



Pastoral Civil Society

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

Issue no 8

October - December 2004

Editorial

We are pleased to present to you the eighth issue of *Pastoral Civil Society*.

In this issue you will find reports on our programme activities, relevant events and workshops and upcoming events. We also have a report from a trip we made to Southern Sudan during the period. As with our other issues we have profiled a Pastoral Civil Society, the Center for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) based in Kenya.

As we come to the end of our second year in circulation, we thank you very much for the support we have received from all of you. Through your help we have been able to produce the newsletter for the period we have been in existence. Your contribution of articles to the newsletter is also appreciated and we do hope that this will continue to grow in the coming year.

We hope you will find time to fill in the form we have enclosed in the newsletter, to enable us update our mailing list. We take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year.

Editor

Overview of Programme News

During the last quarter, we held the first test training of the course on pastoralism and policy in East Africa at MS/TCDC. The test training provided an opportunity for

participants to present their comments on the training and to contribute to its improvement.

The new initiative to help build the capacity of pastoral civil society organizations in Tanzania, entitled *Enhancing good governance for poverty reduction in pastoral areas* was launched during this quarter, contrary to the information in our last issue. Within the initiative, an Institutional Governance Learning Group (IGLG) has been constituted, comprised of members of the participating civil society organizations. The Group went through a Self Assessment Exercise during the period with each participating organization compiling a report on four key issues namely policy understanding and advocacy, governance and accountability, fundraising and financial management and networking and information.

We produced and are distributing the 4th 6-month report of the programme. In addition, we participated in various relevant activities during the quarter.



Pastoralist woman milking (Photo: Gritty.org)

More detailed reports appear below.

1. First test training of the generic course on Pastoralism and Policy in East Africa

We have reported in many issues of the newsletter that the programme is designing a training course on pastoralism and policy in East Africa. The process, though inspired by and based on a similar training designed for the Sahel by Dr. Brigitte Thébaud, has required a lot of work to ensure we adequately cover the complexities of pastoralism in East Africa. The work has involved designing a template to ensure the training follows a logical line of arguments. Resource people and experts from within the region then provided detailed evidence in the form of research results and case studies to support the arguments. Photos, maps and other visuals were identified to further support the evidence.

By the end of October the first module of the course on the **Dynamics of the pastoral system** was ready for testing. Between the 21st and 27th November, eleven participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, representing pastoral civil society groups, NGOs and researchers, spent five days undergoing the training at MS/TCDC in northern Tanzania. Their role was to assess the quality of both the training content and its pedagogic approach, and make practical recommendations on how they can be improved. A key issue was whether the training adequately captured the key characteristics of the very varied pastoral systems that exist in East Africa from the highly mobile Turkana in Kenya, to the more agro-pastoral Karimojong in Uganda and to the Maasai living in the highlands of Ngorongoro in Tanzania. Overall, the test training confirmed the relevance of the course material and the pedagogic approach. Key areas requiring further improvement include more detailed case studies on a broader range of pastoral systems and more considered use of photos and other visuals.

After the training, the Core Training Group (CTG) consolidated all the participants' comments and is now working to produce a final version of module 1 which we anticipate will ready by April 2005.

The CTG is also working on the design of a field trip and module 2 (the policy challenges). It is anticipated that these will be tested along with module 1 in April 2005.

(Report by John Letai)

2. New initiative launched in Tanzania

As reported in the last issue of the newsletter, the Programme on Reinforcement of Pastoral Civil Society in East Africa has secured funding from Development Cooperation Ireland (Tanzania) for a proposal on **Enhancing good governance for poverty reduction in pastoral areas** in Tanzania. This is an initial 6-month pilot project to start a process to address the short-term institutional capacity building requirements of six pastoral civil society groups in northern Tanzania. A core feature of this project is to develop tools and methods to allow pastoral groups to build their capacities themselves

through a process of assisted self-assessment and peer group analysis and learning. To do this they have constituted the Institutional and Governance Learning Group (IGLG).

