Sook Location
West Pokot District
Kenya

Regional Development Research
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with permission from the office of
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Regional Development, Science and
Technology and from West Pokot
District Commissioner

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INTRODUCTION AND SOURCES

This Locational Development Profile is part of a group of profiles about Locations in West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet Districts. They give a summary of the history and situation of administration, population, physical geography, economy and social geography. The various profiles are written for people working in the Location and for government employees at the Divisional and District Levels.

The information presented will not be 100% complete nor 100% reliable. Readers are asked to use the text as a work edition and to make as many additions and corrections as they like. It will be very useful if you present your comments to the ASAL Programme Coordinator, P.O. Box 287 Kapenguria.

Sook
There has never been any academic research in Sook Location, until 1982, when we carried out a small socio-economic field survey of 30 households in the area of Chepnyal-Ptoyo and of 10 households in the Nakwijit Sublocation. Additional information was gathered by analysing the household listings made by the enumerator of the Central Bureau of Statistics in 1980 and 1982 in the southern part of Chepnyal Sublocation.

For most of the data presented we had to rely upon government reports: the District Development Plans, the Annual Reports and some files in Kapenguria Archives and in the National Archives in Nairobi. Because Sook Location was part of the area of the Kapenguria Special Rural Development Programme (1970 - 1977) we could also use SRDP plans and evaluation reports. Recent information about the north of the Location was collected from the reports about the Turkwell Gorge Multipurpose Project, made for the Kerio Valley Development Authority.
1. **THE AREA OF SOOK LOCATION**

1.1. **SITUATION**

Sook Location belongs to Chepareria Division in the central part of West Pokot District. It is one of the largest locations within West Pokot, with an area of 694 km² (Census 1979). According to our own calculations 734 km²). It is also one of the most isolated ones, due to very rough terrain and hardly any communications infrastructure. Comparing potential and actual development it must be one of the most underdeveloped parts of the district and maybe even of Kenya. Large parts of the inaccessible hilly areas in the centre of the location are regarded as high potential agricultural land, even as a maize and wheat granary, but population density is still very low and agricultural production very meagre. Also there is a lot of mineral wealth which was mined in the 1950s by white prospectors. Only recently this source of wealth is tapped by the people themselves.

The isolation is caused by the distance to Kapenguria and the environmental difficulties to reach the area. Although there have been some more roads in the past, the only usable road now is the one coming from Kipkomo Location, via Tamough to Chepnyal. A track continues to Ptoyo, but it can hardly be used by cars. An old road from Ptoyo via the Arkut Pass to Nakwijit is impassable. Kapenguria-Tamough is a distance of 59 km; to Chepnyal it is 66 km and to Ptoyo 79 km. To reach Ptoyo costs more than five hours. To reach the eastern and northeastern parts of the location costs a full day of driving and climbing.

Sook Location is bordered by seven other locations: Riwa, Kipkomo, Batei and Welwei in the south; Kapchok and Kasei across the Suam River in the northwest and Sekerr in the east.
1.2. ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Colonial administration was established in Sook in the 1920s. At first the area was administered together with Sekerr but after 1927 (or 1923?) Sook became a separate location. A chief was appointed and ten sublocations established. Two roads were built in the beginning of colonial rule: the Nakwijit-Arkut-Ptoyo-Sergoit road and the Ptoyo-Chemyapit-Sebarak road, but during the 1930s there were complaints about the neglect of the roads. The colonial government also tried to tax the population (in the 1920s some 300 'huts' and 'polls' were taxed; in the 1950s there were 1650 registered taxpayers, but only half of them were taxed in Sook Location). Also some labour recruitment took place (in 1925 even 98 men; in 1957 64 men from Sook were taxed in Trans Nzoia, working on the European Farms). The colonial officers already were surprised about the low population densities in the "nice country with good grazing". Agricultural assistance started already in 1924 with maize and beans seed issues but with a minimum of success (further see 3).

In 1957 the Tamough area was transferred from Kipkomo to Sook. Before 1969 the number of sublocations was brought back to four and between 1969 and 1979 some major boundary adjustments took place: in the northeast a small area was given to Sekerr and in the East, part of the Sekerr Forest area was joined to Sook. In the South a small area of the Iang Valley was given to Kipkomo and in the Southwest most of the old Nakwijit Sublocation was given to Riwa. The names of the sublocations in 1979 are the same as in 1969 but the areas are completely different. As we will see this makes it impossible to compare population census data. Map 2 p. 4 shows the old and the new boundaries.
1.2 NATURAL RESOURCES:

Geology:

The area is occupied by the oldest rocks found at the earth's surface all over the world: the Precambrium Basement System Rocks. The rocks are metamorphic: formed during a situation in which existing sedimentary rocks are changed, because of high temperatures, high pressures and chemically active fluids. This occurs during tectonical movements within the earth's crust. Metamorphic rocks have a relatively high resistance to erosion/denudation — more than their originating rocks — and are characterized by flowing layers. This period of tectonical movements was followed by a long stable stage. In the Mid-Tertiary this uneventful stage was interrupted by a period of faulting. Some metamorphism occurred again, restricted to narrow zones along the major faults — contactmetamorphism. In these contact metamorphic zones gold and other mineral deposits e.g. chromium can be found. As a result of these events, the lithology of the area is complex: many different metamorphic rocks and granites — developed deep in the earth's crust —, all varying in mineral composition. This composition has a great influence on the natural fertility of the soils which develop on the rocks. Geological maps give a rather detailed picture; for the Exploratory Soil Map of Kenya, scale 1:1000,000 however, a very generalized geological map has been used.

Scattered over the area, loose material is deposited at the feet of the hills and mountains (footslopes with colluvial deposits) and by and along the larger rivers (alluvial deposits).

Relief:

In SOOK-location the landscape and altitude vary considerably (see map 5, page 7). In the North and West we find the lower areas: a narrow, flat alluvial zone along the Suam river (± 1050 m) and the almost flat footslopes along the mountains and hills (between 1200 and 1500 m). Also in the South a footslope has developed, near Marich Pass.

In the centre and East we find a part of the Sekerr massif: a hilly to mountainous area, rising to 3325 m at Mt. Mtelo, the highest peak in the Sekerr mountains.
Hydrology:

The larger rivers to a great extent follow the geological structure - flow along major faults -.
The drainage comprises two systems: the Muruny catchment area in the most Southern part and the Turkwell-Suam catchment area in the rest of the location. Both systems finally drain in Lake Turkana. In the Western part of the location the rivers only carry water in the wet season and after heavy showers in the dry season - seasonal rivers -. In the Eastern part, where the rivers originate in the high Sekerr massif, they carry water all through the year - perennial rivers.

