



Pastoral Civil Society

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

Issue No 10

April - June 2005

Editorial

This is the 10th issue of *Pastoral Civil Society*. We apologise for the delay in bringing it out, and are working to overcome the hurdles that caused this delay, to ensure that the next issue reaches you on schedule.

This issue contains reports on programme activities including the 2nd Generic training course, updates on the national land policy formulation process in Kenya, reports from relevant events and partners and useful resource and information relating to pastoralism and policy. We have also presented to you a special feature on the Joint Oxfam Livelihoods Initiative for Tanzania (JOLIT)).

We profile Waso Trust Land Project, a community based organization based in Isiolo Kenya that articulates and defends human and land rights of the marginalized and vulnerable groups in Isiolo.

As we endeavour to keep you informed, we appeal to you to write, e-mail or telephone us on issues which you think will be of interest to other readers. The *Pastoral Civil Society* is your forum, make use of it.

Editor

Overview of Programme News

During this quarter, the Programme ran a full test Generic Training Course on Pastoralism and Policy in East Africa. The two weeks event at MS-TCDC, Arusha Tanzania brought together 11 participants representing the pastoral civil society, researchers and pastoral development practitioners from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The purpose of the test training was to gauge the level of materials so far developed into a training template and to provide an opportunity for pastoral development stakeholders to make inputs and suggestions to help improve the training manuals.

The programme has continued with the Institutional Governance Learning Group (IGLG) project in Tanzania. The project works with a group of pastoral civil society organizations to build their capacity for policy engagement with both local and national government. During the quarter two meetings were held under the initiative. In April, the



Participants at the generic training.

members of the Group met to provide comments and feedback on the draft policy booklets that Haki Kazi had developed to help demystify aspects of the policy environment in Tanzania that have a bearing on pastoral livelihoods. In June, a meeting was convened for members of the Group to report back on the constituency relationship exercise they had undertake between April and June with their constituents.

In May, the Core Advisory Group of the Programme held its fifth meeting, in Nairobi, Kenya. Among other things, the CAG discussed and approved the plan to apply for a no cost extension of the programme for six months to enable it complete its activities and achieve its objectives.

The programme participated in various activities of partners within the region. Among the partners that invited the Programme to participate in their activities during this period were TAPHGO AGM, MPIDO and ERETO-NPP.

More details on these activities appear below

Programme News

2nd Test of the Generic Training Course Held in Arusha

We reported in the last issue of the newsletter that we planned to run the second test of the Generic Training Course on Pastoralism and Policy from the 12th to 25th June 2005 at MS-TCDC, Arusha Tanzania. We are pleased to report that the test training was successfully done. The test training was attended by 11 participants (3- Kenyans, 2- Ugandans and 6 Tanzanians) representing pastoral civil society, researchers and development practitioners from the region, and facilitated by experts from the region under the leadership of Alais Morindat, the Lead Trainer. This was the first time for the full course to be tested.

Participants provided professional/technical inputs on the content of the draft Modules 1 and 2 to enable the Programme finalize the training template and manuals. This is an important aspect of the development of this training course, and is aimed at ensuring that the information in the course manuals is up to date, and that there is ownership among the key stakeholders of pastoral civil society in the region.

Over the two weeks period of the test training, participants were taken through Module I on Pastoral System, went on a field trip, and then concluded with Module II on Pastoralism and Policy Challenges. Module I was facilitated jointly by the Lead Trainer and Dr. Wellington Ekaya of the Department of Range Management at the University, who has been involved in the design of this module for the past two years. The two were assisted by Ced Hesse and John Pamita Letai.

At the end of Pillar 1 of Module I, participants undertook a field trip to Manyara Ranch in – district. The trip gave participants an opportunity to see how the three pillars of the module (Pastoral Resources, Livestock and the Family/Labour) interact on the range, and to begin to see the interface between the pillars and the policy environment, in preparation for Module II. Participants spent a whole day at the ranch combining serious work with the fun of the outdoors. On returning to Arusha, participants reflected on their experience from the field, and then went through the last two pillars of Module I before commencing Module II.

