



# Pastoral Civil Society

Quarterly Newsletter of RECONCILE/IIED Programme on *Reinforcement of Pastoral Civil Society in East Africa*

Issue No. 1 January - March 2003

## Editorial

We are pleased to present you the inaugural issue of *Pastoral Civil Society*, the quarterly newsletter of the Programme on *Reinforcement of Pastoral Civil Society in East Africa* implemented jointly by Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE) and the Drylands Programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). For more information on the programme see the summary at the end of the issue.

Through this newsletter we will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in the programme, give you summary information on what partners are doing with respect to pastoral development in East Africa and keep you informed of key pastoral policy issues as they arise. But to do this effectively we need your help! So please do send us any information on pastoral issues which you think would interest others. Another idea is to do a short profile on a pastoral civil society organisations and persons in every issue. So if you want others to get to know you, get in touch so we can discuss how best to proceed.

We are running a competition to choose the most appropriate name to give this newsletter. We have called it *Pastoral Civil Society*, but we think a more appropriate name could be found, which captures the idea of building solidarity and strength among pastoral people in East Africa. You have until May 2003 to send us your ideas

The Logo symbolises pastoral civil society taking charge of their own destiny, the fly whisk a symbol of authority in East Africa and made from a cow's tail and the people represent the idea of the young to the old.

## The 1<sup>st</sup> 6-months

The programme officially started in November 2002 with a partners' workshop at MS-TCDC, Arusha, Tanzania. Partners at the workshop reaffirmed the relevance of the programme, constituted a framework for continued consultation and agreed on the implementation process of the programme. They established a Core Advisory Group (CAG) comprising of three members from each country to work with RECONCILE and IIED in the implementation of the Programme.

## CAG meets in Mbarara

A few months after the workshop in Arusha, the Core Advisory Group (CAG) held its first substantive meeting in January 2003 in Mbarara, Uganda. Prudence Kaigaje, the senior trainer of MS-TCDC, also attended the meeting. The CAG discussed and agreed on a programme of work that includes, the design of a generic training

course on pastoralism, a scoping study on courses on pastoralism in East Africa, the design of a programme logo and the creation of a website and the launch of a programme newsletter and leaflet

Members of the Core Advisory Group		
Country	Name	Organisation
Kenya	Mohammed Elmi	Oxfam GB
	Joseph Ole Simel	MPIDO
	Mariach Lousot	TIPDI
Uganda	Margret Rugadya	ULA
	Abura Vincent	KADP
	Godfrey	NYDA
	Karamuzi	
Tanzania	Theo Macha	LEAT
	Saruni Ole	KINNAPA
	Ndelelya	
	Edward Porokwa	PINGOS
Michael Ochieng Odhiambo, RECONCILE and Ced Hesse, IIED		

### Work on the generic course starts

The design of the generic training course on pastoralism and policy started in earnest following the Mbarara meeting of the CAG.

It has been decided first to carry out a study on the perceptions that non-pastoralists have of pastoralism, and to understand the origins of these perceptions. For example, why do so many people really think that pastoralists destroy their environment? On what basis do policy makers and others believe that pastoralism is a “backward” and “primitive” production system? There are many myths about pastoralists that continue to exist. Why is this the case? This is the core question that the study will try to answer.

A regional meeting will then be organized at MS-TCDC in May 2003 at which the findings of the study will be discussed. We will be inviting members of the CAG and some key partners to this meeting in order to finalise the report and decide on how best to start the actual process of designing the generic training. We think the workshop will be used to establish a technical working committee that will work with MS-TCDC, RECONCILE and IIED in designing the generic training course. The final report will be published and disseminated to all partners and others within the region.

### Other activities being planned on which we need YOUR help!

- **Regional study on the economics of pastoralism.** One of the reasons why policy makers don't respect pastoralism as a valid and useful way of life is because they do not think it contributes to the national or local economy. It is time to challenge this myth and establish to what extent pastoralism is a motor of development at the local, national and even regional level! Terms of Reference for the study are being developed and we hope the study will be able to start in the next 2 or 3 months. If you would like further information or are interested in seeing how you might be involved, get in touch. Our address is below.

