

PENHA

PASTORAL & ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

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Attendees at the 25th. Anniversary Conference, October

Pastoralism: Past, Present and Future

PENHA's 25th anniversary was celebrated by a conference at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London in October 2015, which brought together members of the pastoral fraternity, many of whom had been present at PENHA's founding conference in 1989. It reflected on the important role that PENHA had played and continues to play; explored present and future challenges being faced by pastoral people; and identified new opportunities to ensure the sustainability and viability of pastoralism in a changing political, economic and environmental landscape.

Among the many organisations represented at the meeting were the following: Open University, Care International UK, Oxford Brookes University, Minority Rights Group, Somali Heritage and Academic Network, Overseas Development Institute, Seawater Greenhouse Ltd., Brent Council, Ethiopian

Embassy, Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, University of Coventry, University College London, Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Agroforestry Enterprises, International Gender Studies Centre, Oxford, Africa Division UN Development Fund for Women, International Institute for Environment and Development.

PENHA's journey was described in the keynote address given by Dr Tekeste Ghebray, former Executive Secretary of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Thanks to the efforts of PENHA and other like-minded organisations, pastoralism today is an important global issue and is firmly on the political map. The founding of PENHA came at a critical time in the history of the Horn of Africa. It was a time of emerging alliances and the opening up of political spaces. Now, 25 years on, there is a sense of renewal. Dr Zeremariam Fre, PENHA's Director, said that pastoral people are now taking charge of their own destiny and can no longer be marginalised. They are negotiating access to land with other local resource users. Communities are coming together across different livelihood systems, building alliances, strengthening solidarity and preparing for change.

An emerging theme of the conference was the politics of change which is impacting all pastoral communities. Land and resources are being expropriated to drive new development agendas. There is rapid urbanisation with new infrastructure being planned; growing populations; large scale land acquisitions for oil and mining exploration; an expansion of regional interaction and trade. And in addition there is climate change. There are new fears too – the spread of Islamic extremism and the international response to it.

Continued on page 2.

Contents

Pastoralism: Past, Present and Future	1
The Tuuyo Grazing Reserve Rehabilitation	2
PENHA in Ethiopia - Economic development in Afar	2
Supporting Women in Eastern Sudan	3
A PENHA lecture at Mekelle University, Ethiopia	3
PENHA in Uganda	3
PENHA's new Trustees and associates	4
Ababayehu Assefa	4
Charles Steynor	4
PENHA Networking	4



The Tuuyo Grazing Reserve Rehabilitation Project in Somiland

This large pastoral plain in Togdheer is a vital resource for local as well as distant pastoral communities. A proliferation of dirt-track roads criss-cross the plain, channeling water off it. Local people have identified this as the major environmental issue, and this project addresses it directly. With funds from the Somaliland Development Fund (SDF), PENHA is implementing a project that involves the construction of soil bunds and water diversion channels and the establishment of a community managed grazing reserve. Two years of poor rains and exceptionally severe dry seasons have hit communities hard. Many households have moved across the border to Gashamo, Ethiopia, where rains have been somewhat better.

tween land ownership and environmental stewardship. Local people are concerned about threats to their land rights. But they have also stressed the erosion of traditional common property systems – the pastoral plain used to be reserved for seasonal grazing, but the old systems no longer work, with population pressure and the establishment of private enclosures around the plain.

Establishing effective land governance is key. The project hopes to promote this by bringing leaders of the numerous villages that surround the plain together in a project committee, to manage a small grazing reserve and develop new ways of cooperating.

In this project, drought affected community members receive cash incomes to build environmental structures that will deliver lasting benefits. Training in environmental management builds local skills and knowledge. Workshops have highlighted the close relationship be-



Pastoralism - Past, Present & Future (from front page)

The future looks positive, however. Pastoral communities are seizing new opportunities; they are diversifying their incomes and livelihoods - high levels of urbanisation mean a greater demand for milk and meat, and for services such as health and education. New livelihood strategies supported by PENHA are contributing to women's economic empowerment. The digital revolution has given pastoralists access to information and trading, as well as banking services and the remote identification of grazing areas. Young people have more choice over their future.

Despite this evolution of the pastoral economy, governments continue to pursue policies to control and restrict pastoral practices by trying to sedentarise and "modernise" pastoralists. Mobile pastoralism is, however, compatible with modernity, and a new pastoralism that is both modern and mobile appears to be emerging. The rules of engagement are changing and PENHA now needs to see where to position itself as a network. There are opportunities to engage with new actors, such as emerging institutions in the South – some universities in the region are offering academic courses on pastoralism – as well as the private sector.

