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Natural  
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Forum



## **Regional community forum: a training workshop for members of the forum on the position of the traditional institution in pastoralism and policy development processes**

**Held at the Olasiti Garden Hotel in Arusha on 21<sup>st</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The development of pastoralism in Tanzania requires appropriate governance structures which take the specific features of pastoralism into account, especially acknowledging the unique knowledge of pastoralists and their socio-political organisations. Good governance in decision making process must exist not only within national and local governments but at all levels of society including the pastoralists' customary institutions.

Decision made on behalf of pastoralists without their direct involvement lack not only transparency but also relevance. The core issue of representation is flawed. The Leadership and representation is very crucial for any development intervention and the pastoralists themselves must promote it as a strategic tool for lobbying and advocacy.

National and local authorities should be appreciative of the important role played by traditional pastoral authority structures in promoting governance, including conflict resolution, management of land tenure and management of herds through mobility as well as facilitation of interactions between pastoralists and other interest groups such as farmers.

Taking into consideration the varying styles and conditions of pastoral life in the society, the competing interests among pastoralist with other stakeholders of land and natural resources; specifically the agriculturalist community, investors and progressing urban development there is a need to formulate an informal regional institution for pastoralists to contribute to a lively and pertinent debate on securing the rights of pastoral community over land and natural resources management in the country.

This institution will secure and protect the lives, livelihoods and rights of pastoralist people and forms the basis for commitment to socio-economic development of pastoral communities. Thus basing on that; the training workshop was convened at Olasiti Garden hotel in Arusha from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007. The key participants were Laigwanak<sup>1</sup> drawn from the following districts; Loliondo, Longido, Hanang, Simanjiro, Ngorongoro and Monduli of Arusha and Manyara regions. Other key invited participants were honourable Lekule (Longido MP), honourable Telele (Ngorongoro MP), councillors, village and hamlet chairmen as well as some of the famous elders from aforementioned districts.

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<sup>1</sup> Laigwanak are the traditional Institution for pastoralists (Maasai) who manage social and economic affairs of the community.

## **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

The training workshop had the following broad objectives:-

- To bring together the pastoralists' traditional leaders to discuss and debate on how to strengthen the community forum as a platform for participation and voice of pastoralists in benefiting from land and natural resources management.
- To train Laigwanak/pastoral leaders on the various national development strategies and link them with the pastoral livelihood system {pastoralism}
- To build up the focus for pastoralists by identifying the problems and come up with the sound strategies and actions.

It was expected that at the end of the workshop the followings would have been achieved:-

- Different problems facing the pastoralists would have been discussed in depth.
- Sound strategies would have been developed followed by concrete actions to resolve the identified problems.
- To enhance the formation of more pastoralists networks and linkages for future advocacy process.
- Production and dissemination of the workshop report

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

The training workshop was organised following the ongoing process of establishing and strengthening the community forums for rural communities of northern regions (particularly Arusha and Manyara) who have been among the society to be adversely affected by some of the unfavourable natural resources policies and laws in the country. For instance, under the livestock development sector its laws and regulations do not allow and facilitate the mobility and transhumance rights, increasing access to water, pastureland and markets. Thus, policy and laws should create the favourable environment on pastoralism management in such a way that the decentralisation should occur to facilitate mobility and other social services.

## **4.0 THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP**

**Day 1, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007.**

Opening of the workshop and key note address.

The workshop was officially opened by honourable Lekule (Longido MP), accompanied by Saning'o Ole Telele (Ngorongoro MP). Makko welcomed the participants and acknowledged their high turn up. He also thanked the TNRF and U-CRT for funding and organising the workshop. He went further by identifying the workshop participants and stated the objectives of the workshop.

The participants were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and after that he invited honourable Lekule to give his remarks.

In his opening and keynote remarks, the honourable highlighted many important issues (include the problems) facing the pastoralists. Some of the key issues mentioned were:

- Pastoral communities throughout Tanzania live under extremely difficult conditions.
- Since the colonial era the pastoral communities are the victims of land alienation. They were forcefully evicted to give the space for conservation and mining activities. Needless to say the trends continues even in the post independent era.
- The pastoral communities have been subjected to unfavourable domestic legal and policy framework, cultural prejudices and lack of adequate social services.

- In this period of globalisation, education is of paramount importance for pastoral communities. Pastoralists should strive to make sure that both children and adults are accessible to education.
- Pastoralists need technical and scientific knowledge and capability for the sake of improving human and animal health but also for production and economic diversification.
- Pastoralists need efficient market networks to maximise their saleable animal products.
- Pastoralists should organise themselves at local and national levels to ensure that their opinions and expertise is taken into account in looking for durable solutions.
- Unity among the pastoralists is very indispensable and must be forged at any cost in a legitimate way to advocate for the interest of target groups.
- NGO's should prepare more training workshop/seminars/meetings particularly for the pastoralists so as to build their capacity in the course of implementing the pastoral livelihood activities.

