



Report on Community Conflict Resolution Moran Project in the Greater Sera Region of Northern Kenya -- February 2011

Background information

Greater Sera region is part of the Northern Rangelands Trust and is made up of three districts with community conservancies owned by three different ethnic groups, the Rendile, the Samburu and the Borana. The 'Morans' are the young warrior class (typically 15 to 30 years of age) of these three groups. They are primarily responsible for looking after domestic cattle, and are also traditionally responsible for cattle rustling against rival ethnic groups and poaching for game meat. The three ethnic communities have co-existed for decades in harmony. However, in the **1980's**, these communities acquired illegal guns and cattle rustling escalated leading to significant losses of both human life and property. Morans are now involved in the majority of cases of insecurity in and around NRT areas, and the rising number of illegal firearms in the area greatly increases the severity of the situation.

The communities and the government have organized many interventions in collaboration with various NGO's to address this problem, and insecurity issues have been at the top of the agenda during board and elders' meetings. However, the diverse cultures of the people of the region have led to difficulties in efforts to eradicate this problem.

With the support of funds from The Funding Network, Toronto, a task force was established facilitated by the NRT, to engage Morans across the conservancies. A joint committees meeting of the conservancies together with government representatives of the districts, district peace committee members, and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) was held in early 2010.

The task force's goal was to gather facts and make recommendations in order to determine how to resolve the following challenges with the key stakeholders, the Morans:

- Cattle rustling
- Road Banditry
- Grazing planning
- Poaching

The goal was realized through a process of consultation and a series of meetings. Seven conservancies were included in this process: Melako (5 meetings), Sera (7 meetings), Namunyak (5 meetings), Maibae (5 meetings), Biliqo-Bulesa (3 meetings) and Kipsig (1 meeting). A total of 1200 Morans were reached in the 26 meetings with their opinions considered and recorded.

Results and Outcomes Achieved

Including the Morans in the meeting process has already resulted in a positive change in their behaviour and the attitudes towards them by the community at large. Outcomes achieved to date include:

- Morans are resisting others from going for raids;
- Reduced road banditry;
- Morans are following stolen livestock and bringing these animals back to the owners;

- Adherence to planned grazing patterns when they migrate to other conservancies;
- Communities are giving back stolen livestock;
- Increased voluntary information on raids by the Morans and the community members;
- Improved collaboration between the three communities in the region; and
- Increased collaboration with local administration and other stakeholders in security.

The Morans desire to be involved in grazing committees. They all agreed that wildlife is part of their property, and they will keep an eye at all times and work closely with scouts and the KWS.

The Morans also promised to bring road banditry to an end as they recognize it as a serious offence that will hinder development of the region with innocent individuals killed.

Significant Challenges

The most difficult challenge is solving cattle rustling and the Morans gave the following reasons for undertaking this activity:

- to undertake revenge;
- to re- stock;
- to get praise from the girls/sing; and
- peer influence.

An additional challenge is to permanently change Moran behaviour and to engage them in new activities that will help to lead to increased security and a better future for Kenya's northern conservancies. In order to deal with this challenge, the NRT has played a catalyst role to assist the stakeholders in the process for meaningful development to take place. NRT has:

- Given continued assistance to Morans to stop others from going on raids. (Provision of transport and food for both elders and Morans once a report is given);
- Assisted government authorities by providing additional support for security. (Provision of transport and flight services when requested by the district commissioners);
- Encouraged Morans to follow stolen property. (By use of the conservancy systems available Morans are facilitated to undertake this, e.g. the radio network);
- Encouraged/facilitated community to give back stolen property. (Use of the conservancy system); and
- Created a network of Morans who provide information to the NRT on all planned raids that they hear of.

Assessment of Learning

Northern Rangelands Trust has learned that the right approach to the insecurity threat in northern Kenya is to engage the key stakeholders, the Morans. All have learned that it is only a certain percentage (30%) of the Morans that are wrong doers or are not aware of the risk of cattle rustling and lawlessness. The community has become more aware of the relevance of security, the consultative process and the role they have to play. The community and all members of the task force are committed to the peace initiative and sustaining it in the future.

FINANCIAL REPORT

LEWA CANADA MORAN ENGAGEMENT FUNDS REPORT											
		MONTHLY PAYMENTS IN US \$									
Budget Lines	REQUESTED CAD \$	RECEIVED US \$	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Total US \$
STAFF SALARIES	4,580	4,061					1,650	1,650			3,299
EXPOSURE TOURS	1,940	1,721	2,382					1,281	1,600		5,262
VEHICLE FUEL	2,900	2,572							298	396	694
ACCOMMODATION	1,930	1,712	55		1,146						1,201
FOOD RATIONS	650	577	187								187
Totals	12,000	10,643	2,623	-	1,146	-	1,650	2,930	1,898	396	10,643