



Investing in rural people

Enabling land management, resilient pastoral livelihoods and poverty reduction in Africa

GRANT RESULTS SHEET



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Goals and objectives

Historically, pastoralists have been marginalized, and policies have been geared towards encouraging, and in some instances forcing, their settlement and sedentarization. Misunderstanding of their livelihoods has also led to abandonment of their customary institutions and practices. However, scientific evidence shows that mobile pastoralism is the most sustainable way of using marginal lands (such as arid, cold and mountain areas).

The project goal was “to develop sustainable land management and resilient livelihoods in rangeland environments”. The objective of the project was to develop knowledge and build capacity for pastoral advocacy, create opportunity for pastoral advocacy and engage directly in policy dialogue, in order to promote policies and investments for sustainable management of rangeland environments and pastoral livelihoods. A significant aspect of the project was strengthening networking and building a global movement on sustainable pastoralism; this relied on the credibility and recognition of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as a science-based intergovernmental organization.

This project supported the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP), a global initiative empowering pastoralists to sustainably manage their dryland resources. As a global knowledge and advocacy network, WISP was established to enable pastoralists to demonstrate that their land use and production system is an efficient way of harnessing the natural resources of the world’s drylands. Details of the WISP strategy can be found online and details of the results of this programme can be found in the publication *The Green Quarter* (see: www.iucn.org/wisp).

Beneficiaries

The main target groups were pastoralists, their representatives and their governments in Africa, with activities (especially capacity-building) concentrated in selected countries where IFAD was already supporting poverty reduction and economic growth through sustainable pastoral development. In practice, many countries benefited from the project through access to knowledge products and policy advice, and through the participation of pastoralists in global forums.

The goal was to develop sustainable land management and resilient livelihoods in rangeland environments

Facts at a glance

Grant implementing agency

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Theme

Land management, pastoral livelihoods and poverty reduction in Africa

Benefiting countries

Algeria, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Somalia, Sudan and Tanzania.

In practice, many countries benefited through access to knowledge and policy advice and through participation of pastoralists in global forums.

Total programme cost

US\$1,909,096

IFAD contribution: US\$950,000

Cofinancing (other donors):
US\$959,096

Partners

FAO, UNDP- GEF, UNEP, Rockefeller Foundation, International Land Coalition (ILC), Conflict and Cooperation over Natural Resources in Developing Countries (CoCooN) project, Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM), Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP), Pastoralism Journal (Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice), World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP)

Effectiveness and duration

4 years (including a 9-month no-cost extension), 2011-2015

Linkages to IFAD investment projects

- Chad: Pastoral and Water Resource Management Project (Kanem and Central areas)
- Eritrea: Post-crisis Rural Recovery and Development Programme
- Ethiopia: Pastoral Community Development Project
- Kenya: Programme for Rural Outreach of Financial Innovations and Technologies (PROFIT)
- Kenya: Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management
- Mali: Kidal Integrated Rural Development Programme
- Sudan: Butana Integrated Rural Development Project

Main results

Pastoral society

Organization and empowerment.

Strengthening of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP), Réseau Billital Maroobé (West and Central Africa), the Bedouin network (West Asia and North Africa), Red Pastor (Spain/Europe) and PastoAmericas (Latin America). This included capacity-building, support for advocacy and evidence-building, and opportunities for dialogue. Pastoralists have become better organized at all levels and are exercising their voice in policy dialogue and through the ballot box – exemplified by the participation of a Kenyan women's group's leader in the Women's Gathering in India (sponsored by this project), who was later part of the constitutional review committee and able to include specific support for pastoralist women.

International recognition. Enabling pastoralist organizations to influence international agreements, including the African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa (2012), the N'djamena Declaration on the Contribution of Pastoral Livestock to the Security and Development of the Saharan-Saharan Region (2013) and the Nouakchott Declaration on Pastoralism (2013). One of the most significant contributions of WISP has been to highlight the international profile of pastoralism and to provide a platform for the exchange of experiences and ideas between rich and poor country pastoralists. Profound social changes are taking place in pastoralist societies in Africa and indeed worldwide, and WISP has been part of this global movement. Many agencies, including United Nations agencies, are now looking for opportunities to support pastoralism, although the scale of support remains lower than required, as agencies are still moving cautiously into this arena.

Solidarity and knowledge. WISP organized three global "pastoralist gatherings" under this project, in India, Kenya and Spain, to promote the voice and organization of pastoralists. These events contributed to pastoralist empowerment, encouraged dialogue with national governments, and led to coordinated input to international processes such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The strengthening of the pastoralist voice and organization has been credited with influencing national recognition of pastoralism, such as the establishment of Kenya's National Drought Management Authority.

Representation and action. The project outputs have contributed to improvements in national policies, including the Jordanian Rangeland Strategy, the Jordanian National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, the Kyrgyzstan Draft Pasture Law, Spain's White Paper on Transhumance, and others. It has led to a significant shift in attention worldwide towards pastoralist rights, including land rights and governance, evidenced by the establishment of the International Land Coalition's Rangelands Observatory, and the FAO Technical Guide on implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure and the Law in pastoral lands.

Pastoral economy

The pastoralist economy. Arguments have shifted away from economic failure towards understanding economic potential, which has been the foundation of the new, more positive perception of pastoralism that is emerging. WISP studies on economics have been widely cited in policy and investment documents. Many diverse changes in support of pastoralist marketing have taken place worldwide and WISP's work on economic valuation of the multiple goods and services of pastoralism have inspired numerous agencies to invest in innovative marketing strategies, including a

growing number of investments in dairy marketing and more dialogue around payments for environmental services. For example, WISP-inspired work in the pastoralist district of Isiolo, Kenya, has led to the county being removed from Kenya's Emergency Response Counties List for the first time in 40 years.

