

PENHA

PASTORAL & ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

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Pastoralists and PENHA staff in Somaliland

Improving fodder to reduce poverty in Sudan

PENHA is working in Eastern Sudan with a local organisation, the Pastoralist Environment Association in Kassala State (PEAKS) to make use of an invasive shrub called *Prosopis Juliflora* (locally known as *muskit*). This was introduced into the region some decades ago and is seen widely in Kassala State and elsewhere as a curse. It is invading agricultural schemes and the banks of the Algash, displacing other indigenous plants and bushes which have

been the traditional foods for local animals. This is happening at a time when there is an increasing need for more feed for animals such as camels and cattle because many of the traditional migration routes to pastures are no longer available.

PENHA has obtained a grant from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (Continued on page 3)



Pastoralist with cattle in Tagug, Kassala State

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

Strengthening Land and Property Rights in Somaliland

Secure property rights foster sound environmental management and productive investment. It must be clear who owns what land, and what they can do with it. Under the auspices of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the UN, PENHA is providing training for civil society organizations in the Somaliland Pastoralist Forum, aimed at developing negotiated and peaceful processes to establish land use and ownership rights. A workshop was held in which participants were given an understanding of the FAO's participatory approach. The issue of gender equality in ownership and use of land was highlighted.

Future workshops will develop strategies for civil society engagement on land tenure policy and practice with government, local administrations and communities.



Discussing the Issues

International Cooperation on Land, Peace and Gender

Last February, PENHA-Somaliland participated in a three-day African Union training workshop in Ethiopia, in support of its "Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa". Two UN agencies and the African Development Bank were involved. Training focused on specific ways to ensure gender equality, transparency and grassroots participation in pro-poor land policy processes. PENHA-Somaliland was selected by the organizers as a significant player and agent initiating change.

PENHA-Somaliland's Sadia Ahmed participated in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) "Rangeland Observatory" conference in Gujarat, India in June 2013. This initiative promotes local involvement in the mapping of land use by using local people and their local organisations in the mapping of rangelands. In this way, accurate and detailed information is widely available, strengthening people's ability to assert their ownership of the resources upon which they depend for their livelihoods.

PENHA took part in an Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) "Gender Milestones" conference, held in Djibouti in October 2013. The aim was to strengthen regional cooperation support to gender equality, peace, security and democratic governance. Members of a "Women and Peace Forum" were elected to take forward a UN Security Council Resolution on women's participation in conflict resolution.

Supporting education for all ages in Somaliland

PENHA works with women's groups in Haydaanle village in Toghddeer region. The village school is a vital local institution, acting as a local resource centre as well as providing evening literacy classes for women. With only about 20% of the women able to read, education and training for girls and women is central to social and economic progress.

Unfortunately the school's roof and furniture were badly damaged in a torrential storm. PENHA provided support for the repairs – as well as Somali language reading material for the literacy course. PENHA intends to continue supporting this school to become a more effective provider of education, of training and of information to the local community.

Sustainable Employment and Economic Development

PENHA Somaliland is the implementing agency for this programme which is being funded by the British Department for International Development but is led in Somaliland by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). An important visit was made by PENHA and the FAO team to Borama District, Awdal Region to areas which were thought to be suitable for fodder production and for bee keeping. The design of the detailed project benefited greatly from the visit. The resulting training will happen at the end of the year – along with some equipment for local co-operatives.



Joint FAO-PENHA visit to Borama District, Somaliland

PENHA as global Pastoralist Advocate

An important aspect of PENHA's mission is to advocate for policies which are relevant to the lives of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Elizabeth Katushabe, herself from a pastoralist background and PENHA's Project Officer in Uganda, attended international meetings in Kenya and India in 2013.

The Kenya conference, held in Nairobi, was about developing a sustainable livestock sector in Africa. The meeting revolved around a number of themes:

- Increasing the efficiency of the livestock sector using natural resources.
- Restoring both the environmental and the economic value of the grasslands while preserving their social and cultural functions.
- "Waste to Worth" – by recovering both nutrients and energy from animal manure.

The Indian conference, held in Madurai in Tamil Nadu, was mainly funded by two Dutch organisations, Oxfam Novib and Hivos. The meeting discussed agricultural biodiversity at both local and the national level. In an interview on the conference website, Elizabeth said: "I

am taking home a very big task on my head to involve, to spread the message, to educate other civil society organisations and individuals... It will help the small scale producers, the small scale agriculturalist, the small scale pastoralists, the small scale stock keepers to inform everyone, the whole world that we are the feeders of this nation, we are a very necessary group of people, we are necessary for sustainability, for



protecting diversity." PENHA is also a member of the Coalition of Pastoralist Civil Society Organizations with Elizabeth as its Treasurer. She is also a contributor to the Uganda Land Alliance Newsletter with an article on "Women Empowerment in Pastoralist Communities".