Since the start of the project, two learning group events have been organized. On the 14th and 15th October the programme held a planning workshop with the six organizations to discuss how best to implement the project. Two representatives each from Pastoral Indigenous Non-Governmental Organisations (PINGOs), Tanzania Pastoralists and Hunter-Gatherer Organisation (TAPHGO), Maasai Women Development Organisation (MWEDO), Gejuru Education Trust (GET), Community Resource Team (CRT) and Laramatak Development Organisation (LADO) attended the workshop.

In the workshop participants discussed the context, objectives and key activities of the project as well as the principles underpinning the IGLG. They also carried out a number of self-assessment exercises to identify some of the key capacity areas that they have been developing to various degrees, but which still require further support. They were also able to understand the role and purpose of the learning group as well as identify key policies to focus on.

Participants also agreed to conduct a self-assessment exercise with their members, compile a report on the findings to be presented and analysed at the second meeting of the learning group, which was held on 30th November and 1st December 2004.

Members of the learning group reported back on the participatory self-assessment exercises they conducted on two key capacity-building issues: *policy understanding & advocacy*, and *governance & accountability*.

The presentations of each member's findings raised a number of issues (see boxes 1 and 2).

1. Good governance and accountability costs money!
Who should pay? Who can pay?
2. Registration not compulsory for carrying out certain activities to ensure good governance and accountability (e.g. self-help activities). It becomes necessary when organizations start to deal with other parties/receive funds.
3. Most organizations have various mechanisms for accountability and good governance but the challenge is to make them work! Some of the common problems are:

Box 1: Governance and accountability

- a. Some organizations have faulty/non-democratic decision-making systems, which need to be rectified.
- b. Fundraising is a major problem. Most organizations depend on external funds, although there are some examples of local fundraising (e.g. GET, KIDUPO).
- c. Having permission does not mean one necessarily has mandate. There is a critical need to develop mandate from local people and/or those people the organisation is saying it is trying to help. How does one develop a constituency?
- d. Gender and HIV/AIDS. How to integrate these into issues of governance and accountability.
- e. “The culture of silence” is a problem. Many people do not raise issues of poor governance in public.
- f. Challenges in translating concepts such as accountability into local context/languages.

Box 2: Policy Understanding and advocacy

- 1. Need to improve understanding of the broader policy environment (e.g. how policies & laws are made, how to tract them, etc.) as well as specific policies.
- 2. Building coalitions to achieve a critical mass is essential. Need to build on the existing coalitions (e.g. WWG, PINGOs) and extend to other parts of the country, particularly Dar es Salaam.
- 3. Most organisations lack clear strategies for policy influence and advocacy.
- 4. Building capacity to develop strong arguments backed by evidence and with clear policy options is essential.
- 5. Building the capacity and confidence to articulate these arguments is critical.
- 6. Building the capacities of local people to understand and influence the policy process is also essential. Efforts should not be limited to the leaders of pastoral groups.
- 7. Government can listen and change if you bring strong arguments and policy options to the table backed by a critical mass of opinion.

The paper addresses the issue of historical injustices ranging from the squatter problem, the coastal land problem, displacement occasioned by land clashes in the 1990s, lingering claims to land by certain communities, and the land rights of minority communities such as the Nubian community.

The paper concludes that '*though the issues of historical injustices in regards to land rights are complex, the process of formulating the national land policy formulation process must bring out well thought-out strategies which will address not only this questions but do that individually and collectively'*

For copies of the paper and other issues relating to the participation of civil society organization in the land policy formulation process, please contact Mr. Lumumba Odenda, National Coordinator, KLA at klal@africaonline.co.ke or visit www.kenyalandalliance.or.ke

2. Maasai land claims: a strategic planning workshop is held

MPIDOLOODO (a Maasai pastoral organization), in collaboration with the Maa Civil Society Forum (MCSF) held a three-day strategic planning workshop in Naivasha between the 16th and 19th of December 2004. The workshop was facilitated by Michael Ochieng Odhiambo, Executive Director, RECONCILE assisted by the writer. The workshop entitled "*Towards the effective redress of historical injustices on land and natural resources*" sought to develop a strategic plan for advocacy to redress historical injustices and wrongs arising from the appropriation of the Maasai land by the British colonial government following the Anglo Maasai Agreements of 1904 and 1911 and the failure of the Kenya Government to address the said injustices and wrongs.

