



Forest Action Network
CONCEPT PAPER

Supporting pastoralists in the Kenya-Sudan-Uganda Triangle to alleviate poverty

INTRODUCTION

During the period 2003 to 2005 FAN carried out a project on *Natural Resources and Conflict Management* in the Karamoja Cluster – the area that lies between Kenya, Uganda and Sudan. The project’s overall objective was to **enable reduction in poverty and enhanced livelihood security among the Karamojong, Seibei (Uganda) Toposa (Sudan) and the Turkana and Pokot (Kenya)**. The biggest impact of this project was the realization by the communities living in the cluster that *conflicts over natural resources are the main cause of poverty*. They all agreed that until these conflicts are minimized, the inhabitants will continue to wallow in poverty. The communities recommended that in order to limit the conflicts in the area, the following interventions should be carried out:

- Train peace committees in negotiation and conflict management
- Run radio bulletins on national radio specifically targeting early warning on drought
- Rehabilitate water reservoirs
- Advocate for the recognition of the people living in the cluster
- Build the capacity of the community based organizations in the cluster to support the population in the management of natural resources
- Organize exchange visits for people from the cluster to enable them to appreciate developments in other parts of the region
- Encourage other development agencies to work in the cluster

CONTEXT

The situation in the Karamoja cluster is that most of the people in that area live on the margins of existence. There is continuous instability caused by frequent conflicts over natural resources (mostly water, pasture and trees). The large number of livestock in the cluster exacerbates the impact of drought when this occurs. The current drought (late 2005 to early 2006) is a case in point. The end result is that livestock perishes in high numbers, exposing the population to famine and severe poverty. An early warning system as well as a working livestock market would be beneficial to the people living in the cluster.

In the neighbouring Laikipia District of Kenya, pastoralists are not generally as badly affected by drought. This is because that district has several small artificial lakes which fill up during the rain season and thus provide water during the dry months. Some water reservoirs do exist in the Karamoja cluster and in neighbouring districts. However, they are full of silt and no longer hold appreciable quantities of water even when it rains.

Our previous work in the cluster informs us that the people living in that area are not sure of their national status. What is worse, their own governments have not made any attempt to give these people adequate recognition. This in turn makes the population of the cluster to lose any hope in their governments and to ignore any government directives.

PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

FAN therefore wishes **to support pastoralists in the Karamoja cluster to alleviate poverty through the prudent management of natural resources.**

This will be done by:

- Building the capacity of communities in peace building and in the management of natural resources
- Rehabilitating water reservoirs in the cluster and in neighbouring districts
- Advocating for the recognition of the people living in the cluster
- Establishing early drought warning systems and networking with other development agencies to encourage them to work in the cluster
- Establishing a pilot livestock market linking the cluster with neighbouring districts

Expected outputs

Outputs	Main Activities
1. Communities with capacity to manage their natural resources	A total of 10 community based organizations will be taken through: training in peace building; pasture management; participatory forest management; and water conservation.
2. Ten water reservoirs rehabilitated and in use by the people of the cluster	Removing silt from former water reservoirs; and planting trees around them.
3. A document detailing the legal status of pastoralists living in the cluster is available and distributed to policy makers	Carry out a study on the legal status of the people living in the cluster; edit; print and disseminate the study.
4. Communities in the Cluster with ability to alert each other and their governments about an impending drought	Train 20 community based organizations in simple weather forecasting techniques; provision of radios and cell phone communications; monitor progress
5. More development agencies are encouraged to work in the cluster	FAN participates in national and regional meetings of relevant development agencies; FAN places the cluster on its website and newsletters
6. Pilot livestock market for targeting animals from the cluster is in place in Kitale (Kenya) and Mbale (Uganda).	Link livestock traders in the cluster and meat traders in Kitale and Mbale; support this link by enabling inspection of the meat; and supporting initial transport using two (small) pick-up trucks; monitor progress
Project and Financial Management	Project Manager and two assistants

FAN is therefore seeking Financial Resources to carry out the above interventions.

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