

PENHA-UGANDA

ANNUAL REPORT 2002/3

“Working with Pastoralists to promote Sustainable and Diversified Livelihoods with Gender Equality”



Forward

In 2003 PENHA-Uganda continued to build upon the work we have carried out with local partners and communities since 1999. We have formed strong relationships with individuals and organizations across Uganda's "Cattle Corridor" and we are guided by a local advisory board composed of distinguished individuals who know and understand the issues facing pastoralist men and women.

Our work has been conducted on the basis of a country program designed in collaboration with pastoralist communities, local civil society organizations and local government, following a comprehensive situation analysis that involved discussions with stakeholders at all levels, from the grassroots to ministerial policymakers.

Our policies and programs are firmly in line with those of the Government of Uganda – we share with them a vision of pastoralist communities fully integrated into the wider society and enjoying a modern quality of life, diversifying incomes, expanding choice and opportunity, freeing women and girls to play a full role in society and in the economy, while strengthening the pastoral production system. We understand that extensive livestock keeping is a viable and efficient form of land use in the semi-arid strip that stretches across Uganda from the Tanzanian border in the southwest, through Luwero and Teso to Karamoja in the east.

While Karamoja has benefited from a strong NGO presence, government has not done enough to provide the basic public goods, in particular the establishment of security and the rule of law. Elsewhere, pastoralists have been largely ignored by NGOs and yet they have not benefited significantly from government programs – Ssembabule, incorporating the pastoralist areas of Rwemiyaga and Ntuusi, has the lowest safe water coverage in the country and Nyabushozi has the worst statistics for sexually transmitted diseases in the country. The Western Cattle Corridor also has the highest maternal mortality rates in Uganda. The challenges are daunting and PENHA has tried to push both government and civil society organizations to accord a higher priority to neglected pastoral areas. We have tried, therefore, to respond to the expressed needs of the communities through local level micro-projects, to expand local capacities through training workshops, and to influence policy at the national level.

In 2003, we have emphasized training to build local capacities and to promote social change by promoting women's human rights. In 2004, we hope to continue this work, while shifting the emphasis towards a combination of direct support for income-generating activities as well as efforts to influence policy and encourage more NGOs to come in and address poverty in the pastoralist communities of Uganda.

We would like to acknowledge our principal funders, CORDAID, and above all to thank our many partners in the communities, in civil society and in government for their commitment, solidarity and friendship.

Sincerely,

Amsale Shibeshi,
Program Coordinator.

1. Basic information about PENHA

The Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA) is a non-governmental organization, registered as a charity in the UK with its head office in London. Accordingly, PENHA is strictly a non-political and non-religious organization. It is an African inspired and African-led initiative, established in 1989 by a group of research and development workers concerned about the future of pastoralists and determined to identify strategies and policies for the improvement of their quality of life.

PENHA operates in the IGAD region of the Greater Horn of Africa, which includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

Mission

PENHA's mission is to eliminate poverty among pastoralists in the Horn of Africa through the empowerment of communities and the fostering of sustainable and dignified livestock-based and non-livestock based livelihoods.

Objectives

With a coordinated approach at the grassroots and policy levels, PENHA aims:

- to empower pastoralist communities and their institutions to play a full role in their own development
- to influence development policy and development program design to foster sustainable livelihoods among pastoralists

Activities

- Policy and action-oriented research
- Advocacy / Influencing Policymaking
- Training for government and local NGOs
- Collaborative Partnerships and Capacity Building for local NGOs/CBOs
- Community-based development projects in collaboration with local NGOs

Local Partners

The Nyabushozi Development Agency (NYDA) aims to eradicate poverty among Banyankole pastoralists and promote social and economic development.

The Uganda Gender Resource Centre (UGRC) empowers women through research, advocacy, training and micro-credit programs.

The Sembabule Women's Development Agency (SEWODA)

SEWODA serves women from both farming and pastoralist communities and focuses on efforts to raise household incomes. SEWODA also mobilizes local women for awareness raising activities around key gender and development issues.

The Matheniko Development Forum (MADEFO)

MADEFO is a local NGO, serving the pastoralist communities of Karamoja, principally in Moroto District, through research, policy & advocacy work, training and micro-projects. MADEFO has participated in a number of PENHA workshops and trainings.

PENHA also collaborates with Mbarara University (MUST) and works closely with sub-county administrations.

Relationships with partners and the communities

PENHA-Uganda's staff have altruistic motives and a strong commitment to the people they serve. We have formed strong relationships with people at all levels in pastoralist society.

There is a general feeling among pastoralists that PENHA "belongs" to the communities in a very real sense. This mutual trust and personal warmth is valuable and helps to ensure that PENHA's policies and programs reflect local priorities and are informed by a sound understanding of ordinary pastoralists' outlook and thinking.

PENHA has a network of collaborators in dispersed communities across the Cattle Corridor. We hope, in future, to formalize this network so that pastoralists across the Districts are better able to coordinate with each other, with PENHA and with relevant institutions at the District and national levels.

Activities 1999-2002

- **Regional Workshop on Pastoral Development (Mbarara, 1999)**, with CSOs and government.
- **Pastoral Community Needs Assessment (Ssembabule, Mbarara & Nyabushozi, 2000)**
- **Poverty Eradication Workshop (Nyabushozi, 2000)**, with French Cooperation, CIRAD & MSF, for community groups, with HIV/AIDS awareness films.
- **Distribution of Awareness Materials**, to community groups, local NGOs and the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group
- **Capacity Building for Local NGOs** (grants and training)
- **Involving local partners in regional workshops**
- **Networking and Experience Sharing**
- **Gender & Human Rights Training (Ssembabule, 2000)** (with UGRC), for "agents of social change" in communities and highlighting the way gender inequality promotes the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- **Natural Resource Management Training (Mbarara & Soroti, 2001)**, with the Natural Resources Institute (NRI), for NGOs and local government.
- **'Policies and Institutions that Promote Sustainable Development for Pastoralists' (Kampala, Mbarara, and Kanyanyeru, 2001)** (with NRI). Workshops with policymakers, local government and local and international NGOs.

