



**Issue 191 | May 15, 2015 | Focus on WASH & Pastoralism**

Many thanks to Stephan Simon of Welthungerhilfe for suggesting this week's topic. A recent report from the IUCN and UNEP explains how sustainable pastoralism maintains soil fertility and soil carbon, contributes to water regulation and biodiversity conservation, and provides high-value food products. Pastoralism is practiced by up to half a billion people across the globe, and despite its benefits, decades of underinvestment have eroded the lifestyle in many countries. One of the report's conclusions is that pastoralists should be integrated into the development mainstream through improved representation in decision making and the promotion of innovation in the provision of basic services—including education, health, communications, safe water, and renewable energy.

**NEWS/MAGAZINES/BLOGS/VIDEOS**

**Water for Peace.** *USAID Global Waters*, July 2014. [Link](#)

This issue features an article on Kenya where USAID is mediating resource-related disputes between pastoralists in arid areas while increasing their resilience to climate change.

**Preparing for Droughts: How Pastoralists in Kenya Can Have Water All Year Long.** IRC Blog, Feb 2015. J Terpstra. [Link](#)

After a disastrous drought in 2011, the focus of development and aid organizations in the region shifted from immediate response to the drought to risk prevention. What could be done to prevent this from happening again and how to set up a reliable water supply system? The Kenya Arid Lands Disaster Risk Reduction project—a two-year project led by the Millennium Water Alliance with support from USAID—started with pilots to improve access to water and resilience to droughts for 160,000 people in four arid counties: Turkana, Marsabit, Moyale, and Wajir.

**The Economics of Local Adaptation in the Dryland Ecosystems of Isiolo County.** *IIED Blog*, Apr 2015. C King-Okumu. [Link](#)

Investments to support pastoralists in Northern Kenya to adapt to the changing climate pay immediate dividends – but the benefits are even greater if the indirect impacts can also be taken into account.

**Water Mapping Technology Rebuilds Lives in Arid Regions,** 2015. NASA. [Link](#)

Turkana County in northwest Kenya has been reeling from several years of crippling drought. As a consequence, the nomadic peoples in the region have suffered. But in 2013 there was an

incredible discovery: at least 66 trillion gallons of water deep beneath the surface of Turkana in the Lotikipi and Lodwar basins. The discovery was made possible by international exploration company Radar Technologies International, which employs a battery of technologies, including troves of NASA data, to probe Earth in search of one of nature's most valuable resources.

### **New UN Platform Aims to Bring Pastoralists' Voices to Global Decision-Making**

**Stage.** *Sustain Dev Blog*, April 2015. [Link](#)

Launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its partners, the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub will enable mobile livestock keepers to connect, meet, and discuss issues like agricultural innovations or land regulations and find shared solutions to common challenges. The online tool also offers a growing database of research on pastoralism, contacts for a worldwide network of pastoral representatives, and discussion forums for pastoralist networks and partnering institutions.

### **Can Farmers & Pastoralists Self-Assess Their Climate-Resilience?** *Agriculture and Ecosystems Blog*, March 2014. J Choptian. [Link](#)

FAO in collaboration with external partners has been developing a tool, the Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP) to enable smallholder farmers and pastoralists to assess their own resilience while providing important data for scientists and policy makers' efforts in climate adaptation. SHARP was developed following a thorough review of resilience theory and existing sustainability and climate resilience tools working together with a team at the University of Leeds.

### **Wildlife-related Zoonotic Diseases Among Pastoralists in Uganda**, 2014. IDRC. [Video](#)

In southwestern Uganda, population growth, climate change, and agricultural policies have reduced access to grazing and water points, forcing pastoralists to adopt sedentary lifestyles in and around wildlife conservation areas. This has led to more frequent interaction between humans and wildlife, magnified health risks, and negative impacts on community development.

### **Enhancing Livestock Resilience and Pastoral Livelihoods in Africa Q&A**, 2013. USAID Agrilinks. | [Video - Part 1](#) | [Video - Part 2](#) |

As more pressure has been put on pastoralist grazing lands and water resources, coupled with growing populations and increasing urbanization, competition for resources has become even greater. To address these challenges, USAID recently commissioned workshops on behalf of a broad community of humanitarian and development stakeholders to provide a platform for learning through the identification of successful strategies, enabling conditions, and policies for strengthening resiliency.

