



Pastoral Civil Society

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

Issue no 5

January – March 2004

Editorial

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

In this issue have covered reports of activities for the first quarter of this year and planned events for the next quarter. We have also introduced the ‘resources’ section dedicated to any research reports, books, technology or other relevant innovation you would like to share with other partners. We also provide information on the 2nd Partners Meeting and Thematic Workshop coming up in April.

We informed you in our last issue that we had recruited a Programme Manager who would be joining us in January. We are pleased to present a profile of John Pamita Letai in this issue. We also present a profile of OSILIGI, a pastoral civil organization in Kenya with which John is closely associated.

Enjoy the Newsletter, and do let us have your comments, feedback and information that you may wish to share with other readers across East Africa and beyond.

Editor

Programme News

During this past quarter, we held a meeting in Nakuru with a group of experts to jump-start the design of the generic training course on pastoralism. We also commissioned the study on economics of pastoralism and held a one-day meeting with the consultants in Nairobi to agree a common methodology for the research. In addition we continued with the distribution of the 2nd 6-month report and participated in various networking activities. The Programme Manager reported on duty at the beginning of January and spent the period orienting himself with the programme and getting to know our partners across the

region. More detailed reports on our activities for the period January to March appear below.

1. Programme Manager lands running...literally

John Pamita Letai took up his appointment as the Programme Manager of PCS-EA literally on the run. While his duty station is Nakuru, John started his work in Niger where he led the East African delegation to the World Herders Council meeting in Niamey in early January. In a sense this situation gave John a clear idea of what his work was going to entail. According to Ced Hesse, "we do not expect the Programme

Manager of PCS-EA to be sitting in Nakuru. This is a regional programme that works with pastoral civil society and John's work will for the most part be out there with pastoralists where the real work is".

John is well suited to this "mobile" appointment, as his first three months in office have proved. Born in Laikipia 34 years ago, John Pamita Letai is married to Anne Mamerian who works with Postal Corporation of Kenya in Nanyuki. They have three children Jecinta, Lilian and Nosim, the last one having only arrived two months ago.

He brings to his appointment a record of advocacy for pastoral issues that should prove invaluable to the Programme. He is chair of the Board of OSILIGI, the Nanyuki-based pastoralist NGO renowned for having taken on British soldiers for the damages and injury caused by unexploded mines left behind after military exercises. The case, which drew international attention, was concluded by the British military making huge payments in compensation to victims of the mines. John who previously worked with OSILIGI as Development Coordinator and Fund-raiser played an active role in this groundbreaking case. He is also chair of the Organisation of Indigenous Peoples of Africa with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

John's most recent appointment was with The International Committee of the Red Cross where he worked as a Pastoral Food Economist/Livestock Specialist. He is widely traveled in Kenya and Tanzania and has worked in Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan. He summarizes to us his vision for the Programme in the following words:

"A pastoral civil society programme capable of bringing together the pastoral family to influence policies that impact on them and their livelihoods"

2. Generic Training Course on Pastoralism and Policy in East Africa

On 1st and 2nd March 2004, we hosted a two-day meeting of experts to provide input into the process of designing the pastoral resources pillar of the generic training course on pastoralism and policy. The meeting was held at RECONCILE and attended by four range ecology and natural resources experts drawn from universities, research institutions and projects in Kenya.

Over the two days, the experts discussed various issues relating to the design of the course with Ced Hesse, Alais Morindat and John Letai. The experts were briefed on the overall programme concept, the proposed generic training course and the pastoral resources pillar of the training course, which was the subject matter of the meeting. They were invited to comment on the template for this pillar, which had been modeled upon the course as presented in the Sahel (see *Pastoral Civil Society Issue No. 3*)

The experts expressed support for the idea of the generic training course and made useful comments for improvement of the template. They also expressed their interest to contribute to the design of the training course and to be available to deliver aspects of the course once it is ready.

Following the meeting, we commissioned Dr. Wellington Ekaya of the Department of Range Management at the University of Nairobi to provide relevant information on the range of factors that influence the quality and quantity of natural pastures in East Africa. We shall presently commission a similar exercise with respect to the other two pillars of the course, i.e., livestock and labour. In this connection, contacts have already been made with a number of experts at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro, Tanzania and negotiations are under way to engage a consultant. We are hopeful that similar contacts shall shortly be made with experts in Uganda.

Watch this space for updates on the training course.