- **Integrated Health and Education Interventions in Nyabushozi (2001/2)** (with NYDA and UNICEF), focusing on safe water provision and AIDS Prevention
- **Community Workshops in support of the Constitutional Review, Nakasongora, Moroto and Nakapiripirit (2002)**, with UGRC & MADEFO

Program Components

PENHA worked with local partners and communities to design a country program of mutually reinforcing components.

- 1. Institutional Support for Pastoral-area CBOs**
 - Skills training
 - Grants
- 2. Women's Empowerment**
 - Business Skills Training for Women's Groups
 - Leadership & Strategic Planning Training
 - Micro-finance for income generation
- 3. Gender & Human Rights Awareness**
 - Gender & Human Rights ToT Seminars
 - Publication & Distribution of Awareness Materials
- 4. Information, Education & Communication (IEC) for HIV/AIDS Prevention**
Equipping peer groups with skills, knowledge & materials on Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS and promoting behavioral change:
 - Supporting HIV/AIDS Awareness activities
 - Collating and disseminating materials and training manuals
 - Out-reach and campaigns
- 5. Water Sources for People and Livestock**
Promoting health and reducing time allocated by women and children to fetching water:
 - Construction of community water sources (with revolving fund)
 - Training for community groups on rainwater tank construction
 - Construction of valley dams with pumps & troughs for cattle
- 6. Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Intensification & Sound Natural Resource Management**
 - Training for local government & NGOs
 - Training & Extension for Communities
 - Exchanges of Visits / Establishing a Demonstration Farm
- 7. Advocacy and Policy Work**
 - Dissemination of Policy Briefs & Position Papers
 - Seminars for Policymakers

1.1 PENHA's Local Advisory Board

PENHA-Uganda has a local advisory board composed of distinguished individuals who hail from different regions, have a good understanding of the issues facing Uganda's pastoralist communities and are strongly committed to development.

The current board members are: Hon. Hope Mwesigye (women's MP for Kabale), Hon. Anifa Kawooya, (women's MP for Ssembabule), Elly Karuhanga (formerly MP for Nyabushozi), and Fiona Eguny (formerly MP for Kumi and currently a member of the Electoral Commission). The members have demonstrated their commitment, allocating considerable time as well as their own resources to PENHA activities. However, they are all busy people with other commitments and the chairperson wishes to see the board strengthened by the addition of new members who can devote more time to overseeing PENHA-Uganda's operations.

The advisory board gives PENHA staff guidance on policies and programs, ensuring that the latter are in line with government policies and that the organization is truly "African-led".



PENHA program coordinator Amsale Shibeshi, with Hon. Hope Mwesigye, women's MP for Kabale District and chairperson of the advisory board and John Livingstone, PENHA's policy officer.

2. Activities 2003

2.1 “Gender, Rights & Resources” training workshop

The workshop involved grassroots agents of social change and covered *inter alia* gender analysis, women’s human rights, gender & the environment and advocacy skills.

The workshop took place in 2002 at Nkoma Farm, Mbirizi. There were 35 participants, drawn from CSOs and local structures (LC1 and LC3) in Sembabule and Nyabushozi. The gender composition was almost even (17 men and 18 women) – this was intentional, with the aim of changing men’s attitudes firmly in mind. Local women expressed the view that men should be targeted since it is principally their attitudes that need changing.

The CSOs (civil society organizations) involved included small community-based organizations, such as women’s groups and herders’ associations, and more formal non-governmental organizations run by educated people from pastoralist communities.

The 35 participants were equipped with skills and knowledge in gender analysis and advocacy and gained:

- a clear understanding of the concept of gender;
- practical tools for gender analysis;
- an understanding of the importance of gender mainstreaming in development activities (engendering the project cycle – planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation);
- a basic understanding of human rights concepts and how they underpin development work;
- an understanding that women’s rights are human rights;
- the ability to identify the customs and traditions that undermine the dignity and welfare of women in pastoral communities;
- an awareness of the cultural, social, economic and political factors that contribute to poor reproductive health and promote the spread of HIV/AIDS;
- greater awareness of and sensitivity to the ills of early marriages and ability to advocate for positive change within their communities;
- some basic strategies for carrying out an advocacy campaign;
- an understanding of basic principles of, and women’s roles in, natural resource management in pastoral areas.

The workshop produced some valuable results:

- Major changes in participants’ attitudes were observed.
- Participants’ action plans for follow-up activities in their sub-counties and organizations
- Follow-up meetings in each sub-county for dissemination and discussion
- Strengthened and specific attention to gender in sub-county development plans. [NB. All sub-counties are required to produce detailed plans and are seen as the focal points of efforts under Government’s poverty alleviation program.]

- Workshop reports in English and Runyankore (the relevant local language) that serve as useful tools for training, awareness and advocacy work by pastoralist CSOs and local structures
- Coverage of the workshop on national TV and on the leading commercial radio station in Western Uganda raised the profile of pastoralist issues
- Participants have used the advocacy skills that they gained in sub-county and District forums, as well as in two international conferences (one in Addis and another in Arusha, Tanzania.)

2.2 Community Workshops under the Constitutional Review Exercise

In 2002, PENHA conducted, in collaboration with UGRC, three community workshops in pastoral areas as part of a larger national UGRC project. One workshop took place in Nakasongora and two others were held in Karamoja (Nakapiripirit and Moroto Districts), with the essential participation of the Matheniko Development Forum (MADEFO).

