

MAKING RANGELANDS SECURE IN EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

News, views and experiences of policy-makers, practitioners and communities on making rangelands secure for local users



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LEARNING ROUTE: NAIROBI TO ARUSHA, FEBRUARY 2012

On February 6th, a group of 22 participants from nine different countries set off on a 13-day journey from Nairobi to Arusha to learn from good practice on 'making rangelands secure'. During this journey the participants visited four host communities or organisations, who are working to secure rights to resources and land for local rangeland users.

In Laikipia District, central Kenya, the group were hosted by the Naibunga Conservancy Trust, a partnership of nine group ranches, home to 12,000 Mukogodo Maasai (and other landowners). The Trust is assisting the local community to benefit from conservation and tourism, improve security over resources, carry out land use planning, and strengthen management structures.

The group ranch system found in Naibunga contrasted strongly with the tenure system found in the second area visited: Garba Tula District, Isiolo County, hosted by the Resource Advocacy Project. Here communities live on and manage 'trust land', which is held in trust for the community by the County Council. Land use and its management is more similar to the customary systems of the Boran inhabitants. Though negative incidents in their history caused the breakdown of their customary institutions, Boran leaders are reestablishing and adapting them including their formalisation as by-laws.



Sharing experiences with local communities

The third host was Olkiramatian Group Ranch: one of the few ranches in Kajiado District that has not sub-divided. Instead they have zoned their land (including an agricultural area), diversified their livelihoods, and set in place rangeland management plans.

The journey then moved to Tanzania where UCRT (Ujamaa Community Resource Team) with Terrat community shared experiences of village land use planning (see pg 5) and conservation easements. These have improved livelihood options as well as provided greater security to land and resources.



Mongolia shares experiences with Tanzania on the learning route across East Africa.

Participants learnt that no tenure system is secure unless it is enforced - the group ranch system offered good tenure security with its clear structures and enforcement mechanisms. However, the level of security that people perceive is not only determined by tenure type. Other important factors include knowledge and documentation of boundaries and the existence of an appropriate governance system (which can be challenging in rangelands). Transparent accountable and strong leadership; and management regimes with clear roles, responsibilities and distribution of benefits are also important. The more direct that these benefits can be realised from land the greater the investment in that land is likely to be. The flexibility of 'trust land' and customary practices and institutions offer greater opportunities for adapting to climate change.

RECENT EVENTS

National Workshop on Pastoral Development, March 2012, Adama, Ethiopia

In March a meeting was organised by a consortium of partner organisations including the Ministry of Federal Affairs; the Ministry of Agriculture; USAID-funded CIAFS (Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security) and ELAP (Ethiopia Land Administration Program); FAO; Oxfam GB; and Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia. Held over three days in Adama, the meeting facilitated the sharing of experiences and lessons learned from recent visits by participants to West Africa (namely Niger and Mali) and the Making Rangelands Secure Learning Route (page 1). Discussions focused on relating these experiences to the Ethiopian context. These experiences were augmented by a visit to an irrigation scheme in Fantale prior to the meeting.

The meeting highlighted that the rangelands of Ethiopia have high potential for growth. Sustainable development in the rangelands needs an integrated approach. Water can be an entry-point for development, but land security is a must. Protection of livestock corridors is urgently required and given its strategic position, Ethiopia could lead the way in developing cross-border trade in the Greater Horn of Africa region. Appropriate governance structures at the local level need to be strengthened. Resettlement where required should be carried out in a manner that supports livestock-based livelihood systems rather than replaces them.



Regional Learning Workshop on: 'Land and Natural Resources Tenure Security' 29-31 May, Nairobi, Kenya

A key area of discussion at the regional learning workshop on 'land and natural resource tenure security' organised by IFAD, GLTN (Global Land Tool Network) and UN-Habitat in May, was the subject of 'group rights.' Involving several members

of the learning initiative 'Making Rangelands Secure' the group discussed what is different and special about group rights; what does this mean for policy, legislation and implementation; and how can group rights be improved through use of particular tools. It was concluded that there is the need for greater appreciation of the complexities of group rights; and their benefits. Though good practice exists, knowledge generated fails to reach and influence policy/decision makers. The AU's Land Policy Initiative could play a larger role in developing awareness on group rights, and facilitating the exchange of information between countries on how best to secure them. Useful tools for understanding and securing group rights (as per the experiences of the participants) include: mapping of natural resources and land use through participatory methods, which can include use of such as satellite imagery; the 'evictions approach' in the GLTN tool-box; documenting customary rules, institutions and codifying or formalising them; learning routes; structured multilevel consultations; and good governance capacity building including alternative dispute resolution skills.

