Council for African Policy

Improving Animal Health and Livestock Production to achieve Food Security in Karamoja

Policy Briefing Paper No. 1 of 2016

CAP Policy Briefing Paper No. 1 of 2016

Prof. Charles Waiswa (PhD)

Physical Adress:
Council for African Policy (CAP)
Plot 27A Bandali Rise Bugolobi
Po Box 2782 Kampala
Tel: 0414691799
Email: info@cap-u.org
Website: www.cap-u.org

Improving Animal Health and Livestock Production to achieve Food Security in Karamoja:

Prof. Charles Waiswa (PhD)

THE OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR EASTERN AFRICA

The production of this policy briefing paper is made possible with support from the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA).The contents are the responsibility of the Author and do not necessarily reflect the views of OSIEA.

Published by CAP
P.O. Box 2782, Kampala - UGANDA
Email: info@cap-u.org, executive@cap-u.org
Website: http://www.cap-u.org

Citation:
Prof. Charles Waiswa, Improving Animal Health and Livestock Production to achieve Food Security in Karamoja, Kampala, CAP Policy Briefing Paper, No.01, 2016.

Cover Photo:
Market day at the Cattle market in Moroto.

Table of Contents:

Acronyms

CAHW	Community Animal Health Workers
CBP	Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
DVO	District Veterinary Officers
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization.
KLDF	Karamoja Livestock Development Forum
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization.
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister.
PPR	Pest des Petits Ruminantis
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Standards
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme.

Acknowledgment:

Council for African Policy (CAP) would like to thank the consultant Prof. Charles Waiswa (PhD) for his continuous support and technical inputs to make this Policy Brief ready. The responses received from different livestock stakeholders consulted was valuable and indispensable. Special thanks to the veterinarians from Karamoja sub region, Development partners, Chief Administrative Officers, District Chairpersons, Cattle Traders, Kraal Owners, International Organizations, Mercy Corps, FAO, KDF and MAAIF Headquarters and regional office. Your support during data collection and validation is highly appreciated.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Executive Summary

This policy brief is an opportunity to give a picture of the desirability of using livestock to improve livelihoods in the Karamoja region by taking advantage of existing policies or propose new ideas that will help exploit the potential of the livestock resource in Karamoja. Since 1987, Uganda Government has pursued macro-economic policies of liberalization and privatization aimed at eradication of poverty. Support policy framework like decentralization, rationalisation of civil service and good governance were put in place and consequently the roles of public and private sectors are being defined whereby there is substantial shift in livestock policies from putting the burden of developing the livestock sector on public resources to Private Sector.

Pastoralism/agro-pastoralism is seen as the leading economic livelihood for the Karimojong, but its viability as a way of life and as a livelihood is dependent upon the availability of natural resources, access to land and environmental factors. Recently government policies have encouraged the promotion of crop agriculture in the region in an attempt to improve food security and increase settlement of the Karimojong people, increasing the competition for the available land between crop and livestock production, let alone the vast rangelands gazetted for wildlife in the form of game parks and game reserves.

Cattle production is the major livestock enterprise in Uganda and Karimojong pastoralists keep large herds of this livestock in addition to goats and sheep on their rangelands. Livestock trade in the region has been on the increase since the successful disarmament programme with availability of both foreign and local markets being exploited. The local markets are mainly

provided by the local Karimojong communities and the slaughter houses in Kampala and other major towns, while the external markets are mainly comprised of South Sudan for goats and sheep and Kenya for cattle. This is a positive trend for the socio-economic improvement of the pastoralists and a positive contribution to the national economy, yet the overall depiction of pastoralists is of impoverishment owing to failure to take advantage of the opportunities created by increased demand for animals and their products.

Of major concern is that a growing number of the Karimojong have lost their livestock due to pressure on land capital leading to limits in mobility in search of pasture and water. This problem just adds to the already severe losses caused by rampant livestock diseases and pests. Therefore, although pastoralism is the core for survival of most of the Karimojong, its status and contribution to lifting the socio-economic wellbeing of the local communities and to the national economy has not yet been exploited and is yet to be well recognized. The frequent movement of pastoralists and their animals as they look for water and pasture is viewed as unproductive, backward and unsustainable and has led to an unanswered question of whether pastoralism in Karamoja is regarded as *'a way of life' or 'a recognized system of animal husbandry'? In addition production policies in Uganda center on an* agricultural model that puts little emphasis on pastoralism, although it is supposed to employ strategies intended to address the challenges of harsh and uncertain conditions. The need to maintain and exploit the livestock potential in Karamoja is high and it is urgent to efficiently utilize or implement policies that enable the Karimojong take advantage of the available livestock markets

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Context and Importance of the Problem