As highlighted by the Chair of the Board, John Plastow, PENHA, as a network, is able to bring a range of voices and expertise to the table – locally, regionally and internationally. The challenge now is to determine the role of PENHA and others in facilitating these aspects of positive change for pastoral peoples over the next 25 years.

PENHA in Ethiopia - Economic development in Afar

The Ethiopian economy as a whole is growing at a little over 10% per annum. But this is not so for all parts of the country. In the Afar region, the growth is slower - and PENHA is part of a research consortium which seeks to discover why this is so and to suggest how to develop economically. The other members of the consortium are Adigrat University (in northern Ethiopia) and University College London. They are working with other local organisations such as Samara University which is based in the Afar region.

Using participatory rural appraisal guidelines, the study has started in the kebelles of Daar-Berhale, Urkudi-Abala and Bekelidaarna Abelidera-Mile. Focus groups have been held on a range of subjects including pastoralism, agro-pastoralism, education,

health, marketing, credit and cooperatives, social protection and gender. The project also made a seasonal chart showing the health and food consumption in relation to the seasonal trends of humans and animals. It drew trend lines on rainfall (drought), poverty and vegetation cover for a 50 year period. In addition, participatory wealth ranking and community problem analysis ranking were undertaken and an action plan developed. More than 70 people participated in these activities in the three sub-districts (55% men and 45% women). The Afar is predominantly patrilineal and women sometimes find it difficult to express their views openly in front of men; hence, to ensure women's

full participation separate groups were organized for men and women.

The research is going well despite the serious drought which the Afar communities, like so many others in Ethiopia and Greater Horn Region, face. This is undermining their mainly livestock-based livelihood system and socio-economic-cultural assets - of great concern to the research team.



A lecture by PENHA at Mekelle University, Ethiopia

The Environmental and Natural Resources Law Centre of the School of Law hosted a public lecture with contributions from three PENHA staff members under the heading “Regional Approaches to Pastoral Development in the Greater Horn of Africa: From the perspectives of Land Governance, the Evolution of the Pastoral Economy and Women’s Economic Empowerment”.

Professor Mitiku Haile chaired the session and provided his own valuable insights. Dr Zeremariam Fre, talked about PENHA’s history and its evolution in a changing development context, highlighting major policy issues and suggesting some future directions. John Livingstone addressed land governance issues and argued for a modern and mobile pastoralism that is compatible with economic growth. Amsale Shibeshi presented PENHA’s women’s economic empowerment work in pastoral com-

munities as well as recent work on participatory land governance in Somaliland. Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn Gebremikael, Assistant Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Pastoralism, brought a group of students with pastoralist backgrounds, including some from the Afar and Somali regions. Lecturers and students contributed to an interesting discussion. The need to build awareness around the African Union’s Pastoralism Policy was identified.

The discussion focused both on the substance of the presenta-

tions and the possible collaboration with the Environment and Natural Resources Law Center, one of the centers established in the University’s School of Law to work on awareness, advocacy, research, post-graduate programmes and outreach programmes on environment and natural resources policies and laws.



Supporting women in Eastern Sudan

The pastoralist communities in the Kassala State of Eastern Sudan are very under developed. Among the main origins of the poverty here is the traditional marginalization of women within patriarchal pastoralist society. There is a basic need to strengthen the economic position and the household income of women pastoralists. This project idea came from the women themselves who had been involved in the preceding PENHA/PEAKS women empowerment project. They raised the question ‘What can we do next with our new skills?’ So they formed a women’s producers groups. It was as a result of a consultation with PENHA/PEAKS in 2013, that this project evolved.

Handicrafts are expressions of the culture, tradition and heritage of communities as well as having an economic value. The programme combines both the construction of women micro-business centres as well as



supporting the use of their indigenous skills and knowledge. It was implemented by PENHA in partnership with the Pastoralist Environment Association in Kassala State - PEAKS (a local community based organisation (CBO)) with the support of the governmental authorities and the local chief and religious leader. Women are the backbone of the project and together with PEAKS, they are committed to continue and sustain the project goals in the future.

With financial support from the Zurich Community Trust and the Rafael family, support was given to groups in the three communities of Awadat, Tajuj and Awad, situated between Kassala city and the Eritrean border. A total of nine women’s groups benefited with 130 individual women between the ages of 15 and 60 increasing their monthly income by 700 SDG (Sudanese Pounds) as they developed increased quantities of new and good quality products.

Women’s confidence in running their micro-businesses and the culture of entrepreneurship was enhanced. Centres are also serving as platforms for women to raise local issues that go beyond the handicraft works, such as local governance issues. The engagement of more young girls in handicrafts will contribute to the sustainability of the project.