The workshops brought together councilors from the LCI, LCII and LCIII levels, as well as members of local women's groups and community based organizations. The twin goals were to raise awareness about the 1995 Constitution and its provisions and to gather views on the upcoming revision of the Constitution. Participants were trained and equipped with awareness materials so that they could go back to their communities and hold discussions on the Constitutions and the surrounding issues. Community views were gathered and subsequently submitted to the Constitutional Review Commission.

Discussions were very lively and threw up a number of interesting insights.

- Awareness of the Constitution and its provisions was very low.
- Few sub-counties had local language versions of the Constitution and these had not been circulated or discussed.
- Participants were very happy to have the Constitution explained to them and to receive educational materials detailing its provisions. Diagrammatic material was particularly appreciated. The materials were written in English, but presented in a combination of "vernacular" and English. Participants expressed strongly the need for local language materials to support their dissemination and education efforts.
- Pastoralists in both the East and West expressed strong support for the Movement government and the Movement system, but few participants were able to distinguish between the two. Strong hostility was expressed towards the established political parties, which were associated with the mass killings and turbulence of the 1970s and 80s.
- In Karamoja, there was strong support for capital punishment and summary justice for cattle raiders and "bandits", based on a general view that existing provisions for policing, law and order were grossly inadequate.
- In Karamoja, there was concern about mineral rights and the threat to customary land rights posed by mining companies that had recently secured prospecting licenses. Many participants wanted stronger Constitutional protections for traditional or group land rights.
- There was almost universal skepticism about the role of MPs and dissatisfaction with their performance.

The need to focus resources and capacity building efforts at the sub-county and District levels came out strongly, as did the need for comprehensive awareness and civic education programs in the communities.

While participants were enthusiastic supporters of the Movement government, there was a general consensus that the representative process was not functioning effectively. There was a clear, if not well articulated, general view that political participation needed to be built from the ground up, by devoting resources to education and awareness, as well as increasing access to the media.

2.3 Business Skills & Goat Management training workshop, 27-31 May 2003, Thorn Tree Agricultural Training Center, Rwampara, Mbarara

The participants were members of women's groups from Nyabushozi, Masaka, Sembabule, Bukanga and Kamwezi.

The workshop took place over 27-31 May 2003 in Rwampara, Mbarara. 20 women's groups from 9 sub-counties participated. There were 36 participants, much more than the planned 20. The workshop was specifically aimed at women's groups. There were only 2 male participants, who are members of groups composed of both men and women.

The workshop included a goat management component – in order to prepare women's groups to handle exotic goats distributed under the micro-credit / goat rearing project. The training built on insights from an earlier program in Mbarara funded by French Cooperation, which suffered from a number of major problems, relating to management and animal health. We emphasized the construction of sheds suitable for exotic goats using simplified designs and cheap, locally available material. Key aspects were proper feeding and the prevention, identification and treatment of common diseases.

The training also included a strong marketing component. A great deal of effort went into the workshop design phase – we adapted courses offered by the Business Institute of Mbarara University (MUST), which were too academic and not participatory enough for grassroots CSOs, and incorporated material designed specifically for grassroots training. We worked with MUST lecturers who had a background in and understanding of pastoralist communities to develop a tailored course that could be delivered in Runyankore, with examples and exercises relevant to the pastoralist context.

36 participants from 20 women's groups, operating in 6 distinct areas within the Cattle Corridor, were equipped with practical skills and knowledge that will help them to run their income-generating activities as businesses and will enhance their creditworthiness and ability to approach lending institutions.

Participants gained skills in: Basic bookkeeping & record keeping; Producing a simple Business Plan; Separating personal/family budgets from business budgets; Costing & Pricing; Marketing; Management, Accounting & Legal Requirements for a Business Enterprise; Organizational Management; the Operation of Saving & Credit Schemes; and Group dynamics & the maintenance / distribution of dividends.

The workshop produced tangible outputs, including:

- Workshop reports / participants' manuals in English and Runyankore, important for dissemination to other group members and implementation by the women's groups
- 4 previously unregistered groups have now registered officially with the sub-county authorities, having formalized their organizational structures on the basis of the material presented and discussed at the workshop
- Since the workshop, there have been continued contacts between participants, from far-flung areas and from the Tanzania and Rwanda borders to deep in central Uganda. A group in Bukanga, where there is a glut on local markets for ghee, has agreed to link up with a group in Nyabushozi that supplies ghee to Kampala supermarkets, but cannot make enough ghee to meet demand
- New ideas for income-generating activities and for improving existing ones.
- Participants are now able to manage exotic goats (construct appropriate goat sheds, provide appropriate feed and browse and identify the major animal diseases) and soon all will receive exotic goat stock
- National TV coverage, showing people from pastoralist and non-pastoralist communities collaborating for development, counteracting the generally negative coverage of pastoralists that emphasizes conflict, drought and cultural differences
- Coverage and discussion on Radio West, the principal FM station in Western Uganda, which reaches pastoralist communities across several Cattle Corridor districts

2.4 Micro-credit / Exotic Goat rearing with women's groups

This project aims to support income-generating activities for women, specifically goat-rearing with exotic breeds.

Mary Mugenyi, the Minister for Animal Industries, welcomed this PENHA initiative and, which is in line with the national strategy developed by her ministry. The Minister, who has a strong academic background in gender, sees exotic goat programs with women's groups as a useful means of addressing gender inequality in the pastoralist communities.

12 women's groups benefited in the first phase, more than the 10 originally envisaged. A further 8 women's groups benefited in the second phase, so that all the groups that took part in the business skills training received exotic goats or loans by the end of the year.

All the direct beneficiaries are women, though it is anticipated that households as a whole will benefit, in particular where the extra income is used to cover school fees and health charges.