The facilitation of Module II on Pastoralism and Policy Challenges was coordinated by Michael Ochieng Odhiambo with support from William Ole Nasha of Oxfam Ireland. The facilitators included Prof. Salome Misana and Christine Noe from the Department of Geography at the University of Dar es Salaam and Margaret Rugadya of Associates for Development, Kampala. Michael and William mapped out the broad regional policy environment, Prof. Misana and Christine made a presentation on specific policies in Tanzania that have a bearing on pastoralism, while Margaret made a similar presentation on Uganda.

After the training the CTG met to review and incorporate comments from participants into the training manuals and propose the next cause of action. It was agreed that the same experts be engaged to develop materials for Module II and a further test training for this module was scheduled for 24th to 28th October 2005. After that, the first full Generic Training Course on Pastoralism and Policy should be available by March 2006.

(Report by John Letai)

Generic Training Course- Experience from a Participant's Perspective

When I was invited to attend the generic training course on pastoralism and policy challenges in EA, I was in the first time hesitant as to whether I could attend. The first reason was that two week training was too long for me. I was also left wondering whether I would benefit from the training taking into account the fact that I was very busy with the work at my office. I convinced myself that as respected specialists on pastoralism were to conduct the training, there must be something important that I will benefit from.

The generic training was attended by 11 participants who are mainly working on different areas of pastoralism. The selection of the participant was one of the things that impressed me. They were long experienced advocates of pastoralism with varying experiences on pastoralism and the pastoral communities.

The most important and informative thing in this training different from the other training that I had attended was the training approach. Most of us are used to formal trainings that are based on lecturing and paper presentations. The

approach of this training was totally different from that. The trainers assumed that everybody was rich of knowledge on pastoralism. The trainers also provided every body an opportunity to speak his/her mind to the extent that every participant felt that he /she was able to participate fully in the course.

The three pillars (natural resource, livestock. and family) that have been developed by the training provide a simple and clear reflection of pastoralism. Many of us were born in pastoral communities and have been working on pastoral issues but have never taken time to think on the line of the three pillars.

The understanding on the pastoral dynamic and its rationale is not a problem to the policy makers alone but also critical to the development people working with the pastoralists. Being able to provide rational arguments has continued to be difficult to many of the advocates of pastoralism. With no basis to support these arguments some of us have raised sympathy and sometimes-emotional complaints and blames to the policy makers.

Surely there are times for those working on pastoralism and policies that we get stuck and become short of argument to defend pastoralism though we believe that it is a viable livelihood. We tend to argue for pastoralism but get limited scientific argument to defend our positions. We even sometimes make arguments that if critically construed and without our knowledge becomes arguments that could be used by policy makers against pastoralists (like thinking that pastoral land is fragile)

The arguments provided by the Generic course especially basing on the seasonal timeline, are strong weapons that could be used to protect the interests of the pastoralists. The time line if properly used could draw critical ecological argument that the pastoralists could use to convince the policy makers understand the rationale for pastoralism.

One of the problems that the training has successfully managed to resolve among the participants was creation of an understanding of the dynamics of pastoral system. These dynamics could easily link pastoralism with the policy issues related to natural resources and other pastoral rights. It is within the pastoral dynamics that the argument for pro pastoralists' policies could be drawn. The generic training course when dealing with the policy component linked very well some of the negative policy perceptions inherent in the East African countries policy documents with the lack of understanding of pastoralism by the policy makers.

At the end of the two weeks, I really felt that the training was not time wasted. I really benefited and I blamed myself for my first hesitation to attend the training. I had wrong perception and mind set. I congratulate the designers of the generic course for the design well done.

**(Report by Edward Porokwa- Coordinator PINGOs
Forum: e-mail: pingostz@yahoo.com)**

IGLG Conducts a Constituency Relationship Exercise

During this quarter the programme carried out two activities of the IGLG. In April, the Learning Group held a meeting to provide comments and feedback on the three policy booklets developed by Haki Kazi. The booklets are respectively on the overall policy environment in Tanzania, National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty and the Local Government Reform Programme. Once the feedback from the IGLG members and the Programme are incorporated, the booklets will be published and distributed to the IGLG members to be used in creating awareness and building capacity for policy engagement with local governments and the central government. . The booklets are expected shortly and an update will be given in the next issue of this newsletter.

