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REPUBLIC OF KENYA
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development

Stakeholder Roundtable on Rangelands, Sustainable Livestock and Drought Resilience in Kenya

High-Level Outcome Brief

On the occasion of the observance of the 2026
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

12 June 2026





Overview

The Stakeholders Roundtable on Rangelands, Sustainable Livestock and Drought Resilience, Co-hosted by GIZ, together with Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, State Department for Livestock Development, brought together policymakers, practitioners, and development partners to discuss pathways for scaling solutions for sustainable rangelands and drought resilience.

Convened in the lead-up to the 2026 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought and as part of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, the dialogue highlighted the vital contribution of rangelands to food security, climate resilience, biodiversity, economic growth, and livelihoods.

It also reinforced efforts to elevate rangelands and pastoralism within the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification agenda, including the Rangeland Restoration Flagship, while contributing to the broader build-up to COP17 in Mongolia.

> Kenya's rangelands cover approximately 70–80% of the country's land area and support millions of pastoralists through livestock production, ecosystem services, tourism, and climate resilience. Rising demand for livestock products, recurrent droughts, and climate change reinforce the need for targeted investments in pastoral systems. Ongoing efforts include strengthening land tenure security and restoring 13.5 million hectares of degraded rangelands under the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.
>
> **Dr. Allan Azegele**
> *Director of Veterinary Services, State Department for Livestock Development*

> Rangelands play a critical role in biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, drought resilience, and rural livelihoods. Germany's investments of more than €215 million in Kenya's agrifood transformation and resilience programmes reflect the importance of sustainable and inclusive rangeland management. Community-led initiatives in Turkana and West Pokot demonstrate the value of locally driven restoration and resilience-building efforts.
>
> **Ms. Maren Kneller**
> *Head of Development Cooperation, German Embassy Kenya*



Call to Action

Deliberations highlighted the following priority actions for unlocking the economic, social, and environmental potential of rangelands and livestock systems:

Call to Action 1



Strengthen Rangeland Governance, Restoration and Land Security

- Scale community-led rangeland restoration and sustainable grazing management.
- Accelerate community land registration and participatory land-use planning.
- Strengthen inclusive local governance institutions for natural resource management.

Community land constitutes approximately 70% of Kenya's land mass, making secure land tenure fundamental to sustainable rangeland management. Accelerated implementation of the Community Land Act and community land registration processes can strengthen investment, reduce conflict, and improve stewardship of natural resources.

Mr. Ben Opaa
Director, Natural Resources and Environment, National Land Commission

Secure community land rights provide a strong foundation for sustainable land management, restoration, and resilience. Accelerating community land registration, strengthening governance systems, and supporting community-led land-use planning can improve resource stewardship and unlock long-term investment opportunities.

Mr. Washe Kazungu
Country Project Manager (Land Governance), TMG Research

Sustainable rangeland management depends on strong policy frameworks, secure land tenure, and empowered communities. Experiences from Turkana and West Pokot demonstrate the value of community ownership, rangeland management committees, traditional governance systems, and innovations in pasture restoration, forage production, and livestock management.

Ms. Petra Jacobi
Programme Director, Agriculture and Rural Development, GIZ Kenya

Land degradation presents environmental, economic, and social challenges that require integrated solutions. Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plan, and Land Degradation Neutrality targets place ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management, climate-smart agriculture, and drought resilience at the centre of national action.

Mr. Wilson Busienei
Senior Environment Research Officer, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

Call to Action 2



Build Climate-Resilient Livestock Production and Mobility Systems

- Protect and operationalize livestock mobility corridors and strengthen cross-border cooperation.
- Invest in water infrastructure, animal health services, climate-resilient feed and forage systems, and digital tools that support pastoral mobility.
- Promote indigenous breeds, pasture restoration, feed conservation, and community-based fodder reserves to enhance productivity and resilience.

"Pastoral and livestock systems represent a major economic opportunity for Africa's future growth. Feed shortages remain the greatest constraint to productivity and resilience, making investments in drought-tolerant forage, pasture improvement, and feed systems essential to meeting future demand for animal-source foods.

Dr. Tom Osebe
Senior Officer, Livestock and Economic Opportunity – Africa, Gates Foundation

The operationalization of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol is advancing regional cooperation on pastoral mobility through corridor mapping, policy harmonization, and cross-border collaboration. Investments in mobility corridors, natural resource management, trade systems, and conflict management are critical to strengthening resilience across dryland regions.

Dr. Guyo Malicha Roba
Head of Drylands Development Unit, IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD)

Mapping and digitization of livestock migratory corridors, undertaken in collaboration with IGAD, are helping strengthen pastoral mobility and resilience. Complementary investments in water, feed resources, animal health services, livestock insurance, and community-led restoration are supporting efforts to build more sustainable pastoral systems.

Mr. Blaise Okinyi Akite
Assistant Director of Livestock Production, State Department for Livestock Development

Sustainable pastoral development requires greater recognition of community knowledge, traditional institutions, and pastoral cultures. Climate-resilient livestock such as camels are becoming increasingly important adaptation assets, while women and youth continue to play a central role in livestock marketing, entrepreneurship, and value addition.

Mr. Khalif Abey
Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Camel Association"

Call to Action 3



Expand Risk Management, Finance and Resilience Mechanisms

- Scale livestock insurance and innovative resilience financing solutions.
- Strengthen early warning systems, climate information services, and anticipatory action mechanisms.
- Improve access to finance for pastoralists, producer organizations, women, youth, and SMEs.