A report on the meeting can be obtained from: flavia.dellarosa@unhabitat.org

Launch of Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia (PaRFE), April 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

On 11 April the Pasture and Rangeland Forum Ethiopia (PaRFE) was launched by the representative of HE Ato Seleshi Getahun, State Minister, Ministry of Agriculture. A meeting followed the launching facilitated by the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production (ESAP) and FAO in order to redefine the structure and focus of the Forum. Over 50 individuals representing grasslands, rangelands, natural resources and livestock professionals from NGOs, other development agencies and government attended the meeting.

The Forum aims to increase awareness of the importance and value of grasslands and rangelands in the country amongst policy and decision makers, and improve the practice of working in these areas amongst development actors. The Forum is seeking funders to support a grassland/rangelands week, which will highlight the importance of grasslands and rangelands as major feed resources for the Ethiopian ruminant livestock population; create awareness on the conservation of these

resources; and appreciate the emerging role of grasslands and rangelands for carbon sequestration. There are also activities in progress to introduce the Forum to government ministries and regional bureaus of agriculture; professional societies; research centres; academia; NGOs; bilateral and multilateral organisations. There are also plans to link the Forum with other global initiatives working on similar issues.

Learning Route on Livestock Marketing February 2012

"We are the birds who let innovations travel", was the concept for the Learning Route on Innovative Livestock Marketing from Northern to Eastern Africa, which took place in February.



The PROCASUR Corporation, with IFAD's Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, implemented the Route across several districts of Kenya from the 27th of February to 9th of March. The main objective of the Learning Route was to provide smallholder producers with tools to access market information and to identify value chain opportunities.

Twenty one participants, also called Ruterros, from Africa, Europe and USA were trained through a peer-to-peer methodology, learning directly from the local champions who hosted them. These were the Siana and Kilitome pastoralist group and market access committee (MAC), the Keekonyokie abattoir, the Anolei Women Camel Milk Association and the Meru Goat Breeders Association (MGBA).

The participants were able to explore such questions as: What are effective ways to bridge the gap between markets and producers? How to meet market information needs of different stakeholders, and how to improve effectiveness and performance of development projects aimed at livestock marketing? Rich discussions on these topics resulted and experience was exchanged between the Ruterros and hosting communities.



PROTECTING LIVESTOCK MOBILITY ROUTES: LESSONS LEARNED

Why is mobility important?

To enable pastoralism to effectively use drylands, pastoralists need to move livestock across a rangeland of patchily distributed resources, influenced by low, variable, unpredictable rainfall. They need to access dry season grazing areas found along rivers or a permanent water source. These not only provide critical grazing when resources elsewhere have depleted, but are part of strategies to allow wet season grazing areas to rest. It is also important for animal husbandry including the breaking of livestock-parasite cycles and to prevent health epidemics; for collection of minerals and medicinal herbs, building materials and other rangeland products; and for avoiding conflict.

Challenges to livestock mobility

Increasingly however livestock mobility is being challenged. Mainly mobility is blocked by commercial farms, in particular along riverine areas; bush encroachment such as *Acacia drepanolobium* and invasive species including *Prosopis juliflora*; and uncontrolled, unplanned, private and communal fenced or unfenced livestock enclosures, fodder reserves and agricultural plots. These trends are threatening the effectiveness of pastoral production systems across the region so reducing the resiliency and increasing the vulnerability of pastoral communities in general to drought and other crises. In order to reduce such negative impacts of these trends it is vital that migration routes start to be protected in a more systematic manner.