2.1 Background

Karamoja region is situated in North-Eastern Uganda and is administratively made of seven districts: Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Amudat. The region borders Kenya to the east, south Sudan to the north and the districts of Pader, Kitgum, Agago, Amuria and Katakwi to the west plus Kumi, Sironko and Kween to the south. The region consists of predominantly agro-pastoral groups that share common languages, culture, history and livelihood systems across Northeastern Uganda, Northwestern Kenya, Southeastern South Sudan and South western Ethiopia (FAO, 2014). The Karimajong way of ;life and their livestock benefits from the existing policies on Animal health and livestock production in Uganda that include the National Policy on Delivery Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Drug Policy, National Drug Policy and Authority Statute, National Food and Nutrition Policy, National Meat Policy, National Animal Feeds Policy, Animal Breeding Policy and National Agricultural Policy. In addition to other relevant policies that have been drafted but not yet approved by cabinet and these include the National Pastoralism Policy / National Rangeland Policy, National Hides, Skins and Leather Policy, National Tick and Tick Borne Disease Control Policy and National Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control Policy. Many of the actions targeting improvement of animal health, production and marketing are currently guided by the existing legislation that guide decisions. The laws include the Animal Diseases Act, Rabies Act, Cattle Traders Act, Hide and Skin Act, Dairy Industry Act, Veterinary Surgeons Act, Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Act, Animals (Straying) Act, Cattle

Grazing Act, Public Health Act, Food and Drug Act, National Drug Policy and Authority Statute and Various Statutory Instruments / Regulations / Orders related to the above Acts in addition to the Uganda Penal Code Act and other Sectors' Laws that have animal provisions.

The existing legal framework, if well implemented and enforced can help address many of the current challenges affecting livestock health in Karamoja. Therefore, increasing awareness (among all stakeholders) of the existing policies and exploiting the benefits of the good guidelines is a major step in improving livestock that form a big livelihood in Karamoja.

2.2 Livestock Production and Health

The Karimojong depend mainly on cattle for their livelihood in addition to the special cultural and spiritual attachment and they frequently move in search of pasture and water for their big herds with cattle as the households' most important asset, followed by goats, sheep and poultry. In Napak, Moroto and Amudat districts, some communities also raise camels, although these are rare elsewhere in the region. For a lot of traditional pastoral areas, raising livestock permits pastoral communities to take benefit from the land's low productivity in an efficient way. Of late, the Karimojong do engage in crop farming, an activity done mainly by women who remain behind when men go out in search of water and pastures for the livestock (KLDF, 2014).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics/UBoS (2008) census estimated the livestock population in Karamoja at about 2.3 million cattle, representing about 19.8 percent of the national cattle herd; 2.0

million goats, about 16.3 percent of the national population and about 1.7 sheep representing about 49.4 percent of the national flock. However the District Veterinary Officers' (DVOs') livestock estimates of 600, 000 heads of cattle, 650,000 goats and about 600,000 sheep (FAO, 2014,) are significantly lower than the 2008 UBOS estimates. Although these numbers are a current subject of debate, any decrease in the number of livestock has been mainly attributed to pests and diseases they cause plus lack of water all of which lead to loss of animals and negatively impacts on livelihood of pastoralists and is one of the major concern that led to the compilation of this policy brief.

2.2.1 Pasture Management

Data from the FAO (2014) indicates that 97 percent of the domestic livestock population in Karamoja is found in the agro-pastoralist/pastoralist systems. The pastoralist component is a transhumant livestock rearing system based on the prescribed movement of the majority of the herds and flocks throughout the year in search of water and grass. Pastoralists move their animals basing on drinking water availability and where they know they are able to defend themselves and their assets and pasture management is a secondary consideration. Most common pasture management practices by Karimojong people include: i) movements from kraal to kraal as areas become grazed to a point when further use becomes destructive; ii) daily travel of up to 12-14 km per day from the kraal to grazing areas for the more able/older or more conscientious herder, with earlier morning departures and later evening returns than the less able/often very young or less conscientious herder; iii) combination stocking (mixtures of numbers of cattle, sheep and

goats) adjusted to match browse and grass type availability at the preferred sites; iv) changing watering regimes adjusted to account for water availability and the water content of grasses eaten at different times of the year; and the physiological state and associated requirements of the animals in the herd/flock; v) controlled and timely burning of pasture (only if it is expected that the burner will profit from the highly digestible re-growth and expected control of vectors and parasites); vi) shaking high protein pods and leaves/lopping branches/pollarding browse trees for feeding in situ or dragging back to the kraal and vi) regular visits to mineral rich areas included in the round.

Policy Area

There is a cultural challenge of the Karimojong people not willing to reveal the true number of livestock they posses. This becomes a problem when it comes to planning for livestock services in the region. They can be underestimated or over estimated and in addition to sensitization, models to get the census right need to be developed. Policy guidelines need to be developed to guide livestock census, pasture management and livestock nutritional improvement for Karamoja. The use of fairly arable land in Nakapiripirit and Abim for crop agriculture may deny pastoralists the pasture buffer environment they escape to during drought.

2.2.2 Water Availability

There are consolidated actions by the by Government and NGOs to avail water throughout the Region by reinforcing water harvesting through the construction of dams, valley tanks, ponds, sand and sub surface dams, rock catchment facilities and the establishment of hand-pump bore-holes. These artificial structures supplement the traditional use of natural water sources in form of flowing rivers, streams, springs and ponds as well as the use of ground water in the shallow wells in dry river beds, all of which have become less handy in the face of the changing climate.