Erosion:

In the hilly and mountainous part of the area erosion hardly occurs. In the lower, dryer parts erosion is moderate, mainly due to the scarce vegetation cover and probably also due to overgrazing, especially on the footslopes at the Western side (see map 4, page 7).

Soils:

According to the "Exploratory Soil Map of Kenya, 1980", scale 1:1000,000 (Kenya Soil Survey) five soil-group units can be distinguished. See map 3, page 7. The first symbol in the code stands for a certain agro-climatic zone, the second symbol gives the soil-group number (see below).

A descriptive characterization is given, for which also general literature applicable to Kenya as a whole, is used. It should be stated explicitly that this information is not based on a local survey and should be interpreted with care. The official classification (soil-group names) used by the Kenya Soil Survey are added, in case someone wants more information.

Soils no. 2, 3, 6, 16 and 18 are found in this location. The other numbers occur in other parts of West Pokot.

2: Soils developed in the mountainous areas. They are somewhat excessively drained, which means that water is removed from the soil deeper into the earth, rapidly. The amount of water, available in the soil for plant growth, can become a problem. The soils are shallow (less than 50 cm deep): for plants with a deep root-system these shallow soils can cause problems. The soils
Graph a: Dispersion graph for Chepnyal, giving monthly rainfall figures for the years 1953-1977. Every dot represents one measurement. The figures in brackets under the graph indicate the number of years in which no rain fell in that particular month.

Graph b: Shows the long-term mean for Chepnyal, using yearly averages.
are rocky and stony; this can cause difficulties while working on them with simple tools. The soils are young, little developed. The natural fertility is moderately good, mainly depending on the mineral composition of the parent material. If intensively used, fertilizers are necessary. The soils are not very susceptible to erosion, but on the steeper slopes (7° and more) conservation practices are recommended (strip-cropping, contour ploughing, bench terraces, etc.).

Classification: MÜbe, eutric Cambisols - partly with lithic phase, with Lithosols, eutric Regosols and Rock outcrops.

3: Soils developed in the mountainous areas. They are well drained, which means that water is removed from the soil readily, but not rapidly. The soils commonly retain optimum amounts for plant growth after rains or addition of irrigation water. The soils are moderately deep - no restriction for plant roots. They have an acid, humic topsoil. Acidity has a negative influence on plant growth. Natural fertility is rather low, fertilizers are very necessary. On the steeper slopes erosion can become a serious problem, in which case conservation practices will be necessary. Classification: MÜbh, humic Cambisols, with dystric Regosols and Rock outcrops.

6: Soils developed on the footslopes (slope angles 1°-4°). The soils are well drained and very deep. The structure is rather loose. The natural fertility of these soils is in general rather low. Application of fertilizers is necessary for agricultural use. Erosion usually is no problem on these soils, for they are situated on very gentle slopes and they have a rather good infiltration capacity.

Classification: FULc, chronic Luvisols, with rhodic Ferrasols and luvic/ferralic Arenosols.

16. Soils on the peneplains. They are well drained (see above) to imperfectly drained, which means that water is removed from the soil slowly enough to keep it wet for significant periods. This can result in a shortage of oxygen in the soil, while oxygen is of vital importance to plant life.

The soils are shallow on the concave slopes and moderately deep on the convex interfluves. They can be rocky to non-rocky and stony to non-stony. In some cases a hardened layer of ironstone or a layer with iron-concretions can give problems for eventual cultivation.

Classification: ULUao, orthic Acrisols-pisoferric phase, with
chromic Luvisols and eutric Cambisols-lithic phase.

18. Alluvial soils on the flat areas along the rivers. They are well drained to imperfectly drained, very deep - no problems for deep rooting plants - and they show stratification due to sedimentation-processes (finer and coarser silt/sand is deposited in layers on top of each other, by the flooding river). The soils are calcareous - contain lime - which is favourable for cultivation - on many other soils lime has to be added - and have a moderately good fertility, though, as said before, additional fertilizers are necessary if intensively used. In the really arid areas the soil can be too saline to be cultivated. There is no erosion in these flat areas. Flooding and consequently accumulation of new material can cause problems; good soil material is covered and/or young plants can be damaged.
Classification: calcric Fluvisols Code: AAjc.

Natural fertility is moderately good, but again, additional fertilizers are necessary if the soils are used constantly. The structure of the topsoil is not very good, so that after heavy rains a strong sealing (hard layer) can be formed on the surface. This leads to low infiltration rates and hence to run-off, The off-running water causes severe erosion on the gentle (and steeper) slopes (7° and more).

Climate:

Sook-location is characterized by a large variation in climatic conditions. There is only one rainfall station in the location: Chepnyal. The large variation in altitude within very short distances however, has a great influence on the amount of rainfall. Consequently the Chepnyal figures are NOT representative for the location. Apart from the spatial variation, the variability in rainfall at one place is severe as well. From Graph 1 a and b one can read that the deviation from the mean figures is large (often 100% or more), both concerning rainfall in one particular month as the yearly rainfall. According to the Kenya Soil Survey system the location is covered by four agro-climatic zones: zones II, III, IV and V.
We adjusted the schematical boundaries of the Agro-climatic Zone Map to the more detailed boundaries of the Exploratory Soil Map of Kenya, both from the Kenya Soil Survey, see map 3, page 7.

**Agro-climatic Zone Characteristics:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>$r/r_o^*$-ratio in %</th>
<th>Climatic Designation</th>
<th>Mean Annual Temperature in °C</th>
<th>Climatic Designation</th>
<th>Number of Average Growing Days</th>
<th>Major Limitations to Maximum Production in Approximate Order</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>65 - 80 %</td>
<td>sub-humid</td>
<td>10 - 14 °C</td>
<td>very cool to cool</td>
<td>290 - 365</td>
<td>fertility, farm management, drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>50 - 65 %</td>
<td>semi-humid</td>
<td>14 - 20 °C</td>
<td>fairly cool to warm temperate</td>
<td>235 - 290</td>
<td>fertility, farm management, rainfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>40 - 50 %</td>
<td>semi-humid to semi-arid</td>
<td>20 - 22 °C</td>
<td>fairly warm</td>
<td>180 - 235</td>
<td>farm management, rainfall, fertility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>25 - 40 %</td>
<td>semi-arid</td>
<td>22 - 24 °C</td>
<td>warm</td>
<td>110 - 180</td>
<td>rainfall, farm management, fertility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$r^*$ = rainfall, $E_o^*$ = potential evaporation.