The women's groups involved all have local goat stock and had already identified this as the most promising income generating activity (IGA). Participants were eager to begin goat rearing with improved breeds. We decided to bring forward the establishment of breeding stock for exotic goats, both meat (Boer) and milk (Saanen) goats, at our agricultural learning center at Nkoma Farm. This is a separate, but linked, project, for

which we have secured funding from the Open Gate Trust (UK). It aims to promote sustainable agricultural intensification through the demonstration of new techniques and on-site participatory agricultural learning with herder groups, in line with the government's NAADS, National Agricultural Advisory Services, program – the centerpiece of the Plan for the Modernization of Agriculture, which has as yet given little or no attention to pastoralists. Our breeding stock will enable us to expand coverage in a sustainable way, charging for insemination services and supplying goats in lieu of cash loans to those groups that prefer this approach.

The market for goat meat is buoyant, with high demand and prices on local markets. Because the meat is readily marketable, goat rearing has become a “cash cow” – providing income for other investments – and a useful alternative to bank loans, which carry prohibitively high interest charges (30-40% p.a.) and are difficult to secure because of women's lack of collateral and the closure of most rural branches.

Under this project, we will give, as a grant, one exotic or crossbred goat to each of 12 women's groups, thereafter distributing goats from our breeding stock on a loan/revolving basis. Where women's groups wish to receive cash loans for other income-generating activities, we will provide these from sales from our own goat stock.

Women's groups have constructed goat sheds suitable for exotics and breeding stock is in place at PENHA's agricultural learning center at Mbirizi - pure Boer, bred for meat, and Saanen goats, good milk producers, imported from South Africa, as well as indigenous cross-breeds.)

There are strong taboos in pastoralist communities regarding the drinking of goat milk. Delivering the opening address to the workshop, the deputy chairperson (LC5) Mbarara District, Mrs. Emma Boona, urged pastoralists to change their thinking and noted that in parts of Nyabushozi cases of childhood stunting and malnutrition were on the rise, in a situation where men control incomes from milk sales and little is left over for household consumption.

2.5.1 Organizational & Financial Management Training for pastoral-area CSOs – in collaboration with Mbarara University of Science & Technology (MUST)

21-26 July 2003, Masaka Social Centre, Masaka

This training workshop was aimed at strengthening pastoralist civil society. The training focused on the core skills needed to run a formal organization and also covered project planning & implementation.

The workshop took place over 21-26 July 2003, in Masaka. There were 17 participants, more than the planned 10, representing 10 CSOs and 6 sub-county administrations. The gender composition was 5 men and 12 women.

Participants' evaluations were enthusiastically positive, with four saying that it was the best workshop they had ever attended! Addresses and contact numbers were exchanged and participants have contacted one another to arrange follow-up activities. All have specific plans to strengthen their organizations using what they have learnt and

the participants themselves are organizing a visit to a biogas plant in Kabale, with a view to developing local projects.

The participants were equipped with skills and knowledge in organizational and financial management, as well as in project proposal writing, project planning and implementation.

Specific results include:

- enhanced ability of pastoralists' organizations to secure funding for and to plan and implement projects
- enhanced ability to run their organizations effectively and ensure transparency and accountability, both in financial and representational terms
- clearer organizational structures and designations of roles and responsibilities.
- Participants' action plans for strengthening their organizations and their planning and project management.
- Specific project proposals developed by participants.
- Plans for participants from 3 Districts to visit a bio-gas plant in Kabale, with a view to developing similar projects in their own areas (and the agreement of the plant's owner to accommodate and train participants in construction and operation.)
- Increased networking and regular contacts between CSOs across the Cattle Corridor.

2.6 Leadership Skills and Strategic Planning Workshop for Women Leaders,

9-13 September 2003, Thorn Tree Agricultural Training Center, Mbarara

In promoting gender equality in the pastoralist communities, it is essential to build the capacity of women leaders at all levels, in particular the District and sub-county levels. Leaders at these levels are very intimately involved with local people, interacting with them on a daily basis in a way that the more distant national level leaders cannot. Increasingly, important decisions on development priorities and spending allocations are made at the lower levels of Uganda's decentralized structures.

The workshop was aimed at women leaders at the LC3 (sub-county) and LC1 (parish) levels. There were a total of 15 participants.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of women's leaders at the sub-county level, equipping them with skills and knowledge to enable them to participate more effectively in policy and decision-making forums and helping them to develop action plans for their areas.

The workshop was conducted in English and Runyankore. The training was participatory, allowing participants to share their knowledge and opinions, while gaining valuable skills that will enhance their development work.

Topics covered included:

- Fundamentals of Leadership Theory & Practice

- Women's Empowerment & Human Rights
- Influencing Policy Formulation
- Coalition Building and Advocacy
- Conflict Resolution
- Presentation & Communication Skills
- Personal Empowerment
- Action Planning

Local language workshop reports and materials were developed with a view to supporting further work by participants and facilitating dissemination. It is hoped that these materials will provide a basis for discussions among women active at the community level, as well as helping them in their day-to-day work.

2.7 Development of thematic policy briefs in English and local languages

Misguided Policy based on Outmoded Research

Government policy towards pastoralism is often based on misguided notions of pastoralism as being irrational and environmentally destructive. Most policymakers and development workers are unaware of research showing pastoralism to be economically rational and environmentally sound. Policy aims to “eradicate nomadism” and develop the livestock sector through modern, export-oriented ranching, without regard to environmental conditions, the need to support pastoralists' livelihood strategies and the lack of alternative employment outside pastoralism.

Social and Political Marginalization and the Failure of Government and NGOs to Target Pastoral Areas

Pastoralist communities are socially and politically marginalized. They are the subjects of considerable resentment and hostility from the population at large and their rights and citizenship, while officially recognized, are often tacitly ignored.