The large capacity dams of Arechek in Napak and Kobebe in Moroto constructed by government through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) have managed to hold water for over three years and have been handy during the frequent prolonged dry seasons. However, the water level in the Kobebe Dam in Moroto District was surprisingly low compared to the Arechek Dam in neighbouring Napak District of a similar construction and size. The dam is observed to be providing water to large Turkana herds as well as the transhumant Pian (Nakapiripirit), Metheniko (Moroto) and (possibly) Jie mobile units from Kotido, which may be the reason for the lower water level. On the other hand, Arechek dam provides water to the herds of the Bokora (Napak) and the Jie.

The lower capacity of Kobebe (which has similar design with Arechek), was noticed immediately on completion of the water retention structure. Apparently, it may be a site location problem

in relation to the north-western catchment zone of Mt. Moroto and the rivers emanating from Dodoth hills which are supposed to be the major feeding source.

Figure 1: On the left, reduced water levels in Kobebe dam in Moroto districts. The dam has not dried up for over 3 years and has been handy during the prolonged dry spells in Karamoja although levels went abnormally low in 2016. On the right, the Matheniko and Turkana animals congregate in Kobebe to drink water.

Policy area

Although the constructed water facilities have been helpful in contributing to the easing of the water challenge in the region, the water problem is still huge and needs immediate attention plus any new water points needing to take care of the seasonal grazing patterns. Policy guidelines are required for the type, size, purpose, distribution/citing and management of water for production facilities in Karamoja.

2.2.3 Livestock diseases and their control

From the focus group discussions with key informants, it was reported that so far one of the biggest challenges to livestock production in the Karamoja region is livestock diseases. These were grouped into: Endemic diseases, Emerging diseases and the Alert diseases. The most common endemic diseases include the Tick borne diseases (Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, East Coast fever and Heart water), Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), *Pest des petits ruminantis* (PPR), Foot and mouth disease (FMD), helminthiasis, foot rot, mange, Newcastle disease, Infectious coryza and rabies. The emerging diseases are Trypanosomiasis (Nagana), Brucellosis, Lumpy skin disease, goat/sheep pox and orf among others, while the alert diseases include Rift valley fever and Avian influenza. By government policy, the control of diseases such as CBPP, CCPP, PPR, FMD and rabies is a public responsibility as these diseases are trade sensitive and economically important


Figure 2: Vaccination against public good diseases in Karamoja Our interactions with selected farmers and leaders in the region acknowledged the importance of these diseases and the role of government and development partners in controlling them. However, it came out clearly that in the Karamoja region the biggest hindrance to livestock production are the tick borne diseases and indicated the need for change of government policy to control such diseases specifically in that region.


Figure 3: Left, Cattle suspected to be suffering from tick borne diseases are heavily infested with ticks. Right, animal health workers sensitizing pastoralists about tick control following a serious outcry about TBDs.

Among the emerging diseases, Brucellosis and trypanosomiasis are seen as the diseases where government policy shift is necessary for their control. Moreover they are zoonotic and brucellosis in particular can have a very big impact on the socio-economics and productivity of the Karimojong people given its epidemiology is favored by the cultural practices in the region such as consumption of raw milk and blood. Trypanosomiasis on the other hand is mainly associated with the buffalos from the Kidepo Valley National Park in Kaabong District. The buffalos, which are trypano-tolerant, can act as walking reservoirs of the disease when they migrate into the cattle ranges or when cattle visit the park.

Tsetse fly controlling practices in the 1940s and 1950s, before the establishment of the Kidepo Valley National Park involved the cutting of trees and spraying of vegetation, but since the creation of the park in 1964, with growing environmental awareness, neither strategy is presently appropriate and there is no longer any form of effective disease prevention. According to the Chair of the Karamojong, Pastoralist Association (FAO, 2014), potential hosts for tsetse like buffalos follow migratory routes that take them up to Amudat in the east, Abim in the west and Napak in south-central Karamoja thus complicating the epidemiology and control of trypanosomiasis.

It was realized during the survey that a good number of the farmers actually do not treat their animals regularly. Majority of those who replied in the positive (76.9%) said they only treat when animals are sick in order to cure them, while only 15.4% said they offer preventive treatment. Moreover, in terms

of disease control infrastructure, Government and NGOs have constructed cattle crushes in various locations in all the seven districts of Karamoja. These are mainly used during vaccinations. Small ruminant crashes have also been distributed by the FAO to all the districts. This has made vaccinations against the public good diseases quite easy. However, the holding grounds and quarantine centers are largely lacking in the entire region. It is a blessing that Government has earmarked them to be established within the regional pastoral resilience project under the ministry of agriculture animal industry and fisheries (MAAIF).

The government policy of establishing regional veterinary diagnostic laboratories and livestock disease control centers is a great step towards improving livestock disease diagnosis and control. MAAIF has already established and equipped a regional veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Moroto to serve the Karamoja region in addition to establishing district mini laboratories in all the districts, though with a challenge of inadequate facilitation of these facilities, making them unable to perform to their best. For instance the regional laboratory cannot perform and respond to the regional livestock disease detection challenges without a means of transport.

Figure 4: Left, the disease control and market infrastructure that looks unused in Nakapiripirit. Right, laboratory diagnosticians doing a chicken necropsy at the KVL in Moroto.

