Livestock for Livelihoods

L4LP

PROVIDING LEADERSHIP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL RESOURCES FOR AFRICA

About AU-IBAR

The African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is a specialized technical office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC). AU-IBAR's mandate is to support and coordinate the utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as resources for both human wellbeing and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU). Building upon experiences in two zones, notably in Kenya and Burkina Faso, AU-IBAR through the Livestock for Livelihoods Project (L4LP) seeks to develop ways of strengthening the adaptive capacities of the livestock-dependent communities, providing livelihood alternatives and less conflictive solutions to strengthen and consolidate recent gains in the aforementioned hotspots and to start up a similar process in four other transboundary hotspots.

Rationale

Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) are widespread in Africa covering between 60-80% of the land surface. They are home to a substantial portion of pastoralists and to a minor extent sedentary farming communities. Due to continued population growth, the pressure on natural resources has increased significantly and leads to a range of conflicts. ASALs are fragile ecosystems where natural resources such as water, fertile soil and vegetation are scarce. Currently, the ecological dynamics are complicated by the inevitable growing effects of Climate Change. There are severe competitions between pastoralists and their livestock, sedentary farmers and wildlife for water, fodder and land, leading to conflicts and further ecosystem degradation. Judicious management of these natural resources, including conflict management and adaptation/mitigation to climate change, has become imperative to avert severe ecological disasters.

The Livestock for Livelihoods project is a joint initiative of AU-IBAR and the European Union.

Interventions

- Capacity building of CBOs in environmental issues (including cross-border resources).
- Strengthening cross-border resource management.
- Learning lessons and dissemination of good practice on sustainable resource use.
- Peer review of management regimes and their effectiveness in improving natural resources.

Methods and approaches

- Networking and linkage development for local community groups and other stakeholders to make the effort sustainable.

> " ...there are severe competitions between pastoralists and their livestock, sedentary farmers and wildlife for water, fodder and land, leading to conflicts and further ecosystem degradation... "

- Bridging gaps between communities, line agencies and NGOs.
- Regular interaction with community groups, especially with local CBOs to train them in issues of their environment and livelihood.
- Awareness, involvement and income generation of local women to address gender issues prevalent in the area.
- Establishing demonstration zones, which will act as hubs in the area and carry forward project interventions after project life.

Expected results

- **Sustainable natural resource management systems established at the livestock-wildlife-environment interface.**
  Create conducive policy and institutional environments that facilitate climate change adaptation strategies in the livestock-wildlife-agriculture interface with reduce incidence of natural resources based conflicts.

- **Degraded lands restored and rehabilitated through participatory community-based actions (Establishment of demonstration zones).**
  Support will be provided to communities to embrace rehabilitation and restoration activities from physical, technical, socioeconomic and cultural perspectives.

- **'Climate-Proof' livestock production systems and alternative means of livelihood provided to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in ASALs.**
  Increase income from traditional herding of animals, through

the reduction of the current constraints to livestock production, such as disease control, feeding and marketing.

- **Enhanced awareness, information and sharing best practices on sustainable natural resources management practices in response to increasing risks and vulnerability from Climate Change at the livestock-wildlife interface (Regional Comparative Learning).**
  Foster exchange of experiences and comparative learning at a regional level through dissemination of best practices and exchange visits.

Goal
To improve natural resources and livestock management practices at the interface of protected areas in response to increased risks and vulnerability from Climate Change

Objective
To strengthen livestock-based livelihoods and improve food and environmental security in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs)

Main Expected Results
- Sustainable natural resource management systems established at the livestock-wildlife-environment interface.
- Degraded lands restored and rehabilitated through participatory community-based actions.
- 'Climate-Proof' livestock production systems and alternative means of livelihood provided to pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in ASALs.
- Enhanced awareness, information and sharing best practices on sustainable natural resources management practices.

Geographical Coverage
Four transboundary ecosystem: the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Parks Complex, the Karamajong Cluster, the area around Lake Chad and the Niokolo Complex.

February 2010—July 2013
Project implementation period.

Beneficiaries
Pastoral, agricultural and agro-pastoral communities and women, line ministries, local administrations, community-based organisations (CBOs) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Stakeholders
CBOs, pastoral associations, women groups, Line Ministries, local Administration and RECs.

4.7 million euros
Amount in the Financing Agreement signed by AU-IBAR and the EU.

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