

Rangelands and Livelihoods Task Force Engagement on Rangelands and Livelihoods Policies Programme Discussion Document

Introduction

The Rangelands and Livelihoods Task Force has emerged as an informal collaboration between several civil society organisations and development projects based in northern Tanzania to engage with the Tanzanian government on key rangelands and policy issues. Much of the group's focus is on advocating pastoralist and agro-pastoralist issues, reflecting the constituency of the group.

There is growing opportunity to engage with parliamentarians and central government to heighten awareness and understanding of rangeland livelihood and management issues. In particular there is a strong need from the perspective of CSOs working with rural people and rangeland resource management for achieving improved policies that better support sustainable livelihoods¹, particularly for pastoralists² and agro-pastoralists³.

There are currently three major areas of constraint which limit rural development and sustainable natural resource management in Tanzania's rangelands:

1. Policy and practice that fails to sufficiently support the development of customary rangeland management practices, livestock production and livelihoods – particularly for agro-pastoralists and pastoralists – to better respond to contemporary challenges and opportunities;
2. Weak local government in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas leading to low levels of development and service provision.
3. Policy and practice that fails to efficiently devolve and integrate wildlife⁴ management issues on village lands within customary rangeland management practices and livelihoods – outside protected areas.

These constraints can be highly damaging to rangeland livelihoods, to sustainable rangeland management, and to innovative and enhanced rural economic development. These constraints affect very large areas of Tanzania and millions of Tanzanians. The issues are complex and not easily resolved. However, key to beginning to address sustainable natural resource management issues for rangeland development is the need to facilitate the improvement of policy and law. Currently a policy environment exists which is not conducive to enabling rural people in the rangelands to solve their natural resource management and rural development issues themselves. Much of the policy is driven by the state's interests that are not necessarily aligned with those of rural people. This is paradoxical, as without working to support and develop rangeland livelihoods according to the needs of rural people, the government will not be able to achieve its growth targets. In order to address this paradox, new approaches to natural resource management in the rangelands need to be adopted which are much more devolved and participatory, and which are driven by the livelihood needs of rural people. It is likely that this approach is most likely to result in sustainable rangeland management and the economic development and development targets (e.g. livestock production) set by the government.

In many rangeland areas, the wildlife industry often constitutes an unfortunate threat to rangeland livelihoods. Village rangelands provide critical ecological services upon which much of the nation's tourism industry increasingly depends. Yet rural people have little or no say in wildlife management and receive a marginal proportion of the very substantial benefits that accrue to the state. Wildlife has the potential to make a

¹ A person's livelihood comprises their capabilities and their means of living, including food, income and assets.

² Pastoralism is a livelihood system in which people primarily depend on livestock for their livelihoods through the communal management of natural resources.

³ Agro-pastoralism is a livelihood system in which people depend on livestock and crop farming.

⁴ Forest management is already much more devolved, and on village lands well integrated into village institutions. Forest policy and practice are not key constraints for adaptive and devolved rangeland management. Rather, current forest policy and practice substantially sets the way forward for best practice.

substantial contribution to rangeland livelihoods on village lands. Devolution is critical for transferring proper control and benefits to villages and for achieving sustainable wildlife populations on village rangelands. Devolution does not necessarily mean that the government will lose revenues – rather, it stands to gain from a growing rural economy that contributes increasing levels of taxes.

There are five components that may be seen as being necessary for achieving devolved natural resource management policies and their application in the rangelands for sustained rural development and poverty reduction:

- 1.1 Supporting rural communities and local-level organisations to better understand and identify their policy needs in relation to current policy and practice;
- 1.2 Facilitating communities' engagement with key policy-making processes at district, ministry and parliamentary level, so that policy makers better understand and respond to rural people's needs;
- 1.3 Working with development projects and programmes in facilitating the communication of their policy findings in support of rural communities and sustainable livelihoods;
- 1.4 Providing technical support to the development of policy and law as part of addressing communities' needs through directly working with parliamentarians and ministry officials;
- 1.5 Supporting the communication and application of appropriate policy and practice in the rangelands with rural communities and in partnership with government;
- 1.6 Supporting a process of stakeholder policy feedback and further policy development.

It is essential that this initiative be collaborative and inclusive in nature. Progress to achieve resolution of complex natural resource management and rural development issues will be better sustained and more successful if a wide range of interest groups can engage with the policy-making and the policy-implementation process leading to wider buy-in and support such that;

- 2.1 The resulting policies and laws are likely to be more relevant and appropriate to rural needs;
- 2.2 There will be much greater opportunity for communication, trust building, relationship development (e.g. networks) and innovative group learning;
- 2.3 Different organisations and resource persons will bring different knowledge sets and skills with them which are likely to result in the development of more innovative policy and practice;

It is important that as part of this initiative civil society – or 'non-state actors' – retain their independence and autonomy in relation to government. However the initiative will not succeed without forming a strong but reflective partnership with government. Experience in other sectors shows that in the absence of a strong and constructive partnership with government, gains achieved in best practice by civil society and development projects can be easily undone and undermined by government institutions which do not understand the process and outcomes and have not bought into them.

Proposed programme

The proposed programme seeks to build on, and integrate with, on-going initiatives, concentrating initially on components 1.1 – 1.3. The programme will be divided into two parts - each seeks to address different but strongly related issues falling under different government ministries.

