



BUILDING SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS (SURL-II) FOR PASTORALISTS AND AGRO- PASTORALISTS IN KARAMOJA



We can only be resilient if we are at the center of our livelihoods design

END OF PROJECT REPORT AUGUST 2022

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1. Project Overview

Overexploitation of natural resources in the Karamoja sub-region of Uganda is partly attributed to poverty among pastoral communities. The region is classified among the least developed regions in the Uganda (FAO Resilient analysis report 10: 2018). Homewood et al. (2012) described pastoral communities living in Arid and Semi-arid regions as among the poorest groups affected by extreme climatic events. These marginalized groups derived their livelihoods from the harsh environments by extracting natural resources from rangelands. However, increasing human population pressure overwhelmed the ability of local communities to conserve their biological resources using their indigenous knowledge. Increasing environmental scarcity is a driving force for conflicts between different land users (Benjamin Sen et al. 2009). The land use conflicts may result into destruction of natural resources and rangelands' biodiversity through burning or improper cultivation. Karamoja sub-region that is classified as one of the world's poorest areas characterized by Food insecurity as a major and ongoing challenge and a heavy reliance on the natural resource base. The fragile dry rangelands face eminent environmental threat from unsustainable resource use, rendering livelihoods sensitive to climate dynamics. Although poverty levels in Karamoja dropped from 74.5% in 2012/13 to 60.2% in 2016/2017, a figure which is still higher than the national average of 21.7%, Poverty levels in Karamoja sub-region could fall further if the natural resource use question is not promptly and effectively addressed

With funding support from the open society initiative for Easter Africa (OSIEA), WSF is implementing a twelve month's Sustainable and Resilient Livelihoods (SURL) project in North Karamoja covering the Districts of Kotido, and Kaabong with the overall Goal of "overall goal "to contribute to increased productivity of rangelands resources through access, utilization and protection rangelands for food security in Karamoja. Supported by two specific Objectives SO1: strengthen local rangeland use and management systems among the pastoralists' communities of Karamoja, and SO2: strengthen pastoralist engagement in policy and decision-making processes in relation to rangeland management in Karamoja. The action intends to build the Capacity of pastoral institutions in rangeland use and management focusing on alternative dispute resolution, Rangeland management use and planning among others.

The SURL II project recognizes the multitude of issues – such as the policy framework, livelihoods, state responsiveness and accountability that are all intimately inter-related which It employed a number of fronts to cause a change in the livelihoods of the population of Karamoja. the enormity of the challenges means a joint approach by a range of actors, working consciously to strengthen the capacity of local men and women to influence policies that impinge on their Livelihoods, and to trial and document ways to protect and improve over time. The SURL II project primary targets included pastoral institutions (formal and informal), CSOs; female and male youth groups; men and women; the district and lower council leaders; and the religious leaders and institutions. The project was implemented directly by WSF in Kotido and Kaabong Districts. The project directly reached A total of 2,183 (1,418 M and 785 F) Direct1 and 6,549 (4,254 M and 2,355 F) indirect2 Beneficiaries were reached in the project period.

¹ Direct beneficiaries are those who directly benefit from the project interventions.

² Indirect beneficiaries are those who benefit as a result of the direct beneficiaries. It's projected that 1 direct beneficiary will directly reach 3 other indirect beneficiaries.

2. Project progress

The Sustainable livelihoods for pastoralist project (SURL II) has two main result areas; Outcome 2.1. Improve local and sustainable rangeland management systems among the pastoralist communities of Karamoja; Outcome 2.1: increased pastoralist engagement in policy and decision-making processes in relation to rangeland use and management. Supported by two output areas; Output 1.1.1: Capacity of pastoral institutions (formal and informal) in rangeland use and management strengthened. Output 2.1.1: Pastoralist engagement in wider land, policy discussion fora at sub-national and national levels supported. Main activities included; Strengthening the capacity of pastoralists institutions (formal& informal- (Local leaders, Council of elders, Kraal leaders, in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to enhance sustainable use of rangeland resources in Arid and semi-arid areas of Karamoja; Support the Gazetting of grazing and watering points in Karamoja; support the documentation of local knowledge through studies, most significant change stories etc., to aid advocacy; Facilitate WSF to participate in cross boarder (Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan) coordination meetings; and Facilitating the Popularization of Policy frameworks that promote sustainable rangeland use and management (local ordinances, pastoral code of conduct, National Rangelands Management Policy, IGAD transhumance protocol etc).

