

The role of livestock transfer relationships in
risk management among pastoralists in
Karamoja, Uganda

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Overview

Risk management:
an adaptive problem



Risks in Pastoralism



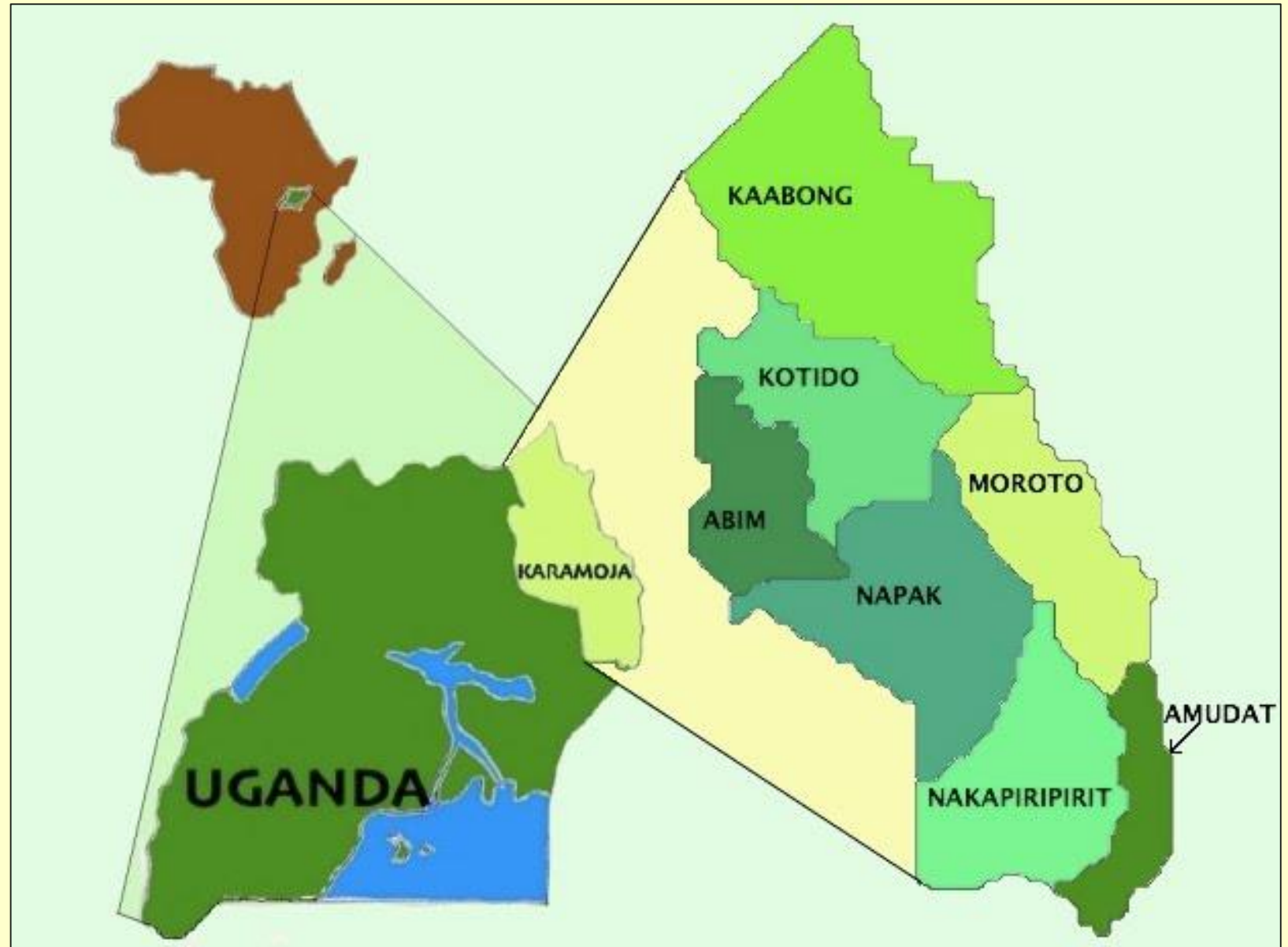
Livestock Transfers and Risk Management

- Stock friendships in East Africa
- Theoretical considerations
 - Reciprocity – problematic because of likelihood of currently wealthy/able stock friend to become destitute in the future

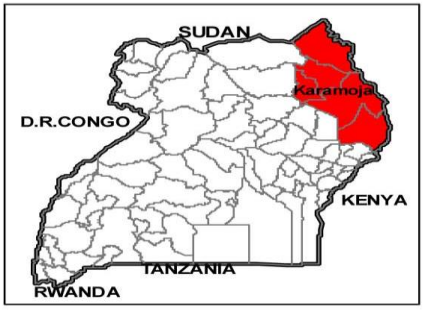
What is the role of livestock transfer relationships in risk management?