Yields will be much lower in this area than under optimal conditions, due to unfavourable agro-climatic --, soil -- and crop management conditions, far from optimal. Which of these conditions is the first limiting factor is shown in the last column of the table above.
2. POPULATION

We can only present here the population of the Census of 1979. Both the location and the sublocation boundaries have changed so much that a comparison with the Census of 1969 is impossible (see map 2: administrative boundaries). The total population of Sook in 1979 was 9325, divided among the sublocations as follows:

Chepnyal 4848
Ptoyo 1847
Nakwijit 787
Endugi 1843

In the whole location 2092 households were counted with on average only 4.5 persons per household. The surplus of women in the age group 15-49 is considerable. The male/female ratio in that age group is 0.86. Male outmigration can be an explanation for this phenomenon (see graph 2, p. 12: Population Pyramid of Sook Location 1979). The density of the Northern part of the location is considerably lower than that of the Southern part (see map 6, p. 12: Population density of Sook Location in 1979). The highest densities are found along the road that connects Tamough with Chepnyal and Ptoyo.
Map 6: Population density Sook Location, 1979

- Location boundary
- Sublocation boundary
- Enumeration Area boundary

inhabitants/km²
- 4 or less
- 7 - 8
- 11 - 16
- 21 - 25
- 32 and 48

Graph 2: Population pyramid, Sook Location, 1979

Age group
50+

15-50

10-15

5-10

0-5

people:
800 600 400 200 0 200 400 600 800 1000

age group dominance:
- female
- male

M.
F.
3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Despite the good potential Sook Location is still outside the developments taking place elsewhere in the district. The communication infrastructure is very bad and this is the major hindrance to development and market integration. When they arrived in the area, the colonial administrators found a scarce population, cultivating sorghum, millet and tobacco and herding cattle, goats and sheep. There already existed a marginal barter trade with the plains people more west: at Nakwijit harvest surplus of millet and sorghum was traded for goats. Another relationship existed: a form of cattle exchange called 'tiliantan'. Also in times of extreme cattle rustling danger from the Turkana, cattle could take refuge in the hills near Ptoyo. In normal times cattle from the hills was partly herded in the Western and Northern plains, even across the Suam river. Finally there probably was frequent intermarriage between plains and hill people.

Early in the colonial times, around 1925, the administration was already aware of the good potential and of the communication barriers. In the 1920s maize and beans seed was issued and later (1950s) an agricultural demonstration plot was started at Chepnyal. Also two roads were made: one from Ptoyo up North, later extended up to the mining centres Korpu and Nakhang Camp. The road from the South, through Chepnyal was made later (during the 1950s) and also Chepnyal as a centre only developed more recently. Both the first roads were not maintained properly so they were probably no longer passable at the end of the 1930s.

It seems that the colonial policy only had the result that maize (not beans) was accepted, but only as another part of a subsistence economy. Only a little surplus was produced, part of it given away and part of it bartered for goats at Nakwijit. Here also one shop existed. Market integration of any kind was hardly existent: no produce was sold, only very few paid jobs existed in the area, hardly any migrant labour income was sent. Almost no consumer goods were bought and hence there was not a single shop in the whole location, outside Nakwijit.

At the end of colonial rule government interference increased, but so did the people's hostility towards this. In 1956 the government tried to force the people to sell part of their cattle to avoid overgrazing. First a quota of 100 was introduced, but in 1958 it
was 10% or 2,200 head of cattle per year. Although cattle sales were much higher than they had ever been (in 1958: 1,227 head of cattle were sold) it created a deep mistrust in all government activity. People tried to avoid the destocking by moving to the other side of the Suam River, the Karapokot area, which was administered by Uganda. From that side cattle raiding increased dramatically too. In 1965 the government even decided to station a Stock Theft Unit in Sook near the confluence of the Kanyangareng and the Suam.

Another measure to counter 'overstocking' was controlled grazing, in 1954 started as a Chief's activity, in 1956 by closing 10,000 acres as a Forest Reserve in the area above Chepnyal. Stock was allowed to go to water places via one route in the dry season only. Also some reafforestation activity started there. Northeast of this area the Sergoit Grazing Scheme had to start in 1963. In 1963 the removal of British administration also removed all these unpopular government activities and until 1979 the area was economically outside any government interference.

Independence also made an end to the only private mining activity in the Location. Since the early 1950s the legendary Mr. Van Wijk organized alluvial gold panning near the Turkwell Gorge. He used Turkana labour and he nor the government could stop a considerable 'illegal' sale of gold to Somali traders. With a lot of regret the British civil servants reported that "the Turkana labour have been shown by various outside evil influences the value of gold" (District Annual Report 1960) and "this racket ... accounted for the desire of Somali's to live in those remote areas" (D.A.R. 1956).

3.2 the situation changed after 1979

As in other isolated parts of West Pokot, the drought and diseases of 1979-1981 brought some changes. Although the disasters were less marked in the higher parts of Sook, also here many households lost part of their cattle and goats, and harvests failed. The government brought famine relief to Tamough and Kabombo, while the people in the western plains went to the famine relief centre of the Church of the Province of Kenya at Nakwijiit. Probably the loss of cattle and the wish to buy new ones, to buy other consumer goods (especially clothes) and to pay school expenses brought a lot of men to the emerging gold areas. In 1980/81 this
was at Korpu along the Suam River, in 1981 not much gold was found there anymore and the gold panners tried their luck in Kriich, a very isolated area in the Endugh Valley. The stories about one man finding 2 kgs of gold in February 1982 (value: 200,000 Shs) and another one 1.5 kgs later, were attracting hundreds and in some periods even up to 2,000 people. Gold panning is a part-time activity for all, mainly between November and April. In April 1983 there were over 1500 people in Kriich, but at the end of the month most left for home to do agricultural work. People come from all over the Pokot-area: from Amudat in Uganda to North Baringo. A lot of people come from Masol and North Baringo. We think that only a small minority comes from Sook. Some panners do come with their families, but most live in groups of 5-10 men. Although a minority, many women can be found too and lots of school age children. There are hardly any non-Pokot.

Our estimate is that between 15 and 18 kgs of gold were found at Kriich in 1982. Most of the time the panners got 100 shs per gramme. Some fifty gold dealers were active in Kriich and also four official agents of the Korpu Mines Cooperative Society (although the 'official' quantity of gold via the cooperative was only 989 grammes ...). Although some lucky people find much more, the average findings per day per person is estimated at 0,5 to 1 gram, which is very high compared to other gold places (and compared to for instance casual labour at the KVDA farm at Sigor where people earn only 10 shs per day). But of course there are also people who do not find much. Some men are reputed to stay away for eight months, coming back home in rags, with their health spoiled and with hardly any cash. Daily food (and drinks) are very expensive in Kriich. There are open hotels with mandazi, chapati, maize bread, maize and beans. Also posho, soda, clothes, meat and many other things are sold. Women from as far as Chepnyal walk to Kriich with milk and posho to sell it there. Also some local people from Endugh Sublocation have a golden time, especially when they combine gold dealing with trading consumer goods.

