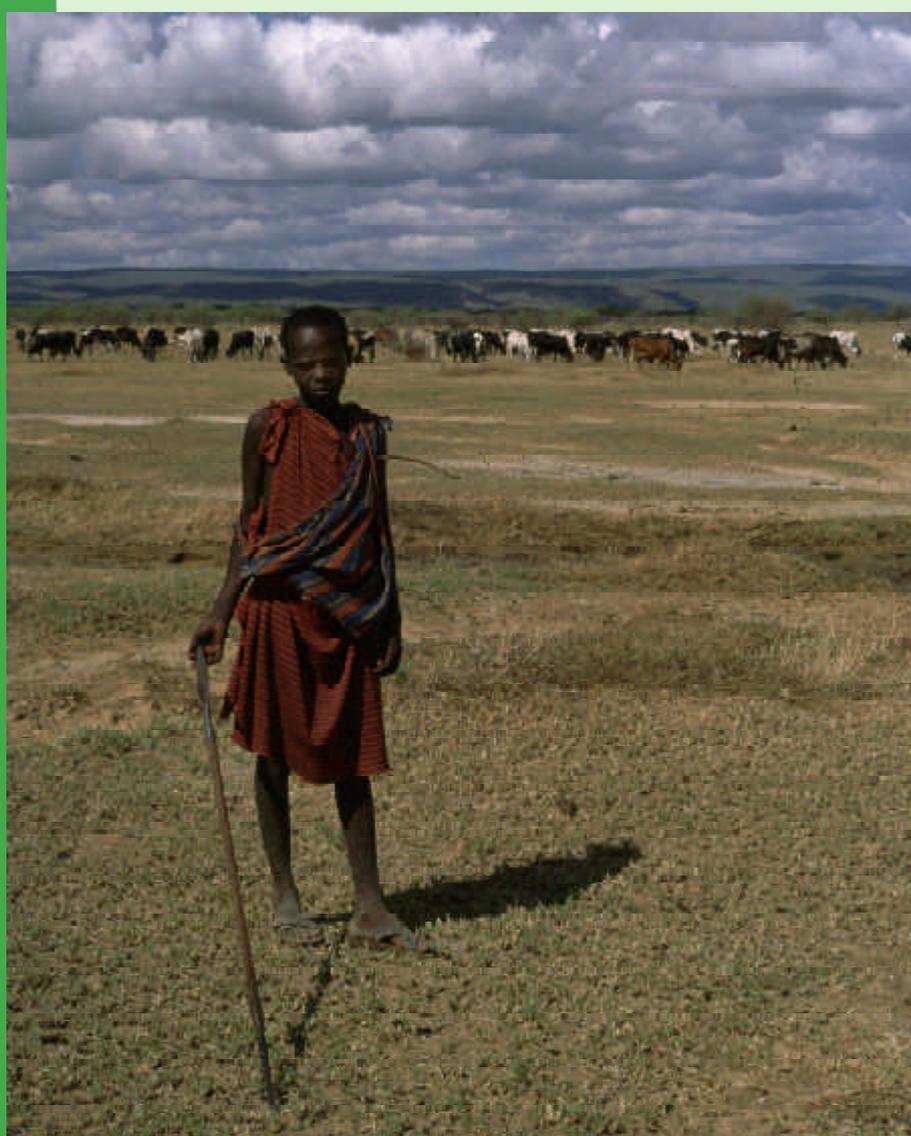


# Towards Pro-Pastoralist Policies in Africa

Policy  
Briefing  
Paper  
no. 8



## Why Pastoralists Matter

- There are more than 25 million pastoralists and 240 million agropastoralists in sub-Saharan Africa
- More than half the land area of sub-Saharan Africa is arid and semi-arid rangeland, suitable only for livestock grazing systems
- Pastoralists and agropastoralists own 50% of Africa's cattle and small ruminants, and almost 100% of the camels. Much of the milk and meat produced sustains settled and urban markets
- Pastoralist systems contain huge amounts of critical capital both human (language, indigenous technical knowledge, culture) and natural (unique livestock breeds).
- The cost of ignoring and marginalising pastoralist production is famine, conflict, political unrest and environmental degradation.

## A New Understanding of Pastoral Systems

In dryland ecosystems in Africa the major determinant of vegetation cover is rainfall. Grazing by livestock has only a small effect on plant resources and vice versa. In these non-equilibrium systems effective management requires a rapid response to resource availability. Traditional pastoralist systems are inherently flexible and react quickly to changes in water and grazing resources.

Traditional land tenure systems are more equitable and efficient than was realised. Multiple and overlapping tenure rights allow flexibility and (providing conflict negotiation and arbitration mechanisms are present) need not be dysfunctional.

Settlement has major environmental, social and political consequences. It needs to be managed in a sustainable and people-centred way.

Pastoral systems are more complex than was thought. There are no quick fixes and when working with pastoralists, long time frames, flexibility and holistic, multi-sectoral approaches are essential.

