



Pastoralist Voices



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For a Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa

AFRICAN UNION AND THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

Pastoralists across Africa have called for a continent-wide policy framework that will begin to secure and protect the lives, livelihood and rights of pastoralists across Africa. The African Union has responded to this call and has begun formulating a Pastoral Policy Framework for the Continent.

Pastoralist Voices is a monthly bulletin that supports this process by promoting the voices and perspectives of pastoralists, and facilitating information flow between the major stakeholders in the policy process including pastoralists, the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and international agencies. To subscribe to **Pastoralist Voices** please write to: roceainfo@un.org

REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS FOR A PASTORAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA TO COMMENCE MAY 2008

The African Union Specialist Task Force—a steering committee recently established to oversee the formulation of a Pastoral Policy Framework for Africa—has approved a process for regional assessments of pastoral issues across the continent to commence in May this year. The assessments

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Members of the Specialist Task Force and representatives from the AU and UNOCHA Feb 2008, OCHA ROCEA

will document regional specificities of pastoral issues across Africa and will support regional consultations starting in September.

These assessments and consultations will produce regional background papers that will feed into the overall continental pastoral policy framework document. The February 19 – 20 inaugural meeting of the Specialist Task Force was hosted by the African Union (AU) Department of Rural

Economy and Agriculture (DREA) at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The meeting was attended by regional representatives across the continent appointed by the AU to serve as a steering committee for the duration of the African Pastoral Policy Framework formulation process. Participating at the two-day meeting were: Hon. Ali Wario, Chairper-

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STRENGTHENING PASTORAL LIVELIHOODS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH NOMADIC EDUCATION IN NIGERIA



Dr. Nafisatu Muhammad of Nigeria Feb 2008, OCHA ROCEA

Dr. Nafisatu Muhammad—the Deputy Chair of the African Union Specialist Task Force on the Pastoral Policy Framework for Africa—is convinced that education tailored to suit pastoral needs is the key to articulating and recognizing the contributions of pastoral livelihoods in the national economy in Nigeria and other African countries.

The Deputy Chair, also the Executive Secretary for the National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE) in Nigeria, has been working to ensure that the bleak

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PRIORITIZING GENDER ISSUES IN PASTORAL POLICY INITIATIVES IN AFRICA

Dr Jacqueline Sultan—a cattle breeder from Guinea and a member of the Specialist Task Force—believes strongly that any pastoral policy in Africa that fails to prioritize women’s role and needs in pastoral livelihoods will be overlooking a very key resource in building sustainable economies in pastoral communities across Africa. She said: “It is important to sensitize women who are key players in pastoral communities across Africa. Pastoral families are on the shoulders of women. Gender issues should be a key priority in a policy framework.”



Dr. Jacqueline Sultan of Guinea Feb 2008, OCHA ROCEA

A report by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Fund for Agricultural Develop-

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son of the Specialist Task Force and former Assistant Minister of Special Programs in Kenya; Dr. Nafisatu Mohammad, the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Nomadic Education in Nigeria and Deputy Chairperson of the Specialist Task Force; Dr. Christopher Ndi, the National Scientific Coordinator of Animal and Fisheries Production of the Institute of Agricultural Research for Development in Cameroon and Secretary/Rapporteur of the Specialist Task Force; and Dr. Beramgato Tarounga from Chad; the Vice Secretary/Rapporteur of the Specialist Task Force.

Other participating members at the inaugural meeting included Hon. Anab Abdulkadir MP. Pan-African Parliament and Mr. Nura Dida Chairman of Oromia Pastoralist Association from Ethiopia; Mr. Ibrahim Yousouf from Mali; Mme. Jackie Sultan of Responsible Filiere Laitiere of Guinea; and Mr. Mohammedi Salah, Chief of Cabinet of the Ministry of Rural Development



Hon. Ali Wario, Chairperson, Specialist Task Force Feb 2008, OCHA ROCEA

from Algeria. Mr. Michael Odhiambo of Resource Conflict Institute in Kenya is also a member of the Specialist Task Force but was unable to attend the inaugural meeting.

According to the Chair—Hon. Wario a pastoralist from Bura in Kenya—the regional assessments and consultations that have been approved by the Special-

ist Task Force will ensure that the diverse needs and issues facing pastoralists across Africa will be highlighted in the Policy framework. "It will ensure that we get a full picture of issues affecting pastoral livelihoods across the continent".

The regional assessments will unfold between May and August 2008 and will support the regional consultations which will commence in September 2008 and run until January 2009. It is expected that the policy framework will be presented to the African Union Heads of States and Government in July 2009 for adoption. The Specialist Task Force has been established as the quality assurance and guidance mechanism of the Pastoral Policy Framework Initiative which is implemented by AU-DREA. OCHA is accompanying the process by facilitating the full involvement of pastoralists at all stages of the policy development process, including facilitating the information flow between pastoralists and the African Union Commission.