In the April meeting, the group agreed to carry out a constituency relationship exercise among its members. Reports on the exercise were presented at a meeting of the Group held at Haki Kazi Conference Hall in Arusha on the 27th and 28 June, 2005. The meeting, which was held shortly after the completion of the test run of the generic training course was attended by representatives of the pastoral organizations that are members of the IGLG as well as members of Core Training Group (Alais Morindat, Dr. Wellington Ekaya, Ced Hesse, Michael Ochieng Odhiambo and John Pamita Letai).

Among the issues emerging from this exercise were the following:

- The concept of having a constituency and its definition is not clear among the different members of the learning group
- The issue of members and non-members and their relationship as constituents of a particular organization is a problem
- The exercise has provided an opportunity for the learning group to understand the meaning of constituency
- The organization structures can sometimes be confusing when talking about the issue of constituency

In the end the group did a process evaluation where it was agreed that activities of the IGLG should continue as it has proved to be beneficial to the members. The evaluation also pointed out the need to develop another IGLG group that will undergo the same process.

(For more on this contact John Letai; e-mail: jletai@wananchi.com)

CAG Meets, Approves Plans for a / Partners Meeting

On the 24th May 2005, the programme held a Core Advisory Group Meeting at Silver Springs Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. . The following was the agenda of the meeting:

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the CAG held on 14th July 2004
2. Matters arising
3. The 4th Six-Months Report of the Programme
4. Next collaborative research: privatisation and pastoralism
5. Work plan for April 2005 to March 2006
6. Six-months no-cost extension of the Programme
7. Any other business

The meeting reviewed the programme and its activities and also considered the way forward. Among other things, the members of the CAG agreed on the following:

1. That the six-month reports should be presented to the CAG and discussed before they are released, so that the approval of the reports by the CAG is not reduced to a mere formality. In this connection, members should receive drafts ahead of time, and meetings of the CAG should be organised to coincide with the schedule for such approval.
2. That a possible case study from Uganda for the generic training course is the ranch-restructuring programme in Western Uganda. AfD, the organisation with which Margaret Rugadya works, is supporting a study of the programme being undertaken by a former Commissioner who has been in charge of the process, and AfD will be publishing a policy brief.
3. That the generic training course should be extended beyond MS-TCDC. In this connection, the members were informed that the course is only being developed at MS-TCDC, but its delivery shall be spread across the region, both through the mainstreaming and the adaptation by partners.
4. That one of the key challenges in the generic training course is how to organise the large quantity of technical information and material in a manner that is easily digestible by practitioners
5. That the quarterly timing of the newsletter is appropriate, and the quality of the newsletter is getting better by every succeeding issue.. However, there is need to address timeliness, so that the newsletter comes out on time. Furthermore, the Programme should consider inviting guest editors to create variety and give partners an opportunity to contribute directly to the newsletter and thereby promote a greater sense of ownership.
6. The experience with the communications strategy and the economics study should inform the way in which the Programme designs its contracts with consultants in the future. In particular, there should be provision

for an evaluation process tied to the payments, as well as penalties for lateness in delivery of the outputs.

7. Efforts should be made to link the economics of pastoralism study with the ROSP process of Oxfam in the region
8. The IGLG experience should be considered for introduction in Kenya and Uganda.

That the next partners meeting shall be held in Mbale, Uganda from the 26th to 28th September. As with the last meeting in Kenya, it is hoped that the holding of this event in Uganda will ensure a strong participation by Ugandan pastoral groups.

The next CAG meeting shall be held during the partners meeting in September.

(Report by John Letai)

Programme Proposes a Six Months no Cost Extension Period to Donors

In March 2005, The PCS-EA programme core team met in Arusha to review the programme activities and gauge progress in realizing the objectives of the first phase which runs from October 2002 to September 2006. An evaluation is planned before the end of the first phase, and it is in this context that the meeting was held.

Following this, it was agreed that in order for the programme to complete planned activities and realise its stated objectives and outputs it will be necessary to apply for a six months no cost extension. The request for the extension shall be accompanied by a revised budget for the period 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2007 to accommodate changes in programme activities as a result of lessons learnt over the past two and half years.

In this connection, the programme annual report to donors for 2004/5 included an indication that the programme would be making this request. A draft proposal and revised budget was presented to the CAG in May, discussed and approved. The proposal has been presented to the donors, and the programme awaits their approval.

