

Pastoralism in Sudan

Sudan is home to one of the largest pastoralist populations in Africa. More than 45 pastoralist groups share a culture of pastoralism and transhumance and have long co-existed with each other and with settled farming communities. Current day pressures on pastoralism have severely impacted livelihoods, and led to dropout and livelihood mal-adaptations that threaten the longer-term sustainability of pastoralist livelihoods and potentially undermine the wider economy and have implications for the environment in Sudan.

A process of institutional change

Tufts/ FIC and partners are taking forward a three year institutional change project on pastoralist livelihoods in Sudan, which builds on IIED and Tufts experience in the region. The aim is to promote understanding of pastoralists livelihood systems among local, national and international stakeholders and to strengthen the capacity of pastoralist leaders, organizations and other advocates to articulate the rationale for pastoralism.

Partnerships and Alliances

The project seeks to generate research to effect institutional change. A crucial part of this work are the networks of strategic alliances and partnerships. The activities for year 1 and groups involved are illustrated below:

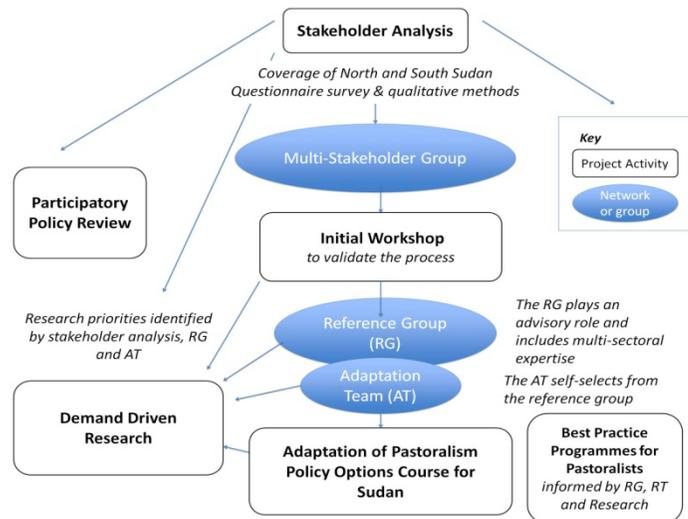


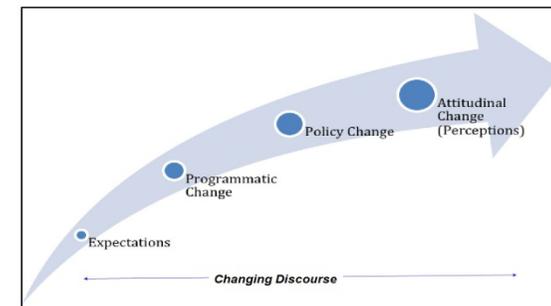
Figure 1.
Pastoralists in North Darfur

Monitoring change as a result of the project

The project seeks to influence five broad processes of change:

1. Expectations of stakeholders: *project level and beyond assessed through a Participatory Impact Assessment*
2. Programmatic Change: *programmatic review and how is this changing*
3. Policy Change: *Identification of specific policy issues and strategies to influence them*
4. Attitudinal Change: *Attitudinal surveys of changes in beliefs and perceptions e.g. pastoralism is backward*
5. Political and policy discourse: *Discourse analysis to show how the political and policy buzzword landscape changing*

Figure 3.
Processes of influencing change over time



Results

The project is in its first year and the stakeholder survey and analysis is now completed, the policy review underway and the initial validation workshop will take place in April 2011. For more information please contact Afaf.Rahim@Tufts.edu and Helen.Young@Tufts.edu.

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