The sudden abundance of money within the Sook community encouraged some traders to start business: in 1982 two shops existed in Tamough and two shops and a butchery in Chepnyal. One trader who started in 1980 with a profit of only 1,000 shs had a profit of more than 40,000 Shs in 1982 (CBS listing figures).
We will now present some of the results of our analysis of CBS-listings followed by an analysis of our own survey. Finally we will give a summary of the economic plans (and their implementation) the government had and has for the area.

3.3. The CBS-listings

To have a statistical base for their socio-economic surveys and agricultural forecasts, the Central Bureau of Statistics choose a number of enumeration areas for which they made household listings. They did a listing in 1980 and again in 1982/3. In Sook the area South of Chepnyal and East of Tamough within Chepnyal Sublocation was one of these areas.

In 1980 80 households were visited, in 1982 84. Within the enumeration area two different sub-areas could be distinguished. One was in the Western part, near the road and near the centres of Chepnyal and Tamough. The other one was more to the East and Southeast, more isolated. The most South-eastern part probably is a recent colonization area for the local people.

Table 1 presents some of the results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Households</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Headed</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People per Household</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults per Household</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heads with Paid Job</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Income/year Shs</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>130,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Farmers</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of h.h. with cattle</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of h.h. with goats</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of h.h. with maize</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of h.h. with millet</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of h.h. with beans</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First we can say a few things about recent changes in the area; the most striking one is the increase in money earned with jobs,
although the number of people engaged in these jobs was very small and only increased from 5 to 6. In 1980 there were three teachers, one very small trader and a pastor. In 1982/3 there were the three teachers, two traders (with a large profit) and a local doctor. The income increase was small for the teachers (together from Shs 3684/month to Shs 3900/month, an increase of 3% per year in nominal terms, but in real terms - given the high rate of inflation - a considerable decrease). The money increase mainly originated from the traders. The CBS listing figures do not say anything about money earned by other than permanent jobs, but we can be sure that some gold money was also earned by members of this community and that it is the main reason behind the commercial expansion. Also two other things could be explained by the gold rush. In the western areas a remarkable number of households was female headed: for part of them this might be caused by the fact that the head of the household was away most of the time, looking for gold (it does not mean however that gold income is especially going to these households; many men and boys join in gold panning for some weeks or a month only). Another quite remarkable fact is the increase in the number of households with cattle in the western areas and with goats in the eastern parts. Part of it might be bought with gold money or with money earned by selling food to the gold panners. We do not know anything about the number of cattle and goats and it might well be possible that the average number per household went down (because of the effects of drought and disease during 1980-81) while the number of households having cattle and/or goats increased.

Comparing the two years another development which took place becomes clear: millet production decreased considerably: many households who combined millet and maize in 1980 only produced maize in 1982/3. In the area nearest to Chepnyyal millet production was already no longer practised in 1980. Sorghum is almost non existant in 1980 as well as in 1982/3. On the other hand some households started to produce beans recently.

Before concluding too much of the data we must warn the reader that the data are probably not very accurate and that the level of accuracy may differ between 1980 and 1982/3. Especially the number of people per household might be too low: many people regard young children as 'non existant' for outsiders. This might be a major reason for the relatively low figures for 'people per household'.
We now continue with some results from our own survey done in the area northeast and northwest of the CBS enumeration area, in the higher parts of Sook and from our survey in the western plains.

3.4 An economic household profile for Ptoyo and Chepnyal

(30 households interviews)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of wives on the compound</th>
<th>1.3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children above 15</td>
<td>1.7 (often not on the compound)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children 5 to 14</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average number of persons in the household 7

There are almost no "other persons" in the household. On average the number of wives of the male heads of household is 1.7, but some of them live elsewhere. There were only two female heads of households. 1.3 child per household is schooling.

20 households were already living in this area before 1978, 3 arrived in 1978 and 7 in 1979 or later.

Crops
Before 1980 all households except 3 produced maize, on average about 2 acres. About half of them stated that they sometimes had to buy or barter food at that time.

In 1982 the households cultivated also about 2 acres on average. Land is not yet registered in this area. A land committee decides about the rights on land. 12 households each claim 40 acres on average and this is approved by the land committee. The other households use land but they did not yet put claims with the land committee. All households except one produced maize, only one household produced beans and millet besides maize and one sorghum besides the maize.

On average they produced 15 bags in 1982 but about one third produced 5 bags or less. This seems to be not enough maize for the bigger households for a whole year and so it seems that some of them have to get some additional food (this is however not stated in the interviews). For most of the households (at least three fourth) the maize production is sufficient. About half of the households give away some food, almost three tins of 15 kg by each on average. Mostly
by people around Ptoyo to people in the lower area of Rukiey or
the infertile area of Maral. The maize production in Ptoyo was about
the same or a bit more compared with Chepnyal. Famine relief has
been given in this area but it does not seem to be so important
as in the drier areas of West Pokot. Only one fourth of the households
said that they got some famine relief. If they got it, it was usually
only for two months or less; sometimes only a little milk. The relief
centres were in Tamugh and Kabompo and food was paid by the government

Seeds
Only 8 out of 30 households bought seeds, in total 15 bags of 10 kg.
The other households used local seeds left over from the last har-
vest.

Labour
No cash-paid labour was said to be used in agriculture in this area.
About half of the households organized workparties of relatives and
neighbours for clearing and weeding the fields, which they paid with
honeybeer.

Livestock
Average for all 30 households including the ones without livestock.
before 1980 | lost by disease* | owned now | c = cattle
| g = goats
| s = sheep
| d = donkeys
| * or drought
 c  g  s  d | c  g  s  d | c  g  s  d
51  71  26  0.4 | 27  39  14  0 | 12  16  6  0