(Report by John Pamita Letai)

3. ERETO: Planning Meeting held in Ngorongoro

A planning meeting was held at ERETO Ngorongoro Pastoralist Project in February to agree on the workplan for the partnership between ERETO and the Programme for the period 2004/5. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the Programme Manager to be introduced to the new team at ERETO. It was attended on the part of the Programme by Ced Hesse, Alais Morindat, Michael Ochieng Odhiambo and John Pamita Letai.

The new team at ERETO led by the Project Manager, Samuel Ole Saiguran and the Project Adviser Robert Sillevis was updated on the programme, while they in turn gave a report on their inception process and provided details of their activities to date. The ERETO team confirmed that they shall be represented at the forthcoming partners meeting in Nakuru, while the Programme shall attend the ERETO Steering Committee meeting in Arusha.

The need for better and more regular communication between the ERETO team and the Programme team was agreed. The two groups agreed to work closely to ensure that the objectives of the policy component of ERETO II are realised. Minutes of the meeting are available at ERETO and at RECONCILE.

For more details on ERETO II please contact the Programme Manager at samuel.ereto@habari.co.tz.

(Report by Michael Ochieng Odhiambo)

4. ERETO Steering Committee Meeting held in Arusha

The Programme was represented at the second meeting of the Steering Committee of ERETO II held at Arusha on 19th March 2004. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and brings together key stakeholders of the project including the Government of Tanzania, the

Royal Danish Embassy, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, the Ngorongoro District Government and the Pastoralists of Ngorongoro. The Executive Director of RECONCILE and the Programme Manager are incorporated into the Steering Committee as Resource Persons on account of the Programme being funded by DANIDA through the project.

The meeting received the report of the Project Implementation Unit on the Inception Period and approved the workplan for the period March to December 2004.

For more details about ERETO Ngorongoro Pastoralist Project, please contact the Project Manager, Samuel Ole Saiguran (samuel.ereto@habari.co.tz)

(Report by Michael Ochieng Odhiambo)

5. Second Regional Research Under Way: Making the Economic Argument for Pastoralism

The programme has recently commissioned yet another regional study. This is the second regional study, the first one having been on the Perceptions of Pastoralism. The current study is on the Economics of Pastoralism in East Africa. It shall look at the economic contribution of pastoralism to local and national economies in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The need for this study arose from the findings of the Perceptions study, which showed that one of the prevailing perceptions about pastoralism is that it does not make any meaningful contribution to the economies of the three countries. This perception explains the reluctance of governments to invest in pastoral areas and the tendency to try and transform pastoralists into settled cultivators.

The study is being undertaken in Kenya by Dr. Dickson Nyariki of the Department of Range Management at the University of Nairobi, in Uganda by Mr. Frank Muhereza of the Centre for Basic Research, and in Tanzania by Prof. N.H Madulu of the Institute for Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es salaam.

Watch this space for updates on the research.

For more details about the research, contact the programme.

(Report by Michael Ochieng Odhiambo)

6. Pastoral Communications Strategy Workshop in July

We finally have dates for the Pastoral Communications Strategy workshop. It shall be held at a venue in East Africa between 11th and 14th July. As previously intimated, the workshop shall seek to design a strategy for communicating pastoralism to policy makers and others across the region. It is a follow up to the research on Perceptions of Pastoralism and an effort to address a finding in that study to the effect that one of the key reasons for the prevalence of negative perceptions about pastoralism is the negative way in which the media portrays pastoralists and their way of life.

If you are interested in attending the meeting or otherwise participating in this initiative, please contact Michael Ochieng Odhiambo (ekmoo@africaonline.co.ke)

7. Programme Visitors (compiled by Nickson Orwa)

The programme is becoming increasingly active in the region as is demonstrated by the number of visitors that were hosted during this past quarter. Sample the following:

- i) in February, we had the pleasure of hosting a delegation of pastoralist leaders and activists from Tanzania organised by the Tanzania Pastoralists and Hunter-Gatherers Organisation (see main story below).
- ii) in March, the programme played host to Ced Hesse and Alais Morindat, both of them key members of the programme team based at the Drylands Programme of IIED and MS-TCDC respectively. They visited for consultations with

RECONCILE, meetings with partners in Kenya and to participate in the expert consultation on the pastoral resources pillar of the generic training course (see story above)

- iii) while Ced and Alais were here, we hosted Dr. Wellington Ekaya and Prof. J.I. Kinyamario of Nairobi University, Dr. Godfrey Lukoye of Kenyatta University, Mr. William Ngoyawu Mnene of Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and Mr. Joseph Miaron of Amboseli/Tsavo Group Ranches Conservation Association who joined us in a meeting on the design of the first pillar of the generic training course on pastoralism and policy in East Africa

News from our Partners

1. Kenya: Oxfam hosts Exchange Visitors from West Africa

Oxfam hosted four pastoral association officials from West Africa on a tour of Kenya during the month of February with the aim of sharing experiences between the two parts of Africa. The team comprised of a representative from three partner organizations from Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso and the Oxfam regional pastoral coordinator.