The importance of investment. The publication Minimum Standards for Sustainable Pastoralism Development is now used to guide investments in pastoralism, including the HERD initiative under development in Jordan, Egypt and other countries, and will become the basis for a global initiative on country-level investment in sustainable pastoralism. WISP has made a strong case for a new investment paradigm that is redesigned to optimize multiple goods and services rather than to maximise investment returns in single goods. Through this work WISP partners are increasingly taking part in multi-sectoral dialogue to examine the values of pastoralism, which go far beyond the agricultural sector, and to promote investment options that capitalize on the inherent conservation value of pastoralism.

Total economics of pastoralism. These studies and associated capacity-building and dialogue have shifted the emphasis away from pastoralism as purely a livestock sector towards recognizing the dual roles of pastoralism, as both livestock production and environmental management. This has influenced international policy (e.g. CBD, UNCCD) and is increasingly recognized in regional and national policies.

Pastoral ecology

Rangelands management by pastoralists. WISP was established to translate new ecological understanding of pastoralism into policy and investment action. The project contributed significantly to popularizing the new understanding of the interdependence between pastoralism and rangelands, for example through India's Forest Rights Act, Spain's White Paper on Transhumance, implementation of the Mongolian pasture law, and changes in the perception of pastoralism in numerous countries.

It has also led to a change in perspective across the conservation sector, including recognition in the UNCCD and CBD, and increasing recognition of pastoral lands as indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs), which contribute to Aichi Target 11.

Pastoralism and the Green Economy. The project supported the Kiserian Pastoralist Gathering under the theme of the Global Transition to a Green Economy, which was the platform for ensuring that pastoralism was addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015. The role of pastoral institutions in governing communal rangelands is recognized in SDG16 and the importance of desertification in rangelands in SDG15. The gathering led to the publication of the same title by IUCN and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Lessons learned

- Pastoralism is a dual system of economic production (e.g. livestock products) and environmental stewardship (e.g. biodiversity conservation, water supply protection, climate change mitigation). Where pastoralism is faring better around the world, it is due to legal and policy recognition of, and support for, these dual roles.
- The sustainability of pastoralism depends on effective natural resource governance and securing of (usually communal) land rights. Laws and policies may exist, but innovation and political will are needed to implement such laws in pastoral lands.
- Most countries already have policies that could support sustainable pastoralism, and greater emphasis should initially be placed on policy implementation rather than policy revision. This requires stronger advocacy by pastoralists, increased investment by governments, and greater capacity to implement good practices.
- In many pastoral areas, basic development needs are great (e.g. education, health, security) and must be addressed in parallel with other needs in order to build the basic capabilities for self-determination and resilience.

Scientific evidence shows that **mobile pastoralism** is the most sustainable way of using marginal lands

Pastoralists have become better organized at all levels and are exercising their voice in policy dialogue and through the ballot box

- Evidence-based advocacy and networking to build the voice of civil society groups can have a major and far-reaching impact on policy and investment, particularly if such work combines the authenticity of local leaders with the credibility and recognition of international institutions (e.g. IUCN, IFAD). The value is challenging to measure and attribute, but this does not diminish its importance, and donors should strongly support appropriate initiatives.
- The pastoralist voice has grown significantly, and the political space for pastoralist engagement with government is steadily opening in many countries. However, pastoralist advocacy remains poorly coordinated at the national and international levels. Continued and improved support is required to strengthen pastoralist civil society organizations, so that they can monitor and enhance the work of organizations such as IUCN and IFAD, as well as that of national governments.

Way forward

- Knowledge is increasingly available to support a new vision of pastoralist development, and political will is improving. It is necessary to capitalize on the growing support for pastoralist development by investing heavily in scaling up established good practices, and promoting rights-based development in all pastoral societies.
- As public support for pastoralism develops, pastoralist civil society organizations increasingly influence, inform and monitor state interventions. This role is crucial and requires ongoing support and acceptance from donors as well as from national institutions.
- Development in pastoral areas lags behind in almost all countries and requires a major boost in order to catch up. Significant work is still required in countries to adapt public investments and policies to the precise needs of pastoralists. Further investment is needed to domesticate international commitments in pastoral regions and to establish locally accepted good practices and policies.
- There is continuing need for innovation in balancing the dual roles of pastoralism. As attention to pastoralism grows, it usually leads to expansion of markets for meat, milk and fibre. Experience shows that commercializing pastoralism in the absence of environmental incentives can contribute to rangeland degradation, thereby undermining the livestock economy. In all countries, further innovation is needed to regulate and reward the environmental services provided by pastoralism.
- Securing communal land rights and strengthening local governance are among the most valuable interventions in most pastoral areas. This is where greatest investment is needed, since, without secure tenure, other investments are potentially harmful.

Knowledge generated

As a knowledge network, WISP has generated numerous publications under the IFAD grant that have been used to build awareness and understanding of the rationale for pastoralism, and good practices for improving the sustainability of pastoralist development. Studies have been developed through the WISP network, guided by topics prioritized through the network and through pastoralist gatherings, and synthesizing many case studies contributed by network members. The studies have been widely used by WISP network members and partners, and by the WISP team, to influence policy and investment dialogue nationally and internationally, including many public events at international forums such as the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC, as well as many conferences (e.g. International Rangelands Congress, World Conservation Congress). WISP knowledge products have been integral to the pastoralist learning forums developed under this project, which have targeted mid-level decision makers in order to dismantle core stereotypes about pastoralism.



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