

# Etamam

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**Longoli Simon Peter, Karamoja Development Forum**



**Are resource conflicts inherent in pastoralist communities?**

# So, why is Etamam important?

- Simply means 'sending the message': the message? Can we share water, pastures?
- Accessing, using and managing pastoralist resources is critical survival need for pastoralists;
- Etamam now institutionalized – integrated within *Ekokwa*, *Etem*, *Akiriket*
- Negotiation ensures conflict-free access to these resources



# *My Name is Awesit Karenga*

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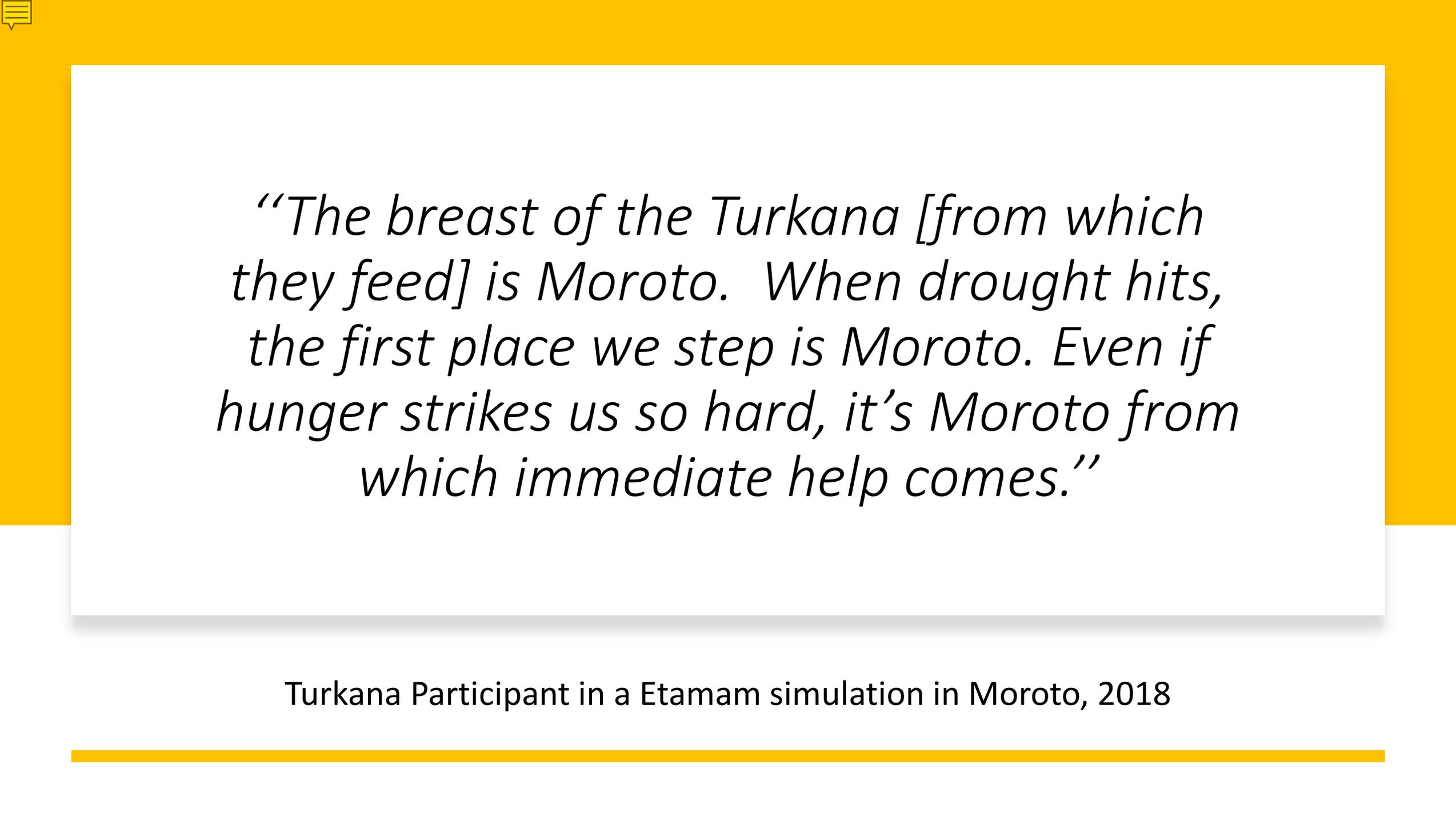
- 70 year old Turkana woman from Lorengekipi, Loima arriving a few days ago from a kraal in Rupa, Moroto;
- Awesit means Migration;
- Karenga refers to a location in northern Karamoja, now an administrative district;
- Born when parents migrated to Karenga and named thus. For pastoralists, those who experience more stress are the more experienced in the nuances of negotiating resource access.





# What is Kobebe

- “Kobebe is Land, Grass, Water and People”
  - “Kobebe is the water of peace”
  - “Thirst does not know status, tribe, and ranks. When it hits us, we all speak one language. It can kill. This water when well managed and maintained will push our animals for more 4 months.”
- Statements by primary Custodians of Kobebe, a critical pastoral resource in Karamoja, Uganda



*“The breast of the Turkana [from which they feed] is Moroto. When drought hits, the first place we step is Moroto. Even if hunger strikes us so hard, it’s Moroto from which immediate help comes.”*

Turkana Participant in a Etamam simulation in Moroto, 2018

# Take-aways?

- Recognizing these practices means working with pastoralists across borderlands from a **position of strength**;
- **Mobility** during drought is a means to access productive resources, ensuring the production of food;
- This mobility is secured through intricate negotiation mechanisms – **Etamam** assures this;
- A **deeper understanding** of the workings of pastoralist institutions/mechanisms is needed for interlocutors to achieve optimum outcomes

**Thank you!**

**Alakara!**