Outcome 2.1. Improve local and sustainable rangeland management systems among the pastoralist communities of Karamoja.

The SURL II project focused on strengthening local and sustainable rangeland management systems among the pastoralists' communities of Karamoja to enhance their resilience to structural and climate related shocks. Under the outcome, WSF implemented three main activities that included; Strengthened the capacity of pastoralists institutions (formal& informal- (Local leaders, Council of elders, Kraal leaders, in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to enhance sustainable use of rangeland resources in Arid and semi-arid areas of Karamoja. Support the Gazetting of grazing and watering points in Karamoja, and support the documentation of local knowledge through studies, most significant change stories etc., to aid advocacy in Karamoja. A total of 1,433 (868 M and 565 F) beneficiaries reached directly and 4,299 (2,604 M and 1,695 F) indirectly.

2.1.1. Strengthened the capacity of pastoral institutions (formal and informal) –council of elders, kraal leaders; in alternative dispute resolution and rangeland use and management.

Over exploitation of natural resources in Karamoja is partly attributed to poverty among pastoral communities, their livelihoods derived from the environments by extracting natural resources from rangelands. Disputes between communities in rangelands use and management remain common in Karamoja. Pastoral institutions play an essential role in settling community disputes but had little knowledge in alternative Dispute resolution. Institutions are regarded as custodians of traditional law and receive the bulk of the cases dealing with violence.

WSF Supported the training of the Local leaders and council of elders on alternative conflicts resolution and



local leaders during a training in alternative dispute resolution in Kaabongo

supported alternative resolution dialogue meetings aimed at equipping them with Knowledge and skills to performing their roles and responsibilities in conflicts resolution. The key Topics covered included; Overview and context for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Alternative Dispute Resolution under Ugandan laws, Approaches to negotiation: links between negotiation and mediation, Introduction to mediation, mediator skills, advanced mediation skills, Overview of the concepts and models, designing an ADR and Evaluating ADR in the current context of Karamoja.

“I did not know how best to handle conflict in my communities and how to apply ADR in our daily handling of conflicts. The training is eye opener” my skills are improved for better service delivery”.

Lochoto Mathew

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WSF also facilitated local alternative dispute resolution meeting aimed at enhancing the capacity of communities in resolving emerging conflicts and turning them to peaceful outcomes. During the dialogue meetings, 10 issues related to natural resource use and management were identified and resolved. These included; Cattle theft and raid, abduction, killing, sacrifice and rape, inaccessibility of grazing area and displacement among others.

As a result, local leaders (councilors) and council of Elders capacity strengthened in alternative dispute resolution in relation to rangeland use and management and are engaged in dispute resolutions related to natural resource use and management. For example, the Leadership of Kotido engaged the neighboring districts of Abim, Kapelebyong, Otukey and Agago on the disputes of rangeland use and management for joint access and utilization.



Council of elders during presenting their Views during local alternative dispute resolution meeting meetings in lokwakial-Kotido

2.1.2. Supported the Gazetting of grazing and watering points in Karamoja.

Management of lands among Karamojong communities is under communal tenure system; This system has been exploited, affecting the livelihoods of the Karamojong with a population largely dependent on Pastoralism and agro-Pastoralism whose 90% of their livelihood base is supported by livestock. Traditional grazing and watering points have shrunk because of expansion / encroachment by other human activities (such as; Crop farming, Charcoal burning and settlement), as well as being gazette by Government for other uses (Mining, Game reserves, Forests, wetlands etc.) pushing Livestock keepers out. This resulted into conflicts over the use of the scarce pastoral resources among pastoralists and neighboring communities. WSF facilitated community awareness meeting on the importance of

garzeting of grazing and watering points in Karamoja. 4 meetings were conducted; supported the development of local ordinances that support the garzeting of gazing and watering points, facilitated one radio Talk-show to discuss the importance of garzeting grazing and watering points. 4 radio talk shows conducted, and facilitated local authorities to garzet grazing and watering points. 4 grazing and watering points identified and garzatted. in the project intervention areas of Karamoja. A total of 423 (289 M 167F)