Pastoral societies are not homogenous and engagement must take account of the different (and sometimes conflicting) interest groups. Development will be stronger if it includes a diversity of actors including traditional leaders, women, pastoral associations, NGOs, CBOs and government.

## Principles of Policy Making with Pastoralists

### Regional Approach

Pastoralists live across borders, and policies should reflect this. An example of a cross border approach was the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign, which successfully eliminated Rinderpest from most of Africa, partly by co-ordinating national programmes.

### Subsidiarity

Where pastoralists and policy makers have disagreed on any major policy issue (destocking, livestock taxation), hindsight has usually shown the pastoralists were right and policy makers wrong. Many governments now believe that decisions are best made by those most concerned - the principle of subsidiarity.

### Appropriateness

Policy should seek to enhance pastoralist strengths and institutions rather than replace them. Entrepreneurship, trading networks, mobility, flexibility, courage, independence and individualism are some of the strengths of pastoralists that many previous interventions have ignored or undermined.

## The Way Forward

While a wealth of information now exists to support new understanding of pastoralist livestock production systems, the views of livestock scientists are often entrenched and dated. Exposing policy makers to the results of recent studies on pastoralism is one step towards acceptance of mobile herding systems as a rational and efficient use of dryland resources. In order to engage pastoral communities in policy reform, livestock professionals may also require training in participatory policy research and analysis.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> De Leeuw et al (1995).

## A Positive Policy Matrix for African Pastoralism

Problem/ Solution	Policy objective	Policy instruments	Successful Examples
<b>Poverty</b>	Ensure access to inputs (financial, veterinary, water, land)	Pastoral Code covering land, water & movement	Mali / Mauritania-Code
<b>Growth</b>	Create and develop market Increased productivity	Privatisation of service provision Micro credit and rural banks Free Trade Zones Removal of tariffs and non tariff barriers	Chad- drug supply Kenya- KRFP ECCOWAS - FTA Burkina Faso - trade liberalisation
<b>Marginalisation</b>	Enable strong endogenous institutions Special support for the excluded	Decentralisation of planning and spending Formal role for pastoralist associations Social safety nets and affirmative action	Uganda- local councils CAR- FAs
<b>Strong Institutions</b>	Improve communications	Social safety nets and affirmative action Remove monopolies / restrictions on communication	India- scheduled castes
<b>Deprivation</b>	Improve quality of state services Improve accountability of services	Citizens charter and service audits Community contracting services	UK- national health charter Uganda- extension (NAADS)
<b>Service Delivery</b>	Encourage alternative service providers	Privatisation of service delivery Civil society service provision	Kenya- KVAFS Sudan- OLS vaccination
<b>Routine Crisis</b>	Increase ability to survive droughts Decrease vulnerability to drought	Strengthen markets Sustainable animal health systems	Kenya trader subsidy Africa - OAHWS
<b>Preparedness</b>			
<b>Resource Depletion</b>	Increasing opportunities Education and training Good exit from pastoralism	Community managed tourism Improved education suited to pastoral communities Financial mechanisms for remittances	Zimbabwe CAMPFIRE Kenya Somali
<b>Diversification</b>			
<b>Conflict</b>	Increase understanding and communication Clarify tenure	Micro-meso-macro peace building Pastoral codes	CAHIBAR - PHI Mali, Mauritania- Codes
<b>Peace building</b>	Rapid and effective response	Conflict early warning system & peace committees	IGAD - CPWARN Kenya - OXFAM

## The Organization for African Unity/Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

The Organization for African Unity/Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) is a specialist technical agency of the OAU mandated by member states to promote livestock development in Africa. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, OAU/IBAR implements major livestock development programmes including the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) and Farming in Tsetse Controlled Areas of Africa (FITCA).

### The objectives of OAU/IBAR are to:

- Co-ordinate activities of all OAU member states in the field of Animal Health and Production
- Collect, collate and disseminate information in all aspects of Animal Health and Production
- Initiate, develop and execute projects in the field of Animal Health and Production
- Liase with appropriate authorities of member states, regional groups, inter-governmental and international organisations.

For many years, OAU/IBAR has been African success story by attracting donor funds and providing technical and policy support to the member states, particularly state veterinary services. In the new millennium, the bureau understands that livestock issues are becoming increasingly complex due to forces such as globalisation, rapid technological advances and the demands of stakeholders. Stakeholders at all levels are becoming more vocal, influential and involved in governance, priority setting, financing and evaluation of development interventions. OAU/IBAR provides effective responses by having a clear vision of its direction, policy and strategies.

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### The Policy Briefing Paper Series

This series of Policy Briefing Papers aims to provide short and easy-to-read introductions to some of the key policy issues affecting the livestock sector in Africa. In particular they show how livestock can contribute to the following widely held policy objectives:

- Food security
- Economic growth
- Equity
- Export promotion
- Revenue generation
- Resource conservation

Each briefing paper provides an overview of an issue and directs readers to source documents (many produced by OAU/IBAR) where further information and more detailed analysis can be found.