



EVENT SUMMARY

THIRD MIFUGO PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
VENUE: ZANZIBAR - UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
DATE: 09-11 JUNE, 2009

Mifugo Project of ISS Pastoralist Security Programme (PSP) conducted its Third Steering Committee Meeting; 09th – 11th June at Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. The main Agenda was to review progress and keep the Member States informed of programme work/activities. The members made input, offered advice and discussed pertinent issues.

The meeting also served as an opportunity for the state representatives to interact with the project staff and discuss matters pertinent to implementing member states; Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan Tanzania and Uganda. Also, the meeting provided a platform for state delegates to interact with civil society and Ex-official members. Several bilateral meetings were conducted on the side between state representatives, civil society and intergovernmental organisations.

Mifugo Project is a partnership between ISS Nairobi Office and Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO). While the Project serves as the Secretariat, EAPCCO chairs the meetings alternatively with the Institute. Mr. Dahia, the Head of Regional Bureau of Interpol chaired most of the sessions while Peter Edopu, ISS Nairobi Office Director coordinated the opening session.

At the official opening ceremony, the Chief Guest was Mr. Khamis Simba – Commissioner of Police Zanzibar; he was accompanied by Zanzibar Director of Criminal Investigation. In his opening speech, he underscored Mifugo Project as a unique initiative that is using a regional multi-dimensional approach to address the problem of livestock theft. He noted that Individual efforts by member states cannot yield required results unless supported by a regional mechanism like the Protocol being implemented by Mifugo Project.

As he declared the meeting officially opened, he reassured the members of commitment and support from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. He also urged the Project Steering Committee Members to play their respective roles for the good of the region in terms of development and enhancing pastoralist livelihoods.

The Steering Committee is made up of two representatives from each of the five implementing member states; Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. While one of the representative comes from police the other is from a technical department such as livestock, animal welfare or from Parliament. At this meeting, all the five countries were fully represented as per the above criteria.

In the Steering Committee also, there are Ex-official members from international and regional intergovernmental organisations; Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN-IGAD), East African Community (EAC), Eastern Africa Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICG/LR), Oxfam GB, Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UN-OCHA). Only two apologies were received while the rest of the Ex-officio members were present.

Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE); represents civil society groups at the Steering Committee and they were also present at the meeting. Pastoralists were represented by TALIMETA, an association of Tanzania Livestock and Meat Traders. Representation of pastoralists was agreed upon during the previous meeting. Considering that the meeting venues are rotated among the member states, it was agreed that the host country would identify a relevant pastoralist representative to be co-opted at each meeting. The pastoralist representative stressed the need to seek alternative means of pastoralist livelihood and promotion of livestock trade across the region.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was consensus by the Steering Committee Members of the need to form an Ad hoc Regional Task Force on Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS). The members agreed to conduct consultations and provide names of technical persons who would constitute the Task Force over the next two weeks.

The proceedings were of very high quality particularly this being the Third Steering Committee Meeting and the fact that there has been continuity with the delegates attending the past two subsequent meetings.