The team made a three day field visit to Isiolo courtesy of Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC). In Isiolo the team met with livestock traders, the peace and development committee, the district Arid Lands' office and other NGOs. The visitors said that they were struck by how active women were in livestock trade and by the effectiveness of the drought management system. In Mali, for example, a drought management exists, but it covers only agricultural communities. They also found the approach to peace building innovative and instructive.

For their part, the Oxfam team in Kenya appreciated the long-standing experience of

building pastoral associations in West Africa, which now extends to the development of a sub-regional network called *Bilital Maroobe*. They were also very interested to hear about the proposal for pastoral ‘bank’ to which 11 countries are subscribing. BADEL (Bank of Africa for Development and Livestock Economy) is an initiative of the network APESH (Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and Savanna: www.apesh.org)

While in Nairobi the visitors also met with representatives of other organizations working on pastoral development including the PCS-EA programme and with members of pastoral organizations and local government who happened to be visiting from Wajir. The Wajir and West Africa groups found out that they had a lot in common, particularly in their struggles to ensure that pastoralism is understood and respected by governments and others as a viable production system and a way of life. However this meeting also illustrated the language barriers that must be overcome if closer direct contact between communities across Africa is to be built (with the conversation moving between Somali, French and English). Nevertheless both regions hope to build on this visit and to forge closer links between the East and West, particularly through sharing experiences and ideas. (Report by Izzy Birch. Email: ibirch@oxfam.org.uk)

2. TANZANIA: TAPHGO Organizes visits to Botswana and Kenya to look at privatisation of livestock production

Tanzania Pastoralists and Hunter Gatherers Organization (TAPHGO) organised fact-finding visits to Botswana and Kenya in the months of January and February respectively, with a view to finding out about implications of privatisation of livestock production for pastoral livelihoods. The visits were aimed at establishing an informed basis for TAPHGO to engage the Government of Tanzania in its move to

privatize livestock production. According to the government, the move seeks to make the livestock sector more productive and highly commercial along the *Botswana Model* whose main characteristic is the division of land into fenced ranches, exclusively for commercial livestock keeping.

Kenya visit

The Kenya visit was coordinated by RECONCILE. In the delegation were Hon Michael Lekule, MP Longido Constituency, Mr. Israel Ole Karyongi, Chairman, TAPHGO, Mr. Moses Sangale, Coordinator, TAPHGO and Mr. Eliamana Lalataika, Programme Officer, TAPHGO. The team visited a number of government departments and held discussions with pastoralists and their Parliamentary representatives, as well as representative of pastoral civil society organizations in Kenya.

They visited and held talks with officials at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development and the Arid Lands Resource Management Project at the Office of the President. They also met and held fruitful discussions with MPs Ekwe Ethuro (Turkana Central) and Stephen Ole Ntutu (Narok South).

Civil society organisations visited included the Center for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), SNV Kajiado, AU/IBAR, Kenya Land Alliance, World Vision in Narok and Kenya Livestock Marketing Council. The team also visited a group ranch in Narok, in addition to holding discussions with professionals in the fields of natural resources, soil science and livestock at Egerton University in Njoro.

Botswana Visit

The delegation to Botswana consisted of Hon Mathew Ole Timan, MP Ngorongoro Constituency, Mr. Zephaniah Ubwani, environmental journalist, Mr. Eliamana Lalataika, Programme Officer, TAPHGO and Dr Paul Makenzi, Lecturer Egerton University and Associate Researcher, RECONCILE.

The team found out that what is referred to as the *Botswana model* involves the production of cattle through fenced ranches. They identified both the advantages and disadvantages of the model. Some of the advantages of the model include the ability to control infectious livestock diseases, maintenance of quality cattle breeds, protection of livestock from predators, and the reduction of conflicts between livestock keepers and agriculturalists.

Negative aspects of the system include restriction of livestock in one place which might lead to overgrazing, restriction of free access to natural resources by fencing, restriction of wildlife migratory routes, and the marginalisation of poor pastoralists who cannot meet the conditions for owning fenced ranches.

