

PENHA

PASTORAL & ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

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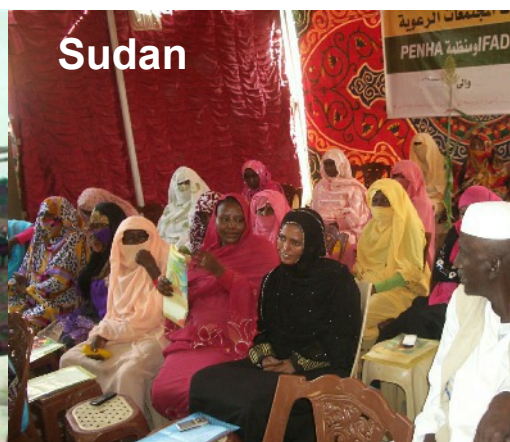
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Somaliland



Uganda



Sudan

Managing the challenges of Prosopis: A Regional Call for Action

The expansion of Prosopis Juliflora has been a serious problem in the countries of the Horn of Africa. The species crosses borders and affects the entire ecosystem and environment of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in countries like Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan. Prosopis was introduced to the Sudan to stop the expansion of desert sand but no preliminary long-term impact study was made. Prosopis seed pods were used to feed animals which meant the seeds

were distributed through dung. It has replaced palatable and nutritious indigenous vegetation. The bushes grow in very dry areas, removing what water there is. It can completely over power local vegetation - and even roads and railways. In Sudan physical eradication methods have not worked and in Somalia the spread of Prosopis is a nationwide issue.

With the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Ethiopian Government at both Federal and regional level, University College, London and the Ethiopian Agro-Pastoralist Development Association, PENHA held a regional workshop in Addis Ababa in November 2014. The Keynote Speech was given by H.E. Gebregziyabher Gebreyohanes, State Minister for the Livestock Resource Development

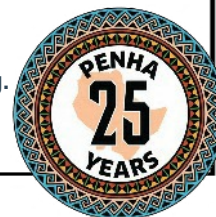


Prosopis pods on the way to market

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This issue comes with our greetings. We hop the PENHA newsletter come you enjoy it and find if of interest. We have appreciated the comments that you have made on previous ones. Please keep them coming. It is also on our website: www.penhanetwork.org



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Social Protection in Ethiopia

PENHA has been committed to the cause of pastoralism in Ethiopia since its inception and, despite occasional problems, it has continued to work there directly and with partners.

Its latest project is a research project in partnership with Adigrat University in Ethiopia and with University College, London with support from local Afar organisations and is being funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). The research is supported by the Afar Regional government.

The two years project aims to address two critical questions:

- What type of social protection practices are available in the Afar Region and how are they applied to different population groups?

What is their effectiveness? What is the current level of poverty in the study area? How vulnerable are different population groups to poverty? Why has poverty remained high compared to other regions of the country?

- What has been the impact of the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) on poverty reduction (income) and risk minimisation?

The findings will be shared in the Afar Region both at the local level with policy makers as well as with local research institutions and colleges. An international conference, to take place in Ethiopia, will also be organised on the theme: *Social protection for inclusive development in pastoralist areas of Sub-Saharan Africa*. Progress will be reported regularly through the PENHA website.

Women's Groups in Sudan

The Pastoralist Environment Association in Kassala State (PEAKS) was founded in 2008 by the pastoralists themselves and since then it has carried out various projects working closely with PENHA and several other similar bodies. It has been responsible with PENHA for implementing the Prosopis project in Eastern Sudan.

That project, with support from IFAD, mobilised pastoralist communities in the use of Prosopis for animal feed. The case study below shows how PEAKS successfully engaged the communities in general and the women in particular

in integrating the animal feed project of IFAD with other economic activities.

The training and the choppers provided improved the production of animal feed based on Prosopis. This contributed to an increase in milk and beef production. The women producer groups have become involved in local economic activity. In mid 2014, PEAKS encouraged the women producer groups to use the locally available water for cultivating green animal feed and producing vegetable products such as green fodder or vegetables like Ockra and rocket. This has contributed toward an increase in food supplies to the

village and to the boosting of the confidence of local women. Engaging with women and increasing the inclusiveness of the project was achieved through PEAKS relationship with the men and their family members. PEAKS persuaded men of the importance of women's active engagement in the local development process.



Weighing ingredients for animal feed

Managing Prosopis

Continued from front page

Sector, Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia. The meeting ended with a



Declaration on the Management and Utilisation of Prosopis, which called for regional action. All conference papers are available on the PENHA website.

Based on its previous research in Eastern Sudan, (supported by the Dutch Oxfam NOVIB), PENHA has developed an approach using Prosopis as a potential and under-utilised resource and not just as an environmental menace. The pods are crushed and with other additions are a very nutritious animal feed. The wood of the bushes can be used for producing charcoal (and thus sparing acacia trees) or for Furniture.

With support from IFAD, PENHA is working on the use of Prosopis in Eastern Sudan, near to Kassala, and in Somaliland, near to Hargeisa. It brought an expert from Khartoum to Somaliland to share experience from Sudan, and in both cases, the local groups with which PENHA is working, enthusiastically took part in the training and are using Prosopis both as an animal feed and in other ways. The entrepreneurial instincts of the pastoralists in both countries are making use of Prosopis as a raw material for animal feeds and the wood for making a wide range of Goods.