4 households lost their livestock because of Ngoroko's; on average
85 cattle, 90 goats and 36 sheep. Before 1980 all households had
cattle and goats and only 3 had no sheep. In 1983 6 out of 30 house-
holds had no cattle, 7 no goats and 10 no sheep. There was only
one household with no livestock at all. The cattle usually grazes
around the home. The cattle now owned by the households survived after
the difficult period of 1979 to 1981 and reproduced some young stock.
The rest of the livestock owned now was received from tiliantan rela-
tives, bridewealth or bought. 6 households stated that they bought
livestock with money received from a paid job of one member of the family and 6 bartered maize for goats and sheep. In total 3 cows, 35
goats and 24 sheep were bought or bartered in 1982.
Only half of the households inoculated their cattle in 1981, the last
time a campaign was held in the area. Cattle was never dipped as there
is no dip.
There is quite a difference between the households interviewed near Chepnyal and the ones interviewed near Ptoyo in livestock ownership. Before 1980 the Ptoyo households had more cattle, sheep and goats than the Chepnyal households. They lost on average the same number of cattle but more goats and sheep. Now the Ptoyo households have more cattle, the same number of goats and less sheep than the Chepnyal households. Most animals bought or bartered were acquired in the Chepnyal area and not around Ptoyo.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>livestock before 1980</th>
<th>lost by drought or disease</th>
<th>now</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ptoyo (11 hh.)</td>
<td>61 81 32</td>
<td>27 42 21</td>
<td>16 17 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chepnyal (19 hh.)</td>
<td>45 66 22</td>
<td>27 37 10</td>
<td>9 15 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Milk**

Cattle was said to produce on average 4 treetops (1 treetop = 0.70 l) of milk per day in the rainy season and 1.5 treetop in the dry season. It seems that goats are not milked.

**Honey**

Honey production seems low in the area. Only 5 households stated that they had beehives, only 7 hives on average and these hives produced 2 to 3 tins (1 tin = 1 kg) of honey in 1982. Probably more households have beehives (14 paid their work-parties with honeybeer) but they don't dare to say so as honeybeer production is prohibited.

**Gold**

In 1981 15 out of 30 households were panning gold. In Endugh (Kriich) they earned on average 450 shs. per goldpanning household. On average they spent 2 weeks on it. In 1982 only 6 of the households were still panning gold and they earned less; 230 shs on average per panning household. Most of the time they received 110/-shs per gramme. The panning was mostly done in November, December and February.

**Water**

Water is a problem in this area although much less so than in the lower parts of the location. Here it takes one person in a household on average 40 minutes to walk to water, wait, get water and walk back in the rainy season and one hour and a half in the dry season.
Income
Income in the area is low. We found paid jobs in 8 of the interviewed households. There was one councillor (salary 2000 p.m.), there were several teachers and traders, one watchman and one person who collected firewood for the school. No selling of maize, milk, animals or honey seems to take place in the area. Some money is received from relatives. About half of the households do not seem to get any cash. Some money is earned with gold. In 1982 3 households got 10000 shs or more, 2 households a bit more than 1000 shs, the rest - if stated - all under 500 shs in 1982.

Expenditure
Expenditure is also low:
less than 500 shs 16
500 to 1000 shs 7
1000 - 3000 shs 3
more than 10000 shs 1
22 households had on average only 325 shs cash expenditure in 1982.

In Chepnyal there were more paid jobs and both income and expenditure were higher around Chepnyal than around Ptoyo.

3.5 An economic household profile for the area east of Nakujijit
(10 household interviews)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of adult women on the compound</td>
<td>2.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children above 15</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children from 5 to 15</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under 5</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of persons in the household</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average number of wives was 1.5
Only one child in every two households is schooling.

Half of the households settled in this area a long time ago and half arrived in 1978 or later.

Crops
All households grew crops before 1979; on average two and a half acre.
6 grew both sorghum and maize, one sorghum and millet and three only sorghum. Most households stated that they were more or less selfsufficient in food and bought only very little or no food at all. Now, in 1982, the households cultivated on average almost three acres. All grew sorghum, 7 also maize, 2 cowpeas and 3 beans. None of them sold food. Almost all households gave some food away, on average about half a bag. Half of the households did not buy any food as the crop production was enough for the whole year. The other half bought some food for about 150 shs. a year.

All the households used local seeds. No casual labour is used in the area but 8 out of 10 households organized work parties of relatives and neighbours for weeding and/or clearing of fields. These were paid with honeybeer and posho.

Although for 1982 it looks as if enough or almost enough food was produced in the area, all households got famine relief in 1980 and/or 1981. Sometimes work had to be done for it: carry poles for the building of a school and do some work on their own fields. Nakuijit and Chepkopegh were the relief centres, they were both from Freedom from Hunger.

**Livestock**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>before 1980</th>
<th>lost by disease or drought</th>
<th>now</th>
<th>c = cattle</th>
<th>s = sheep</th>
<th>g = goats</th>
<th>d = donkeys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>38 86 16 2</td>
<td>24 54 11 0</td>
<td>13 36 36 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 out of 6 households lost cattle because of the Ngoroko's; in total 58 cattle, 95 goats and 19 sheeps were stolen. In total 18 cattle were used for buying guns by persons from the household itself or by relatives.

On average 6 cattle per household are elsewhere with tiliantan relatives. The cattle which is owned now was left over after the disastrous years 1979 till 1981 and reproduced young stock, others were received from tiliantan relatives and by bridewealth.

Although all households get milk from their cattle and goats it seems that no milk is sold at all.
Map 7: Interview places and CBS enumeration area, Sook Location

- road
- track
- location boundary
- sublocation boundary

- place of interview around Nakwijit
- place of interview near Ptoyo and Chepnyal

Map 8: Boundaries of proposed Turkwell Gorge Lake

- Lake at highest water level (1140 m)
- Lake at lowest water level (1035 m)
- Sook Location boundary

estimated surface area of the lake at the lowest water level: 10 km²
estimated length: 15 to 25 km
at the highest water level: 40 km²
In June 1981 most cattle was inoculated for the last time. Cattle was never dipped in this area as there is no dip.

Honey
All households had beehives, an average of almost 20. They got about 30 kg. of honey from them this year (1982). Only three households sold some honey to the cooperative in Kodich, 2 households 15 kg. and one 8 kg. 6 times honey was bartered for a goat. Once honey was sold to someone for a ceremony and twice used for an own ceremony. Almost all households used the honey to make beer for fieldwork and 4 sold honeybeer. The rest is used for homeconsumption.

Income
Cash income is of minor importance for the interviewed households. Some cash is earned by selling goats (6 hh. 2 to 3 goats). Some sell honey or honeybeer. Some got some money from relatives (3 hh. in total 200 shs.) There was one person in the interviewed households with a regular job: work in the road camp of Marich. This household got 6200 shs. this year, the other households got on average about 300 shs. this year. None of the households seemed to pan gold.

Expenditure
As a consequence cash expenditure is also very low in the area; probably not more than 300 to 400 shs. per year. We were not able to get exact figures about how much was spent on different expenditure categories. Most people had no idea about how much they spent in a year as expenses are rare and irregular.

Water
Water is a big problem in the area. In the dry season it takes one person in a household on average one hour and a half to walk to water, wait, get water and walk back. In the dry season this is on average three and a half hour.

