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WISP World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism

Quarterly Newsletter

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NEWS FLASH: 2006 is the UN International Year of Deserts and Desertification. This will provide WISP and its partners opportunities to promote the role of pastoralism and improved drylands management to combat desertification and sustainable development. WISP will be coordinating development of projects by pastoralists and local development partners directly aimed at building local capacity and promoting sustainable pastoral land management. For further information contact the secretariat at jonathan.davies@iucn.org

WISP IMPLEMENTATION BEGINS:

IUCN is pleased to announce the recruitment of a global coordinator for WISP, Dr Jonathan Davies, who will take up his position on 1st February 2006, and will be based at the Eastern Africa Regional Office of IUCN. Dr Davies holds a PhD in economics and has extensive experience in pastoralism from Africa, Europe and Asia. In the meantime, IUCN has recruited Ms Veronica Muthui as an interim coordinator. Ms Muthui is coordinating the pastoralist economic and marketing study, the first of many under outcome 1. ToRs for the study have been distributed through the WISP-net. She is also developing a website for WISP. Watch out for these two products soon. For further information contact WISP secretariat at vmuthui@africaonline.co.zw

COP 7 and the Pastoralist Manyatta

Over 2000 delegates from around the world gathered in Nairobi, Kenya from 17–28 November 2005 to review the implementation and budget of UNCCD, and discuss the key activities to be undertaken before the 8th COP to be held in Spain in 2007. UNCCD is the only one of the conventions launched at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 that explicitly states the interrelationship between an environmental issue – desertification – and poverty in its convention text. It especially calls on parties “to integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification”.



WISP organised a side event dubbed “the Manyatta” which led to a formal recognition of the contribution of pastoralists, a first for UNCCD. The outcome document of UNCCD COP7 refers to pastoral dryland management as an “important element to combat desertification”. This is the first time

that the convention has formally recognized the key role of pastoralists in the sustainable management of drylands, evidence of the power of lobbying by a global project!

UNDP and IUCN encouraged the parties to the convention to recognize the essential contribution of dryland ecosystem services to national economies, and translate this recognition into concrete national and donor budget allocations for pro-poor initiatives to improve dryland management.

For more information contact:

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THE EUROPEAN FORUM ON NATURE CONSERVATION & PASTORALISM (EFNCP) HOLDS ITS 9TH FORUM

The European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism (EFNCP) is a pan-European non-profit organisation, bringing together ecologists, nature conservation managers, farmers and policy makers to discuss problems and potential solutions facing the High Nature Value (HNV) farming systems. The Forum works towards developing and promoting policy options which ensure the ecological maintenance of the HNV farming systems and cultural landscapes.

EFNCP conducts research into the ecological relationships of high-

nature-conservation-value farmland and the development of appropriate policies for such areas. Results inform discussions at its biennial conferences, workshops and seminars, and are disseminated through La Cañada, a half-yearly newsletter.

The Forum held its 9th conference in Bulgaria in September 2005, organised in partnership with the WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme. Additional support was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Bulgaria, the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency, The Ministry of Ecology, France, and DG Environment, European Commission.

Participants visited two farms and held discussions with local farmers and their advisors. Members of WISP took an active part in the conference. The EFNCP wishes to play an active role in the North-South and East-West linkages within WISP, and took advantage of the WISP presence to exchanged ideas about projects to be developed under the WISP umbrella in the future.

For further information contact Jean-Pierre Biber at:

jean-pierre.biber@natcons.ch

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE AMERICAN PUNA: THIS PROGRAMME IS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS. THE GEF IS FUNDING A PROGRAMME TO PREVENT, CONTROL AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION IN GLOBALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF THE PUNA COVERING ARGENTINA, CHILE, BOLIVIA, PERU AND ECUADOR. IT IS EXPECTED TO DELIVER GLOBAL BENEFITS DERIVED FROM MAINTAINING OR RESTORING ECOSYSTEM STABILITY AND THE ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT JUAN LUIS MEREGA AT JLMEREGA@UNQ.EDU.AR

AFGHANISTAN TAKES A KEY STEP TO DEVELOPING A PASTORALIST SUPPORT STRATEGY: AFGHANISTAN PASTORALISTS (KUCHI), POLICY MAKERS, DONORS, IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS CONVERGED AT THE FOUNDATION OF CULTURE AND CIVIL SOCIETY, KABUL, FROM 15TH – 17TH NOVEMBER 2005 TO STRATEGIZE ON A PASTORALIST SUPPORT STRATEGY. THE USAID INITIATIVE WAS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FRONTIERS AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS [MFTA] AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FOOD [MAAHF]. THE MEETING FOCUSED ON THE PASTORALIST WAY OF LIFE, RECOGNISING THAT MANY KUCHI HAVE LOST THEIR ANIMALS AND HAVE BEGUN OR STILL REQUIRE BUILDING AN ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD. WISP WAS REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING, COURTESY OF USAID, WHO KINDLY SPONSORED ONE MEMBER. CONTACT FRAUKE DE WEIJER AT F_DEWEIJER@PLANET.NL FOR MORE INFORMATION.



KRAPAVIS, SEVA Tamilnadu and LPPS organized a one-day Signature Campaign-cum-Community Prayer at different localities in India on 15th November 2005, in support of the restoration of pastoralists' traditional rights of access to grazing and watering resources in common land / forest areas. A total of 1258 members participated in the Community Prayer in 12 different venues.

Like other parts of the world, Indian pastoral communities/herders still face problems related to rights of access, encroachment and marginalization. Development and conservation programmes such as Joint Forest Management initiatives, Biodiversity Conservation, etc. have ignored the needs and rights of pastoralists in the forest development and protection plans. Many grazing lands have been converted into protected areas, sanctuaries and joint forest management (JFM) sites. Migration routes and herder pathways are blocked and permits for passage are often difficult to obtain.

