



PENHA NEWSLETTER - Issue 2, January 2010

This is the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa's Newsletter. Our website is <http://www.penhanetwork.org/>

ISSUE 2. HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Dear PENHA friend,

We are delighted to send to you the second issue of the PENHA Newsletter, and we would like to wish you a Happy and Fortunate 2010!

Would you like to send your friends and colleagues a greetings card from the Horn of Africa? Contact our Secretariat (info@penhanetwork.org) or [go to our website](http://www.penhanetwork.org) to get an all seasons' greetings card. They cost £1.00 each (plus £2.00 postage and packing) and you be contributing to pastoralists' empowerment!

Thank you for your ongoing encouragement and we wish you an enjoyable read!

Between October and November 2009, PENHA's Director Dr. Zeremariam Fre was visiting scholar at the School of Asian and African Studies, Kyoto University, Japan and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. While there, he toured and gave lectures in other Universities of the country.

This academic engagement offered a significant opportunity for the discussion of pastoralist issues such as land tenure in the Horn of Africa, indigenous technical knowledge and practice as well as for publicising the important role of PENHA in empowering pastoralist communities. You can see his lecture at the UN University, Yokohama on the PENHA website by [clicking here](#).

On Sunday the 13th of December, Dr. Fre was invited to participate in "Shoot the Messenger", a chat show for Vox Africa – The Panafrikan TV Channel, in Battersea Studios, London. The panel of experts on climate change discussed the role of the African delegation in the Copenhagen talks which were imminent, and the benefit/disadvantages of the compensation strategy. Watch the video on the PENHA website by [clicking here](#).

PENHA SUDAN

In September, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between PENHA and our local partner, the Pastoralist Environment Association Kassala State (PEAKS). This was followed by:



- A training visit made by eight members of PEAKS committee to Khartoum. This took place in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Production of the Sudan University of Science and Technology and the Animal Production Research Centre of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The purchase of several thousand exercise books which have been distributed among most needy children in rural

schools in the Kassala State

- A capacity building training exercise for PEAKS members to empower them in negotiating strategies with fodder factories (Halfa factory, Kassala) and train them in storages methods. The aim was to help the PEAKS cooperative to purchase fodder at a low out of seasons price and so reduce costs for feeding their animals.

PENHA ERITREA

In October 2009, PENHA's Programme Officer for Eritrea, Harnet Bokrezion was in Eritrea to monitor PENHA's progresses in the area. These are the major outcomes of her visit:



- **Grazing Reservation**
Resulting from the continuous lobbying efforts exerted by National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS), PENHA and the pastoralist forums and committees, the local Eritrean administration granted pastoralists a 450 sq. km grazing reservation area as a good will gesture. Sign posts were immediately erected by NUEYS to clearly designate the area concerned. The photograph in the box representing one of these. This is a great achievement

as the shortage of protected and clearly marked grazing areas remains a major concern for pastoralists in the region

- **Integrated Community-based Fodder Production in Western Eritrea, financed by Oxfam Novib in the Netherlands.**

In the Western lowlands of Eritrea pastoralist communities face a serious shortage of fodder resources. PENHA, in collaboration with NUEYS, conducted training on alternative fodder production using crop residues and Mesquite (*Prosopis juliflora*). The training was attended by a total of 29 pastoralists including 9 women as well as 9 representatives of local organisations and the regional branch of the Ministry of Agriculture. To know more about the training's outcomes and its future developments, please [follow this link](#).

- **Pastoralist Centre Development, financed by ICCO**

Since 2003 PENHA and NUEYS have worked on pastoralist empowerment and the formation of pastoralist forums. A central building to serve the local community emerged as an urgent need.

The administration in Geluj donated a plot of land and the compound wall with a gate has now been successfully concluded. [Click here](#) to read more about the centre and it's management.

PENHA UGANDA



- In November Elisabeth Katushabe (PENHA Uganda Project Officer) participated in the Conference on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by FAO in Rome. There she presented a research paper on: *Herders Workshops for Community Documentation of Livestock Breeds*. This described work to protect the local Ankole cattle breed from dying out

- In October a Resource Based Conflict (RBC) Network regional planning meeting was held in Nairobi, with the title: *Cross-border and intra state conflict mapping and impact analysis*. Uganda was represented by Everse Ruhindi - PENHA RBC Coordinator. [Click here](#) to find out more about the meeting.

NEWS in Brief from the UK

The following appointments have been made by the PENHA Board:

Dr. Leulseged Abebe from Ethiopia working for International Alert has been co-opted as a new PENHA board member.

Professor Itaru Ohta from the Japanese University of Kyoto, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Centre for African Area Studies, has been appointed as a senior advisor to PENHA.

Samuel Tefera Alemu, who is with the Centre for African Area Studies at Kyoto University, Japan, has been appointed a Research Associate with PENHA.

If you think that PENHA's work is valuable and makes a difference to nomadic pastoralists' life, then please consider making a **donation** to our organisation. PENHA can only empower women, men and local organisations in the Horn of Africa with your help! [Click here](#) and you will then be sent to our page for donations where you can also have a look at our Financial Yearly Report.

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