3.6 Economic development proposals and their implementation
We will give a summary of all the recent proposals for economic development done by various government departments. We will add the implementation of the proposals, as far as we know.
We already referred to the maize and beans seed issues in the 1920's and the demonstration plot in Chepnyal in the 1950's. At the time of independence there was no demonstration plot anymore. In SRDP-DP 1969 there was a proposal to start a new demonstration plot in Chepnyal of 1 ha with hybrid maize, finger millet, castor, vegetables and fodder crops - the last three completely new in the area. But in 1983 there was nothing yet. Costs: 2000 Shs/annum (1969 money). It was planned to increase the hybrid maize area from 2 ha in 1968 to 12 ha in 1973; the finger millet area from 400 to 480 ha and to have 4 ha of castor and 2 ha of vegetables.

In DDP 1974 - 78 planned for 1976 in all four sublocations. In 1983 not yet started.

In DDP 1979 - 83 Chepnyal was included in the area of loans within the Integrated Agricultural Development Programme. A total loan of 64,700 Shs was proposed to 50 farmers for the commercial cultivation of 80 ha of maize and sunflower via the Chepareria Farmers Cooperative Society. In 1983 nothing done.

In SRDP DP 1969 two dairies were proposed, one at Chepnyal for 750 milk cows and one at Ptoyo for 250 milk cows. In 1983 there were neither dairies nor grade cattle.

To increase the sales of cattle a holding ground of 240 ha was proposed in the SRDP DP 1969 where 3750 head of cattle could be kept in a seven day quarantine per year. Including land compensation, fencing, a sale yard and a cattle dip this was planned to cost 32,000 Shs. Four guards would cost 5800 Shs/annum. (All at 1969 prices). It was planned at Chepnyal.

In 1983 the dip was under construction by the government. At the Chepnyal Holding Ground three others were propo-

Forestry

In DDP 1974 - 78 the creation of forest reserves was proposed. In 1979 two reserves had been approved but not yet demarcated or gazetted: one at Chepnyal (920 ha) and one at Cheptram (566 ha). In 1982/83 between Chepnyal and Ptoyo a forest nursery was started with 119,300 Shs from the Rural Development Fund. In 1982 4000 seedlings were produced.

As can be seen not much was implemented, with the exception of the Forestry proposals. It seems that the ideas of holding grounds, dairies and four dips did not live long; proposed in 1969, they were not mentioned again in the two District Development Plans. Only one dip was last under construction.

However, without government encouragement in Sook itself, the hybrid maize cultivation was indeed enlarged although 80% of the households we interviewed still used local left over seeds. Maize is clearly taking the place of millet and recently some households started to produce beans. Locally a trade developed between the milk and maize producing households and the gold panners at Kriich.

3.7 The TURKWELL GORGE Multipurpose Project

The major plan launched for the area of Sook Location is the Turkwell Gorge multipurpose project in the extreme northeast of the Location, also covering parts of Sekerr, Kasei, Kapchok Locations and large areas within Turkana District. It will primarily be a hydro electric project but also irrigation, forestry, livestock development, fishery development and tourism will be part of the project which might start in the period 1984 - 1987 under the authority of the Kerio Valley Development Authority. The project was first proposed in 1973 with a dam at the Turkwell Gorge as a water regulator for the Turkwell catchment area. Consultancies in 1976 (by VIAK E.A.) and in 1979 (by Norconsult) stated that the dam would only be economically justified if electric power generation would be the major part of it. Norconsult was even very pessimistic about irrigation and fishery possibilities (irrigation downstream in the Turkwell Flood Plain and fishery downstream and upstream of the dam site). In 1981 a French consultant (Soghereah) did some further pro-
posals and in 1982 they got the assignment. In 1983 the Kenyan consultancy firm ADEC presented a report about the consequence of the dam.

The dam will be 80 meter high and 490 meter long. A lake will be created of 14 km² when the water is at its highest level (at 1140 m. above sea level) and of 7 km² at the low - 1095 m - level. The lake will extend between 13 and 23 km. upstream and it will inundate a large stretch of riverine forest land along the Suam River and its tributaries. Map 8 shows the approximate boundaries of the lake. (1). After 8 years full power will be generated (120 - 145 Megawatt per year). Costs are estimated at between 1800 and 2200 million Shs. Average annual revenue from power alone is estimated at 300 million Shs per year. The life expectancy is estimated to be 50 years: there is a huge pile up of silt which will fill up the lake. Estimates show that per year 160 million m³ of silt is transported by the Suam river and its tributaries; 2% of the river flow. Although all the estimates seem to be very rough, it is clear that drastic measures are required to slow down this process of erosion and to discharge part of the sediment in the lake.

In its various parts, the ADEC report sums up the possible consequences and plans. We will give a short summary here, as far as Sook concerns.

1. Part of the riverine forest will be inundated. Only ten families are living in the area currently and for them a solution is prosed: because Turkana will be the main beneficiary of the project (by the irrigation projects) an area within Turkana District should be secured for them. Also the gold panning area of Korpu will be inundated.

2. A camp will be built for the workers who construct the dam. The camp has to be developed into a development centre (with a school, dispensary, leasure possibilities etc.) Directly and indirectly income opportunities and employment opportunities will be offered here.

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(1) The figures given for the lake size are the ones from ADEC. The map we made, using 1:50,000 topographical maps with their altitude lines, arrives at a larger size (10 km²) for the low water level and a much larger size (40 km²) for the high level. See map 8, p. 23.
3. The development of the new centre will create some ecological tensions: especially the need for firewood and charcoal can conflict with the need to maintain the lake and riverine forests. Forestry enterprises, specifically geared towards fuelwood production will be necessary supplement to the other plans.

4. The changes in ecology will attract a lot of wildlife and birds. The area immediately south of the Dam will be part of the proposed Nasolot Natural Reserve (which will be under the authority of the Pokot County Council) and tourist activities will be developed there. Tourism will create an additional employment and income opportunity: legally (e.g. service activities and the sale of handicraft products) and illegally (especially the smuggling of gold is to be expected).

5. An extensive lake with all year water will be a rich grazing and browsing area; on p 2 of the ADEC Livestock chapter one can read "with of course the permission and even the supervision of the Kerio Valley Development Authority". To avoid overgrazing in the lakeside area water points more inland are proposed.

6. A lot of fishing will be possible and even crocodile farming was proposed. The riverine people do eat fish occasionally; fishery development could provide an important additional source of protein for the local people. Also the abundance of flowers could give a boost to the bee industry.

7. A high grade road to the dam side will be built, most probably on the Sook side of the future lake. If this is the case this will make an end to the severe isolation of northern Sook. Our comment: together with some rural access roads it could be the start of the colonization and development of the high potential agricultural area in central Sook. Also the building of the road will provide large employment opportunities for some time.