Ways to protect migration routes:

Experience of Niger

In Niger 'mobility is a fundamental right of herders and transhumant pastoralists.' As a result, livestock corridors are being protected across regions and villages, facilitating movement from the pastoral zone in the mid, northern parts of the country through the agricultural zone in the south. This allows use of parts of the agricultural zone during the dry season when crops have been harvested, as well as access to livestock markets including in neighbouring countries. Cross-border movement between Niger and the majority of its neighbours is legitimised through the use of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) passport, issued by 10 of the 15 ECOWAS member states including Niger and its neighbours.

Though the protection of these livestock corridors is provided for within Niger's Rural Code (1993) and revised Pastoral Code (2010), the government lacks funds

for implementation. As a result NGOs and development agencies are supporting the process working hand-in-hand with local and regional governments.

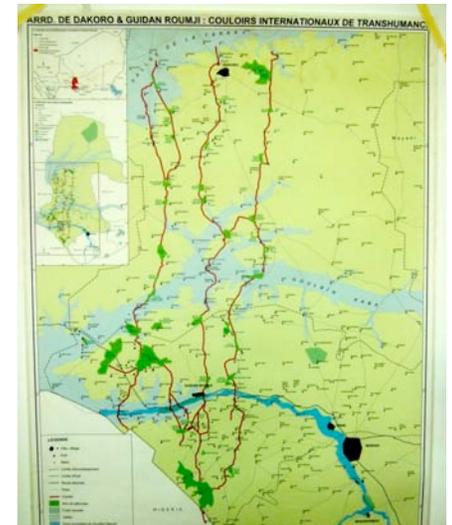
Experience of Sudan

Good practice can also be found closer to home. In Darfur State, Sudan, camel owners make protracted migrations from north to south in search of browse during the dry season. In 2005 a committee was set up at state level to establish serviced transhumance routes. To date around 4,000 km of routes have been demarcated, 150 metres wide, marked with posts at intervals of 1-3 km. Farms that fall within the routes (part or whole) are removed and compensated in cash. Services are provided along the routes including water points, schools for nomads and mobile veterinary centres. During transhumance, pastoralists should be accompanied by police, local government administrators, and a veterinarian.

Implications for East and Horn of Africa

The protection of migration routes or livestock corridors is a must if pastoral production is to be optimised. This is becoming ever more critical as trends of land use change in dryland areas progress. Livestock corridors need to be protected through and around commercial farms, and across areas where enclosures and small-scale agriculture have been established. In addition, problems such as bush encroachment and the invasion of non-local species need to be tackled. In some cases fences and/or small-scale farms may have to be removed or relocated.

How best to do this should be part of well-defined and strategic land use planning processes that seek to optimise drylands production including providing support



Livestock corridors and grazing areas mapped across the agricultural zone in Niger

for pastoralism. Participatory rangeland mapping and community action planning is a good starting point for this. Such processes require the involvement and commitment of all stakeholders including local land users (primary and secondary), commercial investors, and regional and local government representatives, in order to find effective and sustainable solutions that support the different land uses in dryland areas. Once migration routes have been established and demarcated, appropriate governance structures will also need to be established that can ensure enforcement and prevent conflict.

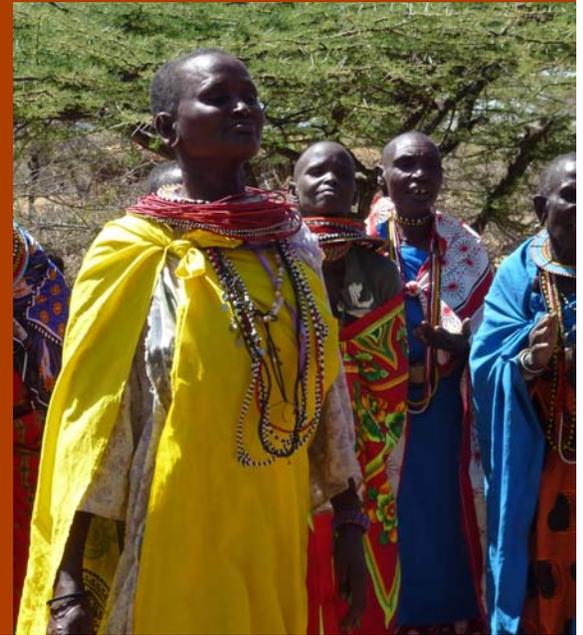
The learning initiative will be producing a more detailed issues paper on this subject.