PENHA in Uganda

PENHA Uganda is part of an international group of NGOs which are working to improve the health of cattle without the use of anti-bacterial drugs and to preserve indigenous breeds - in the case of Uganda, the long horned Ankole cattle. With the support of the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Development (LPP) and the Erbacher Foundation, both from Germany, and also with groups in the Netherlands, India and Ethiopia, PENHA has been working in Uganda to bring local community based organisations into the project.

Ankole cattle are especially well suited to the Ugandan environment. They are resistant to many local diseases and rarely fall ill. They are resistant to drought. Although they do not produce the quantity of milk that European breeds do, they produce a milk with a unique creamy and sweet taste and good and tasty ghee. The meat is good and tasty. The long horns are not only important for self protection but also to disperse excess body heat.

PENHA is sensitizing the community and campaigning for the importance and values of the indigenous Ankole Long horn cattle breed. In addition, it is arranging exchange visits with NGOs in India, the Netherlands and Ethiopia.

PENHA's new Trustees and volunteers

Welcome to Nicole Kenton, our new Trustee. Nicole is an independent consultant in International Development and has had many years of experience in the International Institute for Environment and Development.

We are pleased to welcome Abdurazak Sharif Mohamed and Mesghina Tedla as

PENHA Associates. They are developing a policy for PENHA on education for pastoralists. Dr. Yusuf Dirie from the Social Policy Research Unit, has joined us as a Research Associate.

Prof. Jeremy Swift is also helping us in developing our educational policy for pastoralists.

PENHA networking

PENHA is a network committed to linking pastoralists together in the Horn of Africa and in Africa as a whole. It also aims to link research to the reality of pastoralists lives.

Dr. Tafesse Mesfin, one of PENHA's Ethiopian based board members visited Japan to discuss the need to localise the provision and the administration of humanitarian aid to pastoralists in East Africa. He is also assisting capacity building for the Somaliland Ministry of Environment and Rural Development in the building up of best practice in the sustainable forest management in the dry lands of Somaliland.

Prof. Jeremy Swift, one of PENHA's advisors, attended a meeting in Kenya on the education of hard to reach young people (who are mostly pastoralists). He made some useful contributions stressing the need (i) to take account of 'indigenous

knowledge' in a pastoral child's upbringing and (ii) to pay attention to new technologies – mobile phones and tablets especially - coming online.

PENHA was represented by Sadia Ahmed from Somaliland and Elizabeth Katushabe from Uganda at a meeting held in Lukenya in Kenya. The meeting ended with a declaration calling for the "recognition and respect for pastoralists customary laws and traditional ways of the governance of tenure".

Tesfaldet Okubayes from the London office represented PENHA at a seminar held in Bicton College, Devon on "Agrcultural challenges in the Horn of Africa". He also represented PENHA at a meeting in the Hague, Netherlands, which aimed to help diaspora organisations to design and implement lobbying and advocacy strategies and to formulate their effective promotion.

We need your help

PENHA's supporters are important to our work. Your contribution can make a real difference to the lives of pastoralists in East Africa. Our aim is to help them, especially the women, to have the capacity to help themselves, set their own aims, and to represent their needs to the powers that be (government, employers and other powerful organisations).

You can contribute directly to PENHA by sending a donation to our office in London at the address below. Or you can contribute electronically through the JustGiving website at the following address: www.justgiving.com/penha/donate.

We respect and value you:

- We will never share or sell your name, address or other personal information to third parties for the purpose of marketing or fundraising without your agreement.
- We will be honest and transparent at all times. We acknowledge when we make mistakes and we put things right.
- If you tell us that you don't want to be contacted in a certain way, we take notice and honour the request.
- We welcome and actively encourage feedback. We regularly use this feedback both to improve and enhance our fundraising campaigns.

Abebayehu Assefa



It is with real sadness that we report the death of Dr. Abebayehu Assefa at the age of 63. He was a great supporter of PENHA in Ethiopia and the husband of Dr. Hirut Gemedo, one of PENHA's Board members. He studied Mechanical Engineering in Ethiopia and in Europe, completing a PhD. He was a Professor of Engineering at Addis Ababa University and was involved in the development of the wind and solar power generation of electricity. He also contributed to the Development Committee of his local woreda. He was a hardworking and dedicated man, a father to his students and an exemplary model.

Charles Steynor



It is with great sorrow that we have to announce the death of Charles Steynor at the age of 96. Charles was a former teacher and head master of several primary schools in Essex before he retired, and a lifelong Christian and a man of great generosity. At his 90th birthday he asked all his friends to contribute to PENHA as his birthday present. He will be greatly missed by his friends and by PENHA.

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