Cont from pg 1 ...STRENGTHENING PASTORAL LIVELIHOODS

average of pastoral children who attend school and the subsequent low percentage of literacy rates in pastoral communities in Northern Nigeria is increased. Since Dr Muhammad joined the organization, 10,000 pastoralist children have been supported in attending school through the Nomadic Education Programme that tailors education to suit nomadic priorities.

According to NCME, the nomadic population in Nigeria accounts for 9.4 million of which 3.1 million are school-age children. The major constraints to their participation in formal and non-formal education are: their constant migrations/movements in search of water and pasture; the centrality of child labour to their production system; the irrelevance of the school curriculum to their nomadic way of life; and a land-tenure system that makes it difficult for the nomads to acquire land and settle in one place.

Recognizing that unless a special educational provision was made for the nomads, they would have no access to formal and non-formal education, the Federal Government

of Nigeria established the NCNE in 1989. The NCNE is charged with the implementation of the Nomadic Education Programme (NEP), "aimed at providing and widening access to quality basic education for nomads, boosting literacy and equipping them with skills and competences to enhance their well-being and participation in nation-building." To meet this challenge, the Commission is devising innovative approaches and strategies.

For example, because mobility is inherent in pastoral livelihoods, the Commission has innovatively incorporated radio into pastoral education strategies and adult education systems. The Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) experiment started in 1992 with a regular radio programme aimed at mobilizing, sensitizing and empowering communities through the provision of services for the benefit of nomadic groups. Radio listening groups have been established and function in the same way as mobile learning circles.

To date, the Commission has established 138 adult literacy centres and 239 registered radio listening groups. An Open Broadcasting Van has been equipped to reach out to the nomads as well. The use of the radio for nomadic education

has been successful in mobilizing and sensitizing nomadic pastoralists to the value of modern education for their children, encouraging nomads to enroll in adult literacy programmes, and informing nomads of modern animal husbandry practices as well as acquainting them with their civic responsibilities, including the formation of cooperative societies and radio listening groups.

With the current increase and growth in the number of nomadic pastoralists able to assess and contribute to the policy processes for a viable pastoral economy in Nigeria, Dr. Muhammad is convinced that pastoralism will continue to grow to meet Nigeria's population increase and national strategies towards climate change adaptation. "An educated pastoral community in Nigeria will be empowered to articulate and affirm its role in the economy and nutrition of Nigeria, as well as participating in policies to advance the viability of pastoral livelihoods."

Cont from pg 1 ...PRIORITIZING GENDER ISSUES

ment supports Sultan's position. The report: 'Women Pastoralist: Preserving Traditional Knowledge Facing Modern Challenges' published in 2007 notes; "Women play a pivotal role in the pastoralist way of life, assuming diverse responsibilities with regard to the livestock, the land and the household. In the course of their daily tasks, they have developed an intimate knowledge of natural resource management, which they put into practice for the benefit of both their communities and the environment. However, their knowledge and capabilities have not been fully recognized, and they are often excluded from the decision-making process."

The report also notes that in times of scarcity of natural resources, while stress and hardship rise for everyone, it is women who are most burdened with the increased workload as they struggle to compensate. "Moreover, their ability to respond to economic opportunities is often constrained by traditional beliefs about gender roles in pastoral societies. In general, women lack time, financial resources and the networks necessary to take advantage of any such opportunities."

But the report is quick to note that women must not be perceived as just victims. It observes: "Women are usually the ones responsible for crop cultivation and obtaining water and firewood and thus their experience with natural resource management and food security is very extensive, particularly in Africa." Given the chance, women pastoralist have proven highly capable of finding alternative sources of income, particularly during periods of intense drought in the drylands, and of acquiring the necessary skills to do so. Prioritizing women's issues for Sultan will entail "as a start, bringing women into pastoral policy formulation processes to voice out their needs."

IMPLEMENTATION AS THE ULTIMATE GOAL IN A PASTORAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA

In his opening and welcoming remark to the inaugural meeting of the Specialist Task Force for a Pastoral Policy Framework for Africa on Tuesday 19 February, African Union Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture Dr. Ahmadu Babagana said that the current assignment of the task force to set the ground work for the formulation of a pastoral policy for Africa is important, but is just the beginning in addressing vulnerability issues in pastoralist communities across Africa. He said; "We must begin to reflect on issues of implementation, monitoring and evaluation at all levels: grassroots, national, regional and continental. Let me therefore request that you begin to reflect on key benchmarks and indicators that will be used to monitor progress and implementation."

Dr. Babagana affirmed the work of the Specialist Task Force and the Pastoral Policy Framework as a key strategy and tool for meeting Africa's goal for a continent free from hunger. In July 2003 in Maputo Mozambique, African Union Heads of State and Government, in an effort to have an "Africa that is Free from Hunger and Poverty", gave a mandate to the DREA to "Initiate and promote policies and strategies that can contribute to the development of the rural economy and improve livelihood through increasing agricultural productivity and enhancing sustainable use and management of Africa's natural resources."