Finally honourable Lekule concluded his opening remarks by requesting the participants to participate effectively in the contribution of ideas during the workshop so that at the end they should come up with the common strategies and actions as well as come up with a clear way forward.

## 5.0 METHODOLOGY

Power point presentation was done by a key resource person Mr Alais Morindat from MS TCDC. He started his presentation by showing the threads of pictures depicting different scenarios of pastoral livelihood systems particularly in East Africa. It was a kind of presentation based on the discussion where the presenter asked the questions and participants gave the feedback. Clarification was made at some points by resource person to elucidate what have been said. Mr Alais underscored the following points:-

- Traditional pastoralist land use systems scientifically have proven to be economically and ecologically efficient and viable as well as productive.
- Sometimes conflicts emerge in the pastoral regions. These conflicts stem not only from cattle rustling but also from the boundaries that were established without taking the needs of pastoralism into account.
- Many pastoral households own considerable capital assets in the form of livestock; these assets are highly vulnerable to loss from drought, theft, conflict or animal disease and reduced grazing land.
- Mobility is necessary for the continuation of the pastoralists' livelihood {pastoralism}
- Livestock depend on natural resource as their main source of food and rainfall is the most important determinant factor for quality and quantity of pastures as well as water.

After the power point presentations, the facilitator gave the participants an opportunity to discuss what they have learnt from the power point. The preliminary discuss from the participant was very active concerning the stand and position of pastoralism in the national development process.

The participants discussed to date challenges related to pastoralism and they have agreed together that the presentation from power point has portrayed the real situation of pastoralist with their livelihoods and further more; they have appreciated the need for social solidarity and leadership among pastoral community as the only alternative to influence and confront challenges that deteriorate their livelihoods.

Day 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007.

## **6.0 GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

The participants were divided into six groups based on the districts where they come from and given discussion topic as pre defined by the facilitator (Mr Makko Sinandei). Each group discussed the topic separately and made their presentations.

The group discussion theme was "*Constraints and obstacles facing the pastoralism/grass root pastoral institutions such as community forum in advocating the rights of pastoralism in the context of the current national development policy and legal framework*"

The group discussion started in the morning to the mid afternoon. After lunch the group presentations and plenary discussion was done.

### **6.1 THE CRITICAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING THE DISCUSSION.**

The following issues were discussed and jointly identified as critical constraints and obstacles facing the pastoralism/grass root pastoral institution.

#### ***6.1.1 Unfavourable policies and legislations on pastoralism***

The prejudices that the government has over pastoralism have been manifested through various policies and legislations such as livestock development policy. The policy framework has been drafted in such a way that pastoralism is regarded as a primitive, detrimental to the environment; economically unviable, socially not friendly hence it needs huge transformations. Moreover, the pastoral society itself has been seen as irrational, people who are backwards and resist the meaningful changes.

Therefore, the livestock development policy reiterates the traditional misconceptions and biases against the pastoralism. In some of the few connotations the policy made it clear that "*--- the long term objective is therefore to bring about changes in traditional producers attitude and practices there by increasing productivity to the level where this sector evolves into the modern sub sector*"

#### ***6.1.2 Lack of formal education and critical Conscientisation***

Education was identified as one of the most serious problem facing the pastoralists in the country. Virtually all the pastoralists' areas in the country have very low level of education, a reality that has been there since the colonial regime. It was vividly mentioned by the participants that education services are generally poor and sometimes not available at all.

Lack of formal education and awareness on issue around pastoral development was found to be the hindrance to pastoralists in participating in the crucial events which determine their future in the long run.

#### ***6.1.3 Lack of efficient markets***

There is no efficient market network to improve the economic value of the animal products that are being sold. Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that there is a smooth transportation and communication in the pastoral areas so as to facilitate accessibility to local, regional, national and international markets.

#### ***6.1.4 Lack of effective representations in the policy making process***

The policy making process must be inclusive and should be based on the grassroots initiatives in order to attain its goals of actual implementation at national and local level. The pastoralist role in this process should not be overlooked since their indigenous knowledge is very important

for land and natural resources management and their voices are an integral part toward the success of the policy formulation and implementation.

#### ***6.1.5 Inadequate accessibility to natural resources and basic services***

Pastoralists' activities must be recognised as a legitimate and productive land use system. Land and water tenure rules as well as legal frameworks should take into account the customary rules. Laws and regulations should facilitate the mobility and transhumance rights, increasing access to water, pastureland and markets while minimising the spread of diseases and conflict within and between communities.

#### ***6.1.6 Lack of pastoralists' board in the country***

The formation of the pastoralists' board in the country was cited by the participants as one of the crucial step in advocating their fundamental basic rights in the context of pastoralism. The board functions will be more or less similar to existing boards such coffee board, cotton board etc. The formed board will cooperate with individual pastoralists, pastoral organisations and other interested stakeholders in making sure that the interests of pastoralists are seriously taken into account including advocating for the continued inclusion of their pastoralist representatives in all higher level consultative processes in the country.

