Background

IDC Ltd is a boutique consultancy group working in all forms of sustainable development. We specialize in Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), using a range of creative solutions to meet international best practice (IFC PS5). These incorporate everything from baseline research, SIA’s, socio-economic studies to livelihood development and training.

IDC Ltd is designed to be sustainable. We recruit in-country graduates from a range of disciplines and local languages, we train them to international best practice so they are able to support the Project long after we have gone.

Pastoralists and Resettlement in Tanzania?

Typically, when large agricultural projects come in to do greenfield development, pastoralists are moved on to find grazing lands without help or support since they are nomadic people, and are viewed as not ‘occupying’ land - just temporarily using it.

Since 2011, IDC has been working on the Bagamoyo EcoEnergy (BEE) RAP in Tanzania. We have been engaging with the Barbaig pastoralists throughout that time, gradually building trust and respect from their leadership, women and youth alike.

The Barbaig pastoralists are particularly vulnerable and face an ongoing struggle to find land for their cattle. As few speak Swahili, and none in the area are literate, they require additional support.

Initially communication with the Barbaigs on the project site was difficult due to the language barrier and their previous experience, which taught them that interface with strangers will result in them being evicted from the land.

Mr Shushuda, a District Officer from Hanang and a Barbaig pastoralist himself helped initiate the early meetings and inform them about the Project and the forthcoming need for them to leave the land. This first meeting gave the Barbaig elders and opportunity to share their own concerns, hopes and priorities.

They requested three things:
- To retain some land in the Project area
- To have access to medicines for their cattle
- To educate their children.

We have been engaging with the Barbaig pastoralists since that time, gradually building trust and respect from their leadership, women and youth alike, as we began to deliver on their requests, build a trust and respect.
Access to Land

The EcoEnergy Project site is 20,000 HA in size. As not all is suitable for productive sugar cane growth, they agreed that the eleven pastoralists families who roam between the dams of the Project site could retain 2400 HA and access to two of the dams. For those who access the dams on a seasonal basis, provisions have been made to build a new cattle trough sufficient for over 120 cattle at any one time. The existing cattle dip will also be repaired.

The male youth pastoralists in particular have seized the opportunity to find other ways to secure land and look after cattle. They were taken on an exposure trip to the Ruvu Ranch, which focuses on low graze cattle ranching. They learnt that to access land on the ranch and more modern cattle ranching, they would have to form a co-operative. They returned enthused and with the help of the IDC team pastoralists, formed their own co-operative, which is now officially registered. This is the first Barbaig co-operative group in the Pwani Region.

IDC TEAM PROFILE: GELGA DAKAJAN, IDC Pastoralist Co-ordinator

I am a 29 year-old pastoralist from the Manyara Region, Tanzania. I have a diploma in animal husbandry and agriculture. My journey with IDC started in November 2011, following in the footsteps of IDC pastoralist consultant Mr Shusuhuda. He made the initial contact with the pastoralists living in and around the Project site, who were using the dams of the old Raza- ba Ranch. He knew their deep felt concerns and captured their suggestions on how to move forward. My role was to work on the mitigation measures that emerged from this dialogue.

Starting as an intern and translator, I am now the pastoralist coordinator. We have been successful in safeguarding land and access to two dams in the Project site. We have negotiated an agreement from all levels of the Government for the first ever pastoralist primary boarding school in the Pwani Region, as well as helping facilitate the first ever Barbaig youth co-operative. We have facilitated the registration of the Barbaig pastoralists in the surrounding villages that are dominated by the Masai, the traditional enemy of the Barbaig.

Today, both pastoralists groups are working together in cooperation with the IDC team to build the cattle troughs in Fukayosi. This will assure water during the dry season and reduce conflict with the farmers. This is quite groundbreaking. We have addressed their concerns around access to health and veterinary care, including partnering with the Ifakara Health Institute to undertake health screening. Part of this has involved developing a video in the Barbaig language on sexual health and HIV/AIDS and fostering a relationship between them and the District Veterinary Office.

