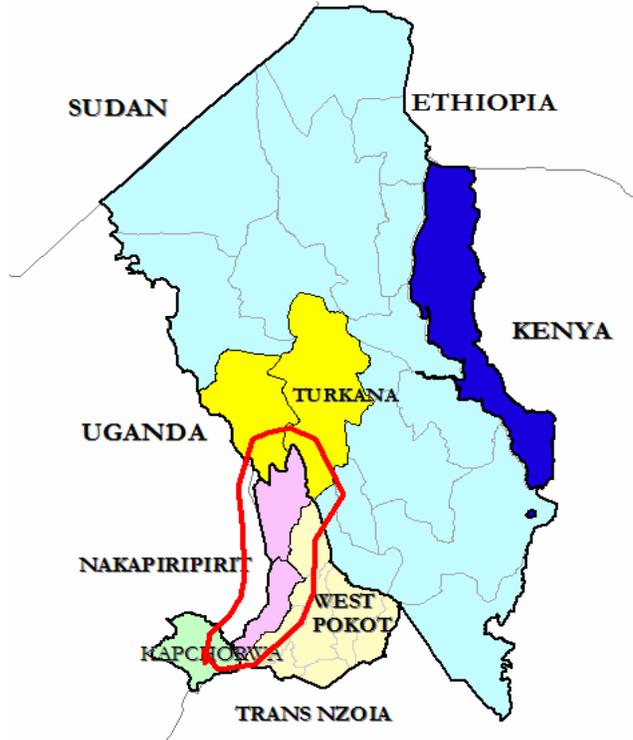




November 1, 2005

The Turkana-Pokot-Sabiny Cross-Border Conflict Management Initiative



The Pokot-Sabiny conflict is principally the result of both traditional cattle raiding/restocking incidents and commercial livestock rustling and violent competition over access to scarce pasture and water. The conflict factors are exacerbated by harsh climatic conditions and recurrent drought prevailing on the Pokot side. Other contextual dynamics of this conflict include unregulated and widespread availability of small arms, retrogressive cultural practices, and marginalization of these pastoral communities from mainstream development.

2. Initiative Description

The Turkana-Pokot-Sabiny Cross-Border Conflict Management Initiative began in November 2005 and has a planned duration of 12 months. The aim of the initiative is to encourage and promote adoption of mechanisms for co-operative sharing of natural resources and harmonious co-existence among the three communities.

1. Background and Context

This initiative operates in the Turkana and West Pokot Districts of Kenya and the Kapchorwa District of Uganda (circled area). The beneficiaries are the Turkana, Pokot and Sabiny communities. These three groups are primarily pastoralists, and conflicts typically arise over access and utilization of scarce natural resources that are essential to pastoralist livelihoods.

The Turkana-Pokot conflict arises out of scarcity and competition over pasture and watering points and territorial/border disputes. Disputes and differences are compounded by minimal routine interaction and communication between the two communities. The Turkana-Pokot conflict occurs in a context of weak or non-existent structures and institutions for conflict prevention, mitigation, and response, particularly on the Pokot side and at the cross-border level.

Through this initiative, the communities will engage in problem-solving processes on the issues of access, use, and ownership of natural resources essential for to pastoralists' livelihoods. Community-managed and coordinated rehabilitation of existing watering points in selected strategic cross-border areas will reduce pressure



Turkana young men and women in a peace meeting

on the fragile environment and ease competition for access to water. Support will also be provided to facilitate the reopening of cross-border markets and access roads. In addition to enhancing communication between the communities, access roads will also be instrumental in conflict early warning and response as well as in promoting trade and business among the warring communities.

3. Objectives

The objectives of this Initiative are:

- Establish mechanisms and agreements to ensure peaceful access and sharing of the available natural resources among the warring communities of Pokot, Sabiny and Turkana;
- Facilitate communities to engage in co-operative rehabilitation of water pans in strategic cross-border areas and in mutually negotiating access to pasture;
- Strengthen existing conflict prevention, mitigation and response institutions and structures; and
- Promote inter-ethnic interaction and encourage the opening up of closed areas along the borders of the Pokot, Turkana and Sabiny communities.

4. Implementing Partners

The initiative is implemented by a cross-border consortium of civil society and community based organizations in West Pokot and Turkana districts in Kenya, and Kapchorwa district in Uganda. On the Ugandan side, the lead implementing partner is the Kapchorwa Civil Society Organizations Alliance (KACSOA). On the Kenyan side, the lead implementing partner is the faith-based Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (CJPC).

5. Principal Activities

The main Activities in this initiative include:

- Facilitating the re-opening of cross-border markets and community-managed rehabilitation of water pans and access roads.
- Facilitating inter-community dialogue and negotiation processes to reach agreements on resource access and use.
- Organizing and facilitating regular cross-border inter-community dialogue and confidence-building forums to support the peaceful management of ongoing conflicts, enforce and monitor mutual agreements on resource sharing, and prevent the emergence or escalation of violent incidents.



Implementing Partners in a planning session

- Provision of CMPR training and capacity building to community based and civil society organization partners.

6. Expected Results and Outcomes

The Initiative's specific expected Outcomes:

- Increased non-violent inter-ethnic interaction and collaboration.
- Reduced tensions and competition over access to resources vital to pastoralists' livelihoods.
- Cooperative sharing of natural resources and peaceful co-existence among the conflicting communities.
- Problem-Solving Cross-Border Dialogue and Networking enhanced.
- Local capacity for conflict prevention, mitigation and response strengthened.



DAI
Development *Alternatives*, Inc.

**Peace in East and Central Africa (PEACE) Activity
Managing African Conflict**
Kalson Towers 8th Floor;
P.O. Box 13403; 00800 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: (254-20) 3755541/2; Fax: (254-20) 3755543
Email: cpmr@dai.com