KENYA'S CONSTITUTION 2010

What will it mean for tenure security in the rangelands?

In August 2010, Kenya promulgated a new Constitution. The role of citizens and government in sustainable environment, land use and management for sustainable economic benefits is central. The Constitution states: *Land in Kenya shall be held, used and managed in a manner that is equitable, efficient, productive and sustainable* (Art. 60). Principles guide this relationship: equitable access to land, security of land rights, and settlement of disputes within the framework of local community mechanisms such as group ranches and rangeland committees.

The majority of land in Kenya's ASALs is designated 'trust land.' Land ownership of 'trust land' is vested in the County Councils who have often proved to be poor trustees of community resources. For example, individual investors have been able to use private property provisions to defeat the rights of pastoralists under customary law. The Constitution changes the categories of land in Kenya from government, private and trust land; to public, private and community land.



'Community land'

The introduction of 'community land' under the 2010 Constitution provides opportunities for a 'community' in rural and urban areas to secure rights to their land, strengthening devolution and democratisation of land administration and the participation of communities. Community Land incorporates land currently under the Land (Group Representatives) Act – group ranches; community forests; land that is currently classified as Trust Lands; and land that is transferred to any community by any process of law, or an Act of Parliament. The latter category is innovative because it will result in a new legal definition of 'community' as a distinctive legal entity and allow transfer of land that is currently forest, protected areas or other public land to such communities.

It will be imperative for either the Land Bill (2012) and/or the Community Land Bill (in draft) to specifically define what is a 'community.' Effectively communal ownership of land and pastoral resources can be provided for, allowing mobile land use systems under secure land tenure conditions. Secondary-user access rights to land can also be protected; and the particular role of women is recognised. Community Land Boards (community-elected) will be established to manage access to the land. The effectiveness of this new categorisation will only be seen once the Land Policy and Land Bill are implemented.

Resolving resource based conflicts

The Constitution also provides a foundation for addressing root causes of

resource-based conflicts. Chapter 11 promotes devolution of responsibility and authority to communities, through County Councils and county legislation to resolve conflicts. Chapter 4 (Art. 257) enables community engagement, popular participation and representation. And Chapter 3 (Arts. 130, 133) encourages the development of home-grown conflict management frameworks, and in particular in relation to land.

Next steps

Land reform efforts must be coupled with strong commitments to accountability, transparency and public information sharing. District level land use and administration systems and staff require capacity building and strengthening. Land registries need to be established and title deeds provided where appropriate. Policies and legislation should explore creative approaches to the use of customary land systems, including their codification. Special emphasis is needed on developing ways to ensure that marginalised groups benefit and share in land ownership, control, and from land distribution programmes.

Legal means must be accompanied by gender/youth-sensitive mechanisms for resource access and control in the drylands. Communities in the ASALs need to take up these challenges as well as their responsibilities for engaging with and supporting the implementation of these land policies and laws. In order to do so, it is likely that capacity building of these communities will be required.

by Ken Otieno, RECONCILE.

"Equal rights for women" say Maasai elders

Dozens of Maasai elders in the Kenyan highlands – who serve as symbols and enforcers of their community's conservative cultural traditions – have vowed to uphold equal rights for women and girls. These elders unanimously wrote and adopted their own constitution to guide their behaviour last month. This document pledges to ensure that women are educated to prepare them for their new roles in the community and men should *"agree/accept that these women can actually have meaningful contributions. We must begin to value women's contributions."*

The constitution, called a 'katiba' in Massai, was an unexpected outcome of Landesa's Justice Project. The USAID-funded project aims to make the ideals embodied in Kenya's new national Constitution (specifically equal land rights for women) real for women in rural Kenya. As part of the program, Landesa staff engaged the elders, women, and school children, in community conversations about the role of women. The elders were initially hostile to ideas embodied in Kenya's Constitution. But after a few weeks of earnest dialogue, they began to see the promise in allowing women in their community equal rights. Eventually (after weeks of debate), the elders, determined that they should document their new thinking by drafting their own constitution on the issue.