Government programs are often not extended to pastoral areas and, when they are, service delivery and program design are often inappropriate for the special circumstances of pastoralist communities. In stark contrast to the rest of Uganda, there is a dearth of NGO activity in pastoral areas. There are currently no NGO programs operating in Nyabushozi, Kazo or Sembabule. LWF, Oxfam and the Church of Uganda have excellent, innovative programs in Karamoja, but coverage is limited to only 5 of over 80 sub-counties.

The Policy Briefs

Through the production and wide dissemination of clear and concise policy briefs on pastoral development and the specific problems of Uganda's pastoralist communities, this project aimed to:

- promote understanding among policymakers and development agencies of pastoralism as an environmentally sound production system and a rational form of land use in arid and semi-arid areas.
- provide an effective advocacy tool in support of efforts to encourage government and other development agencies to commit more resources to pastoral area and to address the unique problems of Uganda's pastoralists.

Specific outputs:

- Comprehensive, concise and "readable" policy briefs on the distinct pastoral areas of Uganda, outlining the specific problems faced by pastoralists as well as the development opportunities.
- Policy briefs on key thematic areas, covering: pastoral development policy, gender issues, and civic education, health & education, gender and human rights, land tenure, conflict and insecurity, marketing and product processing/opportunities to increase value added, the provision of water sources and animal health and one overarching briefing on pastoral development.
- Simplified local language briefings

These policy briefs are part of PENHA's efforts to link up the grassroots and policy levels, so that pastoralists are able to participate in policymaking, rather than simply being the objects of top-down interventions. Ordinary people have demonstrated, in various PENHA workshops and meetings, their capacity to understand and analyze policies in areas that affect them and their livelihoods.

It is important to involve pastoralists at all stages of the policy process – from the generation of ideas, to the design of programs, to implementation and iterative monitoring and evaluation. Not enough has been done to involve pastoralists and policymakers should not forget that the lack of participation was a major factor in the failure of past interventions.

2.8 The Impact of the Workshops

The overall impact of the workshops is difficult to gauge, but one can be reasonably confident that they represent significant progress, for the following reasons:

- No such training had ever been conducted with any of the target groups, so the training brought new knowledge, skills and ideas to the communities from which the participants were drawn.
- Participants were carefully selected – all were influential individuals in their communities, who will take the skills and ideas acquired back to their communities.
- The workshops generated new local language materials that will support further work by all involved.
- The combination of direct support and efforts to build "human capital" offers the best hope of ensuring sustainability beyond the life of the program.

National television coverage of the workshops has helped to counteract the strongly negative image of pastoralists in Uganda, by showing pastoralists in a positive, developmental context, in stark contrast to the generally negative media coverage of conflict, drought and “backwardness”.

Impact on the environment

These activities, with one exception, do not specifically address environmental issues. They will, nevertheless, have potentially important indirect environmental impacts.

We anticipate that improved and expanded goat rearing will ultimately reduce reliance on very large herds of cattle, which, in a situation of diminished access to grazing land can lead to localized land degradation. This result will, however, only be achieved in the medium to long run.

Ultimately, the promotion of diversified sources of income will also reduce pressure on the land and have a beneficial effect on the environment.

If the project leads to increased uptake of biogas technologies, this will also imply a reduced reliance on charcoal burning for fuel, with positive environmental impacts.

Increased prominence of pastoralist issues among a range of development agents

When PENHA began its Uganda country program in 1999, there was little support in either the NGO or governmental spheres. A senior figure in a national NGO umbrella organization laughed out loud at the notion of working with pastoralists – “How can you do development with those people? They are constantly on the move!” There were few if any indigenous pastoralist civil society organizations – less than a handful were registered among well over 4,000 active NGOs in Uganda in 2000. Oxfam’s Kotido program, which was shifting up the relief to development continuum, had been suspended after its coordinator, Dr. Sam Gonda, was shot and wounded. LWF’s outstanding program in Moroto was accumulating real successes on the ground, while making tentative steps into the policy arena. In the Western Cattle Corridor, NYDA had effectively ceased to function, there were no other local NGOs and GTZ was wrapping up its program in Sanga, one sub-county in Nyabushozi. PENHA ploughed a lonely furrow for three years, building on a 1999 regional conference in Mbarara with training workshops for central and local government as well as CSOs, all the while trying to change attitudes towards pastoralism among policymakers and civil society.

Since 2000, the picture has changed dramatically. While the pioneering LWF program has lost momentum, staff and funding, the Oxfam program has been revived and in 2003, a new player, PANOS, has come in with substantial funding and an enlightened outlook. The Centre for Basic Research (CBR) has maintained its steady output of research and consultancy work, from the early 1990s through to current (2003) work on the state of Ugandan pastoralism. PENHA continues to draw on CBR’s research. PENHA has worked with and held in-depth discussions with all the major players, sharing materials and providing input and ideas.

National media coverage of our activities and networking through civil society forums has helped to raise the prominence of pastoralist issues and stimulated other organizations to address these.

This is, perhaps, the single biggest achievement of our program – TV and radio coverage as well as the wide dissemination of workshop materials have all contributed to this, as has networking with other organizations in various forums. PENHA has been able to have quite a significant influence by sharing documents widely and holding open discussions with key individuals. There has been a noticeable change in attitudes among various governmental and non-governmental agencies about the viability and importance of development work with pastoralists. A number of agencies have announced intentions to work on pastoralism, some using the language and ideas contained in our own work.

Through our local partners, NYDA and UGRC, PENHA has influenced the work of the NGO Forum, which has for the first time given specific attention to Ugandan pastoralism. NGO Forum has embarked on some very promising work, aiming to bring together concerned NGOs in order to influence the content of the central policy documents – the PEAP and NAADS – so that they address pastoralism positively.