The government and its development partners have put a lot of effort in establishing slaughter houses in the region to improve both public health and livestock disease control through meat inspection in the region. However, these are still few and mainly in towns, while the local communities at the grass roots hardly receive this service. In 2013, the governments of Uganda and Kenya signed a cross-border animal heath memorandum of understanding (MOU) to coordinate and harmonize animal disease control across their international borders since the pastoralists from both countries do share common resources in the border areas. This MOU was recently joined by the government of South Sudan. This was a good policy decision, however, an assessment of this arrangement needs to be done so that its benefits and lessons need to be documented so that other livestock policies can harness and build on the said benefits.

Policy area

It was reported that the biggest percentage of livestock deaths/losses come from tick borne disease, which very often reach epidemic levels. Additionally, brucellosis and trypanosomiasis prevalences are high with their epidemiology possibly associated with wild life reservoirs. Government policy on disease control should be adjusted to add the three diseases categories to public good priority interventions.

There should be clear guidelines that encourage the public to maintain the established disease control infrastructures like cattle crushes in addition to increase funding to diagnostic work in the region which can be facilitation from the central or local Governments. It is also a good policy to establish slaughter houses and train meat inspectors at lower local government levels to both identify and control disease and improve public health.

The government policy of distribution of inputs through its programme Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) has been welcomed in Karamoja but its benefits in the livestock sector risk being undone by the devastating diseases prevalent in the region and any support should be extended it to cater for control of especially vectors like tsetse and ticks plus the diseases they cause.

2.2.4 Livestock service delivery system as a reflection of the performance of the National Policy on Delivery of Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Drug Policy and National Drug Policy and Authority Statute

From the interactions with key informants, it was identified that due to the insecurity in the region in the past years and the difficult living conditions, it was hard to attract and maintain qualified veterinary workers in Karamoja, making the veterinary human resource grossly low (government staffing level at less than 10%). This made the practice of training and using community based animal health workers suitable for Karamoja. It was pursued and as a result most of the work has been delegated to Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) since they live within the communities and can also easily follow the animals when they migrate to dry season grazing areas. With the success of disarmament that led to return of peace and security in the region, the number of government workers is improving, ***although some districts have been forced to put Animal Production Officers in the sensitive key position of District Veterinary Officer.*** The policy of using CAHWs in Karamoja is still handy though many have been and still continue to be trained by various stakeholders using curricular that have not been agreed on and approved by relevant National authorities. To make the issue of the low veterinary outreach in the region even more evident, one farmer who owns over one hundred cattle and over 150 goats and sheep within only 3 km from the district headquarters in Moroto acknowledged never to have seen the DVO or visited the district veterinary office.

Figure 5: Training of CAHWs in the field. These are very useful in a pastoral setting like Karamoja

Indeed 69.2% of the farmers interviewed indicated that there are animal health workers in their areas offering services such as vaccination, animal treatment and advice on policy though most of the respondents noted that these ***CAHWs need more training on animal disease control as some of their animals die even after they have been treated***. This is mainly attributed to the fact that some of these CAHWs just treat without adequate prior knowledge on the disease.

It is acknowledged by the veterinary officers who supervise the CAHWs that indeed some of them struggle to do the right things and need frequent refresher hands on trainings as some of the CAHWs are illiterate, which makes formal training quite a challenge. Furthermore, the supply of veterinary drugs and equipments is very low in Karamoja making the work of the CAHWs almost unsustainable since most of them lack what to use. The National Veterinary Drug Policy and National Drug Policy and Authority Statute do not permit CAHWs to operate

drug shops and their use of veterinary drugs must be under the strict supervision of DVOs who are already overloaded and adoption of entrepreneurial models as was for Stamp Out Sleeping Sickness in the Teso/Lango sub-rgions (Waiswa and Rannalette, 2010 and Waiswa and Kabasa, 2010)

Of major concern is that most of the pastoralists are not willing to pay for the work and drugs of the CAHWs since sometimes ***treated animals still die***. Since CAHWs do not have a salary, most of them end up only working on their own animals as well as those of relatives and friends and then waiting to participate in funded public programmes like mass vaccinations and treatments funded by the various NGOs. The CAHWs are however central in disease reporting to the DVOs since they are closer to the animals and their owner, which makes them ***pillars of livestock disease surveillance in Karamoja*** and avenues to properly Institutionalise their operations is a gap that must be bridged by the relevant authorities.

Policy Area

Government in the provisions of the single spine strategy of extension service delivery, has instructed all districts in the country to fill all vacant positions in the new service structure which would avail livestock service staff up to the lower local government levels. This is a welcome policy direction but in the pastoral Karamoja where the living conditions are comparatively harsh, this needs to be improved with efforts geared towards attracting and retaining qualified and motivated staff in the region. The proposed policy on Agriculture Extension should address

the logistical needs of animal health staff in difficult settings like Karamoja. Similarly, the country has trained Animal Production Officers who are not catered for in the current public service structure, a gap that the Department of Agriculture extension should bring to the attention of the responsible officers in the Ministry of Public Service.

The practice of allowing CAHWs to operate in and tailor them to Karamoja was well conceived and has room for improvement by Institutionalising it through public/ private sector models and enrich it to include a focus on the quality of CAHWs service. There is currently no approved curriculum for training of CAHWs and specifications of the trainers. This is a major policy gap that makes supervision and facilitation of the CAHWs difficult to streamline or address. The proposed policy on Agriculture extension should be able to capture and handle these issues in time. The Validation meeting for these policy issues requested Government to put up a Public Institution to handle the training of Para-veterinarians and community animal health workers (CAHWs) as there is none in the sub-region.

