

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“Climate Change Adaptation and Land Use Dynamics in the Pastoral System of Ethiopia: The Role of Policies and Social Organizations”



Wednesday, November 2, 2016

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

The purpose of this study is to understand drivers of land use change in pastoral context and investigate the strategies implemented to abate the adverse impact of climate anomalies on land uses by pastoralists. Using time series, participatory, and GIS data, we find a preliminary evidence that climate anomalies, as well as pro-diversification, and pro-commercialization development policies increase the likelihood of degradation in rangelands. We also find some suggestive evidence that a widening power gap between the customary and modern governance system reinforces unsustainable land use by obscuring the values of the customary land right system. However, stability within and around the area, and customary network curbs the adverse impacts of rainfall anomalies on the rangelands. The results are robust to different specifications and seem to suggest that land governance system (placing appropriate policies, and social organizations) fitting to the local context could be an effective policy instrument to lessen the effects of climate anomalies on land use changes.



Misginaw Tamirat Arficho is a PhD candidate in the Division of Environmental Governance, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, and a 2016 Ostrom Workshop visiting scholar. He holds a BA in Economics and an MSc in Agricultural Economics. His current research interest encompasses Human-Environment relations, particularly pastoral livelihoods, institutions, land use, and climate change adaptation ([website](#)).

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).