2.9 PENHA's Exotic Goat Breeding Project

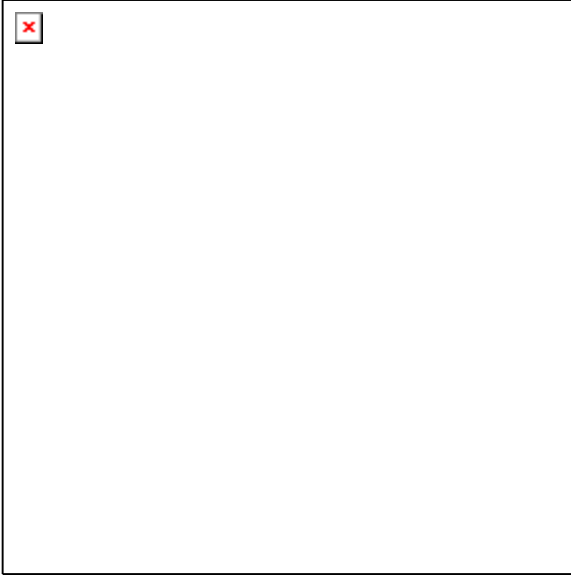
PENHA imported Boer and Toggenburg goats from South Africa, establishing a breeding center at Nkoma Farm, Masaka, where pure South African breeds as well as crosses with local Mubende goats are produced.



Exotic goats at Ssembuguya Estates, Ssembabule.



PENHA imported Boer goats from South Africa for breeding with local stock



The Boer goats and Boer-Mubende crosses are good 'meat goats', maturing quickly and weighing significantly more than local goats. Toggenburgs and their crosses are good 'milk goats', however, for pastoralists in both Eastern and Western Uganda drinking goat milk is taboo and even in poor households, few people are likely to take to goat milk. PENHA has, therefore, decided to concentrate on Boer goats, donating its Toggenburgs and their crosses to women's groups in Kabale.

The pure Boer goats are susceptible to various diseases and are not easy to manage. The crosses, however, are locally adapted and relatively easy to manage.

Participating women's groups receive an improved buck for cross breeding with their own local goats. Local goats were provided for those groups that did not have their own existing stock.

We hope to expand the project in 2004, bringing in new stock from South Africa, as well as entering into exchange agreements with other Ugandan producers in order to guard against in-breeding.

As the project grows, we will need to strengthen management arrangements at Nkoma Farm. Staff at Nkoma will have to ensure accurate record keeping, as well as the treatment and prevention of disease.



PENHA's breeding center at Nkoma Farm

The imported Boer goats have done well, producing crossbreeds that are locally adapted but maintain a lot of the characteristics of the South African varieties. They mature quickly and produce more meat than the local goats.

Herders at Nkoma Farm, as well as the women's groups that have been given exotic goats, have received training in goat management. Good hygiene is particularly important. The goats are susceptible to airborne diseases and need periodic spraying and de-worming.

The women's groups have shown that they are capable of managing the exotics well and are eager to expand their stock.



Costs – in terms of labor and veterinary drugs – are relatively high, but high twinning rates and the sale of non-breeding males should ensure that the project is sustainable.

PENHA will seek to develop links with government initiatives under the 'National Livestock Productivity Improvement Project' and the PMA's NAADS program. Relevant government programs are set to take off within the year and are very well resourced.

As big commercial players come in, the PENHA project will need to focus on the poorest and continue to work through women's groups – equity issues should not be forgotten in the rush to modernization.

3. Some Key Issues

Land tenure and insecurity are fundamental issues in the pastoralist communities of Eastern as well as Western Uganda. These are extremely difficult issues to resolve; moreover it will be difficult to make progress in other areas as long as they remain unresolved. Insecurity of tenure, as well as conflict, make it impossible or difficult for pastoralists to invest in improvements to pastoral systems – water points or cattle dips - or to secure the infrastructural investments necessary for social progress – water tanks, new roads, clinics and schools. However, incremental progress in other aspects of development will help to chip away at the root causes of insecurity. Action at any point helps in breaking the vicious cycle in which pastoralists are trapped. Empowering

pastoralists and their organizations, at the same time as promoting social development and alleviating some of the principal economic constraints, will ultimately make the core issues more amenable to resolution.

3.1 Strengthening Pastoralist Civil Society



PENHA program coordinator Amsale Shibeshi chats with Godfrey Karamuzi of the Nyabushozi Development Agency at their office in Rushere. From 1999, Godfrey has benefited from PENHA training workshops on pastoral development policy, natural resource management and women's human rights. PENHA has helped Godfrey and other NYDA staff to participate in national and international forums, including those organized by MRG, RECONCILE in Ethiopia, Kenya and the Sudan, recommending them and giving them thorough briefings to enhance their ability to participate effectively. NYDA helped PENHA to reach community groups and design a country

- are empowered and development programs are truly participatory
- are able to articulate their needs effectively
- are able to understand their rights as citizens and articulate their demands
- are able to participate in and use democratic structures and influence policy-making
- have effective and responsive representation and are able to challenge politicians at local and national levels

District NGO networks have begun to coordinate activities and advocacy efforts on behalf of pastoralists. In Karamoja, the Ministry of State for Karamoja Affairs is collaborating effectively with NGOs in local forums, led by well-resourced international NGOs. In the West, the international NGOs are much less concerned with pastoralism, and indigenous NGOs are very weak.

