention due to serious user conflicts, degradation and lack of a comprehensive framework for management of the resources (IUCN 2003). This degradation and depletion of resources stems, not only from population growth (which in this case is an important contributing factor) and the tragedy of the commons as Hardin (1968) proposes, but mainly from institutional changes and changing socio-cultural and economic conditions that have influenced the management and utilization of its resources in the past five decades. In this case, the breakdown of local level institutional structures of the Pare and Maasai through state policies and market interference, together with other external factors, have played a crucial role in encouraging an open access situation (Mbeyale 2009). The area we are looking at is the Pangani River and the Mkomazi valley flood-