Participants in the workshop were drawn from the Maa-speaking community from all over Kenya. They agreed that the key objectives of the initiative are:

- 1. To claim for restitution of the Maasai ancestral land appropriated by the British or the Kenya Government as well as adequate compensation for the use of those lands to date;
- 2. To claim for compensation against the British Government for loss of lives, livestock, injuries and property occasioned by the massive eviction of the Maasai from their ancestral land; and
- 3. To claim from the Kenyan Government for compensation as well as the rights to share benefits derived from the use of ancestral land and natural resources situated in those ancestral lands.

The strategies identified for achieving these objectives include:

1. Generation of information and resources to support the pursuit of the claims;
2. Support of the emergence of a social movement of the Maasai and other communities around the redress of historical injustices and wrongs;
3. Making use of the legal and political processes to advance the cause of redressing historical injustices and wrongs; and
4. Securing the land and natural resource rights as well as the livelihoods for the Maasai.

The strategic plan shall therefore provide for research, fundraising, networking, consensus building, mobilization, advocacy and lobbying, negotiation, litigation and periodic monitoring and evaluation of what the participants agreed is likely to be a long and tedious journey.

For more details on the Maasai land claims initiative and the strategic planning workshop, please contact Mr. Joseph Ole Simel at mpidolooodo@insightkenya.com

(Report by Alexandriah Muhanji)

3. A Cyber Shepherd at Work in the Sahel

The pastoral communities in the Sahel like their counterparts in East Africa and elsewhere face many difficulties ranging from the lack of good pasture, the risk of animal diseases, poor marketing facilities and restrictions to seasonal movements or transhumance of their flocks and herds.

In 2001 a research project was launched to put new information and communication technologies (ICTs) to work for pastoralists. The school of veterinary science and medicine in Dakar initiated this project in collaboration with the ecological monitoring center with financial support from the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

The goal of the project is to use new technologies to provide pastoralists with information resources in the transhumance zones and to track and monitor the course of selected shepherds and their flocks from one point to another in the forestry zone. Field surveys were done in three countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal) to compile an inventory of traditional practices and local know-how in the use of pastoral resources, with a view to combining them with modern tools and knowledge and making them more accessible.

Three zones were selected in Senegal as sites for a pilot project to train herders on how to track their movements by preparing maps with Global Positioning System (GPS) devices that are linked to satellites.

Several herders were equipped with cell phones to speed exchange of information and provide them with an early warning system against possible disasters. Some herders received IT



IDRC Photo: Djibril.sy

training so that they can access information available on the web. Pastoral associations have computers and internet connections to be able to download information from the web showing which sites are occupied and which have green vegetation together with the estimated carrying capacity indicating the number of animals that can be pastured without the risk to the environment.

For more on the initiative, visit www.idrc.ca

Other News

1. Arms or Money: Toposa community will never sell their land

The pastoral Toposa in Southern Sudan are adamant that despite the odds they face, they will never sell their land. Speaking to the Editor when we visited them as part of Land Tenure Study sponsored by Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) the community leaders told us that '*land is not like tobacco to be sold anyhow*'. In fact it is almost rude to ask them if community land can be sold.

One advantage the Toposa like other communities in Southern Sudan have is that due to a number of factors, including the longstanding civil war pitting the Southern Sudanese against the Arab-dominated government in Khartoum, outsiders never really penetrated their lands to alienate it the way it happened in other countries like Kenya. One of the major causes of the war was land and as a result of the war there is a greater commitment to protect the land, which has caused the death of, so many.

In community meetings, focus group discussions and individual interviews, the Toposa insisted that land can only be leased and even then for limited periods of time. The community perceives the land to belong to three groups: the living, the dead and the unborn. As the Minister for Mining Hon. George Kinga told us '*one group can't give consent on its own without consultation*' but '*even with consultation, the group only decides on utility and not ownership*'

The community says they have to be consulted for any developments to occur in their lands. Most of them when told of the proposed railway line from Nakuru, Kenya to Juba town in Southern Sudan through their land were surprised and were heard asking whose land the railway line will pass through if they have not been consulted. They are wary of any investments that will displace them and their livestock and make them landless.