8. At last ADEC suggests rural electrification of the surrounding areas. They state that only 1 Megawatt is necessary per year to supply 500 rural families; for the 2000 families in Sook this means 4 Mw. (They do not say anything about the costs involved in bringing the electricity to the very dispersed population).

If the project will really start and if it will indeed be a multipurpose project, northern Sook will be changed considerably.
### 4. INFRASTRUCTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### 4.1. SUMMARY OF THE SERVICES, 1983

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Admin.</th>
<th>Commerce</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Church</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chepnyal</td>
<td>Chief</td>
<td>2 shops</td>
<td>DEB prim. (9 teach.)</td>
<td>AGC -</td>
<td>Rom Cath.</td>
<td>3 women groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamough</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 shops</td>
<td>Adult Ed. (p.t.t.)</td>
<td>Gov. Dispens.</td>
<td>Rom.Cath.</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RC prim. &amp; Gov. (5 teach.)</td>
<td>mobile clinic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kapkata</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>AGC prim. (3 teach.)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Afr.Gosp</td>
<td>women group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Ed. (p.t.t.)</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Rom.Cath.</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Rom.Cath.</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheptram</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Rom.Cath.</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Rom.Cath.</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chemororo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Embokech</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>RC prim. (2 teach.)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Rom.Cath.</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Admin.</td>
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<td>Ketian/Ketiam</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Afr.Gosp.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(1 teach.)</td>
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<td>Somor</td>
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<td>(self help)</td>
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<td>Sirkoi</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Afr.Gosp.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Afr. Gosp.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nakwijit
Sub loc. Ass. Chief (on the other side of the Suam in Kapchok Location
some other activities)
4.2. PLANS AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Also here we will give a summary of the various government plans and their implementation.

Development Centres In 1978 three development centres were proposed: at Ptoyo, Chepnyal and the Turkwell Gorge. The administration, police, school and health facilities must be there. For Ptoyo and Chepnyal everything except the police are there. At the Turkwell Gorge construction work still has to start.

Chiefs House In 1975 a harambee was organized for it.

Police Post In the DDP 1979-83 planned at Ptoyo.

Roads In the SRDP DP 1969 the Chepkopegh-Ptoyo road was proposed as the last stage of the SRDP (so: to start in 1976), as well as the Ptoyo-Nakwijit road. In 1974 the Nakwijit-Ptoyo Road was again proposed in the DDP and an alignment was made. However the costs were so high that the project was shelved. In the DDP 1979-83 the Chepkopegh-Ptoyo road was proposed again as a priority. But in 1983 the Chepnyal-Ptoyo part of an existing track was not motorable for normal cars.

In the DDP 1979-83 two other roads were proposed too: Kabombo (Kolombo)-Ptoyo and Chepkopegh (in Kipkomo Location)-Nakwijit. Also here nothing was realized. In the KVDA General Development Plan it is proposed to upgrade the following roads/tracks to gravel roads: Chepareria-Ptoyo, Ptoyo-Kodich both 1985-1990 and Ptoyo-Korpu (around 2000).

Water In the SRDP DP 1969 two subsurface dams or boreholes were proposed at Tamough and Chepnyal. In 1976 a district Annual Report again mentioned the Chepnyal Water Project, but it had not started. Also in 1983 nothing was done yet.
Health

A dispensary already existed in Ptoyo in the colonial times. By and large it functioned well all the time. In 1970-71 it received an extra 1500 Shs from the District Community Development Project Fund.

In the DDP 1974-78 a sub health centre was proposed at Chepnyal. But there the Africa Gospel Church started a dispensary in 1973. In the DDP 1979-83 a dispensary was proposed at Chepketet, a place some 20 kms from Chepnyal unknown to us. In 1982 a dispensary was built at Tamough. This one opened in 1983 (it was financed with Dutch development aid).

Education

Ptoyo and Chepnyal schools are rather old. They were proposed as primary boarding schools in the beginning of the 1970s. In 1970-71 the Chepnyal school received 850 Shs from the District Community Development Project fund; in 1973 a school dormitory was planned and in 1974 a harambee organized (collected: 7675 Shs). In 1974 the DCDP gave 1000 Shs for the school buildings. A harambee for teachers houses, in 1975, collected 8339 Shs.

The Ptoyo school was less successful in getting funds. The only time we know they received 1000 Shs DCDP money was in 1975. It is not a boarding school.

In 1979 the Tamough Primary School received a grant of 1500 Shs.

In 1974-75 also a number of harambees were organized for day care centres at Sinjo (in 1975 also 1000 Shs DCDP), at Tamough and at Endugh (harambee money collected in 1975: 1878 Shs).

Community Development

In the SRDP DP 1969 one Community Development Assistant was proposed for Sook. In 1975 a house was built (DCDP money: 1000 Shs). Also in 1969 a social hall and a sport stadium were proposed in Chepnyal. Two women groups in
Chepnyal received 7,500 Shs each in 1981 from the Government Commissioner for Social Services.

Comparing the plans with the information about the existing services in 1983 we see that education facilities exist in many places now, most of them initiated and sponsored by the two missions active in Sook: the Roman Catholic Mission (from Chepareria) and the Africa Gospel Church. The schools in Ptoyo and Chepnyal however both are maintained by the DEB, the District Education Board.

Also the health situation improved considerably in the southwestern part of the Location.

But the other infrastructural and social plans all failed to materialize.

We will now give some attention to a few details: the commercial developments and the developments in the sphere of health care, education and church activities.

4.3 The commercial development

We can be very short here. For a long time the only existing shop in the location was at Nakwjit. Here also a traditional market existed for the barter exchange of goats against grains. Somewhere during the 1970s the place of the market and the shop shifted to the other side of the Suam River, to Kapchok Location.

In 1979 the first shop was started in the higher areas of Sook: a small shop and a canteen in Chepnyal. In 1982 the last one was changed into a secondshop and also a butcher was licensed to start an activity there. In 1982 also two shops had started in Tamough. The centre of Ptoyo however, was still without any commercial activity. In 1981-82 a market existed at Tamough.

We estimate that the turnover of the existing shops must be in the range of 300,000 Shs per year now and we already suggested that the gold money could well be an important stimulans for this and further commercial development.
4.4 Education

In Sook Location two schools have a long tradition, one in Ptoyo started in 1958 and one in Chepnyal started before 1966, but we do not know the exact year. A school in Tamough started in 1976. In 1983 there were 17 schools in the location and 14 of these started in 1980 or 1981. Both old schools are sponsored by the District Educational Board. There are 12 schools sponsored by the Roman Catholic Mission and 3 by the Africa Gospel church.