An update on the matter will be in the next issue of the newsletter

(Report by John Letai)

News from Partners

KLA Hold Meeting to Deliberate on the National Land Policy Formulation Process

The Kenya Land Alliance organized a meeting at the Panafric Hotel, Nairobi, on 14th April 2005 as part of its

Tanzanian Pastoralist, Hunters and Gatherers Organization (TAPHGO) Annual General Meeting

TAPHGO held its Annual General meeting at the Golden Rose Hotel, Arusha on 21st May 2005. The meeting was attended by the organisation's 27 member CBOs and partners. Among the latter were RECONCILE, PINGOS, IWGIA, OIPA, MS TANZANIA, Sokoine University of Agriculture and Technology, OXFAM and Members of Parliament.

In the seminar that preceded the Annual General Meeting held on 20th May 2005, it was observed that poverty, which has been occasioned by unfavourable government policies, has led to the migration of pastoralist's youth to seek employment in the urban areas often working as guards and being paid exploitative wages. Concerning HIV/AIDS, the participants were informed that the small number of HIV positive cases in pastoralists Districts like say Ngorongoro is due to the fact that pastoralists are not always included in the statistics either because they might have moved somewhere else looking for pasture or that the medical facilities are not easily accessible to them. The CBOs attending the seminar were challenged to address the spread of HIV/AIDS within their constituencies, identifying and sensitizing the community members against the traditional practices that promote its prevalence.

Participants acknowledged that liberalization and emerging government land and livestock policies have impacted negatively on pastoralists and pastoralism as a whole. In most instances, Pastoralists have lost some of their traditional grazing land, which have been acquired by the government and reserved for army barracks and mining activities among others. The participants were informed that while the land laws in Tanzania seem to favour pastoralism as they promote joint land use plans, individual, group and clan land titling and the stabilization of land markets, they have led to the individualization, titling, registration and loss of pastoral lands, prevalence of land related conflicts and the emergence of land banks. They also observed that the governments attitude towards pastoralists and pastoralism is guided by its belief that pastoralism does not appropriate land and that this land has to be expropriated to others as pastoralism is not a viable economic activity or means of livelihood.

It was observed that despite the high number of CBOs fighting for the rights of pastoralists, the achievements have been minimal due to the fact that their strategy of engaging policy makers has been confrontational, emotional and uncoordinated. On the other hand the pastoralist organizations are only active in the grassroots levels and don't participate in the wider national policy engagement framework, as most of them are reactive rather than being proactive. They sit back, wait for policies to be implemented and then protest. Policy analysis and influence is the greatest impediment of pastoralist organizations as they lack sufficient data and alternative policy options to challenge or even give inputs to the prevailing policies.

ongoing periodic assessment of the relevance, performance, efficiency and impact of the participation of Civil Society Organizations in the Kenyan National Land Policy Formulation Process (NLPFP) in respect to the objectives and final lap of the NLPFP and also in response to their input to the presentation of issue papers in the various thematic groups and participation in the Provincial Forums.

The meeting specifically addressed what has been done in the NLP and its tangibility as per the outputs of the NLPFP, identification of some of the positive and negative impact of Civil Society Organizations' participation in the NLPFP and immediate and observable changes in relations to the objectives of the NLPFP, which included inter – alia the need to provide:

- ❑ All citizens, particularly the poor with the opportunity to access and beneficially occupy and use land.
- ❑ The economically, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable allocation and use of land.
- ❑ The efficient, effective and economical operations of land markets
- ❑ And appropriate regulatory arrangements for the productive, sustainable use and equitable distribution of land.

It was observed that the work of the thematic groups is closely tied and will be determined by the draft constitution more so on the issues of devolution and that while the NLPFP is adopting the recommendations of the Ndung'u and Njonjo Commissions with ease there is confusion as regards the draft constitution. For instance, at the Provincial meetings there was over – reliance by the participants on the outcome of the Bomas Draft constitution. It also emerged that most of the participants in the regional workshops were government employees as in some cases the Provincial Administration appointed participants and this was due to lack of enough mobilization by the Civil Society Organizations.