Pastoralists in Eastern Sudan

PENHA in Sudan has been working with the local communities and women's groups in the Kassala area, to the east of the country. In a recent monitoring visit to Sudan, Bereket Tsegay (Programmes Development Manager) visited some of the schools which had been given support by PENHA. He was told that the book donation made earlier in the year meant that the waiting time by pupils for books had been reduced by half. This has meant that more pupils were learning to read.

He also met some of the women's groups who had been given basic

business training through the Danish supported Women's Economic Empowerment Programme, including a number who shared the skills at second hand and had developed their handicraft businesses. This had resulted in a real increase of their family income of between 200 to 300 Sudan pounds per month (£50 to £75).



Improving fodder to reduce poverty in Sudan

(Continued from first page)

tural Development, IFAD, to work in Eastern Sudan and in Somaliland to follow up on research on the use of *muskit* seed pods as an animal feed. This will both reduce the spread of *muskit* as well as providing an extra source of animal feed.

The programme in Kassala state started in September with a course for a total of 55 people, seven of whom were women. The following subjects were covered in the lectures:

1. What resources, including *Prosopis* pods, are available in Sudan for use as animal feed.
2. Controlling *Prosopis* by using it for fire wood, for charcoal production, for building shelters as well as for animal feed. The aim is to eradicate *muskit* where ever it is found and replace it by local plants.
3. The need for policy makers to develop ways to deal with the invasion of *Prosopis*.
4. The formation of a forum for local leaders to come together to deal with issues such as *muskit* and the challenges of keeping livestock.

In addition, the attendees were given practical experience in chopping up the sorghum stalks, grinding the *muskit* seed pods and adding and mixing all the components of the feed. The manual chopper is an important local innovation supported by PENHA, and a total 265 have been produce.

The aim of the programme will be to give training to 300 community members, 30 extension workers and 25 policy makers. These trained people will then spread their experience and knowledge to others. It is noteworthy that one of the women trainees in the first session was a member of the State Legislative Council.

Photojournalist Expedition with PENHA Uganda

PENHA Uganda was delighted to be visited by Vanessa Champion, a professional photographer, who met many PENHA associates as well as some of the Women's Groups which had benefited from PENHA'S work.

In the next month or so, Vanessa intends to publish a book of images from her visit - and donate the profit to PENHA. Below is one of the 600 photos which she took.



PENHA Plans for the Future

A group of twelve PENHA staff and associates met together at Birchwood Hall in the Malvern Hills. The Community at the Hall kindly gave PENHA the free use of the conference centre in their grounds, Anybodies Barn. This meeting was one of a series of meetings which started in Addis Ababa in December 2011.

The two days were taken up with attempting to understand and define the vexing issues currently facing pastoralist communities in the Horn of Africa, and the challenges in addressing them using forward thinking and a pro-active projection towards the future. The meeting

ended by appointing a working group of members both from London and from the Horn of Africa. This group will have the responsibility of drawing up a comprehensive strategy document for PENHA's Board to consider.



The meeting place, in beautiful and peaceful surroundings, was a generous gift from the Community at Birchwood Hall which was much appreciated by the PENHA group.

Food We Want

For the past two years, PENHA has been the British wing of this international programme to bring food issues to the attention of the public. These include where food is produced, how it is used and marketed, the problems and challenges facing producers of food in all parts of the world, and the importance of not wasting it. To know more, go to:

www.foodwewant.org/eng.

Mini videos in 5 languages have been produced for an awareness raising campaign to combat food wastage.

Teaching material for use in schools has been developed by our partner, Oikos, in Portugal. The English translation will be tested in primary schools in England as well as being distributed to about 500 schools.

Most of the funding of the programme comes from the European Union.

PENHA's Website Renewed

The work of PENHA can be followed on our website. The new site is based on opensource software (Drupal). It is now available. Go to

www.penhanetwork.org and see for yourself.

Celebrating Pastoralists in the Horn of Africa

Wednesday 11th. December
Adulis Restaurant at the Oval.
This is a fundraising event.

Go to
www.penhanetwork.org

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