



## Pastoralists and Population Change

Pastoralist populations are changing fast: the number of pastoralists is growing; more pastoralists are living in towns and cities; and people who traditionally herded animals exclusively are 'branching out' and trying to support their families in new ways. These demographic changes have a variety of causes: pastoralists who find it hard to access traditional grazing land modify their movement patterns; national population growth has put pressure on land use, and; climate change has forced pastoralists to adapt to the changing weather. Government policies on settlement and on basic services (e.g. the provision of health care and education) have also affected the pastoralist way of life. Pastoralists are excluded from much data collection making it very hard to make realistic plans.

In the past, many development and aid responses have been designed by people who did not understand the changing demography of pastoralism. Too often, they focused on the visible 'symptoms' of poverty rather than the underlying causes. As a result, instead of helping pastoralists become more self-sufficient, many aid policies have made pastoralists dependent on assistance.

*Twenty years of an almost 3 per cent annual population growth has outpaced economic gains, leaving Africans, on average, 22 per cent poorer than they were in the mid-1970s.*

[Http://www.unfpa.org/worldwide/africa.html](http://www.unfpa.org/worldwide/africa.html)

### Estimates of the contribution of pastoralism to the Kenyan and Ugandan economies (2004)[1]

Factor	Kenya	Uganda
Contribution of agriculture sector to GDP	16%	32%
Contribution of livestock to agricultural GDP	50%	19%
Significance of pastoralists as livestock owners	N/a	90%
Significance of indigenous cattle in national herd	75%	95%
Significance of milk production from pastoralism (% of total national milk production)	24%	85%
Pastoralist population	6 million	2+ million

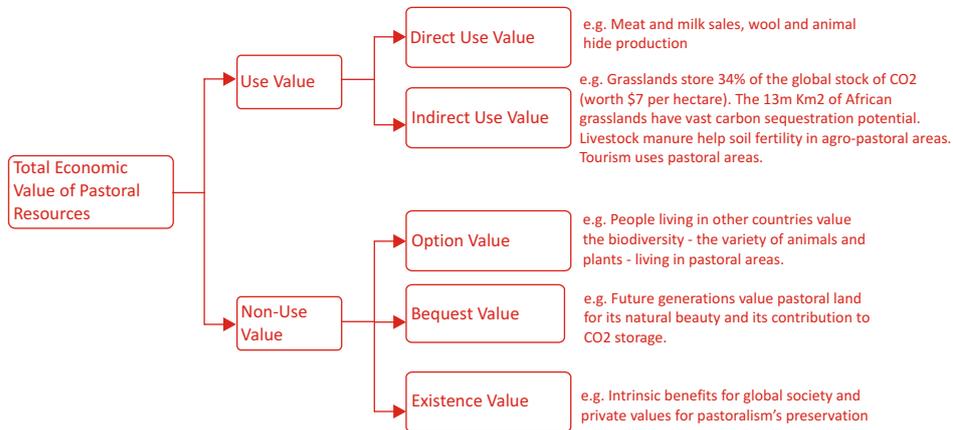
[1] IIED Issue Paper no.142

Aid programmes should be designed by people who understand pastoralism including pastoralists themselves. They should be based on accurate and complete data. This will help pastoralists cope as their communities and their environment changes.

### Recommendations

- Include pastoralists as full citizens. Bring them into the census and capture an understanding of their way of life, their movement and settlement.
- Improve analysis and use data consistently. Improved demographic data collection and analysis will mean governments and aid agencies can reduce poverty and plan properly for population change, including urbanization.
- Government policies and aid programmes should support pastoralists to make a living in a variety of different ways. The many ways that pastoralists earn money today should be assessed and supported. New opportunities should be identified.

## Total Economic Value (TEV) of Pastoral Resources



### Background

Pastoralists have been excluded from development planning for too long. This has sometimes been deliberate and sometimes because collecting data on pastoralists is difficult. Some forward thinking governments have recently started including pastoralists in their development plans, their surveys and statistics collection methods. As more detailed data becomes available programmes that meet the changing needs of pastoralists can be designed.

There are two academic theories about the future of pastoralism. The first, 'too many people' argument, says many pastoralists will abandon livestock production and leave pastoral areas. The second, 'adaptive livelihoods' argument, says pastoralists will adapt, become more commercial and start

making money in new ways. Both arguments are valid: pastoralism will continue to change. Some pastoralism assessments use more inclusive assessment techniques like the 'Total Economic Valuation' (TEV) approach to value the economic contribution of pastoralists. They take into account the contributions made by pastoralists to things like the environment and tourism by measuring the contribution of pastoralism to human well-being. Due to poor data use, Kenya's 290,000 tonnes of beef production in 2000 was valued at zero in the national accounts. More inclusive assessment techniques would ensure this does not happen.