During the meetings, the participants covered key areas that included; background on the pastoral issues including access to pasture, statistical brief on the Land in Karamoja, Grazing area maps and reactions/way forward. It was shared that Kaabong is a drought-prone, major livelihood is Pastoralism anchored on cattle-herding that uses mobility to make maximum use of scarce natural resources in arid or semi-arid environments characterized by limited and erratic rainfall. Pastoralists move with their livestock annually herd their cattle to water points and pasture, based on annual weather cycles and prevailing climatic conditions. Kaabong experiences one long dry season from October to February with dry spells in June to August which affects the livelihoods activity of the Dodoth, the pastoralist of Kaabong rarely move out of the district for pasture but interact with other pastoral communities of the Jie, Toposa of Sudan and Turukana of Kenya. That required action to Gazette watering points and grazing area.



Local Leaders in Kotido and Kaabong during consultative meetings on the gazeting of grazing areas and watering points

As a result, four grazing and watering points were identified and garzatted. Four (4) community awareness meeting on the importance of garzeting grazing and watering points were conducted and over 160 participants were reached. Local ordinance for the garzeting the grazing and watering points developed and implemented. And 2 radio talk shows conducted.



Mr. Milton Lopiria (Executive Director), Henry Omoding and community leaders in Kaileny – Kotido during the visit to grazing areas .

2.1.3. supported the documentation of local knowledge through studies, most significant change stories etc., in aiding local advocacy.

The economic rationality and ecological sustainability of pastoral systems are amply documented (Homewood, 2008) and are attracting new attention vis-à-vis emerging interests in resilience and adaptability (e.g., African Union, 2010). However, there is still a deeply rooted apprehensiveness in rural development circles at national and international levels, that investments in securing pastoralism hold back development rather than promoting it, both with regard to the people in pastoralism and to the livestock sector as a whole (with important exceptions, for example, the African Union Policy Framework on Pastoralism; African Union, 2010).

WSF also supported the documentation of local knowledge through studies, most significant change stories etc., to aid advocacy. The key issues documented included; the relevance of key resources and drought fallback resources. Key resources are reliable source of fodder used by a pastoral community during the season of food scarcity, corresponding to the dry season in arid and semi-arid environments.



Mr. Omoding Henry during a community consultation to document most significant change stories in Kaileny (Kotido District)

The report also highlighted the mobility patterns of pastoralists in response to variability in pasture and water resources. According to the report, the Karimojong pastoralists use a typical grazing plan in what is dubbed “grazing circumference” across the rainy and dry seasons. Within the local grazing areas, the pastoralists restrict seasonal grazing to specific areas, reserving a section of the rangeland to act as fodder banks. Initially at the start of the normal rains, livestock are moved to grazing areas and water points closer to permanent homesteads (e.g., within a radius of 1 km) and then back to the settlements. But as pasture availability decreases, herders move further into fodder reserves closer to the watering points.

In addition to the above, Socio-cultural institutions, policy issues, and legal frameworks governing the management of natural resources also came out vividly. Pastoralists have well-structured cultural institutions aimed at regulating the use of pastures and water since the sustainability and health of these resources determine survival and livelihoods of resident and neighboring pastoral communities. The cultural institutions are organized in a hierarchical manner, with the lowest tier dealing with decision making at the household level, while higher tiers deal with issues involving clans, communities, or villages. The organization of the decision-making regarding use of and access to grazing depends on whether the grazing is within or outside the locality.

The report also suggested some of the actions for the socio-economic development and peace in Karamoja’s Arid and semi-Arid lands (ASALs) that included; the strengthening of social cultural institutions in promoting sustainable natural resource use and management, promoting community safe spaces for pastoral women and Girls to be able to raise their voices, promote peace dialogues, opening and commissioning of cross-border security access roads, provision of clean and safe water in pastoral border communities, promoting employment opportunities for young men and women, strengthening trade opportunities among cross-border communities.

Outcome 2.2: Pastoralist engagement in wider land, policy discussion fora’s at sub-national and national levels supported.