As a way forward the participants were able to identify strategies on how the CSOs will engage the NLPFP in its final leg and which include bouncing back issues to the constituencies through radio talk shows, Newspaper adverts and forums at community level. On the other hand the participants emphasized the need to prepare adequately for all relevant meetings and on time through the improvement of communication between CSOs. KLA volunteered to disseminate information to all the CSOs on the progress of the NLPFP and dates for all relevant meetings.

(Report by Brezhnev Otieno)

For information on the National Land Policy Formulation Process, contact Odenda Lumumba, Kenya Land Alliance klal@africaonline.co.ke

(Report by Brezhnev Otieno)

For more information contact TAPHGO Coordinator, Moses Sangale at taphgo2000@habari.co.tz

KLA Members Call for the Implementation of the Ndung'u Report

The KLA members held a meeting at hotel Kunste, Nakuru on 28th April to deliberate on how they can take up an active role in the implementation of the recommendations that came out of the presidential commission of inquiry into illegally/irregularly allocation of public lands, the Ndung'u commission. The commission submitted its report that contained findings and recommendations to the president in July 2004, which was then presented to the cabinet.

While the Ndung'u report was released in December 2004, nothing much has been done to date in form of implementing its recommendations. There are fears that the report may be shelved like others before it, namely: the Katana Ngala's report on coastal land issues, the Akiwumi report on land clashes, the Njonjo report on land laws in Kenya, and the current stalemate on the Draft constitution.

The Ndung'u commission made general recommendations aimed at correcting the illegalities and irregularities on the allocation of public land which include: Establishment of a lands titles tribunal, Computerization of land records, Insurance of land title, Establishment of a land commission, enhancing the capacity of institutions dealing with land matters, government policy on formulation of land, Inventory of all public land, harmonization of land legislation, restitution, prosecution of all those who participated in the illegal allocation of land, upgrading of informal settlement and establishment of land division of high court.

It was noted that the greatest challenge facing the implementation of the recommendations is lack of political will and therefore there was need for the formulation of new legal and institutional framework to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations. The members were also concerned that the report did not explicitly provide the role of the communities in the implementation of the recommendations although the communities were the first to raise the alarm on illegal allocation of public land. While KLA fraternity can facilitate the drafting of private bill to be presented by a specific legislator to parliament for debate, private bills are rarely passed in parliament. The best approach therefore, would be to seek review and amendments to existing laws through lobbying parliamentarians and respective ministries.

The KLA members committed themselves to start a lobbying campaign for the recovery of illegally acquired public land through churches and pro-poor political leaders, identify and expose the grabbers in specific areas and target them for

recovery and to continue putting more pressure on the government to implement the recommendations.

For a detailed report Contact Kenya Land Alliance (KLA) at klal@africaonline.co.ke

Special Feature

The Joint Oxfam Livelihoods Initiative for Tanzania (JOLIT): A Window of Opportunity for Pastoralists in Tanzania

What is JOLIT?

Oxfam has a long history of working in support of pastoralist issues in Tanzania as elsewhere in the region. Its efforts to engage in this area have been enhanced by the creation of the Joint Oxfam Livelihoods Initiative for Tanzania (JOLIT). JOLIT aims to provide a range of strategic support to the work of partners of the three Oxfam entities (Oxfam GB, Oxfam Ireland and Oxfam (NOVIB) Netherlands) working in four thematic areas: trade and markets, investment, land and pastoralism. Pastoralism has been prioritised along with trade and markets in the first two-year phase of the programme. JOLIT adds to, rather replacing what the different Oxfams are doing in these areas.

A number of initiatives have been supported under the JOLIT arrangement over the course of the last two years. These are grouped around four areas of concentration, which are:

- Pastoral advocacy
- The Pastoral economy
- HIV/AIDS and Pastoralists
- Land and Pastoralism

Supporting Pastoralists engage with policy Process

The Policy environment in Tanzania is not friendly to the situations of pastoralists, admittedly because of common, but otherwise highly unfounded and erroneous assumptions on pastoral land use systems as well as a general ignorance on the internal logic of pastoralism as a livelihood system. Pastoral advocacy initiatives in Tanzania have been ongoing for many years but no significant achievements have been made in the actual mind shifts of those making and shaping policy. No single explanation can be given for this state of affairs. One of the reasons why pastoralists have not so far managed to influence policy making in support of their constituency is because they have been fighting a lone battle (For other reasons see J Plaistow (2005), *Pastoralism and Advocacy-Lessons from the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process in Tanzania, unpublished*). JOLIT want to see happen a situation whereby pastoralists join hands with the rest of small producers in advocating for a pro-poor policy environment. It has already commissioned a study in Shinyanga, the home of the largest population of agro-pastoralists to see what entry points are available for building alliances between them and pastoralists. JOLIT, will, if it

turns to be desirable, use this opportunity to encourage the building of an even larger alliance- that is between pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and farmers.

