

## **Appendix A: Interview methodology**

The article relies on interview material as one of several sources of evidence. Given the limited amount of publically available information about the processes of local peacemaking after communal conflict, field research in these contexts is essential to improve our theoretical understanding of these phenomena (cf. Wood, 2008). In the manuscript, I rely on interviews, NGO reports, news reports, and previous studies of the cases to establish as thoroughly as possible the variables of interest (government bias, peace agreement, and alternative explanations) in each case.

### **Sample frame and response rate**

For each case, I sought to interview experts, practitioners and locals from the conflict-affected areas. Interviewees were selected strategically based on their roles and insights in conflict and peace processes in different locations, or their knowledge of the broader political dynamics within which these processes are situated. Interviewees can be broken down into government representatives and politicians; NGO representatives; academics/researchers; civil society; and local residents (see interview table below).

In total, around 50 interviews (with a total 57 interviewees) were conducted during field trips in 2013, 2014 and 2016. In general, most people approached also agreed to an interview. One deviation can be noted: attempts to gain access to active high-level politicians were often unsuccessful. To some degree this may have been a function of too limited time in the field, where there was not sufficient time to establish a network and get a personal referral (in the cases concerned, requests were sent by email but were not responded).

In one case – Kerio Valley (which was the topic of a separate, in-depth study) – I also systematically interviewed local residents (older men/”elders”, women, and youth) from both of the conflict-affected communities. I also interviewed local residents in one other case, Tana River, but less systematically. I was not able (due to resource constraints and security concerns) to conduct comparable interviews in Mandera and Wajir. For this reason (and because the analysis is less focused on the broader communities’ experiences and views), I do not rely heavily on the interviews conducted with local residents in the article, aside from a few key interviews with elders and peace committee members.

### **Use of the “snowball” sampling method**

For each case, a number of relevant interviewees from the different categories mentioned were identified in advance. Other interviewees were identified through recommendation by initial interviewees, i.e. through a snowballing technique. The interview table indicates if interviewees were identified in advance or through referral. Use of the snowballing technique was deemed suitable given the interest in politically sensitive topics, where referral from a trusted person alleviates potential mistrust against the researcher (Cohen & Arieli, 2011). Furthermore, in combination with the use of multiple strategically selected entry points to obtain the insights of people with different perspectives, the procedure is suitable when the aim is not to achieve a statistically representative sample of respondents, but rather to establish an understanding of different perspectives on the research question (cf Wood, 2006).

## **Interview format**

In all cases, interviews were semi-structured. This interview method enables a systematic compilation of information on pre-set questions, while also allowing the participants to expand on topics they consider important and to add other relevant information. The interview guide began with contextual information and some personal information (i.e. name, occupation, affiliation, gender and age), then touched on the background and context of conflict, the character of the conflict resolution process, and its outcome (with variations in the cases when interviews were held with experts on a more general, or more specific, topic).

All interviews were preceded by acquiring informed consent, and participants were given a sheet of information about the project, including contact details. Participants were informed that there was no economic compensation for participating, but were usually provided with a soda or cup of tea. Interviews lasted between 25 minutes and 1 hour 45 minutes (most were around one hour long). In most cases, interviews were recorded using a small digital recorder. In some other cases, when interviewees declined to be recorded or for practical reasons, only notes were taken.

## **Ethical and security concerns**

Before the field research, I obtained approval from the Swedish Ethics Review Board (Etikprövningsnämnden, EPN). Conducting interviews on the subject of violent conflict is always sensitive. The benefits of accessing primary information about the conflicts must always be weighed against the risk that interview participants are re-traumatized or otherwise subjected to risk due to participation (Brounéus, 2011). In some cases, particularly when conflict is still active, associating with outsiders and sharing information may endanger participants' physical security (Mertus, 2009). For these reasons, I conducted continuous risk assessments while in the field, and participants were always informed that they could withdraw participation at any time before, during or after the interview. Identifying information and interview recordings were stored under password protection while in the field, as well as thereafter.