There are, however, a number of community based organizations (CBOs) that have the potential to develop into fully-fledged NGOs – PENHA intends to foster the development of these organizations. PENHA has focused its capacity building efforts on NYDA, because it is the only Western NGO that is capable of engaging in national and regional advocacy efforts. Pastoralists in Nyabushozi have enjoyed a much greater degree of development and progress than those in Ndiinzi, Rwemiyaga, Nakasongora and Luwero. Ideally, PENHA would like to focus on these less developed parts of the Western Cattle Corridor, where there are no substantial commercial milk markets and poverty is really biting. But, funding constraints, as well as the very low levels of social development in these areas, have made that impossible. NYDA does, to some extent, speak for all Western pastoralists, though interests do diverge in important ways. For these reasons, PENHA chose to provide support for NYDA, covering office rent from 1999 to 2001, providing other capacity building support and building its human resources by involving its staff in over 14 trainings and workshops. PENHA has also supported NYDA's participation in national and regional advocacy work, including the Uganda NGO Forum's 'Pastoralist Taskforce', drafting materials for NYDA participants and helping them to frame issues.

In 2004, we hope to maintain our partnership with NYDA, while re-focusing our capacity building efforts on the smaller CBOs that are active in the Cattle Corridor.

It will be particularly important to work with herders' associations, such as 'Abariisa Kweteerana' in Rwemiyaga, and the numerous women's groups that exist across the Corridor. These organizations have the potential to participate in the NAADS program, which envisions 'farmer groups' and a revitalized cooperative movement.

3.2 Water for Production and for Domestic Use



Watering Ankole cows at Nkoma Farm

Pastoralists rely on the traditional mud trough, giving water of very poor quality. Only the rich can afford to pump clean water to metal troughs. Pastoralist families use this muddy water for drinking, cooking and washing.

Health and social welfare in pastoral areas can be improved by the provision of clean water for households using cheap, locally made, roof catchment systems and the installation of troughs and other simple systems for ensuring hygiene at water points used by both animals and humans.

There is a need to expand the number of water points available to pastoralists, and to ensure that water points are well distributed in order to reduce distances traveled by herders and herds and to prevent localized environmental degradation around water points.

Even where water points are established, maintenance is a major problem. When dams become silted up, costly de-silting operations are required. Boreholes and hand-pumps require careful maintenance and expensive spare parts are required from time to time. Water harvesting tanks are, therefore, the best available technology for increasing access to safe water. It is also essential to establish effective management committees for communal sources and, wherever possible, to promote private ownership by individuals or small groups through training and the provision of credit.

Water Sources for Livestock

Pastoralists consistently identify water sources for livestock as a priority need. The paucity of water sources for cattle is a limiting factor for livestock production. The concentration of cattle around the few existing watering points in Nyabushozi has caused serious sheet and gully erosion.¹ Currently, poorer herders simply invade the fenced land of big ranchers during droughts or the regular dry season and water their cows at the ranchers' expensively built dams. Social mores make it impossible for

¹ Namara, A. & Kimbowa, E. "The Fate of a Pastoralist in a State of Resource Insecurity: A Case Study of Nyabushozi County, ALARM, 1999.

ranchers to resist, but this situation is generating serious tensions. Herders move into the Lake Mbuoro game park, site of the largest traditional water source, and as far as Karagwe, in Tanzania, in search of dry season water and grazing. Tensions with the Park authorities and the Tanzanian government have become serious. (In 2003, thousands of Ugandan pastoralists were expelled from Tanzania and pastoralists on the Kanyanyeru resettlement scheme, adjacent to the National Park are currently paying expensively for jerry cans of water from private traders.)

While dry season water points will not, as government believes, obviate the need for seasonal herd mobility, the installation of appropriately distributed and community-managed water sources will

- Reduce the distances traveled by herders in search of water,
- Reduce congestion of animals and curtail the spread of animal diseases at water points
- Reduce grazing pressure and localized environmental degradation around existing water points

Furthermore, watering of animals using traditional mud troughs is labor-intensive and unhygienic, with herders standing in the water source and filling the trough using buckets. The instillation of more modern systems – pumps and metal troughs – would therefore be labor-saving, freeing up herders time for alternative activities, at the same time as promoting improved health outcomes.

Government provision of water points has consistently proved to be a costly failure. Boreholes and community dams have fallen into disrepair as a result of a combination of silting and a low water table, a failure to establish effective management and maintenance and the lack of a sense of ownership on the part of the communities. The increasing privatization of rangeland makes communal water points less and less workable. Moreover, corruption has become an important factor – in 1998, having identified water sources as a critical constraint on livestock production, the World Bank allocated \$34 to the construction of water sources in Nyabushozi. The entire budget was embezzled and no dams were built. This was confirmed for PENHA staff during a 1999 visit to the planned sites with our local partners. The Minister of Agriculture lost her job, largely due to pressure from the local MP, but community needs unmet.

Nevertheless, when a small group of herders and their families come together to put up a water point, management problems are greatly reduced. Roles and responsibilities can easily be assigned and access can be restricted. This project will be based on the identification of small groups of herders in a particular locale, who will elect management committees

Households' Lack of Access to Safe Water

- There are not enough water points and those that exist are poorly distributed so that long distances have to be traveled
- The long distances traveled to water points by children performing herding duties are a major factor in poor school enrolment rates, attendance rates and performance.
- Water sources often serve both humans and animals, so that sanitation and hygiene is poor. In the case of the most basic valley dams, which do not have pumps, buckets or other systems for drawing water, herders drive their cattle right into the water with negative consequences for both human and animal health
- Households' lack of clean water sources contributes to ill-health and disease and increases the burden on women, girls and children who have to walk long distances to fetch water, hampering their participation in social and productive activities, as well as in schooling.

Poor hygiene and sanitation practices result in avoidable ill health and disease. Preventable diseases, particularly malaria, respiratory tract infections, intestinal worms, and diarrhea continue to take a heavy toll in terms of ill-health and death. Dirty water is estimated to account for more than 50% of disease.