There is need for using existing legal frameworks to explore ways of using private/public partnership models in the improvement of veterinary supplies delivery and regulation of use in the region as this is a critical gap that should be bridged if veterinary service delivery is to be improved in Karamoja region.

2.2.5 Livestock performance as a measure of the utilization and benefits from guidelines as provided by the National Food and Nutrition Policy, National Meat Policy, National Animal Feeds Policy, The Animal Breeding Policy and National Agricultural Policy

The data needed to calculate the basic indicators of livestock performance in Karamoja do not exist and yet this commodity is key in livelihoods of the people in the area as they sell some of their stock to buy food in addition to the direct benefits through the consumption of products like meat, milk and blood. It has been observed that the available information influencing the perceptions on the performance of the Karimojong livestock is not recorded or verified anywhere using any production records. Moreover there is no policy guiding the production of livestock in Karamoja and yet this is an essential part of any livestock improvement programme especially in the semi-arid areas of Karamoja where livestock are expected to be a major source of meat for both the domestic and foreign market when the country starts to significantly increase meat exports from the livestock disease free zones.

Policy area

Uganda has an animal breeding Policy and it is not currently clear whether stakeholders in Karamoja have guidelines on the livestock breeds to promote. There is great need to have guidelines for recording and storing livestock performance data for Karamoja and these should inform the guidelines

for the Karamoja livestock improvement programmes. Breed improvement should be data based as attempts to introduce other breeds in the region have faced big challenges related to disease and feeding that has led to beneficiaries of good breeds being able instead of unable people who should be helped to also create wealth.

2.2.6 Livestock marketing and trade as indicators of economic and livelihood benefits

The situation analysis study revealed that Karamoja has a number of gazzetted livestock markets located in the all the districts of the region although many have inadequate disease control infrastructure such as crushes, laboratories, loading ramps and holding grounds to mention a few and yet these are necessary for adequate implementation and enforcement of the relevant policies and laws. Most of the animals are kept for milk and meat production, dowry, drought power, cultural functions as well as sale to buy food and pay school fees. . It was very common for farmers to sell their animals locally because of disease due to fear of losing them, the main buyers being the middle business men and women. The traders are said to resell the animals in the neighbouring Teso region, Kampala as well as other major towns. The Karimajong are also able to access foreign markets in South Sudan (mainly goats and sheep) and Kenya for cattle although Ugandan traders complained that they are usually out competed as Kenyan traders offered higher prices for the good looking cattle which is a good trend. The average livestock market prices were reported as Shs 840,000 for cattle, Shs 120,000 for goats, and 83,000 Shs for sheep, 2,000,000 Shs for camels and 500,000 Shs for donkeys.

The ever high and increasing number of traders both from Ugandan districts outside Karamoja and from neighbouring countries (Kenya and South Sudan) exerts a strong and continuous pressure on livestock prices. The major challenges observed during the survey however were; exploitation of the farmers by the middlemen, low literacy levels by the farmers,

ignorance about market trends and lack of or inadequate market infrastructure.

Although there is evidence that trade transactions take place at the livestock markets, the major challenges to livestock trade data capture were:

- The existing livestock trade laws such as the cattle traders Act and policy guidelines are not well known by the sellers and the buyers and therefore their intended benefits are rarely exploited.

- Lack of guidelines on who pays the market fees between the buyer and the seller plus lack of infrastructure at the markets

- Most of the traders are not licensed and it is difficult to tell in the market who has bought or sold an animal

- Quality of skins and hides derived from the Karamoja livestock is very low, attracting very low prices. This is due to the lack of pest control efforts by the pastoralists, as well as branding methods that destroy the hides in addition to insufficient awareness or utilization of the Hide and Skin Act by the different stakeholders. Many livestock owners miss receiving premium value for their animals due to this factor.

