



World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP)

Implemented by UNDP

Executed by IUCN

(the World Conservation Union)



A global initiative to promote sustainable pastoralism as an effective and efficient land use and production system for the drylands of the world





The mobile pastoralists

- **Definition : production systems dominated by livestock, where mobility is a significant management tool**
- **A significant minority in many countries**
- **Between 100 and 200 million people globally**
- **Majority of dryland inhabitants**
- **16% of the population of the Sahelian Zone**
- **A re-emergent population in northern countries**
- **Strong contributors to national economies**



Drylands and degradation

- Drylands cover 40 percent of the Earth's surface
- Low, but highly variable, precipitation
- 10-20% of drylands degraded
- “Overgrazing” is a convenient scapegoat for many other causes of land degradation



Pastoralists: the best custodians of drylands environments

However, their stewardship is undermined by certain constraints:

- Inappropriate policies
- Resource competition





Pastoralism is misrepresented as chaotic and backwards



- **Policies deliberately or inadvertently undermine pastoralism**
- **Driven by profound misunderstandings of drylands environments**



Pastoralists compete for resources with politically influential groups

- Neighbouring cultivators
- Agricultural investors
- Conservationists
- Tourism industry





Pastoralists misunderstood and marginalised

- **Sedenterisation undermines livelihoods**
- **Service delivery failure**
- **Drylands degraded; rangelands encroached**
- **Resource-rich buffer zones expropriated**
- **Pastoralists accused of being anti-development**



A new understanding

- **Pastoralists actively manage variability and uncertainty**
- **Mobility is central to effective management**
- **Mobile pastoralism is often the best way to manage dry environments sustainably**
- **Pastoralists can be effective custodians of the lands they inhabit**



WISP...

- ...empowers pastoralists**
- ...gathers pastoral knowledge**
- ...influences policies**
- ...improves perceptions of pastoralism**
- ...provides the social, economic and environmental arguments for pastoralism**
- ...advocates for an enabling environment**



Key policy gaps

- Regulation of transhumance
- Investment in mobile production
- Appropriate service delivery
- Conflict resolution
- Adapted modern governance systems
- Alternative & complementary incomes
- “Exit strategies” for those leaving the system



Closing the gap – WISP outcomes

- **Richer & more accessible knowledge base**
- **Strengthened capacity of pastoralists and pastoral institutions**
- **Policy and practice favouring sustainable pastoral rangeland management**
- **Strong learning and participation**



WISP Governance Structure: Participation and collaboration

- **Pastoral Advisory Group directs WISP :**
 - **Pastoral representatives**
 - **Partners : about \$ 60 million worth of initiatives**
- **Pastoral gatherings provide quality control for WISP products : Turmi gathering, and upcoming Spanish gathering; other regional gatherings**
- **Pastoralists as well as government officials are WISP's key stakeholders**
 - **WISP enhances links between pastoralists and their institutions, and government officials and their institutions**



Some WISP resources/activities

- **Literature resources (CD-rom, web site)**
- **WISP-net email network acts as :**
 - **Sounding board**
 - **Giving direction and new ideas**
 - **Certifying quality of results and Verifying results**
 - **Disseminating and monitoring**



- **Global studies and generic guidelines**
 - 2006 workplan to include :
 - economic valuation of products and services from pastoralism;
 - land rights and legal pluralism;
 - pastoral mapping and data base;
 - Conflicts and conflict management
 - Transboundary issues (e.g. best practices such as West Africa's transhumant passports)



- **Policy and advocacy support tools**
 - Scenarios and projections
 - Opportunity costs and benefits
 - Global outreach (CCD primarily, but can be expanded)
 - Best practices and lessons from European pastoralism



- **Capacity building for advocacy agents and pastoral representatives**
 - **Compendium/guideline on mobile services**
 - **Professionalization of herders and pastoral education curricula**
 - **Support national, regional, and global networks of pastoralists (associations, etc)**
 - **Regional and global gatherings**



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