In June 1999, only 47% of Uganda's rural population had access to safe water within a walking distance of 1.5 km.² However, Sembabule District is the poorest served of all, with coverage of only 18.4%. Local partners estimate that coverage is as low as 8% in the pastoral areas. Only 49% of the rural population had hygienic sanitation in June 1999, while for Sembabule coverage is around 25%. Behind these figures lies considerable human suffering and the absence of safe water sources constitutes a serious impediment to development and is a major factor in poor health outcomes. There is, therefore, an urgent need to expand the number of safe water sources and sanitation facilities in homes and institutions. Water sources should be community owned and managed, and low cost options should be pursued. Government recognizes these needs, however, severe budget constraints mean that public provision will remain inadequate. Community self help initiatives and NGOs, therefore, have an important role to play. Appropriate water sources include: valley dams, shallow wells, roof catchment systems and rainwater tanks.

With regard to sanitation, there is a need for:

- hygiene education for schools and community groups
- training and the promotion of simple and affordable techniques for the construction of pit latrines

Lack of Sanitation in Schools

Many schools in pastoral areas lack basic sanitation, in particular clean toilets with hand-washing facilities. This

- Contributes to ill-health
- Discourages attendance by adolescent girls

Most structures are semi-permanent and 90% of primary school children take classes sitting on the floor. 53% of primary school teachers are untrained. Sanitation is very

² Ministry of Finance, Budget Framework Paper 2000/1 to 2001/2, May 2000

poor, deterring attendance by teenage girls. There are 531 stance latrines in primary schools, giving a stance-pupil ratio of 1:83.

However, it is important to bear in mind the role of children in the pastoral production system and competing demands on their time when designing interventions. A school was built to serve 700 children in Lugusuulu's scattered pastoralist population, but only 200 children are currently attending classes. UNICEF and the Government of Uganda have identified poor sanitation in schools as a major factor in high drop out rates for adolescent girls – they have recently launched a major program to address this, alongside the continent-wide Girls' Education Movement (GEM). However, pastoral areas will not benefit directly from this program, despite the fact that they have the worst enrolment and drop out rates.



A freshly dug valley dam
at Nkoma Farm

A dam like this one costs
30 to 40 million shillings.

With a pump and metal
troughs, it can provide
clean water for animals
and for domestic use.

3.3 Rural Communication and Access to Information

Mobile Phones and Modern Communications



In this picture, PENHA'S John Livingstone compares phone sets with Kirabo, a herder from Ssembabule, during the dry season 2003.

With his mobile phone, Kirabo can call people in the neighboring county to find out about the availability of water for his cows. Mobile phones make dry season trekking less arduous and also help isolated communities to access services when there are medical emergencies. A phone call to the nearest – usually very distant – health center can make the difference between life and death.

Mobile telephony has great potential to improve well-being in remote pastoralist communities. The affordability of mobile phone connection in Uganda, and the expansion of the network in pastoral areas, makes this an important means of integrating pastoralists socially and economically. Pastoralists who are “connected” can easily access essential market information, for example livestock and cereal prices on local and regional markets.

This is one of a range of technologies that can rapidly improve the quality of life of Uganda's pastoralists. Solar power units and wind-up radios, individually or collectively owned, could have a transformational impact. Isolation from channels of communication underpins, and is a key aspect of, poverty among pastoralists - civil society, the private sector and government need to come together to find innovative ways of promoting access to information and communication networks in the pastoralist communities.

The way in which poorer social groups have rapidly taken up the use of mobile phones, with real social benefits coming through expanded commerce, increased access to health care and greater social integration, is an example of how technological “leapfrogging” can occur. In a similar way, affordable solar systems and water harvesting techniques could greatly improve the quality of life of isolated pastoralist communities who would otherwise have to wait years or decades for connection to national grids or systems.

The Future - Plans for 2004

Different approaches for the West and Karamoja

The Minister for Animal Industries, noting that there are well-funded programs in Karamoja, has specifically urged PENHA to concentrate its activities on the Western Cattle Corridor. It makes sense for PENHA to focus its grassroots level activities in the areas where they are most needed, while at the same time including the East in its training and policy work. The limitations imposed by a poor fundraising effort in 2002/3, have dictated an almost exclusive focus on the West. But, it is important that PENHA find the resources in 2004 to cover the Eastern Cattle Corridor, complementing the good work that has been done by other NGOs in the production area, with more work on human capital and social change.

Exotic Goats and mixed farming

We intend to put a much greater emphasis on supporting income-generating activities that meet effective demand on local markets and serve sustainability goals. We will achieve this by expanding our exotic goat breeding stock and beginning seed multiplication of new varieties of high value, drought resistant crops developed by local research stations.

Better dissemination and expanded information and communication

We need to do more to support workshop participants in their efforts to pass on what they have learnt to others, in particular the over 90% of pastoralist women who are illiterate. We use video in all our workshops and have used mobile video units to show awareness videos to the general population in towns where our workshops take place. We hope to make greater use of radio, cassettes and mobile video in order to reach a wider audience with our training and awareness work.

We also hope to formalize a network of individuals – pastoralist men and women, ordinary herders and those involved in CSOs - in each sub-county who can report regularly on local developments. Government policy aims to modernize agriculture and, under the NAADS program, farmer groups are central to efforts to promote new techniques. Government also hopes to revive the cooperative movement, with a new emphasis on “farming as a business” that addresses the management and ownership issues that contributed to the failure of cooperatives in the past. PENHA intends to work with herders’ associations, which have the potential to become vehicles for pastoralists’ participation in these modernization processes.

We also hope to do more follow-up to ensure that workshop outputs are taken up in the development plans of parish development committees and sub-county and District administrations across the Cattle Corridor.

Following discussions with prominent activists, we intend, in future, to use all our workshops as opportunities for sensitization against strongly negative attitudes towards people with disabilities (PWDs), emphasizing PWDs ability to contribute to society and urging parents to invest in educating children with disabilities.