Source: Landesa, 12 June 2012
www.landesa.org

CAN VILLAGE LAND USE PLANNING WORK IN RANGELANDS?

In Tanzania, land legislation requires villages to allocate village land between individual and communal categories, as well as set aside some lands for future use (*akiba*). Customary communal rights to land are given the same security as individual rights within village land, thus providing a relatively secure tenure framework for communal land uses such as grazing pastures and forests, as well as specific requirements for basic land use planning.

The first step is for a village to confirm and secure its boundaries through obtaining a village land certificate, provided by the District Council (in agreement with neighbouring villages and other stakeholders). Village land use planning can now take place. A set of guidelines produced by the NLUPC (National Land Use Planning Commission) provides the framework for the village land use planning process – a series of sequential steps that result in a village land use plan, showing the main priority land use zones.



It is usual for a village with their district council to produce the VPLUP (village participatory land use plan) over 13 days. However, due to limited resources (time and finances) they work with different development partners to support much of the preparation work. Once the VLUP is produced, and if the village has built a land registry suitable for storing documents in a secure manner, customary certificates of occupancy (CCROs) can be provided to individuals and groups within the village boundaries.

Village by-laws are then produced to provide a controlling management framework for the VPLUP. These by-laws

must be approved by the two main organs of the village: the Village Assembly (including all the adults living in the community above 18 years old) and the Village Council (headed by a Village Chairman, which should include at least 7 women). Once approved at the village level the by-laws must be presented to and approved by the Ward Development Council, and then the District Council, to be legally operational. They then become equivalent to other laws in Tanzania, and violators can be persecuted with maximum fines of 50,000/=Tzs.

Pastoralism and VLUP

Pastoralism as an extensive land use system offers particular challenges for village land use planning. *One*, it often requires movement across village boundaries in order to access neighbouring grazing or water that may be limited in their home area, so sharing resources. Traditionally customary authorities controlled these arrangements: village land use planning may put up barriers (village boundaries or individual land parcels), which challenge this.

Two, due to the often poor quality and patchy nature of grazing and browse in dryland areas (driven by limited variable rainfall and nutrients), a large area of rangeland is required with flexible use: village land use planning may limit this use and apply strict restrictions. *Three*, pastoralism is an integrated land use system – livestock production is mixed with agriculture (livestock grazed on fields after harvest) and collection of wild plants

and fruits (non-timber forest products) such as gums and resins, or firewood. Through zoning land use in a 'fixed' village land use plan, this multiple-use may be reduced or challenged.

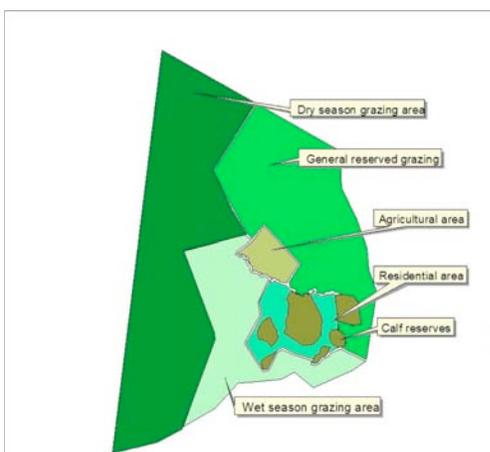
Four, pastoralism relies and is facilitated by collective, reciprocal use and management. Village land use planning can introduce more individualistic and protective land access and management that may lead to a breakdown of supportive social collective systems.

Making VLUP work for pastoralists

However, if facilitated and implemented well, village land use planning can work for pastoralists too; there are a number of measures that support this in the VLUP process (legislation and guidelines).

