



DLCI E-BULLETIN: SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2014

Introduction

The Dryland Learning and Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI) for improved policy and practice in the drylands of the Horn of Africa was previously known as the Regional Learning and Advocacy Programme for Vulnerable Dryland Communities (REGLAP) and has been carrying out evidence based advocacy since 2008. REGLAP became recognised for its drylands expertise and its high quality synthesis documentation and awareness raising on critical issues for dryland resilience. Following an extensive review and planning processes, DLCI was launched as an independent organization in January 2014, to focus more on building community and government capacity for advocacy and builds on the work done under REGLAP and is focusing in its first year on the areas stated in this [overview](#) document.

This e-bulletin highlights the main events and key documents produced by DLCI for the months of October to December 2014. Previous e-bulletins can be accessed at:

January to March 2014: [click here](#).

April to June 2014: [click here](#).

June to August 2014: [click here](#).

LATEST DOCUMENTS

1. DLCI Journal – Edition 5

DLCI has recently published a fifth edition of the annual journal series started by REGLAP on experiences and lessons learnt for improved policy and practice for resilience in the drylands. Articles are reviewed by a variety of technical experts.

In this edition, articles are grouped into 4 sections: learning and practice in the drylands; the need for improved data on the drylands; enhancing community engagement and strengthening the resilience agenda. DLCI would like to thank the contributors of articles and photos. Hard copies will be distributed shortly. If you would like copies or are interested in submitting articles for future editions, please contact dprech@dlci-hoa.org. Please [click here](#) for a soft copy of the Journal.

2. Revised discussion brief: Turkana aquifer discoveries and development proposals, November 2014

This brief was originally produced by the Regional Learning and Advocacy Project for Vulnerable Dryland Communities (REGLAP) in November 2013. It has recently been revised under DLCI with more recent data, and a commentary of the report by RTI/UNESCO on the Turkana water finds and prospects. Sean Avery, an irrigation engineer with over 40 years of experience argues in this brief that assumptions about

Turkana's future development potential following the aquifer find need to be considered with some caution and a clear reflection of past failed irrigation projects. The brief also provides a critical review of the RTI/UNESCO report on its hydro-geological investigation in Turkana. [Click here](#) to view the updated version of the brief.

3. DRAFT DISCUSSION BRIEF: Towards peace and security in dryland Kenya: the demand for a new approach, November 2014

DLCI produced this discussion brief in conjunction with the Kenyan Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG), whose strategy highlights insecurity as a key concern for the drylands of Kenya. The brief looks at recent efforts to build greater peace and security in Kenya, outlines the weaknesses and gaps, and calls for a new approach to tackling security threats in Kenya. Some core principles for a revised approach to building peace and security in dryland Kenya are put forward, as well as the national and regional opportunities that currently exist that can help ensure peace becomes more likely. To view the draft brief, [click here](#).

KEY EVENTS

1. Water and irrigation development workshop in Turkana County, 10th September 2014

DLCI organised a one day workshop in Turkana County in conjunction with the County Ministry of Agriculture and Water and the NDMA to raise awareness on the evidence so far on water and irrigation development in the drylands and to identify support needs for county government and other actors to promote improved practice. At the conference DLCI's consultant presented on the realities of the Turkana aquifer, FAO Kenya presented the findings of a recent study carried out by OCRA consulting on the "Opportunities and threats to irrigation development in Kenya's drylands, the case Turkana of Turkana County". Greg Akall, a PhD candidate at Cambridge University also presented on the narratives and local perceptions about irrigation in Turkana County. The minutes and presentations links are found below:

- To view the minutes from the workshop, [click here](#).
- To view presentation on the evidence base so far on water and irrigation development in the drylands by Eng. Sean Avery, [click here](#).
- To view presentation on the threats and opportunities to irrigation development in Kenya's drylands with case study of Turkana (based on OCRA's study) by Michael Gitonga of FAO Kenya, [click here](#).
- To view the OCRA study chapter on Turkana County [click here](#).
- To view presentation on the local perceptions and narratives about irrigation in Turkana County by Greg Akall, [click here](#).
- The impact of the Gibe III dam on Lake Turkana, Sean Avery, [click here](#).

While in Turkana County, DLCI held meetings with various stakeholders involved in water and irrigation development, including the County Ministry of Water and Agriculture, World Vision, NDMA, National Irrigation Board among others. DLCI also visited Nadapal, Kolioro and Turkwell Irrigation Schemes.

2. Counting Pastoralists Presentation in ECHO Brussels 24th September 2014

Saverio Kratli, DLCI's consultant presented at ECHO headquarters in Brussels the findings of the study 'Counting Pastoralists' commissioned by REGLAP/DLCI in 2013. The study and presentation was funded by ECHO to help them better understand pastoralists and their livelihoods in Kenya. The study was commissioned against the backdrop that there has been a huge shift in pastoralism narrative, from economically bad, to a coping strategy, and now to being economically good. The study findings would be shared with the ECHO Training Unit for wider dissemination. To view the discussions, [click here](#). This study had previously been disseminated at a workshop in July 2014 in Nairobi co-hosted by the National Drought Management Authority. Please [click here](#) to see the minutes and [here](#) for the powerpoint presentation or refer to the DLCI August e-bulletin which is [available here](#).

3. Kenya ASAL Advocacy Group, November 19th 2014

DLCI organised the Kenya ASAL Advocacy group meeting on the 19th November. The agenda was to review action plans from the May 2014 meeting, introduce the new Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) Coordinator to the group; and to discuss county level coordination and public participation structures in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of Kenya. The Adaptation Consortium's Climate Adaptation programme and Transparency International's Social Accountability programme presented their experiences and lessons learned, and how they can inform broader county level structures.

- To view the minutes from the meeting, [click here](#).
- To view the presentation by Transparency International on their experiences of the Social Accountability Program in West Pokot, Wajir and Turkana, [click here](#).
- To view the overview county level structures for promoting citizen engagement presentation by DLCI, [click here](#).

4. DLCI's Technical committee meeting, 2rd Sept 2014

DLCI held its first technical committee meeting since becoming an independent organisation. The first meeting was aimed at introducing the technical committee members to each other and to the DLCI staff, as well as provide an overview of DLCI and what it seeks to achieve in its strategic plan of 2014-2017 and review its draft strategy for promoting community voice. The DLCI Technical Committee is an oversight body composed of individuals, a third of whom are women and 2/3 from the drylands of the Horn of Africa and who possess and expertise and experience in dryland issues. DLCI will seek the Technical Committee's input in designing programs, supporting fundraising, and reviewing plans and publications. The Committee meets every six months.

For more information on DLCI please visit:

<http://www.disasterriskreduction.net/east-central-africa/dlci>

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For feedback/suggestions on this e-bulletin or other DLCI materials please contact:

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This e-bulletin was funded by the European Commission Humanitarian and Civil protection Department (ECHO) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The views expressed in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of these organisations.



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