Research Area

Karamoja Region,
Uganda



KARAMOJA LIVELIHOOD ZONES



LEGEND

- Agricultural
- Agropastoral
- Pastoral
- District
- Subcounty
- Primary roads



Field Site 1

Field Site 2





Field Site 1



Field Site 2

$N=45$ men

Stock Friendships (*akoneo*) in Karamoja

- Can be contracted at any age
- Small gifts → Livestock
- Stock friends as fictive kin

Characteristics of Stock Friend Networks

- Stock friendship network size

Site 1 avg. = 9

Site 2 avg. = 6

- Composition

Kin - 30% [Site 1]; 38% [Site 2]

Affines > Agnatic

- Geographic dispersal

34% same village; 51% same sub-county [Site 1]

27% same village; 54% same sub-county [Site 2]

Properties of Stock Friend Networks

- Reciprocity vs. need
- Demand sharing & Need based transfers
- Ties of obligation

Are livestock transfer relationships beneficial during disaster?



Predictors of Help Received & Help Given

- Help given

 - Site 1 – Livestock Traders

 - Brewers

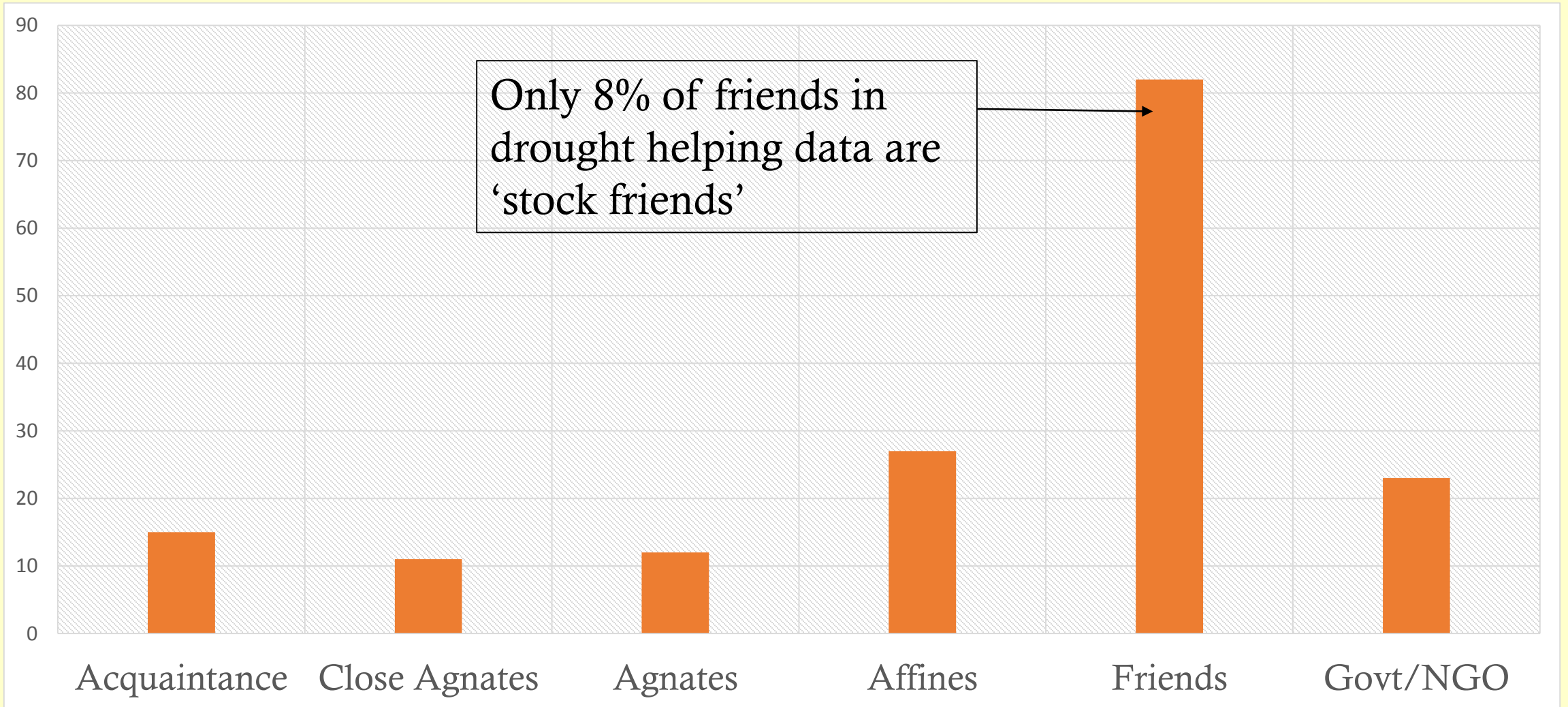
 - Food Aid Recipients

- Help received

 - Predictors: Age, Wealth, Household size, Size of stock friend networks

 - Results: Size of stock friend network predicts help received ($p < 0.01$)

Frequencies of help received during drought in both field sites



Who are these other 'friends' from whom help was received during a drought?

Propositions

Weak ties

vs.

Strong, obligatory
relationships (Stock
friendships)



RA & Key Informants walking to the kraals

Stochastic Environments & Need-Based Transfers

“In a time of need, you don’t know who is going to help you”
Participant, Field Site 1

Future Work

- Village level networks
- Homophily
- Tracking of stock friends' role over multiple years

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