Under the outcome area, the following was implemented, Cross boarder (Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan) coordination meetings, Facilitate the Popularization of Policy frameworks that promote sustainable rangeland use and management (local ordinances, pastoral code of conduct, National Rangelands Management Policy, IGAD transhumance protocol etc.), Support exchange-learning visits and coordination meetings among pastoralists to enhance sustainable use and management of rangeland resource. A total of 770 (550 M and 220 F) direct and 1,870 (1,650 M and 660 F) indirect beneficiaries.

2.2.1. Facilitated WSF participation in cross boarder (Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan) coordination meetings.

The current situation of pastoralists is alarming without a proper coordinated approach among the stakeholders. It is true that pastoralists do not believe in national boundaries for long, and continue to move. Coordinated is an approach for both communities and stakeholders to monitor and avoid resource-based conflicts. WSF, Local leaders and Council of Elders were supported to participate in a Coordination meeting aimed at enhance learning, networking, innovation and causing effective use and

management of Natural Resources in the targeted communities and reduced conflicts. A total of 682 (489 M 193 F) Reached.

Three (3) coordination cross boarder meetings were conducted that brought together different stakeholders from Karamoja (Dodoto, Jie and Turkana) who discussed matters on rangelands and 5 issues like: Raids, Struggle over rangelands, Displacement, Destruction of crops, and killing were discussed, opportunities like; Land, High population for investments opportunities, Natural endowment with vegetation's, existence of structures.



Pastoralist from Jie (Kotido), Dodoto (Kaabong) and Turkana (Kenya) during a cross-border meeting

As a result of the meetings, there are a number of meetings that followed like sensitization of community and coordination that enhanced sharing and promotion of bi-laws or ordinances. Pastoralists are able to access and utilize pastures from the neighboring communities. for example, one of the Council of elder member Mr. lokurupacho Johnson said *“Coordination is key in addressing matters and must be considered as part of any program aimed at promoting sustainable pastoral livelihoods system”*. The pastoral institutions in Kotido were able to advocate for the drilling two boreholes in the cross-border corridors that will be drilled with support from the UNDP Uganda programme in Kailenya (Kotido) and Tultul in IK, Kaabong Districts.

2.2.2. Popularization of Policy frameworks that promote sustainable rangeland use and management (local ordinances, pastoral code of conduct, National Rangelands Management Policy, IGAD transhumance protocol etc.).

Karamoja is a drought-prone area, whose major livelihoods is Pastoralism anchored on cattle-herding that uses mobility to make maximum use of scarce natural resources in arid or semi-arid environments characterized by limited and erratic rainfall. Pastoralists move with their livestock annually herd their cattle to water points and pasture, based on annual weather cycles and prevailing climatic conditions. Under this activity, WSF facilitated radio talk show to popularize the policy frameworks that promote sustainable rangeland use and management and popularization meetings (Pastoral code of conduct, IGAD Transhumance Protocol).



Mr. Milton Lopiria (ED -WSF) facilitating during the popularization of the IGAD Transhumance protocol in Kaabong District.

WSF facilitated the Sharing of the Code of conduct to council for Ratification. A total of **38 (22 M 8 F.)** participated in the meeting. The code of conduct for Transhumant Pastoralism and Livestock grazing which acts as guidelines to the pastoralist for peaceful co-existence and sharing of the natural resources (pasture and water). the District Executive Committee Presented the code of conduct to Council for ratification. The code of conduct for transhumant pastoralism and livestock grazing was jointly developed by the pastoralist groups, peace committees, UPF, UPDF, RDCs office and Kaabong District Local Government with the support from Warrior Squad Foundation. The code provides key principles that include; Unity of purpose, nominate a contact at the outset, Borders of the neighboring regions are known, Offences once committed against the host community are acknowledged, Coexistence of Local communities and transhumant pastoralists with wildlife, Continuous dialogue, ensure common security of both humans and livestock, Vigilance at the community level, Kraal locations and movement is coordinated. The code also provides Responsibilities of different stakeholders in the implementation of the code of conduct, Pre-migration, during migration and livestock grazing (Access of pasture and water, Security of livestock and property, Resolution of migration-related conflicts/offences) Post migration period in all principles were shared in detail.

As a result of the meeting, The code of conduct was ratified. Council recommended for popularization of the code and having a joint code for Kotido and Kaabong. 200 copies of the pastoral code of conduct for Kaabong were printed.



