



Concept Note

PROJECT NAME: STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF PASTORALISTS ORGANIZATIONS TO ENGAGE IN CLIMATE CHANGE PROCESSES AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

PROJECT ACTIVITY: FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP IN THE CONTEXT OF PASTORALISM

JULY 12TH -15TH, 2017

KENYA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

East Africa is home to thousands of pastoralists who herd their livestock in the semi-arid to arid areas of the region. ASAL areas in East Africa comprise of more than 80% in Kenya, 60% of Uganda and approximately half of Tanzania. These areas have the largest animal wealth of the three nations with for instance Kenya having over 75% of the cattle herd made up of indigenous breeds in the drylands while Uganda and Tanzania have over 95% made up of indigenous breeds all which are kept by pastoralists.

With increased climate change challenges, such including the increasing temperatures, the intensifying rains and the increased frequency of extreme weather events in have alarming consequences on pastoral livelihoods considering high vulnerability due to poverty levels of these areas to climate change impacts. Present projection of increased climate change impacts only stands to exacerbate the problem. Climate change therefore poses both practice and policy challenges.

Pastoralism¹ in East Africa has for a long time in the past been sidelined in government processes, plans, strategies and policies. This reality resulted to increasing marginalization of pastoral livelihoods and systems. In this regard with the present climate change challenge, it is crucial that processes to reverse marginalization be initiated with the ambition to build resilient and economically effective pastoralist systems for sustainable production.

There is need to integrate the challenges faced by pastoralist communities as a result of climate change into policies, plans and programmes at national, regional and international levels. Addressing climate change is a key priority for African countries as a region that is highly impacted and therefore the need for means of implementation of the various strategies at national and regional levels. Moreover, provision of knowledge through training to pastoralists on alternative

¹ term used to describe societies that derive some, but not necessarily the majority, of their food and income from livestock OR social organization based on livestock raising as the primary economic activity

livelihoods and support to enhance these livelihoods, focusing on market access, asset-based community development and livestock insurance with a view to facilitate adaptation and mitigation actions is crucial to enhance resilience.

Countries in the East Africa region are in different stages of climate change policies, plans and programme development as well as the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This is in line with their *UNFCCC obligations*. The UNFCCC aims at steering climate change debates globally with the inclusion of stakeholders in climate processes as a mandatory process in light of Paris Agreement. Despite this reality, pastoralist focused organizations have not been adequately involved in climate change policy processes at the national, regional and international level. This has been as a result of inadequate capacity to engage in climate change processes and lack of linkages and platform for their engagement in climate change dialogue processes. There is therefore need at the policy level to clearly define how pastoral communities will be involved in responding to climate change challenges.

2.0 JUSTIFICATION

It is in response to the pastoralists climate change needs outlined that this food security and climate change in the context of pastoral communities training intends to provide pastoralist organizations with knowledge on climate change and ways to enhance resilience for food security.

Engagement in climate change processes requires understanding of climate change and its impact on pastoralism as a key food source in Kenya. A process that ensures enhancing of capacity to adapt and mitigate climate change at pastoral community level and as well integration of community climate actions in governance policies and plans is one that aims at achieving sustainability. Therefore, this training intervention sets out to build momentum to achieve sustained pastoralist climate actions with the aim of:

- *influencing climate change policies, plans and programmes at national, regional and international level*
- *facilitating adoption of climate resilient approaches by local communities.*

3.0 Objectives:

- ❖ To build capacity of pastoralist organizations on the nexus between climate change and food security from a pastoralist context
- ❖ To provide evidence-based technologies and cases in climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches to enhance resilience
- ❖ To explore pastoral community diversification alternatives that can enhance resilience
- ❖ To provide platform to deliberate supportive policy arrangement for pastoral community climate actions

4.0 Expected Outcome:

- ❖ Pastoralists organizations have enhanced understanding of the nexus between food security and climate change in a pastoralist context.
- ❖ Enhanced knowledge and outlined adaptation/ mitigation approaches and technologies at pastoralist community level
- ❖ Enhanced knowledge and understanding on the UNFCCC COP process as well as national climate governance process
- ❖ Identified areas of partnership within the project for further collaboration

References and Background material:

Homewood et al: *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice*: Pastoralist livelihoods and wildlife revenues in East Africa: a case for coexistence? 2012

Magda Nassef, Simon Anderson and Cede Hesse: *Pastoralism and Climate change: Enabling adaptive capacity*, 2009