## **Confidence levels and compensation strategies**

A key concern when collecting and interpreting the interview material was awareness of the different biases and interests of participants in telling a specific story. In my case, it was important to keep in mind that certain respondents might – intentionally or unintentionally – omit information, seek to play up their own importance in a local peace process, or promote a certain narrative about how a local conflict played out. However, as mentioned above, interviews were not the only or primary source of information, but rather one of several sources used to assess the variables of interest in each case. Instead interviews served as one of several sources used to verify and triangulate factual accounts (Höglund & Öberg, 2011; Wood, 2008). The full set of sources includes the interview material and an extensive review of secondary sources, which in turn encompasses different sources with potentially different interests/biases – including government and NGO reports, news articles, and academic case studies. Overall, since I was not able to visit Mandera and Wajir, the relative reliance on secondary sources is higher in those cases.

**Table 1. Interview methods table**

Interviewee	Case focus	Date & place	Format	Length	Recording	Source
<b>Government representatives and local politicians</b>						
NSC official	All cases	15 March 2013, Nairobi	In person, at offices	1 h	Yes	Sample frame
Former MP	Kerio Valley	18 February 2014, Nairobi	In person, at quiet café, her assistant present	1h 10 min	Yes	Sample frame
Local government rep.	Kerio Valley	26 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, busy place	1 h	Yes	Sample frame
Local government rep.	Kerio Valley	27 February 2014, Kolowa	In person, at offices	1 h	Yes	Sample frame
NSC official	All cases	24 May 2016, Nairobi	In person, at offices	35 min	Yes	Sample frame
<b>NGO representatives</b>						
International peace NGO rep.	All cases	14 March 2013, Nairobi	In person, at offices	1 h 45 min	Yes	Sample frame
Local peace NGO rep.	Tana River	15 March 2013, Nairobi	In person, at busy restaurant	ca 1 h	<i>Notes only</i>	Sample frame
Local peace NGO rep.	Kerio Valley	18 March 2013, Nakuru	In person, at busy café	ca 45 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Sample frame
Local NGO rep.	All cases	19 March 2013, Nakuru	In person, at busy café	ca 45 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Referral
Local NGO rep.	All cases	19 March 2013, Nakuru	In person, at offices	1 h	Yes	Sample frame
Humanitarian worker	Tana River	22 May 2016, Makueni	In person, at quiet shop	1 h 10 min	Yes	Sample frame
Local NGO rep.	Tana River	23 May 2016, Nairobi	In person, at quiet restaurant	50 min	Yes	Referral

International peace NGO rep.	Tana River	23 May 2016, Nairobi	In person, at quiet restaurant	1 h 5 min	Yes	Sample frame
2 international peace workers	Wajir, Mandera	24 May 2016, Nairobi	In person, at offices, group interview	1 h 10 min	Yes	Referral

#### **Academics/researchers**

Conflict resolution consultant	All cases	13 March 2013, Nairobi	In person, at busy café	1 h	Yes	Sample frame
Development researcher	All cases	21 March 2013, Eldoret	In person, at busy restaurant	ca 45 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Sample frame
Security analyst	Wajir, Mandera	24 May 2016, Nairobi	In person, at busy café	1 h	Yes	Sample frame
Security analyst	Mandera	8 June 2016	In person, over Skype	ca 45 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Referral