Kaabong District technical team during the development and sharing of the draft pastoral code of conduct

WSF also supported Coordination meeting aimed at enhance learning, networking, innovation and causing effective use and enhance sustainable use and management of rangeland resources. A total of 58 (39 M 19 F) Participated in the meeting, During the meetings, participants had discussions on the current situation of the natural resource and relations to the pastoral livelihoods, Presentation on rangeland use and management, Situational analysis and action planning for improved management of the natural resource, Presentation Sub-County Service Delivery Status Report and Closure.

As a result of the coordination meetings, The Council of elders, Local Leaders, Kraal Leaders and partners in Karamoja (Kotido and Kaabong) were able to review and front actions such as the development of audiences for the management of rangelands resources with the overall aim of promoting effective use and reduced conflicts in the use of the resources. A Number of gaps were also identified in relations to access to, use and management that included; depletion and mismanagement od rangeland resource, Encroachment and low productivity of rangelands. The Various Local government department are in the process of integrated rangeland issues in their various sector Plans as key to sustainable development. Mr. Lolem Francis added his voice and said *“Natural resource management is key, it’s our collective responsibility”*. The District Local Government of Kaabong was able to Conduct an assessment exercise to check the performance of the Lower Local governments, focusing on financial management, Administration, implementation and documentation of Projects specifically related to Natural resource use and management.



Technical teams of Kotido and Kaabong having discussions during coordination meeting

2.2.3. Support exchange-learning visits, coordination meetings among pastoralists to enhance sustainable use and management of rangeland resource

Warrior Squad foundation supported the Exchange learning visit for Pastoral institutions (formal and informal) to Learn and improve knowledge and practices in Natural resource use and management through experiences and discover new view points and approaches for management of Natural resources. A total of 22 (16 M 6 F) participated from the districts of Kotido and Kaabong.

During The learning, the team had a deep brief by the District Natural Resource Officer on Natural resource governance in Dokolo district. The meeting was attended by the CAO and the District Chair person, in the meeting the team was taken through the background of Dokolo district the total of land it sits on, the percentage covered by forest, water bodies, swamps among others, the available natural resources how they are used and managed by both the district and the locals, and the projects that have been implemented for sustainable use and management of resources. DNRO Dokolo emphasized on their major challenge in managing resources as deforestation by the locals in the names of charcoal burning. He complains saying most of the people both educated and non-educated rely on charcoal as a form of energy for cooking. Despite the fact that it's a big challenge, the fight is still on and as district they have come up with a bi-law of hiking the prices of charcoal for the trucks that come from out and introduced planting of tree spies by all the farmers to be used for charcoal.

The CAO Dokolo encouraged the team to always conserve the environment and use tree planting as income generating activity. As a symbol to show that he loves environment, he presented all the members with shea butter tree seedlings for and handed over for different institutions to the different representatives to plant them in the various institutions.

As a result of the Visit, the pastoral institutions were able to visit four (4) sites with good rangeland practices, they actioned to lobby for project in different districts, Strengthen the coordination in the district and coming up with strong laws on the issues of environmental management.



Districts of Kaabong and Kotido district technical team during a Learning Visit to Dokolo District

Coordination meetings among pastoralists to enhance sustainable use and management of rangeland resource.

WSF also supported a number of coordination meetings among pastoral institutions to enhance sustainable use and management of pastoral resource. Four quarterly coordination meetings were

conducted where 316 ppts (102 F and 214 M) were directly reached. During these meetings a number of issues were raised that included; the current food insecurity crises, conflicts management such as the opening and commissioning of cross border access roads, continuous dialogues, provision of clean and safe water in cross border communities etc. it was also agreed to have continuous advocacy on pastoral related issues.

WSF also supported the participation of pastoralists men and women in sub-national and national coordination meetings that gave space for pastoralists to raise their concerns such as on the current conflict management, sustainable natural resource sharing, land resource use and management. WSF was selected and part of steering team in the development of the cross-border transhumance development plan.



WSF ED (Mr. Milton Lopiria) on the behind row and participants during the cross-border transhumance development plan sharing in Moroto.

