

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	9
LIST OF TABLES.....	10
LIST OF PHOTOS	11
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	12
GLOSSARY	14
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	17
ABSTRACT.....	19
ZUSAMMENFASSUNG	21
1. INTRODUCTION	23
1.1 The problematics of the hegemonic adaptation perspective	23
1.2 Apolitical adaptation and pastoralists’ development	25
1.3 Approaching the ‘local contexts’ from a political ecology perspective	28
1.4 Point of departure: risk, resources and relational modes	30
1.5 Organization of the book.....	33
2. ADAPTATION, VULNERABILITY AND LOCAL AGENCY: THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL REFLECTIONS	35
2.1 Introduction	35
2.2 Putting the concept of adaptation in perspective.....	35
2.3 The conventional approach to adaptation	36
2.4 The inadequacy of the conventional approach.....	38
2.5 The concept of vulnerability in adaptation research	39
2.5.1 Socially embedded vulnerability.....	41
2.5.2 Not always passive victims: focus on the locals’ agency	43
2.6 Political ecology and the vulnerability paradigm.....	45
2.7 Locating actors in political ecology	47
2.8 Summary	50
3. RESEARCHING WITH THE LOCALS: METHODOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS	51
3.1 Introduction	51
3.2 Upper Awash valley, Fentalle <i>Woreda</i> : descriptions.....	52

3.2.1 Research area and the people	52
3.2.2 Physical features	54
3.2.3 Micro-climate and seasons	55
3.3 Methodological stances: qualitative approach in geography	56
3.3.1 Qualitative approach	56
3.3.2 Participatory approach	57
3.4 The research process: preliminary visits and initial acquaintance	58
3.4.1 Selecting the units of analysis and study villages	58
3.4.2 Specific research methods employed	60
3.5 Mixing various interview techniques	63
3.6 Field notes and participant observation	66
3.7 Document analysis and secondary information	67
3.8 Analysis and write up	67
3.9 Ethical considerations	68
4. LIVELIHOOD INSECURITY IN CONTEXT: HISTORICAL TRAJECTORIES	70
4.1 Introduction	70
4.2 State-pastoralists relations: ‘development’ and the perils of planning	71
4.2.1 Commercial farms and loss of access to resources	71
4.2.2 Conservation without people	74
4.3 Environmental sources of livelihood risk	79
4.3.1 Water scarcity, frequent drought and food insecurity	79
4.3.2 Pastureland degradation and encroachment of invasive plants	85
4.4 The post-1991 state in pastoral spaces: a liability or an asset?	87
4.4.1 Political reconfiguration and the recognition of a pastoral way of life	87
4.4.2 Transforming the nomads: rationality of state development projects	89
4.5 In-migration and increased population pressure	94
4.6 Summary: multiple sources of livelihood insecurity	97
5. ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATION AND LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOOD PRACTICES	100
5.1 Introduction	100
5.2 Environmental transformation and social disorganization	100
5.2.1 Distortion of settlement and mobility patterns	101
5.2.2 Changes in the social fabric	104
5.2.3 Disruption in customary resource management institutions ...	105
5.3 Pastoralists’ agency and response to change	109
5.4 Contexts influencing pastoral mobility decisions	114
5.5 Reorganization: camel-based livelihood practices	117

5.6 Surviving on camels: risk management and livelihood practices	118
5.6.1 Knowledge and herd management	119
5.6.2 Access to browse: the routes of camel mobility	123
5.7 Summary	127
6. LIVING THE TRANSFORMATION: THE MOVE TOWARDS AGRO-PASTORALISM	128
6.1 Introduction	128
6.2 Cultivation as risk management and livelihood practice	128
6.3 Significant aspects influencing decisions to cultivate	130
6.3.1 Disruption of social relations and increase in farming	130
6.3.2 Population pressure, settlement and farming practices	134
6.3.2 Policy factors: irrigation and land certification	136
6.4 Bringing new principles in: fencing communal pasture	141
6.5 Emergence of new arrangements	142
6.5.1 Benefit-sharing arrangements	145
6.5.2 Resource-sharing arrangements	146
6.6 Some constraints to cultivation as a contemporary strategy	150
6.7 Non-pastoral and non-agricultural activities	152
6.8 Summary	156
7. CONTEXTUALIZED ADAPTATION: HEGEMONIC PERSPECTIVES AND LOCAL RESPONSES	158
7.1 Introduction	158
7.2 The politics of adaptation: top-down approaches to development	159
7.2.1 Consideration of governance structures in adaptation	159
7.3 Situated and local-level adaptation practices	161
7.3.1 Recognition of local agency	163
7.4 Summary	167
8. CONCLUSIONS	168
8.1 Starting-point vulnerability: the political ecology of local adaptation	168
8.2 Locating agency in political ecology	170
8.3 Localizing the international perspective on adaptation to climate change	172
8.4 Back to the research questions	173
8.5 Implications for policy and directions for future research	175
8.5.1 Addressing social sources of vulnerability	176
8.5.2 Increasing the negotiation power of the locals	176
8.5.3 Directions for future research	177
9. LIST OF REFERENCES	179