Feedback Workshop

Following the visits, TAPHGO organised a feedback workshop in Arusha attended by high-level personnel from government, donor representatives, members of parliament from pastoral community, civic leaders and pastoral civil society. The meeting was also attended by the Executive Director of RECONCILE, the Programme Manager of this Programme and the Deputy Director of Livestock Production in Kenya's Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

During the workshop both teams shared their experiences, feelings and observations with the participants. In the end it was decided that the same findings be presented to wider stakeholders of pastoralist representatives at the grassroots level to create awareness while fine-tuning the recommendations for presentation to relevant government authorities for action.

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

(Report by Ronald Athoo, Paul Makenzi and John Letai)

3. Uganda: Uganda Pastoralist Task Force hosts Regional Pastoralist Inter-Parliamentary Workshop

A workshop of Pastoralist MPs from the Horn of Africa was held in Kampala, Uganda in mid-March. Hosted by Uganda Pastoralist Task Force and organised by Panos Eastern Africa and Oxfam GB in Uganda, the meeting was attended by MPs representing pastoralist constituencies in Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda and representatives of pastoral civil society and organisations working with pastoralists in these countries and Somalia.

The two-day meeting was formally opened by the Ugandan Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Dr. Kisamba Mugerwa, himself a renowned researcher on pastoral issues. The Programme was represented at the meeting by the Executive Director of RECONCILE who made a presentation entitled *Making the Economic Argument for Pastoralism* and prepared two short briefs on Pastoral Natural Resources and Economics of Pastoralism, to be published by the Task Force. A summary of the myths and perceptions about pastoralism identified by the Programme's research on Perceptions of Pastoralism was included in the workshop pack distributed to participants.

For more details about the workshop and for a copy of the workshop report, please contact Dr Sarah Ossiya, Coordinator, Pastoralist Communication Program, PANOS (saraho@panoseasternafrica.org.ug)
(Report by Michael Ochieng Odhiambo)

4. UK: IIED finalises *Haramata* Evaluation

The Drylands Programme of IIED have finalised the evaluation of their flagship newsletter *Haramata* and its accompanying issue papers. The newsletter, which has been published since 1988 covers a wide range of issues pertaining to development in the drylands, especially of Africa, while the

issue papers give more detailed analyses of specific issues.

The evaluation sought to establish whether these publications are achieving their purpose, and involved discussions with IIED staff, analysis of questionnaires sent out with the bulletin in early 2003, and reports of peer group meetings of readers held in Dakar and Nairobi. The meeting in Nairobi was organised by RECONCILE in September 2003.

The evaluation report which is available at RECONCILE confirms the critical role of the newsletter and issue papers and makes recommendations on how they can be made even better. If you are interested in being placed on the mailing list for Haramata and the issue papers, please send your name and mailing address to the Editor of this Newsletter (nickson@reconcile-ea.org)

Recent events and Meetings

1. The World Herders Council Meeting held in Niger

We reported to you in our last issue that the World Herders Council (WHC) planned to host a meeting in Niamey, Niger from the 12th to 16th January 2004 on the theme "**Access to natural resources by pastoral groups - a permanent struggle without sustainable solution**". We can now confirm that the meeting took place. The programme was represented at the meeting by a delegation of four participants drawn from the three East African countries and led by Programme Manager, Mr. John Letai. Our special word of thanks to the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development Dar es salaam who kindly funded the participation of the lady delegate, Sabdiyo Dido.

Participants at the meeting included representatives of pastoral civil society and individuals from West and East Africa, India and Switzerland. Major development partners such as GTZ, Oxfam-GB, SNV attended, as well as Government officials. International NGOs from Niger and neighbouring countries were also represented.

The meeting discussed key aspects of pastoralism and their implications for herders' livelihoods. The involvement of stakeholders (Governments, donors and Pastoralist interest groups) in trying to influence pastoral production systems and way of life was also discussed. Participants also visited a herders' village and government ranch to get a sense of the different contexts of pastoralism in Niger, a country in which the economy depends almost entirely on livestock production.

The meeting proposed strategies for WHC's engagement with governments to stimulate debate on issues related to pastoralists and their production system. Participants mandated WHC to "*intervene at state level to bring pastoralists issues to state attention, to create in each country a network of herders who can engage their governments on issues affecting them, elevate the image of herders at national, regional and international levels, mobilize different partners for negotiation and establish different methods of approaching pastoralists issues adaptable to specific country situations and consider unity as the only way for herders' success*".

