



MIFUGO PROJECT



Combating Cattle Rustling and Advancing Human Security in Eastern Africa through the Implementation of a Multi-disciplinary Approach

EVENT SUMMARY

FEED-BACK WORKSHOP & SEMINAR ON LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEMS (LITS)

Venue & Date: Hotel Boulevard-Nairobi: 04th - 07th May, 2009

Introduction

In pursuance to addressing pastoralist conflicts, cattle rustling and insecurity in the Greater Horn of Africa and Eastern Africa, Mifugo Project of the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in conjunction with Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism of Inter-governmental Authority on Development (CEWARN – IGAD) agreed to work in partnership on livestock identification system.

The linking-point for the two institutions was based on the fact that while CEWARN/IGAD was pursuing a livestock identification initiative to address conflicts in the region, Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) and ISS Nairobi Office are implementing the Protocol on the Prevention, Combating and Eradication of Cattle Rustling in Eastern Africa. One of the provisions of the Protocol (Article 6) is Livestock Identification Systems and Record Keeping.

The partners; CEWARN-IGAD, EAPCCO and ISS commissioned a regional study on Livestock Identification and Traceability Systems (LITS) late last year. Subsequently the partners convened a feedback workshop from 4th - 6th May.

Delegates to the feedback workshop were drawn from; security, livestock technical experts, development partners and civil society organisations from the Greater Horn and Eastern Africa.

Objectives of the Workshop were to:

- i) Discuss the findings on the existing identification systems
- ii) Validate the study findings
- iii) Discuss the recommendations of realising viable LITS
- iv) Share and learn more concretely on what each State Party is doing in this field
- v) Learn from experiences in other countries such as Botswana and
- vi) Discuss modalities of setting up a Regional Technical Advisory Committee on LITS

The following were the highlights of the proceedings

- It is important and critical that an effective and reliable Livestock Identification and Traceability systems (LITS) that can be used across member states be developed
- Any new LITS should at the bare minimum be able to contribute to curbing cattle rustling/insecurity
- Traditional livestock identification systems should be comprehensively evaluated and documented
- Hot iron branding is used extensively in traditional identification systems, any new LITS should take cognisance of this
- A consensus needs to be reached on what is required, for this region in terms of identification, traceability and tracking systems and agree on the most appropriate way of implementing the same
- Policy, Legal and institutional frameworks on Animal identification and traceability should be harmonized among State Parties
- It was noted that there was need for State Parties to develop a coordinating mechanism to oversee the development and implementation of viable LITS
- There is need to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of LITS
- Given the varying country contexts State Parties can adopt LITS based either on individual or group level to suit their objectives
- To increase success rates of Livestock Identification Systems (LITS) a quality control system should be put in place especially at critical control points at all levels including; farm, holding grounds, check points and end points. Standard operating procedures must be clearly set up and all supportive structures put in place
- State Parties are at varying levels of ratifying the *Protocol on Prevention, Combating and Eradication of Cattle Rustling in Eastern Africa*. It is critical to fast-track ratification in order to support implementation of LITS amongst other initiatives
- The developed LITs should endeavour to satisfy farm level management, country and regional identification and traceability requirements
- Capacity in terms of personnel, technical expertise, financial resources etc of both implementing and enforcement agents in LITs is inadequate

The recommendations were;

- i) Any LITs developed in the region should be in accordance with the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) guidelines on Livestock Identification and Traceability Systems (LITs)
- ii) The workshop recognised that there are various LITS existing in the region even though implementation and enforcement continue to be a challenge. State Parties are encouraged to institutionalize and implement LITs that address local and regional needs, and are in compliance with international requirements

- iii) Given that LITs are different from Livestock Tracking Systems, State Parties are urged to identify their specific needs and develop a phased implementation strategy in conformity with national, regional and international requirements. State Parties are also encouraged to involve all the relevant stakeholders including the private sector in the development and implementations of LITS
- iv) The workshop recognised that policies, legal and institutional frameworks on identification and traceability, are at various levels of development. In addition, LITS technology is dynamic and complex; State Parties are therefore urged to support the constitution, hosting and operationalise a Regional Livestock Identification and Traceability Technical Advisory Committee
- v) Capacity of both implementing and enforcement agents in LITS is inadequate. Member states need to build both human and material resources capacity at all levels including the private sector and other stakeholders
- vi) It is important to demonstrate the practical application of LITS to build confidence in stakeholders. State Parties in collaboration with development partners and other stakeholders are urged to support the implementation of targeted pilot projects and use the lessons learnt in the implementation and large scale roll-out of LITS

Seminar on Feedback of the Livestock Identification Study

The Feedback Workshop targeted technical officers from Veterinary Departments and Police Anti-Stock Theft Units. In view to disseminate the findings to civil society groups and select community representatives, an ISS Seminar was conducted.

Key findings were presented to the participants as well the recommendations. Even though the subject was rather technical, the Seminar participants discussed the findings with enthusiasm and acknowledged livestock identification as a primary approach towards addressing insecurity and cattle rustling particularly in affected areas.