IDC has trained me on leadership, management skills, health, conflict resolution, language and report writing, community consultation and the understanding of resettlement using international best practice. I feel confident in my ability to plan, develop and work with my people for a more sustainable future without losing our customs or traditions.
IDC also facilitated a meeting with the District Education Officer, who promised to support their children with access to education. However, the Barbaig elders told him that the constraining factor was their cattle which meant they were constantly moving to find access to grazing lands and dams. The IDC pastoralist team suggested that in the Hanang area, the primary schools had boarding facilities which overcame this constraint.

Over 12 months of negotiations, IDC helped the pastoralists secure approval from the Government that the Bigilo Primary School in Maku-runge could become the first ever boarding school in the Pwani Region. Funds are now being sought from Government to help this become a reality. In the meantime the IDC training team has embarked on informal education with the children, exposing them to basic Swahili, literacy and numeracy skills. EcoEnergy has committed to some soft support for the school and all the pupils there as part of the RAP.

Furthermore IDC have been involved with:

• Assistance to form an NGO to support pastoralists (HELP Foundation)
• Provision of translators for access to district health and veterinary services
• Basic literacy and numeracy classes
• Basic entrepreneurial studies
• Exposure trips for female pastoralists to dairy farms and the Dar es Salaam Bead market
• Assistance in improved health living in the boma.
• Conflict prevention: Peace and harmony discussions between Charcoal producers and Farmers

IDC Team Profile: Margaret Maina

I am 32 years old, and I come from Hanang’ District in Manyara Region. I joined IDC in January, 2012.

My role in IDC has primarily been as a teacher and trainer, specializing in literacy and numeracy, women’s health issues and women’s business development initiatives. I have been involved with all the communities we work with.

As a pastoralist myself, I play a significant role in Barbaig issues, especially with women and liaising and translating with the district health, education and the Commissioner’s Office.

On the Early Measures program I played a significant part in youth mentoring for girls, catering and dressmaking. I led the monitoring and evaluation of all the courses undertaken. I play a leading role in many of the events we have within the communities, including the graduation ceremonies and environmental training in schools. I use singing and drama as a way to communicate issues effectively. I have a particular role in IDC dealing with the most vulnerable PAPs- women, children, the infirm, elderly and of course the pastoralists.

The training provided by IDC has improved my English, ability to write, understand results based activities, the timely completion of work and develop proposals and budgeting. I have also learned to use Excel and improve my techniques in monitoring and evaluation. In particular I have learned to identify my own strengths and weaknesses and through exposure, I have gained the confidence to make things happen.

My greatest achievement is having the opportunity to work and help my people, the Barbaig pastoralists, in a practical and hands-on manner. I wish to use these experiences to continue working with communities on development issues, empowering vulnerable groups and playing an advocacy role with the Barbaig to defend their rights.
Veterinary Services

IDC facilitated a meeting with the District Veterinary Officer, who had not realised that so many Barbic cattle existed in the area. He advised them that in order for them to access services, they must be registered in a local village.

IDC assisted their registration in local communities (Fukayosi and Kidomole). Unfortunately, the Barbaig elders explained that the local villages were controlled by their traditional enemies, the Masai and they had refused their registration. Following six months of negotiations, an agreement was made with the local Masai and registration achieved. Now registered, they are able to access medicines from the District authority.

Contact Us

We are always keen to hear from those interested in the work IDC is doing. If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch:

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The Cattle Trough in Fukayosi

Improving access to water for the cattle has been imperative. Kizito, IDCs’ culturally appropriate technology officer, worked with the District Engineer to design and develop a cattle trough to accommodate both Masai and Barbaig cattle. The Barbaig and Masai pastoralists worked in collaboration with the village farmers to hand dig the foundations, clear the area for cattle access and build the trough. This new collaboration between the two historically warring pastoralists has been a real achievement – history in the making!

FURTHER PLANNED INITIATIVES:

- BEE to de-silt Dam 3 in Project Site (Scheduled pre short rains)
- Technical Assistance to create ditches to separate the Project site from the Pastoralists, engineered to optimise water access (Scheduled Dec, 2013)
- The cattle dip in the Project site
- 400 HA of experimental low grazing land in the project site
- Assistance to access legal services to purchase land (On-going)
- More skills development and exposure trips planned
- Advocacy (On-going) through IDC supported NGO – The HELP Foundation