Firstly, in order to provide for sharing of resources between several villages and movement across boundaries, villages are required to produce a 'village resource management sector plan' as well as their own village land use plans (as dictated in the 2007 Land Use Planning Act, Village Land Act 1999 Section 11, and Regulation 2002 No. 26-35). The resource management sector plan facilitates the sharing of the resources, and should be incorporated into the district land use framework plans. The agreement, management of sector plans and by-laws can provide the formal framework for sharing resources, with details of which resources, and how and when they are shared.

(continued on page 6)



Land use zones for Ololosokwan village in Loliondo, Ngorongoro District

PROTECTING RIGHTS OF HUNTER-GATHERERS IN TANZANIA

The Hadza and their challenges

The Hadza (or Hadzabe) are one of Tanzania's most unique and threatened communities. Through the centuries they have developed a deep knowledge about the use of natural resources. This has enabled them to survive in a highly challenging arid environment. They depend on natural products such as berries, tubers, baobab fruits, honey and wild animals for food; they do not raise any livestock and they do not cultivate the land.



Hadza hunters tracking wild animals for food (Credit: UCRT)

Tanzania's Wildlife Conservation Act (2009) prohibits the hunting and eating of wild animals and birds. Government anti-poaching efforts constitute a threat for the Hadza and have pushed them into remote and marginal habitats, where increasing pressures from human population growth and further encroachment of lands have endangered their territory. Today less than 1,500 Hadza survive in fragmented areas of northern Tanzania around Lake Eyasi, south of Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Working to secure rights to Hadza land and resources

UCRT (Ujamaa Community Resource Team) started working with the Hadza community in the Yaida valley to secure their land rights and their traditional economic land use. From 2000 to 2006 UCRT assisted them in undertaking a cultural mapping exercise. This enabled elders to teach the youth about the strong connection between land and the Hadza culture. Also, it showed government and authorities that the relationship of the Hadza with their lands is ancient, and this should be given formal recognition. UCRT also undertook village land use planning and the development of by-laws with the

Hadza in order to secure their land area and natural resources. This includes the reserving of a zone that can only be used for hunter-gathering and in which livestock and agriculture is prohibited. The planning has been carried out in the area where the presence of Hadza is strongest - *Mongo wa mono*. In October 2011 the Hadza's land was given extra protection through the provision of an official and legally binding 'certificate for customary right of occupancy' (CCRO) for 20,000 hectares of their land. This was the first CCRO issued to protect group rights.

UCRT work in the area extended and recently resulted in obtaining CCROs for 38,000 hectares of Barabaiga grazing lands.



A map of land use zones in Yaeda and Mongo wa Mono villages incorporating designated areas for hunter-gathering

Thanks to Edward Lekaita and Fred Nelson for their contributions to this article.

Can village land use planning work in rangelands?

(continued from page 5)

Secondly, with several villages planning together and entering into an agreement to share specific areas, the area available to the pastoralists within those villages is increased, and by-laws can be phrased in such a way as to provide flexibility of use. Livestock corridors can facilitate movement across agricultural areas increasing the area open to pastoralists. By-laws can be produced to protect these. Thirdly, though village land should be zoned by priority use, this does not mean it has to be the *only* use and integrated land use systems can still be supported. If an area is

designated for agriculture, forestry or tourism, livestock can still be grazed there at certain times of the year. Again, village by-laws can formalise these arrangements.

Fourthly, collective use of land and resources can still be and *should be* supported. Village land use planning provides opportunities for greater security to land for communities and better land use planning and management. All village land users should be given an opportunity to take part in land use planning processes. However due to limited government resources (finances, time) this may be compromised. In order to mitigate this, NGO/CSOs can support more participatory preparation processes (such as full community dialogues including secondary users). Such preparation ensures villages are in agreement ready for local government to draw up the VLUP with them, as well as sector land use management plans with neighbouring villages where appropriate.

Additionally, after VLUP has taken place, as per directives derived from section 16(1)(2) and 17(1)(2) of the Animal Feeds and Grazing Land Act (2010), a group of pastoralists in a village or in villages with a contingent grazing area can form a pastoral association and register a specific area of grazing land with the local district and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. They can then obtain a CCRO (certificate for customary right of occupancy) for the grazing area that they collectively use giving them supreme access to and management of it.