## **REPORTS/JOURNAL ARTICLES**

### **Wealth and Warriors: Adolescents in the Face of Drought in Turkana, Kenya**, 2015. Mercy Corps. | [Research Brief](#) | [Complete Report](#) |

This study examines day-to-day life for adolescents in pastoralist communities, in comparison to adolescents in communities that have transitioned out of pastoralism. In addition to highlighting some of the stark differences in roles and responsibilities, access to services—such as education—and marriage, the study also uncovered how shocks, such as drought, affect the lives of pastoralist girls, and how girls contribute toward household resilience in times of crisis.

### **Living Institutions: Sharing and Sanctioning Water among Pastoralists in Namibia.**

*World Development*, April 2015. M Schnegg. [Link](#)

Sanctions are often considered an important component of successful resource management. To govern water usage, pastoral communities in Namibia have specific sanctions at their disposal and yet these are almost never applied. Interestingly, this does not lead to a breakdown in water supply. To understand collective action in small communities it is important to take into account that people share multiple resources. Combining ethnography and network analysis we reveal that people cannot separate the sharing of water from the sharing of ancestries, food, and work. This discourages the application of formal sanctions while opening other means of maintaining institutional regimes.

### **Fighting Hygiene and Sanitation Taboos in Southern Ethiopia**, n.d. S Mesele, Global Water Initiative. [Link](#)

The study explains the cultural taboos that prevented WASH facilities provided by the government or donors from being used. Community members identified the use of latrines as taboo and thus undesirable. This taboo stems from an ancient spiritual belief that someone who buries his/her feces is considered to be an evil wisher and becomes a social outcast. A common phrase encountered is "Nu nagaa qabna," or in English, "We are people of peace, we do not use latrines." Other practices such as people and animals cohabiting in the same room and lack of a separate kitchen area for food preparation are among the common local practices that increase the risk of disease.

### **Valuing "Indigenous Knowledge" Related to Water Usage Among Garri Pastoralists of Southern Ethiopia**, 2014. F Staro. [Link](#)

This paper focuses on a major feature of water use among Garri pastoralists inhabiting the region around Moyale and Hudet, Ethiopia, namely the spread of private water access points. These are considered among the most important water sources in the region, but they are being constructed to the detriment of communal access points. This practice brings into question the effectiveness of "participatory development" and invites acknowledgment of the social embeddedness of natural resource management and indigenous environmental knowledge.

### **Managing Pastoralism and Water Rights in the Upper West Region of Ghana: A Blame Game Among Actors.** *Journal of Sustainable Development*, 7( 1) 2014. N Fielmua. [Link](#)

This paper examines the interaction among actors in managing pastoral practices and the right to access water in the Upper West Region of Ghana. Water rights, the environment, and pastoral practices have been the main issues of discussion in many countries, and Ghana in particular. The focus has always been the negative effects of pastoral activities on environmental resources with less attention on the positive side of it. This paper presents findings on the relationship among the various actors (government agencies, community members, herdsmen, livestock owners, and chiefs).

### **More Water or More Conflict?** 2014. International Rescue Committee. [Link](#)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) investigated the migration habits of pastoralists accessing boreholes and shallow wells rehabilitated during its Start Fund project. This learning activity allowed IRC to investigate some of the intended coping strategies just before the intervention and how the intervention may have affected those strategies, shedding some light on clan dynamics and pastoralist migration in the rarely accessed coastal belt of Somalia.

**Evaluation of Rainwater Harvesting Systems for Livestock Production in Uganda,** 2014. N Kiggundu. [Link](#)

Rainwater harvesting is widely practiced in many parts of Uganda to supply water for domestic use, livestock, and crop production. In the cattle corridor region rainwater harvesting is economically practiced for livestock production. The popularity of rainwater harvesting is attributed to the fact that other alternative sources are distant from human settlements and groundwater may be low in quantity, high in saline, or expensive to extract.