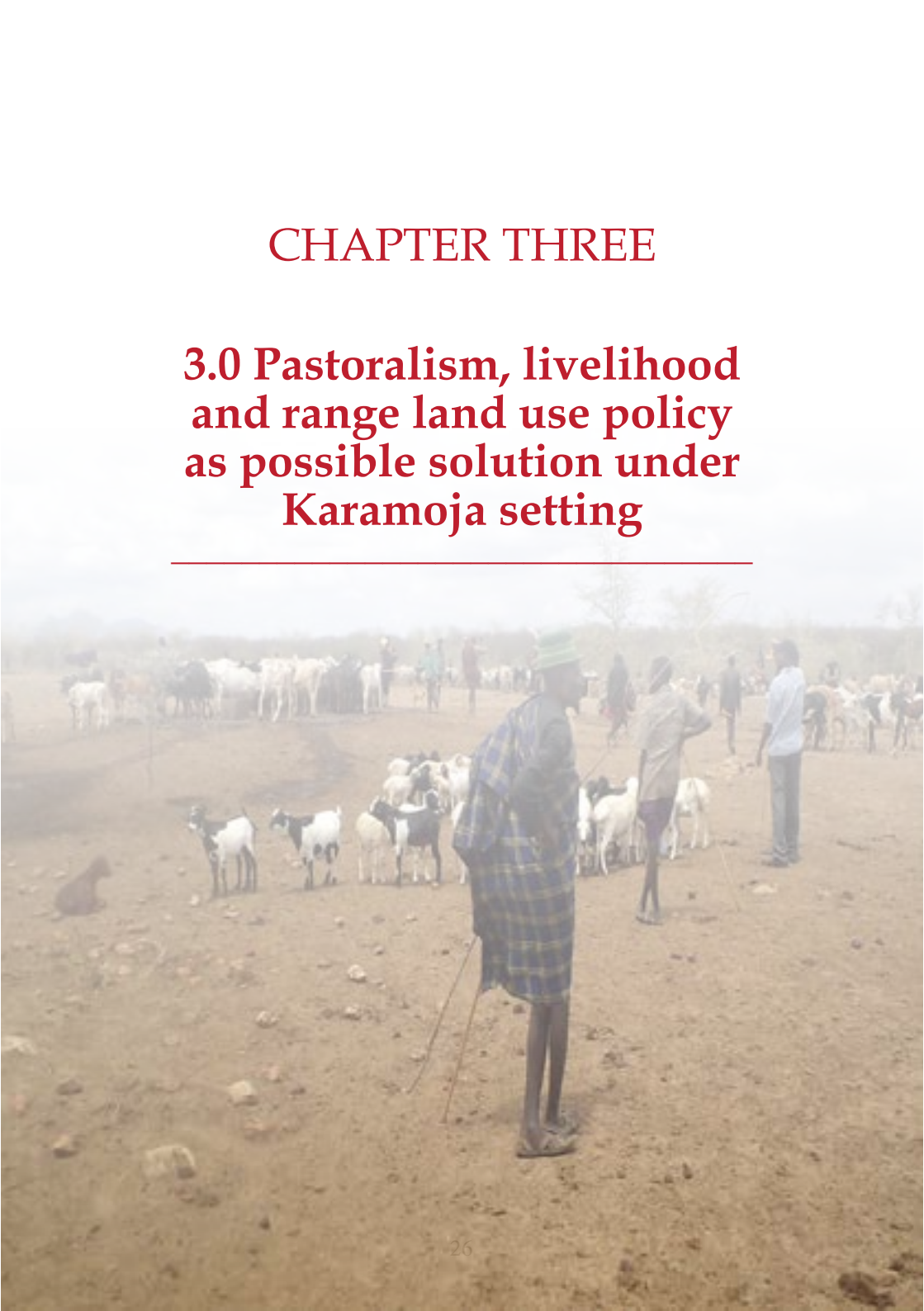
Policy area

Livestock trade in Karamoja is still rudimentary and not necessarily profit driven for the farmers. Many sell in order to solve certain problems such as buying food, paying school fees or when the animals are sick. The farmers rarely sell to the final consumer and they sell individually where they stand a chance of being cheated buy the middlemen. The livestock market infrastructure is still largely undeveloped and whichever animal enters the market is charged whether there has been a transaction or not which demotivates the farmers from utilizing the market. This inevitably leads to high levels of bush trade which complicates the trade and economic benefits data capture and yet it is essential and all efforts should be made to correct these anomalies.

Actions to focus on popularizing the existing livestock trade guidelines such as the cattle traders Act among stakeholders in addition to developing and promotion of user friendly guidelines on livestock market infrastructure are highly recommended. There is great need to increase awareness and popularize the Hides and skins Act as it will help improve the value of Karamoja livestock.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Pastoralism, livelihood and range land use policy as possible solution under Karamoja setting



3.1 Debate on appropriate range land use

Besides fragility of rangelands, natural hazards such as droughts, floods and wild life issues, the cultural and historical aspects have to be taken into account when designing policies to accelerate technology adoption in areas like Karamoja (Squires, 1998). Grazing land is shrinking at an increasing rate and the remaining part supports unknown livestock populations without improved pasture productivity. Traditional farming systems, which evolved over thousands of years, contained strategies for coping with the unfavorable physical, climatic and biological environment under which people farmed. The coping mechanisms were passive in that man simply adjusted his activities to nature without trying to change the natural situation. Pastoralists developed pastoral systems with various degrees of sophistication and herds were moved continuously following no set pattern along pre-determined routes each year in search of water and pasture following the seasonal rainfall pattern.

Pastoralists kept the type of animals suitable for the existing environment conditions: disease resistant livestock which could survive under stress of poor grazing conditions, high temperatures and constant movement. But as these animals were poor yielders, pastoralists kept great numbers to satisfy their subsistence requirements. **The question is; Is the pastoral system still worth full support or policies and strategies should be devised to scale it down for technological adoption, bearing in mind that the livestock breeds in Karamoja have been development to withstand the management system**

present? Production policies in Uganda focus on an agricultural paradigm that offers little insight into pastoralism leading to the current situation of ***not having defined number of livestock that need to be maintained as optimum for Karamoja sub-region.***

Appropriate policies to support and harness the potential of pastoral livelihoods are lacking (Rugadya et al, 2005) although the draft rangeland management and pastoralism policy (draft 2014) enumerates very good policy statements and strategies and stakeholder anxiously await its approval by Government. Moreover, the movement of pastoralists and their herds in search of water and pasture over a common range is thought to be unproductive, backward and unsustainable. It is also a generally held view that the holding of land in common prevents pastoralists from attaining high levels of commercial off take (Kisamba Mugerwa, 1998). In fact the president of the republic of Uganda has always recalled that he managed to transform and improve the lives of livestock keepers in western Ugandan through convincing them to denounce the pastoralist way and adopt modern settled methods of livestock production which are more economically rewarding.