Conclusions

So in conclusion, yes, PVLUP can work in rangelands *IF* adequate time and money are invested in full and effective participatory processes, based on a complete understanding of the facilitating land use planning legislation and guidelines. In order to support this process, ILC, IFAD and partners in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, district governments, and NGOs CARE, TNRF, UCRT, CORDS and others, will produce a handbook (complementing the NLUPC guidelines) on: *Making Village Land Use Planning Work in Rangelands*.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE REGION

Improving rangeland quality through land use planning

As pressures increase on land and other resources in rangelands, governments are working to identify the best tools and methods for monitoring rangeland health, managing resources and reconciling conflicts between land users. Two participants of the learning route 'Making Rangelands Secure' (pg 1) are doing exactly this within their own Ministries.

Over the last two years, *Elshazali Osman, Director of Natural Resource Administration, with the Darfur Land Commission*, has been involved in a study in the Baggara area (mainly cattle owners) of Dar Rezaigat communal land in south-eastern Darfur State, encompassing around 4,500 hectares. The study sought to evaluate effects of pastoralism on vegetation cover, productivity and carrying capacity of the semi-arid rangeland where 1.6 million animal units (AU) graze or browse. The study was carried out over different ecological zones including both wet and dry season grazing areas. Vegetation cover, biomass and forage were all measured.

The conclusions of the study were that the available resources were adequate for, and in the second year exceeded, the requirements of the 1.6 million AU in the area. It was agreed that the pastoral system operating was the most suitable production system for utilising the scattered vegetation resources found there. The mix of livestock types kept by the pastoralists optimised production. Though carrying capacity of range land is notoriously difficult to determine in semi-arid areas as it changes with degrees of precipitation and aridity, the study suggested that the carrying capacity of the Baggara area of Dar Rezaigat during very favourable years is 2.8ha/AU/8 months, but in normal years is 3.7ha/AU/8 months. This information will be used to guide land use planning in the area over the coming years.

In Tanzania, *Dr Maria Mashingo, Assistant Director, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development*, is working with the Myomero District Council to improve the productivity of rangelands through forage utilisation including conserving forage for times when parts of the rangeland are

flooded or dry. The fact that the area has been divided into small ranches (100 ha each) has challenged livestock production, preventing movement in times of stress.

The government offices are working with ranch owners to improve the quality of the rangelands identifying ways to introduce bush clearing, reseeding pastures, water harvesting and developing cattle holding areas. However many of the ranch owners do not have titles (leases) for their land so are unwilling to make any large investments in it. Though the District Agricultural Development Project has a budget to assist in rangeland development, this is limited. Sokoine University of Agriculture is providing free advice on improved rangeland management approaches, and the National Livestock Research Institute will help with information sharing. Dr Mashingo will be working with the District Council to map livestock corridors and formalise these, in order to better facilitate movement in the area so reducing conflict between ranch owners. This can also be a pilot for the development of a model for stock route establishment in the region.

Developing policies in Uganda

The Government of Uganda is in the process of formulating the *Rangeland Management Policy (RLMP)* with a pastoral code. The process was initiated in 2006/7, and consultations were carried out across Uganda's rangelands (excluding Karamoja and northern Uganda due to conflict). But after the first drafting of the RLMP, the process ground to a halt. In 2010 the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries & Fisheries (MAAIF) resumed the process with funding from UNDP. Since, Oxfam and COPASCO (Coalition of Pastoral CSOs) have reviewed the draft policy and submitted a technical report and recommendations verifying the need to ensure that pastoralism is central. COPASCO organised additional consultations in Karamoja, and other parts of the 'cattle corridor' over the last 6 months.

A National Policy Taskforce has been set up to oversee this process – an inter-ministerial body is charged with producing the next draft for presentation to the Minister. It is anticipated that the Policy will be finalised this year.

Once in place it is hoped that the RLMP will influence the further development of other policies such as *Uganda's Land Policy 2011* which has been in draft form for a decade. Currently this policy provides mixed messages for pastoral rights: though the Policy states that "land rights of pastoral communities will be guaranteed and protected by the State" (Art. 61), it also says "this should not be at the expense of non-pastoral communities" (Art. 60). Further, it does not suggest ways of providing redress to the pastoralists who lost their land when the government converted them into ranches, later privatised. Instead it suggests that the responsible Ministry sets up principles for ownership of land in these areas.