- 1. Improved (agro)-pastoralist livelihoods** – the objective of this part of the programme is to work towards the development of policy and practice that improves (agro)-pastoralist livelihoods through the development of improved livestock management and marketing systems based on strengthening and improving local practices and institutions. Many of the policy lessons are being developed by projects run by Vetaid and ERETO.
- 2. Adaptive rangeland management** – the objective of this part of the programme is to encourage the development of policy and practice which results in adaptive management of village rangelands and rangeland resources – including wildlife. The underlying objective is to achieve devolved management of livestock mobility and ranging, sustainable and locally economically productive wildlife populations, and secure range conditions for a growing rural economy.
- 3. Improved local governance** – the objective of this part of the programme is to support partners in helping improve local government processes so that rural people are more aware of their rights and are able to strongly influence their district councils to make better decisions. Additionally, capacity building of district councillors and district staffs need to be carried out in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas,

as these district councils often have the least resources. An important part of this process is learning from district councils about how the Local Government Reform process is enabling them or not to improve rangeland management and services. These insights can then inform the policy advocacy process.

The programme is designed to be highly collaborative and complement ongoing initiatives (see below). While strategic in nature, it aims to be responsive and flexible.

There will be five points of engagement:

1. **Communities:** supporting and working with existing and new community networks to develop clear policy dialogues;
2. **CSOs:** increasing collaboration and partnership in an expanding network of organisations that work strategically together. PINGOs and TAPHGOs will continue to form the core of this collaboration.
3. **Development Projects:** working to support the development of policy lessons and their communication to central and local government, as well as communities and CSO partners.
4. **District Government:** working with partners to help improve local governance in selected pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas
5. **Central Government:** engaging with ministries in a process of advocacy, in which representatives from rural communities and producer networks are able to influence the direction of government policy and practice;
6. **Parliament:** supporting the capacity of parliamentarians to better understand and support rangeland issues as means for building wider consensus about best practice and new policy directions.

The initiative does not seek to prescribe any technical policy recommendations. These will be developed through the participatory process that the programme adopts based on participants' knowledge and experience.

Programme Partners

The programme's launch partners are as follows:

PINGOs Forum – pastoralist advocacy and CSO member liaison

TAPHGO – pastoralist advocacy and CSO member liaison

IIED/RECONCILE – pastoralist advocacy training and capacity building

Vetaid – Animal health and livelihood support

ERETO – Ngorongoro Pastoralist Support Project

UCRT – supporting village land and natural resource management in northern Tanzania

SCF-T – supporting village land and natural resource management in northern Tanzania

TNRF – building consensus and collaboration for policy advocacy and best practice in natural resource management

JOLIT – Oxfam's Joint Livelihoods Initiative for Tanzania

The programme is expected to grow from having a northern Tanzanian focus to a wider coverage, as more partners join.

Human Resource Needs

A key weakness at present within the RLTF is that it lacks a focal person and small supporting budget to better coordinate and enable its activities. Many of the RLTF's members work in their own organisational roles in a full-time capacity, and find it difficult to carry out the extra administration and other organising work required to enable RLTF to function smoothly. Moreover, there is low capacity among partners for developing high quality and well targeted policy briefs and policy advocacy processes.

It is therefore proposed that the RLTF hire a programme officer to carry out the Terms of Reference attached. It has been suggested that, if possible, the programme officer be a woman.



Terms of Reference Rangelands and Livelihoods Task Force Programme Officer

Overview

The Rangelands and Livelihoods Working Group (RLTF) is a coalition of CSOs and development projects working to support pastoralist livelihoods and range management, livestock health and community-based natural resource management. The overall objective of the group is to bring about a policy environment that fully supports pastoralist livelihoods and their range resource management rights enabling pastoralist people to better address the livelihood and range management challenges that they face.

The Rangelands and Livelihoods Working Group has three main areas of work:

1. Engaging the government in targeted advocacy on rangeland livelihoods and management policy issues in order to help bring about better national policies and programmes;
2. Developing collaborative projects with its partners as a means for piloting new ideas and approaches, and in turn learning from these projects for further policy advocacy;
3. Consulting with a wide range of CSOs and development projects about their policy and advocacy priorities, so the RLTF is better able to respond to their needs.

Job description

The Rangelands and Livelihoods Working Group Programme Officer will be responsible for helping coordinate the work of the group. Their responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:

1. Act as the RLTF's secretariat by:
 - a. Providing logistical support for RLTF meetings, seminars and workshops;
 - b. Liaising with between RLTF's members over on-going programmatic work to improve partner communication and effectiveness;
 - c. Maintaining the RLTF's accounts and records;
2. Support the development of RLTF's advocacy documents, publications and advocacy processes;
3. Developing and implementing a well targeted, low-cost and effective communications strategy about RLTF's work;
4. Work to expand RLTF's membership so as to improve the Group's representation of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities across Tanzania;
5. Develop fund-raising proposals as needed to ensure the continuity of the RLTF's work;
6. Ensure that RLTF's programme of work integrates well into those of its partners and members;

Requirements:

- Masters degree or equivalent in natural resource management, law or other relevant social science;
- 7 or more years of working experience in pastoralist issues and/or community development, preferably with some policy-level experience;
- Project management skills – including proposal writing, financial management and record keeping;
- Fluent written and spoken English and Swahili;
- Good analytical skills;
- Demonstrated ability for independent thinking and initiative-taking;
- Ability to work as part of a challenging team.

Remuneration:

- USD 1200-1600 per month before taxes depending on experience;
- Occupational insurance
- Basic health insurance
- Annual leave of 27 working days per year