The main initial thrust in policy advocacy in recent times has been support to pastoral engagement in the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) review. Efforts to catalyse increased pastoral involvement began in early 2004. JOLIT supported the efforts of the Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRFF) to engage civil society in the first round of consultations. Additional spaces were secured for pastoral civil society. This was followed up with support to PINGOs Forum own initiative, which brought together some 100 representatives of pastoral civil society. Pastoral engagement was sustained and the outcome in PRS II, or the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) as it has been renamed, has been the inclusion for the first time of some pro-pastoralist policy commitments. Engagement needs to be sustained since, as was demonstrated in the even more recently developed Livestock Policy which JOLIT has worked closely on with partners and other allies, there has been now overarching change in government thinking and practice, as the positive tone set by the NSGRP both in terms of content and process was lost as old prejudices were very much to the fore in a document produced with a remarkable lack of consultation. A discussion paper entitled *Pastoralism and Advocacy – Lessons from the Poverty Reduction Strategy Process in Tanzania* was produced making an analysis of recent trends in pastoralist related policy processes.

Supporting the Pastoral Economy

Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists on Tanzania have managed over time to work to graze and grow livestock herds and deservedly making their nation the third largest owner of livestock in Africa. These numbers are however, not reflected in the standards of living as the owners are among the poorest in the country and most marginalized in the provision of key social services as well in policy making processes. The government has often distanced itself from supporting pastoralism allegedly because the latter's contributions to the national economy are insignificant. Calculations of the economic contributions are eschewed by emphasis on commercial production of livestock and livestock products and fail to calculate or recognise the importance that livestock keeping has on peoples livelihoods.

JOLIT believes that is important to reverse this unhealthy state of affairs but knows that it is not an overnight business. The ways of doing it are not found in catalogues, strategic choices must be made. JOLIT thinks it is necessary to reverse these trends by, among others, strengthening the collective response of organisations working to enhance the capacity of pastoralists to engage in profitable livestock trade. It will also advocate for livestock trade and marketing mechanism that are sensitive to the needs and situation of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Within this focus the concentration is on engagement on livestock marketing and support for the efforts of pastoralist women to engage in

economic activity. Plans include working with partners to explore experiences of working with pastoralists to market livestock and livestock products and to explore opportunities and impediments for livestock trade as part of Oxfam International's commitment to the broader issue of pro-poor trade. JOLIT sees a strong potential linkage here with the work that the Reinforcement of Pastoral Civil Society programme has been doing on the pastoral economy. Funds were provided to facilitate the publication of the document looking into the Pastoral Economy in East Africa, which draws on the research work done on this theme in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

JOLIT is also the lead institution in an Oxfam regional project entitled the Report on the Status of Pastoralism (ROSP), which intends, among others, to build the capacity of national statistics departments and other relevant organisations to research, analyse and present accurate information on pastoralism (both quantitative and qualitative). ROSP intends to use information generated to encourage debate among different stakeholders about poverty and its remedies, and make the results of this debate available for policy making and resource allocation.

JOLIT supported a consultative workshop for the ROSP in March 2005. Priority areas for research were identified to include, contributions of pastoralism to the national and household economies, land tenure, livelihood data and demography. It is assumed the different data will help to challenge and address existing positions that are not friendly to pastoralism.

Supporting Pastoralists to address the threats and effects of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is another area that JOLIT has prioritised in its work with others on pastoralism. HIV/AIDS is known to be hitting pastoralists really hard, but there has not been a significantly corresponding interventions from different actors working on and in support of pastoralists. The little that is being done on pastoralism is mostly based on the conventional approach to HIV/AIDS. The messaging on HIV/AIDS has not been specific to the context of pastoralists. JOLIT plans to work with others to reverse the trend of events, by looking into possibilities of addressing the pandemic of HIV/AIDS using interventions that are responsive and relevant to the specific pastoral context. JOLIT and others admit that this is not a simple task and needs careful planning. The challenge is this regard therefore is to balance the need to leapfrog and address the explosively spreading pandemic with the need to come up with appropriate interventions, which can take time to operate and bear results.