2.3. Organizational growth and development

2.3.1. Staff training & Development.

WSF has one of its objectives to be a learning Organization. In order to achieve this, we have worked continuously on Human resource development, evaluated our work and strived to perform even better at Organizational level. Our working definition of performance review is that; it is a system for planning, assessing and evaluating work performance, emphasizing the planning aspect. The purpose of performance reviews is to provide an objective, fair way of evaluating staffs on the job effectiveness, and to assist them get the highest possible job satisfaction. We ensure that the expected standard of performance, areas where improvement is needed, training need and possible career development opportunities as well as setting special target to be performed by our employees are met.

WSF conducted and supported its staffs, volunteers and board members to attend a number of trainings both internal and external; resource mobilization, results harvesting & reporting; Basic procurement for

non-logistics staffs; Documentation and communication. WSF also supported staffs to attend training on Human rights protection, Monitoring and reporting; Computer skills development; strengthening timely and effective collective response mechanisms for Human rights Defenders in Karamoja region in order to ensure safety and security; This has Improved planning, implementation, reporting and decision-making processes; and delivery of its services to target beneficiaries and it has however Enhanced the organization's reputation and profile.



WSF staff and partners from the Global Fund posse for a group photo in front of WSF offices in Kotido after the training in institutional governance.

2.3.2. Bard development and oversight:

WSF is committed to adhering to the highest standard in its corporate governance practices, governed by a board of Directors directly elected by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) after a period of 3-year term and meets quarterly (4 times) a year to share updates on the performance of the Foundation and provide recommendations therein. According to the mandate and procedures laid down in the constitution and Board Manual of “contributing to the development of WSF through strategic advice, lobbying and policy formulation”, the WSF Board is composed of senior and experienced personalities that have contributed to the realization of WSF's vision and mission. With support from OSIEA, the board has contributed to the improvement & functioning of the organisation through; ensuring financial health, executive compensation, and oversight of WSF programs. Refresher training was also conducted for WSF board members on institutional governance. This has however enhanced our ability in delivering the project efficiently and effectively. WSF represented by the executive Director WSF (Mr. Lopiria Milton) is now a full member of the Action Aid Uganda (AAIU) general Assembly which was held in December 2021. This has however shaped our external image in the promotion of good governance in the NGO world.

Communication:

With support from OSIEA, WSF was able to operate and uses online communication platforms such as; website, blogs, mobile apps, social media e.g., Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, and Tweeter in sharing and disseminating information. These platforms have also enhanced WSF visibility, social accountability mechanisms and linkage to various global partners with similar interests with a number of people visiting or reading our platforms reached 2000. The websites and social media have an in-built systems that counts the number of people visiting the page. The statistical data is collected by WSF staff and compiled. Most visitors also send mails and post on the platforms hence generating discussions.

Challenges

- Covid 19, this affected implementation of project activities, all interventions are restricted due to the stringent measures adopted including movements. These restrictions have affected the projects Work plans however, WSF has had both internal and external meeting for implementation of the project activities, and WSF got a permit for movement and implementation of project activities while observing COVID 19 guidelines.
- Insecurity in the region, Karamoja security situation today is worse, this was mainly caused by Cattle theft, which led to armed cattle raids characterized by lost lives, rape and abduction, Loss of livestock and other food, and it affected peaceful co-existence within the region. Relation among communities is affected.
- Poor implementation of actions/resolutions by the Pastoral communities, this has affected peaceful co-existence, however WSF and Network members have continuously had dialogues with the local leaders and kraal leaders to ensure implementation of resolutions for peaceful-co-existence and joint utilization of resources.

Lessons

- The stakeholders are knowledgeable about the existence of issues concerning natural resource use and management but had minimal engagement in the area of concern.
- There's need to Strengthen coordination among stakeholders to address the issues of abuse of laws by the structures.
- The Traditional institutions (council of elders) are very influential and instrumental in the promotion of socio-economic aspects among in the Karamojong. Traditional Institution plays an essential role in management of Natural resources. They are regarded as custodians of traditional law and receive the bulk of the cases dealing with, which might be political, domestic or antisocial behavior; they are mandated in the protection and promotion enforcement of laws among others. Failure to work with them jeopardizes the outcomes of any intervention.

Annex: success story

Strong pastoral institutional capacity for improved use and management of Rangelands in Karamoja.