> Kenya's ASALs cover nearly 80% of the country's land area, while rangelands account for approximately 50% of the world's land surface, underscoring their importance to food security, livelihoods, and climate resilience. Pastoral systems support more than 250 million people across Africa and contribute over 75% of the continent's milk production and more than 50% of its meat production. Strengthening resilience through participatory rangeland management, anticipatory action, livestock insurance, and climate-resilient feed systems remains a priority.
>
> **Dr. Siboniso (Boni) Moyo**
> *Deputy Director General – Research, Partnerships and Impact, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)*

> Equity Group aims to increase agriculture and food sector financing from 10.5% to 30% of its portfolio by 2030. Connecting producers, processors, traders, and markets through a systems-based approach can unlock opportunities across livestock value chains, while financing, entrepreneurship, and climate adaptation support long-term sector growth.
>
> **Mr. Brent Malahay**
> *Director of Strategy, Equity Group*











Call to Action 4



Unlock Inclusive Market and Value Chain Opportunities

- Invest in livestock value addition, processing, leather value chains, livestock markets, and market infrastructure.
- Strengthen aggregation, cold-chain systems, regional trade, and market access opportunities.
- Increase women's and youth participation through entrepreneurship, innovation, skills development, and access to finance.

"Livestock transformation remains central to Africa's development agenda through the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) and the Integrated Livestock Value Chain Transformation Programme. Priority areas include feed systems, animal health, indigenous livestock genetics, climate finance, livestock markets, and regional trade. Strong partnerships and coordinated action are essential to accelerate sustainable livestock development across the continent.

Dr. Huyam Ahmed Mohammed Elamin Salih
Director, African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)

Growing demand for animal protein presents significant opportunities for the livestock sector, provided productivity and efficiency continue to improve. Investments in feed systems, value addition, meat processing, and leather production can strengthen competitiveness, create jobs, and expand market opportunities.

Ms. Felisters Gitau
Chief Executive Officer, Farmers Choice"











Key Messages

The following key messages emerged as central to advancing resilience, productivity, and sustainable development in Kenya's rangelands and pastoral economies:

Sustainable rangeland restoration and management strengthen climate, biodiversity and land resilience

- Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands cover approximately 70–80% of the country's land area, highlighting the strategic importance of sustainable rangeland management.
- Participatory rangeland management is delivering results at scale, with more than 2 million hectares under management across East Africa.
- Secure community land tenure and strengthened governance systems are essential for sustainable resource management, investment, and resilience.

Climate-resilient livestock production ensures responsible land and water management

- Pastoral systems support more than 250 million people across Africa and contribute over 75% of Africa's milk production and more than 50% of its meat production.
- Feed shortages remain the greatest constraint to livestock productivity, making investments in forage, pasture restoration, and feed systems a top priority.
- Livestock mobility, improved water access, and climate-adapted breeds are critical for managing recurrent droughts and climate variability.

Scaling public and private investment drives climate finance impact

- Demand for animal-source foods in Sub-Saharan Africa is projected to nearly double by 2050, creating significant investment opportunities across livestock value chains.
- Strong public and private sector commitments are driving increased investment in resilient agrifood systems, with Germany investing more than €215 million in Kenya's agrifood transformation, while Equity Group targets increasing agriculture financing from 10.5% to 30% of its portfolio by 2030.
- Climate finance, livestock insurance, and anticipatory action mechanisms can help reduce risk, protect livelihoods, and unlock further investment.

One Health approaches improve animal health, disease control and trade

- Animal health, disease surveillance, and biosecurity are fundamental to livestock productivity, food safety, and regional trade.
- Strengthening transboundary disease control and antimicrobial resistance management is critical for expanding market access.
- Improved feed systems and more efficient livestock production can reduce emissions intensity while supporting sustainable sector growth.

Global Recognition of Rangelands Accelerates Restoration and Resilience

- The growing recognition of livestock and rangelands within the UNCCD process since COP16 in 2024 reflects an important shift in global attention toward dryland ecosystems and pastoral systems.
- The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, and UNCCD COP17 offer a unique opportunity to elevate rangelands and pastoralists on the global agenda.
- Moreover, the UNCCD Rangeland Restoration Flagship offers an opportunity to accelerate investment and action for restoration and resilience.







Conclusion

Healthy rangelands are the foundation of resilient livestock systems, thriving pastoral communities, and sustainable economic growth. Policy frameworks, technical solutions, indigenous knowledge, and partnership platforms needed to transform rangelands and livestock systems already exist.

The dialogue further reinforced the growing recognition of rangelands and pastoral systems within global sustainable development, climate, and land restoration agendas. As Kenya hosts the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026, the event provides an important opportunity to elevate rangelands and pastoralists within the UNCCD agenda, including the Rangeland Restoration Flagship, while contributing to the broader momentum toward UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia.

Building on the commitments, evidence, and partnerships highlighted during the Roundtable, there is a clear opportunity to mobilize greater political support, investment, and coordinated action to ensure that rangelands and pastoral communities are recognized as central to achieving climate resilience, food security, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development objectives at national, regional, and global levels.



Learn more about the global project, **Catalyzing Transformation Towards Sustainable Livestock Systems (LiveSys),** by scanning the QR code to access the project website.

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