For the AU, the development of pastoral livelihoods and communities is at the core of meeting the mandate of the DREA. "Our Member states need such a policy framework given the

significant contribution that pastoral communities bring to their national economies." But the formulation of a pastoral policy is not enough as an end in itself he emphasizes strongly: "What is more important is how it will be operationalised at the field level."

Some of the key monitors and benchmarks that were identified by the task force at the meeting included the inclusion of women in the policy formulation process and formulation of key national pastoralist groups who will review the implementation of the pastoral policy framework.

BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PASTORALISM AND THE VALUE OF PASTORAL LIVELIHOODS IN AFRICA

Mr. Ibrahim Youssouf; a Pastoralist from Mali and a member of the African Union Specialist Task Force, has asked that a campaign to build support and public awareness of pastoralism in Africa be launched alongside the development of the pastoral policy framework initiative.

He said at the February inaugural meeting of the Specialist Task Force at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa Ethiopia; "The development of the policy framework should be two-track, we must ensure that regional consultations are designed to get the voices and inputs of pastoralists. And as we work to bring in the voices of pastoralists, we must carry out a campaign alongside to build public support for pastoral livelihood in Africa."



Mr. Ibrahim Youssouf, Pastoralist from Mali and a member of the Specialist Task Force Feb 2008, OCHA ROCEA

Emphasizing that vulnerability does not wait, Youssouf hopes that the development of the Pastoral Policy Framework will not be an end in itself, but the beginning of governments' commitment to addressing the livelihood vulnerability in pastoral communities across Africa.

Website resource centre on the Pastoral Policy Framework for Africa launched.

For updates, background documents and information on the Pastoral Policy Framework for Africa please visit:

<http://ochaonline2.un.org/Default.aspx?tabid=10400>

This website has been designed to bring visitors up to date on strategies and processes for developing the Pastoral Policy Framework.

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS ON PASTORALISM

REGIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE FRAMEWORK FOR THE GREAT LAKES & HORN OF AFRICA IDENTIFIES PASTORALISM AS PRIORITY FOR THE REGION

The 2008 *Regional Emergency Preparedness & Response Framework* for the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa which represents the first regional process of its kind resulting from consultations with a range of humanitarian actors has identified Pastoralism as one of its two priority issues of concern at the regional level.

According to the framework, 'priority focus should be given to pastoralist populations including in relation to livelihoods, resilience building, protection, health and education.' Forced displacement / displaced populations was the second priority focus identified, 'with the goal of providing improved disaster risk reduction, response and recovery interventions for refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).'

The framework objectives include;

- Pursuing an agreed understanding of multicountry / regional threats
- Encouraging collaborative action for disaster preparedness and response,
- Providing technical support for early warning mechanisms and advocating for early action.
- Providing 'value added' advocacy at regional level including in relation to issues of concern such as protection, livelihood support and action to mitigate the effects of climate change.

For more information about the report please contact: roceainfo@un.org

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO GIVE MORE VOICE TO KARAMOJANG PASTORALISTS IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Capitalizing on its current activities in Nakapiripirit District in northeastern Uganda, French NGO Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) has launched an advocacy/awareness campaign, in partnership with the University Leuphana of Lüneburg and the Czech NGO People in Need. Over a period of 12 months, young researchers in Europe will link up with grassroots organizations and communities in the Karamoja to raise awareness about solutions to create a sustainable pastoralism and peaceful coexistence in the region. Karamoja is a region in crisis, plagued by small arms (AK-47), demographic explosion, climate change, border conflicts and difficult development issues. In February 2008, a documentary film is being produced by ACTED to give more voice to the people of Karamoja throughout the campaign. The film will be available for circulation from mid-April. Contact: David Knaute at karamoja@acted.org

OCHA TO HOST PASTORALIST ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS KENYA ON A CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON THE AU PASTORAL POLICY INITIATIVE IN MARCH

UN-OCHA in March-April this year will host pastoralist associations across Kenya on a workshop on the African Union Pastoral Policy Framework Initiative. The meeting will; (1)update pastoralists on the AU processes for an all-inclusive consultations with pastoralists across Africa; (2)identify the best processes and tools for consulting with pastoralists; (3)create an opportunity for pastoralists across Kenya to begin prioritizing national pastoral issues that needs to be addressed in a Pastoral Policy Framework for Africa.

For more information on the event please contact; Tel: +254-20-762 2156, Mobile: 254 (0) 723 763 398 Email: okoroc@un.org

Posters on the Pastoral Policy Framework for Africa now available

Posters on the Pastoral Policy Framework initiative are now available. To order please contact OCHA Regional Office for Central and East Africa (See contacts below)

Disclaimer: The information in this document are consolidated from research and workshop findings and are subject to availability of current data. The articles provided are subject to availability of data and do not claim to be either exhaustive or fully verified.

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