Oxfam (2008) quotes the Chief Administrator in Kotido District as telling the Jie pastoralists that settling down is the answer as they will 'think of improving the environment instead of destroying it'. Stites et al (2007), in their study of Bokora County, strongly called on the government to recognize 'pastoral transhumance' as the appropriate livelihood strategy for the ecosystem of Karamoja and to therefore drop the promotion of a sedentary, agriculturalist lifestyle. Gray (2000) argues that to

ensure the survival of the pastoralists, the government should protect herds as a national resource, improve veterinary services and recognize that intensified agriculture is not an option in North Eastern Uganda. UNDP (2007) states that the climate of the region is 'not conducive to sedentary arable/dairy farming'.

Relatedly, the only available arable land in Karamoja region is the buffer point for pastrolists where they run to during drought and using it for other purposes would make it unavailable for them in future which will directly affect their livelihood.

In line with the arguments that pastoralism represents the most viable livelihood option in the region, various papers have called on the government to strengthen systems for the protection and management of livestock. Stites et al (2007) have argued that a key government provision should be the training of community-based animal health workers who can be based at *kraals* and *manyattas* and who would be able to move with herds. However, they have not advised government with the economic analysis of investing in pastoralism beyond the current level of public investment.

As demonstrated above, the debate around how to proceed with livestock development in Karamoja is still a controversial one. Some people are of the view that traditional pastoralist livelihoods should be supported as much as possible, since they are the most viable form of livelihood in environments such as Karamoja and have a strong cultural history, without being innately violent. Others argue that a more peaceful and prosperous model for the development of Karamoja would support alternative forms of livelihoods, which are not so closely linked to cattle rustling or vulnerability to changes in climate.

Policy Area

For a government that is aggressively seeking economic transformation of Ugandans, it is high time standards are set for livestock production and system to be pursued for Karamoja. In fact the vision of Uganda's ministry of Agriculture animal industry and fisheries is "A competitive, profitable and sustainable Agricultural sector", while its mission is to "transform subsistence farming to commercial agriculture". Therefore a way forward from this debate can only be realistically mapped following 'an analysis of the economic and holistic benefits of pastoralism in Karamoja as a system of livestock production to divorce it from a view that it is a way of life'.

3.2 Land Tenure

The *Karimojong* still view their land as customarily held by clans despite the high level of individualization of communal pastoral land throughout the entire cattle corridor. However, in Karamoja, this trend of individualization of land may also be on the increase with the recent emphasis on crop production, increasing settlements, increase in mining activities, construction and the accompanying consequences. In addition, the growth of tourism, which is a very important source of foreign exchange, has in most cases worked against the sustainability of pastoralism since most pieces of pastoral land are usually turned into national parks, wildlife reserves or wildlife sanctuaries (Kisamba Mugerwa, 2001). Karamoja, which has already seen most of the land gazetted into game reserves and game parks will most likely suffer the same in the future.

In the past, pastoralists co-existed alongside wildlife. However,

continued decline of wildlife observed over the years led to the creation of National Parks and Game Reserves (Rugadya et al, 2005). After 1950, Government of Uganda gazetted vast stretches of grazing land used by pastoralists and demarcated them into three categories of wild life protected areas; national parks, game reserves and controlled hunting areas. The establishment of reserves had a major impact on land use in Karamoja (Rugadya et al, 2005). Karamoja is thus made up of one national park, the Kidepo Valley National Park and three game reserves of Matheniko, Bokora and Pian-Upe, with the game reserves alone covering 6,908 sq. km, in addition to, 19 forest reserves taking up 2,307 sq km and three controlled hunting areas occupying 19,922 km (Rugadya et al, 2005). Also, according to the Uganda Land Alliance (2000), by 1996, it was estimated that 22,010 sq. km of land in Karamoja was licensed to companies who either engaged in mining of marble or gemstones or are, according to the department of mines, holding exclusive or special prospecting licenses.

Basing on the above understanding, although pastoralists in Karamoja still enjoy the freedom of co-existence with wildlife and still freely operate in areas earmarked for industrialization, this does not seem permanent as it only depends on the timing of National priorities and development investments. For instance, the recent focus of government to development of its tourism sector may alter government priorities on the use of game parks and game reserves, which can negatively affect pastoralism. It is therefore a good practice to give consideration to the overall development environment in Karamoja when planning and implementing livestock related policies in Karamoja or when developing the range land use or pastoralist related policies.

Policy Area

Any policies designed for the Karamoja sub-region have to be in line and with consultation with the overall national development agenda. To be sustainable therefore, Karamoja livestock development policies should be designed in consideration of the National priorities and this is correct for the Draft Rangeland and Pastoralist policy that is currently on high demand by the livestock stakeholders in that sub-region.