**Cattle Pastoralists' Strategies to Cope with Water Scarcity in Climate Change Context in Northern Benin, West Africa,** 2014. G Dhojy. [Link](#)

This paper deals with the strategies cattle pastoralists use to cope with the shortage of water resources along their grazing routes. During three months, 30 cattle herds were partially followed along an international animal route in the north of Benin, in order to understand the mechanisms through which they accessed water during the inimical season. Individual interviews and focus group discussions were used to elicit information on pastoral activities. The results reveal a pastoral dynamic based on the programmed distance to the best resources, the duration of resource-gathering stays, the livestock market position along the route, and the possibility of over digging wells.

**Pastoralism and the Green Economy – A Natural Nexus? Status, Challenges, and Policy Implications,** 2014. IUCN; UNEP. [Complete Report](#) | [Policy Brief](#) |

Strengthening the role of pastoralism in the Green Economy will require attention to widespread market failures and investment gaps. This includes strengthening marketing channels for multiple primary goods, such as milk, meat, and fiber. It also includes addressing market failures around ecosystem services provided through sustainable pastoralism. Linked to this, more effort is needed to reform tools for evaluating the environmental performance of livestock products in order to clearly inform consumers of issues surrounding water scarcity, carbon emissions, and freshwater pollution.

**The Benefits of 'One Health' for Pastoralists in Africa.** *Journal of Veterinary Research,* Feb 2014. H Greter. [Link](#)

“One health” is particularly suited to serve mobile pastoralists. Dinka pastoralists in Sudan inspired Calvin Schwabe to coin the term “one medicine,” indicating that there is no difference in paradigm between human and veterinary medicine. Our contemporary definition of one health is any added value in terms of improved health of humans and animals or financial savings or environmental services resulting from a closer cooperation of human and animal health sectors. This article presents a summary of one health studies with mobile pastoralists in Africa.

**Sustainable Pastoralism in Ethiopia: Preliminary Results from Participatory Community Assessments on the North-Central Borana Plateau,** 2014. S Tezera. [Link](#)

The Borana Plateau is an important rangeland for Ethiopia. Livestock production has supported pastoralists here for many generations, and animals are now supplied to a variety of domestic and export markets. The rangelands have been badly degraded by decades of heavy pressure from growing human and livestock populations. As a result, there has been extensive bush encroachment on the grasslands and a recent acceleration of gully erosion. The most critical problem for all of the Pastoral Associations is a shortage of drinking water for both people and animals. Water resources are under threat from growing populations; high rates of pond siltation from overgrazed catchments; and gradual deterioration of cisterns, hand pumps, and

infrastructure for deep wells.

**Resilience and Pastoralism in Africa**, 2014. P Little, IFPRI. [Link](#)

This paper addresses pastoralism and its resilience in Africa south of the Sahara, with a primary focus on the Horn of Africa and some contrast to West African examples. It begins with an overview of the realities of contemporary pastoralism in this area that highlights social, economic, and political challenges and opportunities. It then focuses on the concept of resilience and its applications in the specific context of pastoral production systems.

**Understanding Pastoralists and Their Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Needs**, 2011. F Axeweso, WaterAid. [Link](#)

This policy brief summarizes the findings from a literature review and research carried out by WaterAid in Longido and Hanang districts in northern Tanzania. Pastoralists are nomadic people who either move around throughout the year with their families and herds in search of water and pasture, or may be sedentary where they are more or less settled in one defined area. Their mobility or migration patterns are determined in response to the changing environment and natural resources, particularly rainfall and grass condition, which varies from year to year.

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**About WASHplus** - WASHplus, a multi-year project funded through USAID's Bureau for Global Health, supports healthy households and communities by creating and delivering interventions that lead to improvements in access, practice and health outcomes related to water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) and household air pollution (HAP). WASHplus uses at-scale, targeted as well as integrated approaches to reduce diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, the two top killers of children under five years of age globally. For information, visit [www.washplus.org](http://www.washplus.org) or email: [contact@washplus.org](mailto:contact@washplus.org).