#### ***6.1.7 Inadequate capacity building particularly at local level***

Improving access to and availability of critical knowledge through training workshops, seminars, study tour etc. to pastoralists are very important. Through capacity building the pastoralists will be empowered and enabled to advocate for issues touching their interests in the society. Thus NGO's have extremely important roles of ensuring that the capacity of pastoralists is being built in time and again; and there is a need to sustain it.

#### ***6.1.8 Lack of demand driven rural development policies***

Most of the rural development policies that are formulated in the country are not pro-poor in the sense that poor people are not effectively involved in the policy formulation process thus the policies do not reflect their interest. The situation leads to loose of focus; for instance the pastoral community has lost focus and being driven by development process which is basically miss lead the process of genuine development by undermine pastoralism as a viable way of living.

Therefore pastoral participatory on development policy engagement meant to create new development vision of pastoralists' livelihoods.

### **Day 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**

This was the last day for the training workshop where by the participants were supposed to do two major things namely; to elect the regional community forum leadership as well as to suggest for the way forward.

The Regional forum members who are the district representatives {Ref: Annex} did the election for regional forum leadership. During the election Mr Ngulupa from Longido was elected as a chairman while Mr Darema from Hanang' was elected as an executive secretary.

Participants also had the opportunity to suggest the way forward on how the regional community forum would find the durable solutions for myriads of problems facing the pastoralists. It was unanimously agreed by the participants that community forum should get full support in coordinating and advocacy the ideas, views and actions from the stakeholders in continue fighting the basic rights of the pastoralists.

### ***7.0 Suggestion for the Way forward:-***

- Establish and strengthen District Community Forums for those Districts without like Monduli and inform to the organizers TNRF/U-CRT and the Regional Community Forum their progress
- The pastoral Community at large in each District should understand the roles of the Community forum at all level, so as to have the common frame work for advocacy and lobbying strategy at same time trickle down the role the community forum.
- Facilitating relevant Community Forum trainings and meeting to enhance community forum capacity at various levels.
- Developing tool for pastoralist advocacy process that will guide the advocacy group to represent realistic challenges facing pastoralists' development.
- To officiate recognition of Traditional Leadership/Community Forum at district and National level to enhance smooth operation of the forum.

## 8.0 CONCLUSION

Unlike other livelihood system in the country, pastoralism is under intense pressure since it faces multiple and challenging problems which require the joint efforts of her stakeholders to resolve them. Some of these critical problems include; unfavourable development policy, immense population growth, HIV/AIDS and globalisation. Moreover, the increasing pressure on essence natural resources such as land (which is a key resource for accessibility of pasture and water for livestock) as a result of current investment policy by government of Tanzania in which the investors are given more space to occupy it, compelling the pastoralists to seek and defend their basic rights within the framework of globalised society. More land to investors implies that small piece of land for citizen (include the pastoralist) hence lesser grazing land which consequently restrict the mobility as a key strategy for the pastoralists.

Furthermore, the pastoralists are challenged on how they can make the fundamental changes in terms of bridging the education and knowledge gaps with the outside world. It is clear that they need total commitments and support from all other stakeholders provided that they have clear objectives and determination in this crucial transformation.

Makko concluded by thanking all the participants for devoting their time and meaningful contribution they had made throughout the workshop. He also thanked Mr Alais Morindat for his outstanding facilitation as well as TNRF for funding the workshop. He then invited the elected chairman to mark the official closing of the workshop. In his remarks, the chairman acknowledged an opportunity to close the workshop with the following;

- Thanked the resource person and facilitator for their good presentations.
- Delighted with massive contribution of ideas from the participants and commitments they have shown in sustaining the forum in advocating the rights of the current and future pastoralists.
- Stressed on making follow up for what have been discussed in order to push and bring the meaningful reforms.

He then declared workshop closed at 6:15pm.

**Budget for regional community forum training from 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**

<p><b>ARUSHA/OLASITI</b></p>	<p>Three days training for 40 participants of the Community Forum in Northern Region on:-            Development Trends and its impact to Tanzania Development            Key National Police strategies and the space of pastoralists in Tanzania.            Leadership for the future            Development of Pastoralists            Discussing the constraints, challenges and develop way forward</p>	<p>21-23/11/07</p>	
	<p>Training cost:-            Food and accommodation 1<sup>st</sup> day            Food and accommodation per day = Tsh, 40,000 per day x 3 days x 40 persons            Transport (15,000 + 5,000 <i>lunch</i>) x 2 days            Stationary, photocopy and communication            Venue (40,000 x 3 days)            Trainer food &amp; accommodation \$ 250 per day x 2 days x Tsh 1225</p>		<p>480,000            4,800,000            1,600,000            250,000            120,000            612,500</p>
<p><b>Grant Total 4</b></p>			<p><b><u>7,862,500</u></b></p>

**Annex:**

The proposed structure of the Council of traditional Leadership from Wards to Regional Levels

