



Pastoral Civil Society

Quarterly *Newsletter* of RECONCILE/IIED

Programme on *Reinforcement of Pastoral Civil Society in East Africa*

Issue no 2 April - June 2003

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

The first issue was well received by the few of you who got in touch. You praised the format of the newsletter, its length and the mix of information. We are quite encouraged by your reaction. We shall endeavour to make the newsletter a useful source of information for you. We will however be happier if it becomes a platform for the lively exchange of ideas and information on pastoralism in the region. This can only happen if you make use of it to pass information and exchange ideas. We would like to hear more from you on what you are doing out there, and what you would like to see highlighted here.

Unfortunately, no one responded to the competition to choose a name for the newsletter. Should we assume that this means you are all happy with the name we chose? We shall continue to use the name until we hear otherwise from you. Remember there is a prize for the reader whose suggested name is picked.

In this issue we summarise and present to you our activities since the last issue, the challenges we have faced and what we plan to do in the coming months. The highlight of this past quarter has been the completion of the regional study on perceptions of pastoralism in East Africa and the workshop on this theme held at MS-TCDC at the end of May.

Programme News

Since our last issue, we have carried out various activities under the programme. These include a consultancy on perceptions of pastoralism by non-pastoralists and policy makers and the presentation of the findings in a regional workshop in Arusha, Tanzania, 26th - 27th May 2003. The Core Advisory Group held its 3rd meeting immediately after the workshop. We are putting the final touches on the programme leaflet, and are in the process of recruiting the Programme Manager.

Regional Study on perceptions of pastoralism among non-pastoral actors

As part of the process of designing the generic course on pastoralism and policy in East Africa, we commissioned a regional study on perceptions of pastoralism among non-pastoral actors. A consultant based in Kenya, Dr. Paul Goldsmith did the Kenyan study, while the Uganda and Tanzania component of the study was undertaken by Mr. Peter Otim of the Centre for Basic Research (CBR) at Kampala. Alais Ole Morindat supported Peter in the Tanzania fieldwork.

The researchers interviewed representatives of civil society organisations, government ministries, as well as members of the media to establish not only the nature of perceptions that exist about pastoralism and pastoralists, but also the sources of these perceptions and why they persist.

The study confirmed that a lot of negative perceptions persist in the region about pastoralism and the pastoral way of life. These perceptions would not be such a big issue for us were it not for the fact that they continue to inform the course of policy action in pastoral areas of the region. Because these perceptions are held even by policy makers in government and other development organisations, it is important that they are addressed if the development of pastoral areas is to be put on course.

The study formed the basis of the workshop on perceptions of pastoralism. The feedback from the workshop is being used to improve and finalise the reports, which shall be disseminated to all of you. If you do not receive your copy, please contact us.

Workshop on perceptions of pastoralism

We hosted a workshop at MS-TCDC, Arusha, Tanzania, 26th to 27th May 2003. Entitled *Challenging the myths: A workshop on Perceptions of Pastoralism in East Africa*, the workshop was attended by over thirty participants from pastoral civil society, regional and national research institutes, and representatives of development partners from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The workshop received the research report in respect of Kenya. Peter Otim was unable to attend the workshop, so that the report of Uganda and Tanzania was not formally presented. However the issues from the report were adequately canvassed in the workshop discussions. Participants reviewed the list of perceptions and reduced them to four, namely, that pastoralism degrades the environment, that pastoralism is backward and pastoralists are resistant to change, that pastoralists are predisposed to violence, and that pastoralism contributes little to the national economies. They then considered the sources of these perceptions and why they persist, and agreed on arguments as well as strategies for challenging the perceptions.

The workshop report is being finalised and will be disseminated to all of you. Again, if you do not receive your copy, do not hesitate to contact us.

3rd CAG Meeting in Arusha

The Core Advisory Group [CAG] held its third meeting at Arusha immediately after the workshop. The meeting hosted by PINGOs Forum was held at the Golden Rose Hotel in downtown Arusha on 28th and 29th May. We had the pleasure of the participation of Alais Ole Morindat, the newly appointed Training Coordinator at MS-TCDC and Izzy Birch Oxfam's Regional Pastoral Programme Officer in the meeting. The meeting received and discussed the report on the first 6 months of the programme. It also reviewed and gave guidance on the recruitment of a Programme Manager, the regional study and workshop on perceptions of pastoralism, the design of the training course on pastoralism and policy in East Africa, the development of a website for the programme and one on pastoral policy, and the Mobile Peoples Conference at the World Parks Congress. It also agreed on the workplan for the next 12 months. Minutes of the CAG meeting are available at RECONCILE and we would be pleased to send you a copy. Just let us know.

Next steps in design of training course on pastoralism and policy

A draft template for the training has been designed and key resource people are being contacted within and outside the region. They shall be commissioned to assist in the design of the course, and may be required to assist in delivering parts of it. If you or any person known to you can be useful in this regard, please let us know. . We expect much of the next 12 months to be spent in putting together the training course. Once designed it will be tested for its content and pedagogic approach,

and we will in later months be asking for volunteers to help us do this. Let us know if you would be interested to be involved in this.