They vow to defend the land from money the same way they

defended it from the colonialists and the Khartoum government.

(Report by Nickson Orwa)

2. Southern Sudan: A Land of Contrasts?

Ask any outsider three things about Sudan and the bet is that most people will answer conflict, war and suffering. We also thought so until we ventured into the country.

Southern Sudan has rich fertile soil capable of producing any crop. This is manifested in the fine looking millets, maize, sorghum and other crops. There is also a large population of healthy livestock in the area. The land is rich in mineral deposits e.g. gold, gemstones and there are traders selling the minerals especially gold by the roadside. Infact as one elder told us '*Southern Sudan with the right technology can easily become the granary of our continent*'.

The people of Southern Sudan are hopeful that a comprehensive peace treaty will be signed soon so that they can embark on the reconstruction of their nation without any interference. The land is full of tale tell signs of the war. Former government offices are in ruins and the only surviving presence of the government is the SPLA flags mounted on top of the buildings. Silent rusty artilleries are everywhere symbolizing the sign of a fragile peace. We were told that we should never venture beyond the roads for most of the other areas have landmines, the effects of which are evident in the number of locals in crutches. Even the livestock are not spared, as quite a number have been lost to the land mines.

Most of the households have no youths as most of them either died during wars or are refugees in neighbouring countries and abroad. Most of the old folk left behind are waiting for the return of their sons and daughters once peace returns to the country. Even schools have not been spared by the impact of war as most of the building were bombed. A whole generation of Southern Sudanese has missed the chance for an education as a result of the war and its disruptions.

The Civil Society too are at a crossroads for while during the war they fought together with the rebels, they are apprehensive of what will happen once the war is over for the new rulers may see them not as comrades but as adversaries. Some of the organizations will have to move from being relief organizations to development organizations as the latter service may not be needed once the country is stable. Moreover, many civil society activists hope to join new government as happened in Kenya two years ago with the change of leadership and thus the organizations will need a lot of capacity building to fill the gap in government interventions.

The Sudanese leaders should thus as a matter of priority sign the peace treaty so that the millions of the population can start the rebuilding process of their nation. All peace loving people in the world must rise up and support this

people for as Dr Garang, the Chairman of SPLA/M once said '*the price of war is higher than the price of peace*'

(Report by Nickson Orwa)

Recent Events and Meetings

1. International Workshop on Common Property Resource Management held

The above workshop was held between 25th and 28th October at Merica Hotel, Nakuru with over 60 participants present. The participants represented CBOs, NGOs, private sector, public sector, development partners, research organizations etc.

The workshop whose theme was '*securing the commons in an era of privatization: Policy and legislative challenges*' discussed policy/legislative frameworks and the commons, recognition of the value of the commons, how to secure tenure to local communities and with this the definitions of the communities, and what rights should be secured, reconciliation of competing resource users, creating an enabling framework for partnerships between local communities and the other sectors and making policy processes accessible.

There were also field trips to two different sites during the conference i.e. Lakes Naivasha and Bogoria to assess the competing interests in the two areas between different users and uses.

We are currently distributing the soft copy of the report while completing the hard copy Get in touch with us if you are interested in receiving them.

(Report by Nickson Orwa)

2. Second Kenya Pastoralists Week (KPW) is marked

We are happy to report that the second KPW was marked recently. The KPW is an annual event, organized by Center for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) and its partners to celebrate and reflect on pastoralism as a viable livelihood system and as a way of life for millions of people in East Africa. It brought together pastoralists, policy makers, politicians, civil society organizations, researchers and academicians and Kenyans in general to share experiences about pastoralism. Ultimately, KPW seeks to achieve a national policy paradigm shift in favour of pastoralism.

This year's event was realized in two phases and it was celebrated from the 29th of November 2004 to 1st December 2004. The first phase commenced on the first week of November 2004 with the Great Trek from Moyale to Isiolo from 8th November to the 2nd of December 2004. This was a campaign to drum up support for the proper construction of the Moyale -Isiolo Road, which is a major artery for communication in the predominately pastoral districts of Isiolo, Marsabit, Moyale and Wajir.