Several JOLIT partners and affiliates (Accord, Oxfam GB Ngorongoro Programme and Oxfam Ireland) are already engaging in a programme of response in Ngorongoro District, which seeks to work closely with the District Council. This is a major and groundbreaking initiative, which intends to bring a multiplicity of actors to team up

and find appropriate direction to address HIV/AIDS among pastoralists. The programme is still in its infancy stages with the slow nature of its beginning bearing testimony to very internal logic of carefully choosing the strategic entry points and interventions. Besides direct intervention, JOLIT is also committed to mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into partner programmes both at the organisational level or in the workplace and within programmes or external responses.

Safeguarding the land rights of pastoralists

Safeguarding the land rights of pastoralists in another major focus area for JOLIT. Land alienation and restriction leading to insecurity emanating from ignorance on pastoral land use systems, among others are the major causes of pastoralists' pauperisation in contemporary history. JOLIT will want to work with others in finding solutions to these land related problems. For JOLIT, there isn't, and perhaps, they could never be, a blue print in addressing pastoral land alienation. However, we strongly believe that because they occur as the result of misunderstandings of their land use systems and mostly by those in the position of making and unmaking policies, the best way to start is to build and identify platforms where pastoralists can get the opportunity to engage with and in policy making processes. JOLIT and others organised a Land Symposium in March 2005 to bring different stakeholders on board to discuss the implementation of the land laws. Pastoralists land rights featured very prominently in the said Symposium and it was not surprising to see that they were given space in a multistakeholder taskforce that was chosen to carry recommendations forward. For pastoralists to be able to engage meaningfully though, they must at a minimum be aware of the existing policy framework and its broad implications. To do this, JOLIT proposes to support and be associated with initiatives that aim at supporting pastoral CSO's and others to undertake awareness on the new land laws. It will also assist in commissioning studies aimed at looking into implications of several policy developments in the land front with emphasis on how they affect pastoralists.

JOLIT believes that pastoralists cannot continue fighting a lone battle, something they have been doing for years without much to demonstrate in the form of success. Building alliances and networks with other small producers and like-minded organisations is seen by JOLIT as an important step in advocating for a pro-poor policy environment. JOLIT is therefore supportive of any collective activism in land rights advocacy. JOLIT is about to commission a study to document practices of its partners in land rights advocacy hoping that the information generated will be used as a tool to inform future policy making processes.

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Other News

Action Research on Gender and Pastoralism

RECONCILE is carrying out research on Gender and pastoralism with the overall goal of mainstreaming gender into its work on pastoralism and into discussions about policies related to pastoral communities in East Africa. The purpose of the research is to increase capacity and awareness to mainstream gender in RECONCILE's current projects and programmes on pastoralism and to generate knowledge and awareness on gender and pastoralism amongst policy makers in East Africa. It is hoped that the action research will result in greater responsiveness to gender considerations in the design and implementation of development processes particularly those targeting pastoralist's communities in East Africa.

RECONCILE recognizes that sustainable management of the environment and natural resources cannot be attained without taking into consideration the gender dimensions of resource access, control, use and management. It is this realization that informs the commitment of RECONCILE to mainstream gender in its institutional framework and activities and to ensure that the gender aspects of its work on environment and natural resources are explicitly and overtly demonstrated and outlined.

RECONCILE's engagement with development and policy formulation processes in East Africa has revealed that there is complete lack of knowledge and responsiveness to pastoral gender considerations in the formulation of land policies in the region. A glaring illustration of this is the on-going Kenya land policy formulation process where there is minimal women representation from pastoralists' communities.

In the first phase of the project, the research team plan to have consultative meetings with some of the RECONCILE's partners on their perception and understanding of issues of gender and pastoralism within the context of their work.

For further information on the project, contact Eva Malel (eva@reconcile-ea.org) and Elizabeth Kharono (kharono@yahoo.com)

Nickson's Southern Sudan Notebook

Pastoralist Women on the Move...