Despite the policy provisions and efforts by the informal/traditional leadership structures, CSOs and District Local Government authorities to address natural resource management issues in Karamoja, these efforts have been somewhat ineffective due to; Limited capacity and coordination among the natural resource management players; ineffective pastoral institutions and; Knowledge gap on natural resource planning, use and management.

The ineffective Natural Resource management (NRM) Structures in Karamoja were partly responsible for the lack of inclusive decision-making in the management of all ecosystems; land, forest,

water/fisheries, wildlife and rangelands. Despite the growing recognition of the need for integrated approaches to natural resource management, there was and still limited cross-sectorial planning and coordination. The Overlapping and competing jurisdictions and activities resulted to non-reconciliation of the different needs and priorities of various stakeholders.

Knowledge gap and a power imbalance among the Karamojong is also reason for them not able to sufficiently articulate the rationale of their issues and to organize themselves to influence policy. Pastoralists have been absent from national, regional and international policy processes especially in the promotion of sustainable use and management of Rangelands. WSF believed that, there is a real risk that the huge investments that have been made in development will be wasted unless serious efforts are made to address the challenges to natural resource use and management through Strengthening the capacity of sustainable natural resource used and management.

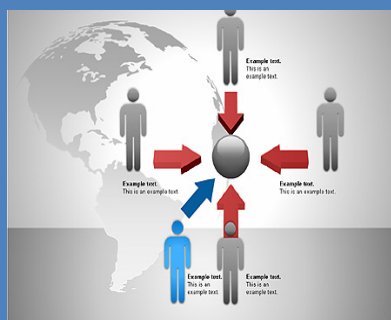
The existence of the informal/traditional leadership structures, CSOs interested in natural resource use and management and the NRM committees at the district presented an opportunity to set up mechanisms of addressing natural resource management issues in Karamoja. This required the established Strong coordination structures for sustainable natural resource use and management.

WSF under the SURL II titled: “Sustainable Resilient livelihoods for Pastoralist (SURL II)” with the overall goal of “to contribute to increased productivity of rangelands resources through access, utilization and protection rangelands for food security in Karamoja- in the intervention Districts of Kotido and Kaabong. WSF Strengthened the capacity of pastoral institutions (formal and informal) – council of elders, kraal leaders; in alternative dispute resolution and rangeland use and management. Supported process of the gazetting of grazing and watering points in Karamoja, participated in cross boarder (Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan) coordination meetings, Popularization Policy frameworks that promote sustainable rangeland use and management (local ordinances, pastoral code of conduct, National Rangelands Management Policy, IGAD transhumance protocol etc.), Supported exchange learning visits and coordination meetings among pastoralists to enhance sustainable use and management of rangeland resource

As a result of the project, Strong effective formal and informal local natural resource structures that are knowledgeable and well-coordinated in natural resource management. There’s improved knowledge among the different stakeholders in Kotido and Kaabong on the role of Natural resources in social-economic development of society. The Natural resource officer who also doubles to be the District Focal person Kotido said.... “There’s improvement in the implementation, oversight and response to natural resource use and management. The regular, effective two-way communication networks established, and Strong linkages between grassroots structures, higher-level structures and CSO platforms especially in response to natural resource management. Coordination structures were also able to put resources together to implement Natural Resource related project”.

Building pastoral Partnerships and Networks

WSF aspires to make a sustained and significant positive impact partnership. We believe that is only through strong partnerships and collective action that are inclusive, accountable and empowering and based on relationships of openness and trust that service delivery can be improved. Our approach to partnership reflects our values, are central to what we believe as an organization and how we think change will happen, our efforts to address the inequality of power, not just in society at large but in our own working relations with others. WSF works with and through others to take action to achieve common goals for overcoming poverty, Disease, Violence and injustice, based on complementarity and respect for the contribution that each party brings. WSF's partner relations is informed by and managed to a set of clear principles. These five principles underpin our programme and partnership decisions in development, humanitarian and campaigns work at every level of activity. We hold ourselves accountable to these principles and seek to be held accountable by partners, communities and other stakeholders with whom we and partners work: Complementary purpose and added value; Mutual respect for values and beliefs; Clarity of roles, responsibilities and decision-making; Transparency and accountability and; Commitment and flexibility. WSF works with others to build a universal movement for change to support the actions of poor and marginalized people and communities to overcome poverty and suffering more effectively. We believe that this is more likely to ensure lasting, locally owned development and relevant and accountable campaigns and humanitarian interventions in Karamoja.