The second event was the Peace Marathon in Kapenguria. KPW in conjunction with Tecla Lorupe Foundation held a

one-day marathon aimed at enhancing peace building, poverty reduction, sports promotion and HIV/Aids mitigation on the 20th November 2004 at Kapenguria, West Pokot.

The second phase was a national three-day event involving exhibitions showing pastoralists' art and cultural products, workshops on various thematic areas, traditional performance by pastoralists from different parts of the country and lastly a regional forum that brought together local and regional CSO representatives, Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) representatives, EALA representatives, and other critical stakeholders in the pastoralism sector.

Papers were presented on the following sub thematic themes: Social cultural development in Pastoralist's areas- Education and health, Economic development –Livestock production, infrastructure development, Community safety –Conflict management and pastoral land rights.

At the end of the meeting a number of recommendations were arrived at including the need for pastoralists to stop depending on external actors (e.g. food relief, donors) and take responsibility and act themselves for example by organizing themselves and benefiting politically. They should also stop internal fighting amongst themselves (e.g. through cattle rustling) but have a united front in solution to their challenges and focus on development.

For more details about the KPW or a copy of the reports, please contact the KPW Coordinator, Yobo Rubin at yobo_cemiride@hotmail.com.

(Report by Alexandriah Muhanji)

3. CBNRM Workshop held

A workshop on **Community Based Natural Resource Management** (CBNRM) organized by African Conservation Centre, East African Wildlife Society, Sand County Foundation Community Based Conservation Network and Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania entitled *Taking Stock of Community-based Natural Resource Management in East Africa* was held in Arusha, Tanzania from October 4-7, 2004. In attendance were natural resource practitioners from the East African region. The workshop was held as a preparatory phase to a conference to be held in 2005 on natural resource management and community involvement.

The workshop focused on the presentation of a number of case studies and reviews from the three countries looking at a variety of geographical settings and circumstances. The aim of these case studies was to provide empirically based analyses of CBNRM in the respective local and national contexts which, when taken together, will improve the overall understanding of key regional issues, trends, and challenges. Written and presented case studies included an

examination of the biological, economic, and institutional aspects of CBNRM in its varying settings and contexts.

During the workshop the Programme Manager of PCS-EA made a presentation on the programme and how it is working to reinforce pastoral civil society in East Africa and build/ strengthen their capacity to articulate and implement their members' vision of their own development.

The workshop provided an opportunity for increased networking among different CBNRM practitioners in the region as well as *improved links and communications among existing networks*.

For more information on the workshop, contact Fred Nelson of Sand County Foundation, e-mail: fnelson@habari.co.tz

(Report by John Letai)

Coming Soon: A review of forthcoming events of interest to pastoral civil societies

World Herders Council (WHC) Meeting to be held in Tanzania

The World Herders Council in collaboration with PINGO's forum will host a meeting in Arusha, Tanzania from 21st to 25th February 2005. The theme of the meeting will be '*What kind of training do herders need? Suggestions for NGO's and other stakeholders*'.

Since its inception, the WHC has held meetings in Africa, Europe and Asia on a variety of themes. Their most recent meeting was held in Niger in January 2004 on the theme, *Herders' Access to Natural Resources*.

The programme sponsored participants to the last year's meeting and will also be participating in this year's meeting.

For more details about the meeting or the council, send an email to Peter Hofs, peterhofs@condial.org or visit www.condial.org

CEMIRIDE, A Profile

The Centre for Minority Rights Development [CEMIRIDE] is a registered national Non-Governmental Organization working in the area of public policy to ensure that the interests of minority communities and groups including indigenous peoples are elaborated, protected and promoted. These groups include but are not limited to pastoralists, hunter-gatherers, and fisher communities, linguistic, ethnic and religious minorities.

The mission of CEMIRIDE is '*an advocacy organization that strengthens the capacities of minorities and indigenous peoples in Kenya and Africa to secure their rights*' This mission is informed by a vision of '*A society that recognizes and respects minorities and indigenous peoples' rights in all social, political and economic development processes*'.

