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**Enclosing the commons:
Coping strategy to socio-ecological challenges by Ethiopian pastoralists
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In response to climate and policy induced causes, the Kereyu and the Hamer pastoralist societies in Ethiopia have opted for continued engagement in enclosure practice in different forms. Communally and individually managed enclosures exist. Usually among the Kereyu crops are cultivated along with grasses in individual enclosures. Whereas in Hamer enclosures managed by two or three individuals exist that combine grass and crop cultivation with more emphasis to the later. However, in both areas communally managed enclosures are exclusively for grazing purposes.

This paper focuses on the positive implications of enclosures. Through enclosures both societies were able to rehabilitate the commons, generated income from the sale of grass and hay, fed weak livestock and small ruminants in the long dry seasons and reduced frequent mobility of livestock for grazing. In addition, in both cases grazing enclosures have integrated rain-fed farming that supported the production of crops for at least household consumption.

Recurrent drought and shortage of rain are among the major causative factors that drag the pastoralists into direful land based conflicts. The expansion of towns, state commercial farms and the influx of migrant labors were found to have brought shortage of grazing land. With occasional disputes still existing, progressively commending efforts to better rehabilitate and secure the environment in the commons are on the way.

Key words: Enclosures, Commons, Grazing, Kereyu, Hamer