Other Programme Updates

Michael and Cleo update

Michael Wadleigh and Cleo Huggins visited East Africa and took photographs in Kenya (working with Joseph Simel and Manyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organisation (MPIDO) in Kajiado) and in Uganda (working with Godfrey Karamuzi and Nyabusozzi Development Association). The photographs once developed shall be posted on the pastoral policy website and also used for advocacy. Copies of the photographs shall be made available to the communities where they were taken. Michael and Cleo are contributing their time in helping the programme develop the pastoral policy website, and are expected back in the region in November 2003.

Programme Manager

We are recruiting a Programme Manager. The job advertisement has been sent out to all our partners, with details of the job description setting out responsibilities and tasks, profile of appropriate candidate, and salary scale. If you are interested in the job or know anyone who would be interested, please let us know so that we can send you further details.

Update on the World Park Congress

The CAG approved support to Joseph Ole Simel of MPIDO to participate in the meeting scheduled for September in Durban. Nonetheless we are still calling on pastoral civil society leaders interested in the congress to contact us.

Apologies

In the first issue of the newsletter we referred to Mr Alais Ole Morindat, the lead trainer in the programme hired at MS-TCDC as Alais Ole Marindat. We regret any inconveniences caused by the mix up.

Profile of the Pastoral CSO

We promised in the last issue to profile pastoral civil society organizations in every issue. In this issue we profile District Pastoral Association, (DPA), Wajir, Kenya.

Pastoral Civil Society Profile - District Pastoral Association of Wajir

The District Pastoral Association (DPA) was registered in the office of the District Social Development Officer, Wajir in 1996. It has recently applied to Registrar of Societies for registration as a society.

The Pastoral communities in Wajir District in their endeavour to empower themselves economically and solve their problems decided to form pastoral associations based at locational level. To date, there are 39 pastoral associations in the district out of which 29 are members of the D.P.A with a total membership of 7,955 families. Each pastoral association consists of a water user association, a women group, a youth group, a peace group, an environmental committee, a parent teachers association, and traditional birth attendant.

The pastoral associations have received support from Oxfam GB, Arid Land Resource Management Project (ALRMP) Nomadic Primary Health Care and Government departments.

The formation of the District Pastoral Association led to the harmonization of initiatives by various communities of Wajir. These communities got an opportunity to interact and share experiences especially during the Annual General Meeting and other ordinary gatherings thereby boosting understanding and promoting peace among the various clans who previously fought over water and pasture. They have also been able to jointly source for their needs (spares and drugs) at a designated place.

The association charges a membership fee of Kshs. 10,000, registration fee of Kshs. 1,000 and annual subscription fee of Kshs. 3,000. The D.P.A is managed and run by a 12-member board of Directors who are volunteers. Employed staff includes a project coordinator, account assistant and salesman for drugs and spares.

The activities undertaken by the association include organising, conducting and participating in meetings relevant to the association objectives, monitoring the activities of member associations, drought monitoring and management, management of the environment, identifying and supporting new associations eligible for DPA membership and otherwise promoting the objectives of the association.

The Association main challenges are

- Lack of proper funding
- Lack of transport
- Poor payment of dues by members
- Inadequate attention by volunteer board members leading to poor management
- Irregular board meetings
- Inadequate technical support for borehole maintenance

DPA endeavours to achieve tangible transformation of pastoral livelihoods to improve the living standards of the pastoralists of Wajir. To this end the association endeavours to promote peace and understanding among the pastoralist, avail cheap and subsidized drugs and borehole spare parts, address and curb the spread of HIV/Aids pandemic, supply radio calls to its members to enhance communication incase of emergencies and subsidized diesel for running boreholes. It liases with government departments in implementing policies beneficial to the pastoralists, addressing pastoralist problems and avoiding of conflict over grazing land

DPA is hoping to get donors to fund the projects highlighted above

CONTACTS

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Reactions to the first issue of *Pastoral Civil Society*

'I acknowledge receipt of the "Pastoral Civil Society" Issue Number One - The quarterly newsletter publication for RECONCILE/IIED Programme on reinforcement of the Pastoral Civil Society in East Africa. Indeed, it is quite heartening to note that something worthwhile is being done on the reinforcement of the Pastoral issues within the East African Region. It is encouraging to observe that a platform for sharing information on Pastoralists now exist and a structural framework such as the Core Advisory Group (CAG) to impart advise has been formulated.

I'm ready to engage and participate in whatever form, be it in research work or make any other

contribution pertaining to pastoralist work. To begin with, I wish to be fully involved in the planning and participation of the World Parks Congress Workshop on "Mobile People and Conservation" to be held on 8th September, 2003 in Durban.

Otherwise, keep up the good work and always feel free to call upon us for any assistance. The initiative is already overdue'. **Lucas Naikuni, Nairobi**

'I have received the newsletter, it looks very good, short, precise and to the point' **Irene Njumbi, ITDG-EA**

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