It achieves this through four broad programmatic areas, namely, Governance, Economic Empowerment, Anti Discrimination and Diversity, and Justice Promotion programmes. Each programme area is buttressed by an **information** component which seeks to avail information on the situation of minorities including indigenous peoples; an **education** component which seeks to educate, inform, and highlight minority/indigenous peoples' issues to communities, governments, policy makers and various institutions; and an **advocacy** component which pursues the mainstreaming of minority rights into the laws, policies and practices of governments, communities and institutions.

CEMIRIDE was the national focal point for minorities including indigenous peoples (as defined above) throughout the constitutional review process (through the Pastoralists and Hunter Gatherers Ethnic Minorities Network, PHGEMN), and sought to ensure that critical issues affecting these communities are enshrined in the constitution.

It has also spearheaded various awareness campaigns through the media, seeking to facilitate an editorial policy that is more responsive and sensitive to minorities and to create visibility and awareness with regard to minority rights issues.

CEMIRIDE has also recently acquired observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, enabling it to bring to this regional forum issues affecting minorities in the country.

The Organisation structure of CEMIRIDE has an Executive Director, who works with four Programme Officers, administering the center. Further, the International Council of seven eminent scholars and community leaders has also been put in place to oversee the overall functions of the organization and ensure the meeting of set out short and long- term goals

The Center has either completed or is ongoing with the following:

- Minority Rights Protection – the Media and Legal professionals Nexus: WCAR follow up Workshop (19th October 2001): Aimed at establishing a common ground between Lawyers and Journalists in protecting Minorities in Kenya. Funded by friends of CEMIRIDE.

- Media Round Table: WCAR follow up Roundtables (26th January-4th February 2002): Aimed at better editorial Policy for Minorities in the mainstream media. Funded by (MRG)

- The Constitution review project: a two-year project which sought to strengthen the participation of Pastoralists and hunter-gatherer communities in Kenya's Constitution Review process.

It encompassed civic education of communities through regional networks, expert development and synthesis of views, presentation of views, monitoring the Constitutional Conference, lobbying for positions favorable to these communities and publication and wide dissemination of positions. This project has been co-funded by ILO Project on indigenous populations, Minority Rights Group International (MRG), Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), Oxfam (GB), International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs, IWGIA, UNDP (Kenya) and Arid Lands Resource Management Project.

- The Ogiek Micro Study, a one year research project which focused on the impact of national development processes on the Ogiek community in Kenya, the report of which was launched in February 2003 by the Minister for Lands as well as national and international advocacy on the recommendations through the media, policy makers, development actors, UN Agencies, notably UNEP. Funded by Minority Rights Group International through its Minority Rights and Development programme

- Project to revive and strengthen the capacity of Pastoralists' Parliamentary Group, PPG to effectively advocate for positive policy towards pastoralists particularly and other minority groups generally. This project has benefited from support of MRG and Oxfam (GB)

- Project to increase the use of international and regional mechanisms to bring redress to minority communities and groups. This activity has mainly focused on submitting a communication to the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights on behalf of the Endorois community in Baringo as well as engaging the United Nations Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples with regard to the non-citizenship status of the Nubians.

It has received support from International Commission of Jurists (Kenya Chapter), MRG's Legal Cases Programme and the Law Faculty of Colorado University. Under this project also, various legal cases have been commenced at the domestic courts in Kenya.

- Project to bring to the international fora issues related to minority communities in Kenya. This has included making submissions before the Committee on Human Rights and Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination on behalf of the Nubian, Watta and Ogiek communities, engaging the European Union on trade issues under the Cotonou framework and submitting shadow reports to various treaty monitoring bodies. The British High Commission, DANIDA, IWGIA, and MRG have variously supported this project among others.

- The Kenya Pastoral Week project brought pastoral issues to the national consciousness through various activities including policy papers presentations, theatre and cultural performances, media documentaries, advertisements, photographic and products exhibition and a food festival. SNV, Arid Lands Project and the Private sector funded this project

Contact

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