- **Hosting a website on pastoral policy.** This is another idea in the early days of planning as we try and answer questions such as who will use the website, what sort of information should it contain, who will update the information? etc. We will prepare a short concept note on this over the next few months, but we need your ideas on whether or not you think a website on pastoralism and policy would be useful to you, and if so what sort of information it should contain. Use the chance to influence what the programme does and get in touch!
- **Recruitment of a Programme Coordinator.** We are looking for a committed, experienced and competent coordinator to help us implement the programme's activities. And we need this person as soon as possible. A Job Description will soon be available and will be widely circulated. At that moment we will be asking you to help us to find the right candidate.

### Welcome to Alais!

We are delighted to tell you that MS-TCDC, who will be helping us to design the training component of the programme, has hired Alais Ole Marindat to be the lead trainer. Alais is an experienced facilitator and vastly qualified in the field of pastoral development. He officially starts in April 2003.

### Attention Readers

The World Parks Congress to be held in Durban from 8th – 13th September 2003 will be hosting a workshop on ‘**Mobile Peoples and Conservation**’. The objective of the workshop is to make sure that the needs of pastoralists are not marginalized but are at the mainstream of debate on conservation and development. We think this is potentially an important platform for pastoral civil society organisations to represent the needs of their members, and the programme would be willing to see how we could make this happen. Kindly get in touch you are interested in knowing more about this initiative and possibly participating in the workshop.

## **The programme on *Reinforcement of Pastoral Civil Society in East Africa***

This is a regional programme being implemented in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The programme seeks to support the emergence of a vibrant, effective and efficient pastoral civil society capable of helping pastoralists to drive their own development agenda. It has been developed and is implemented in a participatory way in collaboration with pastoral civil society organizations and development partners active in the pastoral regions of East Africa

The programme, which is funded jointly by DFID through its Civil Society Challenge Fund and the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development, was formally launched in November 2002 when the first meeting of partners was held in Arusha, Tanzania.

The programme shall be implemented in three phases over a period of 15 to 20 years. This time frame is deliberate and informed by the conviction that building the capacities of local people to take charge of their destiny is a complex task, which demands a generational engagement. The first phase (2002 - 2006) will focus mainly on addressing the problem of external ignorance and prejudice held by policy makers and others about pastoralists and pastoralism.

### **Programme Components**

There are three interlinked components to the programme (training, research and networking), which together are designed to reinforce the capacity of pastoral civil society organisations in East Africa to influence policy processes in favour of their own development.

The **training component** shall design a generic training course on the dynamics of pastoral systems and policy options in East Africa. The course, to be designed through a participatory process in collaboration with programme partners and other stakeholders, shall be located at MS-Training Centre for Development Cooperation (TCDC) in Arusha, Tanzania and be delivered by them to pastoral civil society actors and those who work with them. Thereafter the training course shall be adapted to local contexts and mainstreamed into universities and technical colleges locally and abroad.

The **research component** will consist of collaborative action research on pastoral issues of regional significance as well as the provision of targeted support to enable partners to carry out their own policy oriented action research on subjects of importance to them. The programme will also carry out research on the policy making processes in order to develop materials on how to influence policy.

The **networking component** shall involve periodic workshops and partners meetings focused on specific themes, development of a pastoral website, exchange visits both within the region and to other regions of Africa and regular production of a programme newsletter and other publications

### **If you want more details on the programme and its partners, contact:**

Michael Ochieng Odhiambo, Resource Conflict Institute,  
P.O. Box 7150, Timbermill Road 20110, Nakuru, Kenya.  
Telephone: +254 037 44940  
Email: michael@reconcile-ea.org

To contact the Editor, please write to:

**Nickson Orwa**

RECONCILE

PO Box 7150-20110

Nakuru

Kenya

Telephone +254 037 44940

Email nickson@reconcile-ea.org

**PORTRAIT OF A PASTORAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION**

This is your space, we are waiting to hear from you