Despite this, the Policy does recognise that 'mistakes' were made when traditional approaches to rangeland management were disregarded and private ranches were established, leaving many pastoralists without a livelihood. It is agreed that mobility is critical in managing risk and unpredictability in the rangelands. It asserts that the State shall recognise customary tenure to be on a par with other tenure systems and will establish a customary land registry for registration of customary tenure in its own form (Art. 39). The Government will support the management of common property resources (Art. 55) including identification and gazette-ment of access routes or corridors to common property resources. It will identify, document and gazette all common property resources, irrespective of their tenure status; and ensure that common property resources are exclusively used by or are available to, particular communities to manage them. It suggests that a strategy be developed allowing pastoral lands to be held, owned and controlled as common property under customary laws. Protection to communal grazing rights can be provided through the acquisition of a 'Certificate of Communal Land Ownership' (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development 2011). It remains to be seen when this Policy will be finalised.

More information on these processes in Uganda can be obtained from Francis Odokorach, Oxfam GB Uganda. Email: fodokorach@oxfam.org.uk



Launch of Rangeland Observatory

The Rangeland Observatory is a pilot project, coordinated by ILC and designed to mobilise a network of organisations to actively contribute to building a global observatory with quantitative and qualitative data on large-scale conversions of land for commercial purposes. This will provide an information base which in turn can be used to create opportunities for more informed and participatory decision making on tenure, land use and investments in rangelands, and the trade-offs involved. The project links monitoring of trends in rangeland use and conversion to other land uses, with securing land rights for rangeland users.

The Rangeland Observatory will build on ILC's work undertaken through the Land Matrix (www.landportal.org/landmatrix). In partnership with CDE University of Bern, ILC has also launched the development of a more general Land Observatory in five pilot countries (Peru, Madagascar, Kenya or Tanzania, Laos and Cambodia) that are bringing together civil society and government stakeholders in these countries to monitor large-scale land acquisitions. A web-based platform is being developed that will allow GIS-based information to be represented and collated with other relevant land based information.

With funding from the Ford Foundation, the Rangeland Observatory project aims to mobilise a network of global, national and local organisations with an interest in monitoring land acquisitions and the securing of tenure in rangelands. It will use data generated to inform policy dialogue. It will begin to build a web-based database of land acquisitions and securitisation of tenure rights in rangelands, linked to the already established Land Matrix and the Land Observatory. Emerging information will be shared, including good practice and recommendations for policy-makers, key change agents and other practitioners.

For more information contact: Mike Taylor, ILC. Email: m.taylor@landcoalition.org

The Making Rangelands Secure Initiative has been established by a group of organisations seeking to improve security of rights to rangelands. The Initiative seeks to identify and communicate good practice on making rangelands secure for local rangeland users. This is becoming increasingly challenging as different actors compete for land and resources, and new pressures grow. The Initiative is working with national and local governments, development agencies, NGOs and CSOs, and local communities to share experiences, processes, approaches and activities between East and Horn of Africa and beyond. For more information, please contact:

Fiona Flintan

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PARTNER PROFILE: Working to secure rights to resources...



RECONCILE (Resource Conflict Institute) is an NGO working in Kenya on policy research, advocacy and capacity building in conflict resolution and management in order to enhance the participation of communities in environmental and natural resource governance.

Amongst its initiatives, RECONCILE is engaging with government, donors and NGOs in the development of the Community Land Bill. They are providing opportunities for dialogue and reaching a common understanding of what constitutes 'community land'. It is anticipated that the process will also generate principles of community land tenure that can be enacted into law to support implementation of the provisions of the National Land Policy & the Constitution of Kenya, 2010.

More information can be obtained from Executive Director: Shadrack Omondi
Email: shadrack@reconcile-ea.org



Visit the Land Portal's page for documents on rangelands:
www.landportal.info/topic/rangelands-tenure

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