Thanks are due to the staff of IFAD for their dedicated support to PENHA in Eastern Sudan and Somaliland.

Supporting Co-operatives in Somaliland

Across the continent of Africa farmers' groups are an important route to making agriculture more effective and productive. This is particularly important in the Horn of Africa where there is very limited land which is cultivatable. These farmers' groups tend to be male dominated - though women play an important role in agriculture. In agro-pastoral households, women often have the main responsibility for crops as well as for sheep and goats. Many of them have formed their own all women groups.

PENHA has provided training and equipment



Women's Group in Somaliland

for both these groups in different parts of Somaliland. They have been trained in the basics of group management, including record keeping, voting rights and dispute resolution.

Equipment and training has been provided for specific activities, including beekeeping, water harvesting and environmental management.

The involvement of women in these groups mean that they gain a greater participation in local development and in the decision making for their communities. They also get an independent income which they use for the benefit of their family and the education of their children.

PENHA Uganda: Advancing Pastoralism locally and globally

PENHA Uganda is active in both grass roots development activities and lobbying and taking part in discussions on the future of pastoralism and the development of indigenous livestock in Uganda.

With support from Trade Aid, Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven, UK, two boxes of teaching material were distributed to Kaku Primary School in Kiruhura district and four boxes of tailoring machines and materials to Kanyaryeru Women Tailors' Association in Kiruhura and Ntutsi Tweekembe Women's Group in Sembabule. Miss Harbinson's Trust donated 300 British Pounds for the PENHA Uganda Ntutsi Tweekembe Women's group which was used to purchase an over lock sewing machine. With support from Open Gate and Eva Reckitt Trust, 20 cross bred goats were distributed to 5 women's groups from Kiruhura, Lwengo and Sembabule districts.

PENHA Uganda is an active member of COPACSO, a coalition

organisation and acts as its Treasurer. A representative of PENHA Uganda (Elizabeth Katushabe) was invited to six international meetings in Belgium, the Netherlands, India, Germany and the HQ of the Food and Agricultural Organisation in Rome, Italy. These meetings covered a wide range of topics, including the economics of

indigenous livestock breeds. She also took part, along with a PENHA representative from Somaliland, in two meetings of the African Union in Kampala on how to make operational the AU's policy framework on pastoralism. She also wrote articles and gave radio interviews on the importance of biodiversity in livestock development.



Ankole cattle in Uganda

PENHA in the Horn of Africa

As a regional organisation, PENHA aims to work at the grass roots as well as taking the lessons it learns from pastoralists and agro-pastoralists to those in positions of power in government and in international organisations such as IFAD and IGAD as well as national and international NGOs.

In the last year, PENHA staff members attended conferences and visited organisations in a number of countries and continents.

- Sadia Ahmed from Somaliland attended meetings arranged by IGAD and the African Union - along with Elizabeth Katushabe from Uganda.
- Elizabeth also attended an international conference in India,
- Elizabeth attended a meeting in Brussels on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Agriculture and Food,
- Dr. Nuha Talib travelled from Sudan to Somaliland to demonstrate the production of feed from Prosopis Juliflora,
- Dr. Zeremariam Fre attended the Coalition of European Lobbies for

Eastern African Pastoralism to discuss strategies in approaching European aid agencies,

- He also visited Peru with students from UCL and took the opportunity to learn about pastoralism in South America.
- A group of delegates to the Prosopis meeting visited the Ethio-Feed manufacturing unit to see



how Prosopis is incorporated into a nutritious feed

PENHA's philosophy is to seek to understand and develop pastoralism as a real and important economic activity in the parts of the world which are arid. These visits were an important part of this process.

Celebrating PENHA's 25th. Anniversary

PENHA celebrated the date of its foundation in Addis Ababa on Saturday 29th. November 2014, when it reflected on the challenges it has faced, and discussed its future direction in the region and globally.

This will be followed this year (2015) with two events in London. There will be an international conference at the beginning of October with a series of presentations of issues reflecting on the last 25 years of PENHA's work and how this has affected pastoralists on the ground, the policy of governments of the Horn of Africa, and the way in which PENHA itself has developed. This will take place on Friday 2nd. October at the Overseas Development Institute. This will be followed a week later by a celebration of PENHA in music, story telling, images and traditional food.

For more information about these events look at PENHA's website. To register your interest, contact tesfaldet@penhanetwork.org or Call 07932767610.

Food We Want

The three year Food We Want (FWW) campaign, ended in April 2014. EU funded, it was implemented in five European and three African countries. It was an educational campaign to inform, to raise awareness, to lobby and to promote small-scale family farming and sustainable agriculture as key solutions to tackling hunger and poverty.

PENHA, as the UK wing of the FWW campaign, accomplished several major tasks, with raising public awareness about local and global issues of food and agri-systems affecting both the developing and developed world. Its project staff posted news articles on the FWW website, produced and disseminated educational materials, and leaflets and organized media workshops in London and Oxford universities and they attended food security public events. With the project partners they collectively promoted the campaign through press



releases and the promotion of eight short video on social media. The UK project reached nearly 50,000 people locally and internationally.

Through its involvement with FWW, PENHA has learned how to work with and report to the EU bureaucracy; it increased its media production capacity especially in managing websites and digital promotion activity including the ISSUU platform. It strengthened its ability to work with partners especially from Europe and Africa.

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