In Partnership... we advance our mutual interests to achieve missions and to amplify, reach and promote effective service delivery with minimal or no cases of duplication of services, lobbying and advocacy.

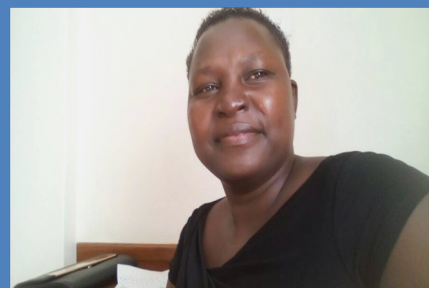
WSF with funding support from OSIEA has built the capacity of local actors and CSOs in enhancing good service delivery in pastoral areas. WSF is proud to say we have now partnered with a number of local Organisations such as; Dynamic Agro-pastoral Development Organisations (DADO), Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA), Pastoralism and Development Organisation (PADO Uganda), Amudat Interreligious Development Initiative (AIDI), NAROWA, Women Initiative for Development Association (WIDEA), AWOTID Uganda, KDF, MADA, Caritas Kotido, and not forgetting Kotido NGO Forum. These partners come from all Districts of Karamoja (Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit, Abim and Amudat) with unique experiences and expertise that has significantly enhanced our capacity to actively engage in evidenced based programming, lobbying and advocacy. We have managed together with our partners to put collective efforts in consortia to mobilize funds, coordinate our interventions. We have also provided our partners and other small organization space for placement for experience learning. Sector coordination meetings that WSF supports have acted as plat forms for lobbying and advocacy to improving service delivery especially on gaps identified by partners. Every resolution is discussed and agreed upon by all members. We believe **“a collective voice is stronger than a single voice”**.

Kotido NGO Forum taking lead in coordinating development partners in Kotido District

In the past two years has been struggling to deliver its core mandate of coordinating partners in the district, being an umbrella organization that oversees the work of all development partners in the district. Over time, most of our member organizations lost trust in us sighting non commitment of KONGFO to its mandate. Some of the members opted out with discontent and seeing that the forum has nothing tangible to offer them. The coordination meetings were not honored, no sharing of reports even when meetings were held and need to, there were no standardized tools for reporting and track performance of every partner. This painted a negative picture of the forum and was hard to convince and know what each partner was doing in Kotido District.

Being a beneficiary and engagement in the SURL Project, it has revived the coordination meetings that bring together various organizations engaged in education to discuss matters that affect the sector and also provide holistic solutions aimed at ensuring a well-coordinated implementation of education sector services to avoid duplication and foster local advocacy. These coordination meetings have boosted the confidence of development partners in Kotido NGO forum, this is seen in their commitment to attending the quarterly sector coordination meetings, active participation in the deliberations during the meetings, sharing of their reports, as a result there is an understanding of what each development partner is doing with a data base created for references.

We are proud to the efforts and support provided by Warrior Squad Foundation (WSF) to KONGFO in building our capacity to be a strong CSO coordinating agency in the district. We believe in learning and taking on the challenge. KONGFO will from now on do things differently....



Caroline Akello: Programme
Coordinator Kotido NGO Forum
(KONGFO)

A Photo gallery:



Community leader making submissions during a dialogue meeting in Kotido



Mr. Lokurupacho Johnson a member of the pastoral council of elders making submission during a community dialogue.



Pastoralists during community meeting to popularize the pastoral code of conduct.



Mr. Milton Lopiria – ED WSF facilitating during the IGAD Transhumance protocol popularization meeting in Kaabong



Kaabong District heads of departments pose for a group photo during a meeting on the garzeting of grazing and watering points.



District heads of departments and CSOs during natural resource use and management training in Kaabong district



WSF ED (Mr. Milton Lopiria) on the behind row and participants during the cross-border transhumance development plan sharing in Moroto.



Mr. Omoding Henry during a community consultation to document most significant change stories in Kaileny (Kotido District)



Mr. Milton Lopiria (Executive Director), Henry Omoding and community leaders in Kaileny – Kotido during the visit to grazing areas.



WSF staff and stakeholders during a one day workshop to document most significant change stories