While the men are rumbling and fighting over trivial issues like ethnicity and clanism the pastoralist women of Agany in Yirol County, South Sudan are showing them the way on what a united focused group with a little push is capable of doing no matter the surrounding environment. The Agany Women Group was formed in the year 2000 with the aim of meeting the following objectives, income generation and to unite the women together. At the time of formation the area was immersed in insecurity caused by the war and it found

itself involved in mobilizing food for the soldiers, nursing the injured, distributing relief food while at the same carrying the normal duties of mothers including taking care of the young and the vulnerable

With the war now over and with a little help from the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) especially in starting capital and capacity building, the group now runs the Agany Development Centre implementing the following activities among others; Lulu oil works, Adult education, soap making and grinding machine. The grinding machine has acted as a catalyst in the girls going to school as the mothers apart from learning also have time to grind the grain letting the daughters have the time to be educated. The women have also through training built the capacity of fellow women who are now part of decision making in resource distribution, are in charge of farms and the grains while men are in charge of livestock.

Despite all the initiatives the women still face a number of challenges including the problem of water as they lack enough boreholes in the area, need for soap making machine, transportation for the products they produce, overworking as they not only have to do the grinding but also have to attend to their farms among other chores. The women are also in need of capacity building in dairy farming which the say will go a long way in enhancing food security in the area.

As the Government of South Sudan goes ahead with entrenching itself in power it would spare some time for the women led initiatives as by supporting such groups the trickle effect will be huge.

Nickson Orwa

A PROFILE

WASO TRUST LAND PROJECT (WTLP): THE VOICE OF PASTORALISTS

The Waso Trust Land (WTLP) was formed in 1995 as a lobby group in reaction to the rampant land grabbing and alienation of public land, land conflict and dispossessions in Isiolo District that were affecting the most marginalized groups in the area including members of the Borana community, a semi-nomadic pastoralist community.

At its formation WTLP was guided by three main objectives inter-alia; educating the marginalized groups on their land rights and enable them have access and control over land and other resources including water and minerals, conducting research and documentation of land issues and lobbying against illegal and irregular land allocations, all which have been achieved with varying degrees of success.

The Program Manager of WTLP works closely with the staff and board members, to articulate and defend human and land rights of the Borana community and other marginalized groups in Isiolo. On the other hand the organization has put in place a Technical Committee of 5 Board Members to guide and advise the secretariat in its day-to-day running. The organization has also put in place a network of representatives in the 6 divisions of Isiolo District to link it to the communities and provide feedback from the communities.

Goal

Empower politically and economically, the pastoral communities in Isiolo District and advocate for policies that promote equitable distribution and sustainable utilization of land and its resources

Vision

A pastoral community that understands their rights and responsibilities on land and resource management in order to improve their socio-economic and political well-being.

Mission

To empower pastoral communities in Isiolo District realize, access their land rights and utilize resources through research, information dissemination, sensitization and advocacy intervention.

Objectives

- 1) Educate the marginalized groups on their land rights and enable them have access and control over land and other resources including water and minerals
- 2) Research and documentation of land issues
- 3) Lobbying against illegal and irregular land allocations.
- 4) Enhance strengthening of pastoralists associations so that they can influence policy formulation at both regional and national level

Programmes

1. Research, Advocacy and Information Management

Objective: To have favourable land policies for pastoral communities in ownership of land and management of its resources

Strategies

- Identification of key land issues for research
- Collection and dissemination of research findings to community members and other stakeholders
- Advocacy on land rights and resources
- Compilation of lists of partners and networks on land issues

2. Institutional Capacity Development

Objective: To have an enhanced organizational capacity for efficient and effective programming

Strategies

- Development of relevant organizational, financial and travel policies
- Training for staff and board members
- Resource mobilization
- Development and training of staff, board and community members on monitoring and evaluation

3. Training and Education

Objective: To have an informed pastoral community that owns and manages land and its resources

Strategies

- Establishment of linkages and positive liaison with the media
- Production of newsletter, brochures, pamphlets and other publications
- Training of opinion leaders and community members on conflict management, human rights and natural resource management
- Organizing of sensitization and awareness creation forums for community members

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