CHAPTER THREE

4.0 Policy issues, gaps and suggested way forward

I. Policies that promote livestock health, trade and productivity plus their values are not well known or followed by the different stakeholders in Karamoja sub-region. *Key is the belief that Karamoja Livestock have no well captured contribution to the economy and public investment would be a waste.* Capturing of the right data on the livestock sector in Karamoja is key starting with the population (what it is and what it should be), data relating to trade and marketing plus the economic benefits be captured and reflected to justify more investment in the sector. A marketing strategy to benefit the livestock owner is necessary to reduce on the middle men reaping nearly 60% of the benefits.

II. The rangeland management policy is extremely vital for Karamoja and should be supported by stakeholders. It should be able to resolve the question as to whether pastoralism in Karamoja is a 'recognized animal husbandry system' or 'a way of life' and it is expected to address pasture development and conservation plus water for livestock.

III. Market infrastructure is necessary at all livestock markets to facilitate inspection, disease control and loading of animals. However, there is need to understand why well built markets are not utilized. Is it lack of policy? Low awareness? No incentive

for use? Enforcement gaps? What? This gives way to the competitive bush trade in an attempt to evade restrictive policies, laws/regulations and accompanying penalties or even normal taxes in addition to losing visibility on the sector and region contribution to the National Economy.

IV. To avoid losses due to disease, there must be emphasis on preventive measures as compared to the current approach on treating the sick. Majority of sick animals find their way to the market either as living animals or meat at the locally available ready market. Sale of sick animals or their products promotes disease transmission. Deepening awareness is recommended as the available laws provide useful guidelines that must be known to farmers and the CAHWs.

V. The Policies on Animal Health seem not to adequately provide for the training of community based animal health workers. Any upcoming policies must adequately provide for the training curriculum, Institutions and Affiliation of rural based colleges to accredited Institutions. A Para-veterinarian and CAHWs training public owned Institution was a constant request by stakeholder in many of the engagements during this assessment and should be considered by Government.

VI. Public Investment has tended to prioritize trans-boundary diseases and only when they reach epidemic proportions. Lack of public investment in the control of vector borne diseases like TBDs

and Nagana is affecting the livestock owners in Karamoja greatly. New policies being proposed should provide for taking care of TBDs and Nagana epidemics.

VII. Awareness of any good policies should be handled and deepened in a way the religious leaders and their followers handle their relevant books and utilize the verses based on the daily, weekly, monthly and annual calendars. Generating strategies for effective implementation, enforcement and increased awareness among stakeholders is key. This will enable livestock owners benefit from the added value intentions of the policies. *Quarterly meetings of the key livestock stakeholders in Karamoja sub-region were recommended to help agree on joint effort on improving the sector*.

VIII. A cost effective and efficient supply chain for drugs, chemicals or veterinary inputs needs to be promoted through public/private partnerships. Affirmative Action by the NGOs in partnership with Government is a viable options.

References

1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2014). Special Report: Fao/ Giews Livestock and Market Assessment Mission to Karamoja Region, Uganda

2. Gray S, (2000). 'A Memory of Loss: Ecological Politics, Local History and the Evolution of Karimojong Violence', Human Organization. vol. 59 no. 4, pp 401–418

3. Karamoja Livestock Development Forum (2014). Strategy for Livestock Development in Karamoja Region 2014-2018.

4. Kisamba Mugerwa (1998), Uganda in the Custodians of the Common, Lane C.R Editor

5. Kisamba Mugerwa W. (2001). Rangelands Management policy in Uganda. A paper prepared for the international conference on policy and institutional options for the management of rangelands in dry areas. Hammamet, Tunisia.

6. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2008). Livestock Census Report.

7. Oxfam (2008). Survival of the Fittest: Pastoralism and Climate Change in East Africa.

8. Rugadya M., Obaikol E. and Kamusiime H. (2005). Critical Pastoral issues and policy statements for the National Land Policy in Uganda. Associates for Development. Land Research Series No.5

9. Squires V.R (1998). Sustainable development: A dream or an economic and environmental imperatives? PP3-9 in the dry lands: Sustainable use of range lands into the twenty -first century, IFAD Series Technical Reports: Rome, Italy

10. Stites E, Akabwai D, Mazuruna D and Ateyo P, (2007). Angering Akuju: Survival and Suffering in Karamoja. Boston MA: Feinstein International Center, Tufts University.

11. The Rangeland Management and Pastoralism Policy (draft 2014).

12. Uganda Land Alliance (2000), Land Rights of the Karamojong, ULA

13. UNDP (2003), Human Development Index

14. UNDP, Uganda Human Development Report (2007). Rediscovering Agriculture for Human Development

15. Waiswa, C and A. Rannalette (2010). Entrepreneurship Initiatives in the control of sleeping sickness: Experiences of the stamp out sleeping sickness in Uganda. Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship 23(4): 555-464

16. Waiswa, C and J.D. Kabasa (2010). Experiences on the use of In-Training Community Service model in the control of sleeping sickness in Uganda. Journal of Veterinary Medical Education, 37(3): 276–281

Council for African Policy (CAP)
Plot 27A Bandali Rise Bugolobi
Po Box 2782 Kampala
Tel: 0414691799
Email: info@cap-u.org
Website: www.cap-u.org