The next meeting shall be held in East Africa at a place and on dates to be communicated later.

Comments from the delegates

"...the workshop was useful as it enabled me to appreciate the vegetation that we have and the need to protect it so it does not become like what obtains in Niger..."**Geofrey Karamuzi, NYDA, Uganda**

"...the meeting helped me appreciate even more that natural resource related conflicts are best solved by traditional institutional set-ups, since formal administrative structures lack the basic understanding of the complex conflict scenario, especially in the pastoralists' areas..."

Sabdiyo B-Dido, SNV Laikipia, Kenya

"...The conference provided an opportunity to jointly revisit the pastoral vision in Africa

and worldwide... A vision that would endeavor to realize the pastoralists' struggles to self-determination by empowering and involving them in such processes so as to be able to influence government policies and legislation affecting them or their well-being..."

Moses Ole Neselle, Coordinator, KINNAPA Development Programme (Livestock and Agriculture Development Unit-seconded to ILRI). Tanzania

For more details on the meeting and the world herder's council, contact Hedy Buhlmann at condial@bluewin.ch, or visit www.condial.org

(Report by John Pamita Letai)

2. MPIDOLOOODO hosts regional conference on Indigenous Peoples in Nairobi

Mainyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation (MPIDOLOOODO) hosted a regional conference on Indigenous Peoples in Nairobi in January. The conference title was *Promoting Awareness of and Strengthening the Capacity for Active Participation in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues among Indigenous Peoples in East Africa.*

The two and half days event was meant to prepare participants for the 3rd session of the UN Permanent Forum. The objective was to strengthen the contribution of indigenous organizations from East Africa in the work of the Permanent Forum, which will be held in New York from 10th to 22nd of May 2004.

The conference aimed to create awareness on the operational nature of the Forum to indigenous peoples in East Africa as many UN operational programs are directed at areas in which indigenous peoples live in the region and hence they should benefit from them. The conference provided an important venue where indigenous peoples received information which will enable them to have a more direct impact in projects and

programs being implemented by the UN, that affect them directly.

The organizers believe that the best way for a broad number of indigenous organizations in the region to receive this information would be by holding regional conferences, organized by indigenous peoples themselves to share their views, experiences, practices and make possible contributions and recommendations on relevant issues for indigenous peoples in East Africa that should be presented to the Permanent Forum from time to time

For more details contact Joseph ole Simel at mpidolodo@insightkenya.com

(Report by John Letai)

3. PACT ISGM Capstone Conference held in Nairobi

A meeting held in Nairobi early March marked the end of a unique initiative funded by USAID REDSO to support institutional capacity building for NGOs with a regional mandate in Eastern Africa. The initiative dubbed ISGM (for Institutional Strengthening and Grant Management) Programme was implemented by PACT and MWENGO and benefited civil society organisations in the Horn of Africa, providing support in areas that are rarely funded by donors. They supported organisations to buy office equipment, pay rent and salaries and develop both governance and management skills for sustainable operations.

A number of pastoralist NGOs and other NGOs working with pastoralists received support under the initiative, including RECONCILE. At the Capstone conference these organisations shared their experiences and reviewed the implementation of the initiative. Resources developed by the grantees during the life of the programme were also distributed.

For more details about ISGM, please contact PACT Kenya (pactke@pactke.org)

(Report by Michael Ochieng Odhiambo)

Coming Soon

1. The Second Partners Meeting and Thematic Workshop to be held in April

The second meeting of Programme Partners is scheduled for Utafiti Hall Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya from 25th to 28th April 2004. Partners meetings provide an opportunity for our partners, who include representatives of pastoral civil society, researchers with a pastoral bias, the media, development partners and donors to meet and review the progress of the programme. This meeting follows the inaugural partners meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania at the commencement of the programme in November 2002. We also see the meeting as an important networking event for pastoral development practitioners in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The two-day event shall include a thematic workshop on *Economics of Pastoralism in East Africa*, the regular partners meeting at which a new Core Advisory Group shall be constituted, and a meeting of the new Core Advisory Group. We are also providing an opportunity this time round for partners to make presentations on project ideas that they wish to share with participants. The next issue of the newsletter shall contain reports on the proceedings of the meeting.