As most schools started so recently, until now they only have standard 1 and 2 or 1 to 3. The school in Ptoyo has standard 1 to 4, the one in Tamough standard 1 to 5 and the one in Chepnyal standard 1 to 7. The last one is the only complete primary school and also the only boarding school in the location.

Table: Pupils and teachers in Sook Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Boys</th>
<th>Number of Girls</th>
<th>Number of Trained Teachers</th>
<th>Number of Untrained Teachers</th>
<th>Pupils per Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>220</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The growth in number of pupils is considerable since 1980 as could be expected from the enormous increase in number of schools from that time onwards. The number of trained teachers is low compared to the rest of the district: 32% as compared to West Pokot as a whole with 56%.

We estimate the number of eligible children schooling in 1969 at about 5%. For 1979 we have exact data, that year the number of eligible children schooling was 15%. The percentage for boys was higher than that for girls: 25% and 5% respectively. The growth in the number of pupils between 1979 and 1982 is 173%. We do not have exact population figures for the year 1982 but the percentage of eligible children schooling in the location has probably gone up to about 50% (75% of the boys and 25% of the girls).
4.5 Health

At present there are three dispensaries in Sook Location. The oldest one is the one in Ptoyo and it was there already in colonial times. It was temporarily closed in 1976 but opened again soon and it was still in operation in 1982. It serves an area where about 3000 people live. During SRDP time a new dispensary was planned in Chepnyal. In 1973 the Africa Gospel Church started a dispensary there. It is not clear if this was done as a result of SRDP plans. It was still in operation in 1982 and served an area where 6000 people live within a radius of 6.4 km (outlined by the government as a reasonable distance to a health facility).

In 1979 a dispensary was proposed in Tamough, it was completed by 1982 and in operation in December 1982 (building costs: 1,711,140 Shs). It serves an area where 3000 people live.

The service areas of Ptoyo, Chepnyal and Tamough do overlap, while the eastern and northern parts of the location are not served at all. (We estimate that 50% of the Sook population lives at a distance of more than 6.4 km of a health facility). Also the mobile clinics only visit the southern parts of the location (the Kapenguria Hospital Mobile Clinic visits Chepnyal and Tamough irregularly). The people in the western plains go to the mobile clinic from the Full Gospel Church which visits Nakwijit (in Kipkomo Location) every two weeks.

In practice the dispensary of Ptoyo had an annual attendance of around 2,000 people at the end of colonial times (when people had to pay for the service), around 4,500 people attended per year at the end of the 1960s; 10,000 people at the end of the 1970s and 17,000 people in 1981 and 1982. In Chepnyal visits are much less (payment is required) but also here the number of people served grows (1800 in 1980, 3,000 in 1981 and 4,800 in 1982). The Tamough dispensary had 1,800 people in its first month, December 1982. But also people from the northern parts of Kipkomo Location visit Tamough.
4.6 Churches

There are only two denominations active in Sook Location: the Roman Catholic Mission and the Africa Gospel Church, resp. since 1973 and 1972 1).

The Roman Catholic Mission sponsors 12 primary schools with about 800 pupils. Besides there are 11 congregations with together a church attendance of on average more than 900 of which 350 are above 15 years of age. They have 7 catechists. In 1980 a church was built in Chepnyal. 40% of the money came from Ireland. The rest (30,000 Shs) was donated locally.

The Africa Gospel Church started her work in Sook in 1972. They have 7 congregations, 12 Sunday schools, 2 women groups, 1 dispensary and they sponsor 3 primary schools with an enrolment of 265 people. Average attendance in church is more than 200 but many are children. Sunday school attendance is almost 400 with 30 Pokot teachers. The Africa Gospel Church activities are sponsored by the World Gospel Mission in Tenwich via the Africa Gospel Church Headquarters in Kericho. Also the medicine for the dispensary come from Kericho.

1) Southeast of Chepnyal there must have been "Kokwaper Mission" during colonial times but we do not know anything about it.
4.7 The service density: Sook compared with West Pokot

In a separate paper for the whole of West Pokot we compared the service densities for all the locations by giving a value to the various services and divide the total score by the population. Sook scores relatively low (60% of the West Pokot average). 57% of all the services were provided by the government (West Pokot average: 45%), but this is mainly because of the very few private commercial activities. In health care two out of three facilities are government ones, on the other hand most of the schools are mission schools. We saw that 50% of the population lived outside a 6.4 reach of a static health facility (with very long distances for the people in northern and eastern Sook). In education we estimated the percentage of eligible boys schooling at 75% and of girls at 25%. This was a considerable increase compared with 1979 when it was 25 and 5% respectively. The church attendance in the location is relatively high: 19% of the population of five years and older; only three locations in West Pokot have a higher figure. The missionary success is a recent one: the two missions only operate in the area since 1972.
5. MAIN DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

Agricultural production in Sook-location can be extended a lot. In the lower part of agro-climatic zone IV and in zone V (see map 3, page 7), ranching is possible; management should be well organized though, to prevent overgrazing and consequently erosion, and to restore already overgrazed areas. Especially in zones III and the upper part of zone IV, the land can be used more intensively. Use of hybrid seeds, to the agro-climatic conditions adapted cultivars, fertilizers and better tools would increase the production, while the still existing natural vegetation can be preserved at many places. Agroclimatic conditions in these zones are favourable for cultivation of types of maize, beans, sunflower and in the dryer parts sorghum, finger millet and sweet potatoes. The crops need a well drained, fertile soil and can grow up till 2100/2400 m. Above this altitude the low temperature in the night becomes a too limiting factor. Sorghum has the ability to give satisfactory yields on soils that have been exhausted by previous cropping. Cultivation can be combined with ranching: wool sheep and dairy-cattle can be kept in the higher parts of zone III. In zone II (or above approximately 2400 m) the agro-climatic conditions are more favourable to crops like potatoes (also called Irish, English, European or Solanum potatoes), barley, wheat and pyrethrum. In all cases the soils must be fertile and well drained, while fertilizers are recommended. In these colder and wetter areas dairying and wool sheep are better than ranching. One should take care not to cut down the natural forests; they are important to keep the hydrological situation in equilibrium. The tree-roots keep the soil wet and the structure of the soil good, so that the rivers also receive water from this area in the dry season.

Before the potential of this area can be used, it is necessary to open up the location with better and more roads. Especially the road to Tamough-Chepnyal-Ptoyoy should be improved and new roads should be made to the high potential areas of the location.

From the interviews we found that the most important/necessary improvements according to the people are:
1. Better roads
2. Better water facilities, both for people and animals
3. A dip

In the lower plains the security problem and the lack of animal drugs is mentioned quite often.