Consequently, it has become increasingly difficult for pastoralists to lead a traditional life style. With minimal compensation

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from mainstream development, these circumstances bring about a decline in the quality of lifestyle for the pastoralists, loss of indigenous knowledge and biodiversity.

The One-day Signature Campaign-cum-Community Prayer was followed by consultations between community members, NGO representatives, Parliamentarians, Political Leaders & Policy makers. KRAPAVIS used the momentum and information generated from other WISP supported events, notably the Turmi Global Pastoral Gathering, and the 9th session of the European Forum on Nature Conservation & Pastoralism (EFNCP) held in Bulgaria, to move the process along.

For further information contact Dr. Aman Singh, Chief Coordinator- KRAPAVIS and Ashoka Fellow at:

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GLAMOUR, CHEERS AND TEARS AS PASTORALISTS CELEBRATE KENYA PASTORALISTS WEEK

In an institutionalised bid to shake off a long history of neglect and marginalisation, Kenyan pastoralists converged in Nairobi last week to celebrate their divergent and authentic cultures, and to petition policy makers to recognize and correct their disadvantaged position. The venue was the Kenya Pastoralist Week (KPW), an annual event organized by the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE). Founded in 2000, CEMIRIDE is an advocacy organization devoted to strengthening the capacities of minority and indigenous communities in East Africa to secure, promote and protect their rights. CEMIRIDE has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and is a member of several national, regional and international networks.

This years KPW theme “pastoralists’ participation for progress” originated from the believe that pastoralists exclusion is a root cause of underdevelopment in their areas. The event was attended by pastoralists from the West African countries of Mali and Niger.

The KPW highlighted issues of equitable distribution of benefits, Peace and reconciliation, education for the girl-child and Pro-poor tourism. Despite hosting world famous wildlife sanctuaries like the Maasai Mara Game Reserve and the Amboseli National Park, benefits from tourism have not reduced poverty at the local level. Enrollment rates for the girl-child in pastoralist areas are below 20% even as the rest of the country reaps the benefits of the much celebrated free primary education initiated in 2003. The event campaigned for the integration of

‘school on hooves’ (mobile schools) into the formal education system delivering a signed petition to the ministry of education headquarters.

Innovative value adding processes were displayed by camel yoghurt and a milk concentrate that could last for up to six weeks without refrigeration. Five new books were launched. WISP was represented by Edmund Barrow, who made a presentation of the project.

For further information contact Korrir Singoei, Executive Director, Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) at:

korir.singoei@cemiride.info

Upcoming events:

International conference on emerging challenges of livestock production - Asia, Sept 2006: The LEAD (Livestock, Environment and Development) Initiative, together with SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) and other partners are planning to hold an internal conference on emerging challenges of livestock production. The conference will address structural change and emerging issues in livestock production systems, with a focus on the consequences of this expanding industry on health, economic, social and ecological systems. Contact Henning Steinfeld (henning.steinfeld@fao.org) for details.

International Workshop on “Pastoralism and Wildlife Conservation in the Himalaya” - India, March 2006: The Indo-Norwegian Programme for Institutional Cooperation (INPIC) between WII and the University of Tromso, Norway (February 2002 to April 2006), is a NORAD funded research initiative that addresses the aspects of Pastoralism and Wildlife Conservation in the Himalaya through short and long-term field research investigations. On the occasion of completion of this cooperation programme, the partners will hold a workshop on “Pastoralism and Wildlife Conservation in the Himalaya” at WII during mid March 2006. The workshop will provide scientists, wildlife managers and policy makers a platform for discussing the effects of livestock grazing on the conservation of wildlife and their habitats in the Himalaya. For further information contact Dr. Sathyakumar at ssk@wii.gov.india

International Conference on “Livestock Biodiversity, Indigenous Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights” - Bellagio Study and Conference Center, Italy: To be hosted by the League for Pastoral Peoples from March 27-April 2, 2006. The conference will deliberate on how to acknowledge, endorse, reward and support the role of livestock keepers, especially pastoralists, in conserving diversity. It will also discuss the legal options for protecting animal breeding related indigenous knowledge in the context of existing legal frameworks (e.g., sui generis system, establishment as “prior art”, community biodiversity register), emerging opportunities and new models. Of special interest is “Livestock Keepers’ Rights in a possible International Treaty on Animal Genetic Resources. The conference will also elaborate strategies and action-plans for advancing these rights at the national and international level, in the context of existing forums (e.g. CBD, WIPO, CGRFA) and on-going or upcoming negotiation processes. WISP intends to present a paper on impacts of policies on pastoralism. For further details contact: Dr. Ilse Köhler-Rollefson, Project Coordinator, League for Pastoral Peoples Prugelatostr. 20, 64372 Ober-Ramstadt, GERMANY: Tel/Fax + 49-6154-53642, E-mail gorikr@t-online.de, ilsekr@rediffmail.com. www.pastoralpeoples.org or vmuthui@africaonline.co.zw

Pastoralists suffering: Pastoralists in many parts of the world are suffering hardships due to unusual weather patterns and natural phenomena. Asia is reeling under the harshest winter for years. In China, temperatures have plunged as low as minus 43C and this week there was frost in the Indian capital for the first time in decades. Parts of East Africa are experiencing severe drought while parts of West Africa are plagued by locusts. WISP empathizes with the suffering of pastoralists in these places. The current spate of suffering shows the extent to which pastoralists coping mechanisms have been weakened over time, and emphasizes in a sad sort of way, the need for working together to restore the viability of the production system.