For more details on the meeting contact John Letai Programme Manager-PCS-EA, letai@reconcile-ea.org or jletai@yahoo.com

2. UNDP to launch Global Pastoral Programme in Nairobi meeting

A major meeting is scheduled for Nairobi in mid April. Hosted by the Drylands Development Centre of UNDP, the meeting shall bring to Nairobi key actors and researchers on pastoralism to discuss the proposed Global Pastoral Programme. The objective of the meeting will be strengthening opportunities for co-operation and co-financing while developing and coordinating regional/global activities. The programme has been invited to participate as

a stakeholder on pastoral issues in the region.

We will be giving out a report on the meeting and its outcome in the next issue of the newsletter (don't miss a copy) (Report by John Letai)

Resources

3. Community Based Animal Healthcare: The How-To-Do-It-Videos

The Community Based Animal Health and Participatory Epidemiology (CAPE) Unit of African Union/Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) have produced useful videos describing key issues to consider when setting up a community-based animal health system.

These videos are available free of charge on a 'first come, first serve basis'. If you are interested in receiving a copy, kindly send your request to CapeNews@oau-ibar.org and specify: your preference for PAL, NTSC or CEMAC format, your preference for video tapes or DVDs and your full postal address.

4. An Audit of the Livestock Marketing Status in Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan Volume 1 and 2 by Yacob Akiliu in collaboration with Patrick Irungu and Aleyamehu Reda

These two volumes are the product of a study initiated and financed by the CAPE unit of OAU-IBAR'S PACE programme on the assumption that market development is key to the success of other development programmes in pastoral areas. The studies focus on Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan where livestock marketing constraints and recurring drought are adversely impacting the livelihoods of pastoralists. Kindly send an email to cape@oau-ibar.org for a copy.

This Quarter's Profile

ORGANIZATION FOR SURVIVAL OF IL-LAIKIPIAK INDIGENOUS MAASAI GROUP INITIATIVE (OSILIGI)

Organization for Survival of IL-Laikipiak Indigenous Maasai Group Initiative (OSILIGI) is a community based human rights and development non-governmental organization established in 1994 and legally registered in 1995. OSILIGI is recognized under the international decade on the rights of indigenous people, as an indigenous peoples organization (IPO) and is accredited to UN-ECSOC under resolution 1995/32.

OSILIGI's main objective is to facilitate a process of self-empowerment among the Il-Laikipiak Maasai community focusing on poverty reduction strategies that encourage innovative and productive use of indigenous skills and practices, improved access and informed/genuine participation in decision-making structures, capacity building and human rights awareness.

The main sector areas of the organization are Education, Primary Health Care (PHC), Lobby and Advocacy and Productive Health. The following activities are undertaken under these sectors

- Human Rights Awareness Creation
- Eradication of violence against women through education
- Girl-child advocacy for education and other cultural based injustices that infringe her rights.
- A non-formal education program –“**shepherds education scheme**” that targets out-of-school children. It's a flexible program that fits into the ways of life of the target community (Maasai). It is run by Nomadic teachers who man mobile schools.
- Primary health Care projects to improve the quality of life and dignity of Laikipia Maasai through health education, information dissemination and training. The main areas of concern are basic sanitation &hygiene and HIV/AIDS targeting women and youth.
- Productive sector: The focus is income generating activities, livestock (breed) improvement and integrated food security
- Cross cutting themes: include gender, and resource mobilization.

Osiligi has been vocal and successful in the area of human rights advocacy. They succeeded in advocating for the British Government to pay for the loss of life and injuries caused by munitions left by its armies training in those areas. More than 250 Maasai of northern Kenya have been paid about 525 Million Kenya shillings.

OSILIGI is a membership organization with three categories of membership namely ordinary membership with voting rights at the Annual General Meeting, affiliate members who are groups and institutions and Friends of OSILIGI who are individuals or organizations that identify with the work of OSILIGI and it's aspirations.

The highest decision making organ of the organization is the annual general meeting that meets twice a year. The meeting elects the management board that formulate policies and ensure they are implemented by the secretariat. This board meets quarterly with the programme manager as its secretary.

The secretariat is run by the programme manager with the help of sector coordinators who are in-charge of programmes. Under the sector coordinators are the field staff that are in contact with communities through project implementation on a day-to-day basis.

OSILIGI is in partnership with IL-Laikipiak Maasai community, Action Aid Kenya (Northern Region Office), Care Kenya, Ms-K (Danish Association for International Development), UN-office of higher commissioner for Human Rights Voluntary Funds for Decade on Indigenous people, International Working Groups on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), New Zealand government, Swiss Catholic Latent Fund and the Government of Kenya.

Contact

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