#### **Civil society**

Local youth leader	All cases	19 March 2013, Nakuru	In person, at busy café	45 min	Yes	Sample frame
Peace committee chair	All cases	21 March 2013, Eldoret	In person, at busy restaurant	1 h 30 min	Yes	Referral
Peace committee secretary	All cases	21 March 2013, Eldoret	In person, at busy restaurant	ca 30 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Referral
Peace campaigner	All cases	21 March 2013, Eldoret	In person, at busy restaurant	ca 30 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Referral
CJPC official	Kerio Valley	20 March 2013, Eldoret	In person, at offices	45 min	Yes	Sample frame
Religious leader (catholic)	Kerio Valley	22 February 2014, Eldoret	In person, at offices	1 h	Yes	Sample frame
Religious leader (protestant)	Kerio Valley	23 February 2014, Eldoret	In person, at offices	30 min	Yes	Sample frame
Religious leader (catholic)	Kerio Valley	25 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, quiet place, referring person present	30 min	Yes	Referral

Religious leader (baptist)	Kerio Valley	1 March 2014, Tot	In person, quiet place	30 min	Yes	Referral
Catholic church official	Tana River	25 May 2016, Malindi	In person, at offices	50 min	Yes	Sample frame
2 CJPC officials	Tana River	25 May 2016, Malindi	In person, at offices, group interview	ca 1 h 30 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Referral
<b>Local residents</b>						
Marakwet elder	Kerio Valley	24 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, busy place	40 min	Yes	Sample frame
Marakwet elder	Kerio Valley	24 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, busy place	1 h 10 min	Yes	Referral
Marakwet elder	Kerio Valley	24 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, busy place	45 min	Yes	Referral
Marakwet youth/civic leader	Kerio Valley	24 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, busy place, referring person nearby	30 min	Yes	Referral
Marakwet youth	Kerio Valley	24 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, quiet place	30 min	Yes	Sample frame
Marakwet woman	Kerio Valley	26 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, quiet place	30 min	Yes	Sample frame
Marakwet woman	Kerio Valley	26 February 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, at home	30 min	Yes	Referral
Pokot elder	Kerio Valley	27 February 2014, Kolowa	In person, with translator, busy marketplace	35 min	Yes	Sample frame

Pokot woman	Kerio Valley	27 February 2014, Kolowa	In person, with translator, busy marketplace	30 min	Yes	Sample frame
Pokot woman	Kerio Valley	27 February 2014, Kolowa	In person, with translator, busy marketplace	35 min	Yes	Referral
Pokot youth/herdsman	Kerio Valley	27 February 2014, Kolowa	In person, with translator, busy marketplace	35 min	Yes	Sample frame
Pokot elder	Kerio Valley	27 February 2014, Kolowa	In person, with transl, busy, referring person present	30 min	Yes	Referral
Pokot woman	Kerio Valley	28 February 2014, Chepchoren	In person, with translator, quiet place	35 min	Yes	Sample frame
Pokot woman	Kerio Valley	28 February 2014, Chepchoren	In person, with translator, quiet place	25 min	Yes	Referral
Marakwet elder	Kerio Valley	1 March 2014, Tot	In person, with translator, quiet place	35 min	Yes	Sample frame
Marakwet woman	Kerio Valley	1 March 2014, Tot	In person, with translator, quiet place	30 min	Yes	Sample frame
Peace committee member	Kerio Valley	3 March 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, quiet place	1 h 40 min	Yes	Referral
Pokot youth/herdsman	Kerio Valley	3 March 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, quiet, referring person present	30 min	Yes	Referral
Pokot youth/herdsman	Kerio Valley	3 March 2014, Chesongoch	In person, with translator, quiet, referring person present	30 min	Yes	Referral
2 Pokomo elders	Tana River	27 May 2016, Wema	In person, with translator, quiet, group interview	ca 45 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Sample frame

Pokomo woman	Tana River	27 May 2016, Wema	In person, with translator, busy place	ca 30 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Sample frame
Pokomo man	Tana River	27 May 2016, Wema	In person, with translator, busy place	ca 30 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Referral
Peace committee member	Tana River	27 May 2016, Wema	In person, with translator, busy place	ca 30 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Sample frame
Pokomo woman and man	Tana River	27 May 2016, Wema	In person, with translator, quiet, group interview	ca 45 min	<i>Notes only</i>	Referral

## References

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