Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

LiveSys
Catalysing Transformation towards Sustainable Livestock Systems

AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

ILRI
INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE

CGIAR

LiveSys Sustainable Livestock Engagement and Advocacy Strategy 2026



February 2026

Table of Contents



Page 3
Background



Page 5
Priority Sustainable Livestock Issues for Engagement and Advocacy

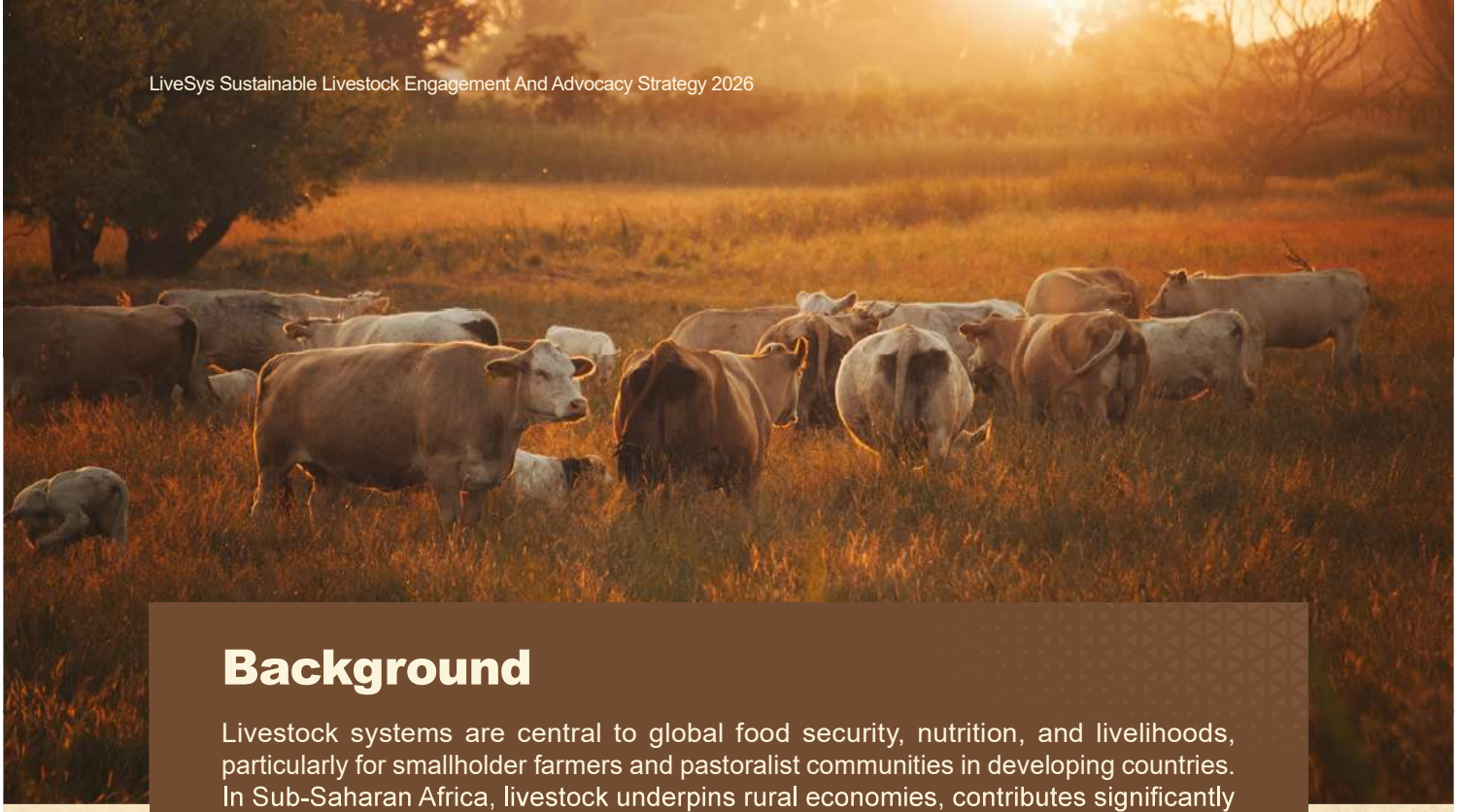
Page 6
Shared Calls to Action for Collective Advocacy and Engagement



Page 7
Key Engagement Moments and Platforms in 2026

Page 10
Stakeholders for Engagement

Page 17
Engagement and Advocacy Pack



Background

Livestock systems are central to global food security, nutrition, and livelihoods, particularly for smallholder farmers and pastoralist communities in developing countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa, livestock underpins rural economies, contributes significantly to agricultural GDP, and provides income, nutrition, and resilience, especially for women and increasingly for youth. Globally, rangelands cover more than half of the Earth's land surface and support over two billion people, placing livestock systems at the heart of some of the world's most climate- and biodiversity-sensitive landscapes.

At the same time, the livestock sector faces growing scrutiny regarding its environmental footprint and is increasingly exposed to climate change, disease outbreaks, land degradation, market volatility, and growing pressure on natural resources.

Despite notable progress in livestock productivity, resilience, and sustainability, current approaches remain fragmented and insufficient to match the scale and urgency of the challenges. A more systemic transformation is needed towards livestock systems that are climate-resilient, resource-efficient, biodiversity-positive, economically viable, and socially inclusive.

Achieving this transformation requires stronger coordination across policy, development, research, finance, and public engagement platforms. Governments, research institutions, civil society, the private sector, pastoralist organizations, and global thought leaders all have a role to play. Within the livestock community itself, stronger alignment is needed to ensure that outreach efforts are strategic, complementary, and mutually reinforcing.

Through its ***Catalyzing Transformation towards Sustainable Livestock Systems (LiveSys)*** initiative, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is supporting efforts to strengthen coherence, coordination, and collective influence across livestock engagement platforms.

To support this coordination, a workshop with key LiveSys partners was organized resulting in this Sustainable Livestock Engagement and Advocacy Strategy. The strategy will position sustainable livestock systems as a credible, evidence-based, and investable solution for advancing climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and inclusive livelihoods.



The partners present at the workshop were aligned around

- Four priority issues for coordinated advocacy on sustainable livestock in 2026
- Strategic engagement moments across the year for intentional, coordinated outreach
- A curated set of priority stakeholders with defined engagement objectives and differentiated engagement approaches
- A set of shared calls to action that will underpin advocacy asks and guide collective engagement across platforms.





Guided by this strategy, coordinated engagement efforts aim to deliver the following outcomes by the end of 2026

- Greater visibility of livestock within global and continental climate, biodiversity, and land discussions
- Stronger integration of sustainable livestock within African Union and regional development agendas
- Improved policy recognition of livestock within national climate and development strategies
- Increased public and private investment flows into sustainable livestock systems
- Stronger, more bankable livestock investment pipelines
- Enhanced recognition of livestock's contribution to youth employment and inclusive growth

Priority Sustainable Livestock Issues for Engagement and Advocacy

Public and private investment, climate finance, and supportive policy frameworks are essential to scale sustainable livestock systems. In line with the LiveSys objectives, the strategy identifies the following issues as priorities for focused and coordinated engagement and advocacy in 2026



1. Sustainable Rangeland Restoration and Management

Aligned with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) and the UNCCD Flagship Initiative on Rangeland Restoration, this priority recognises rangelands as productive socio-ecological systems that sustain biodiversity, regulate water, regenerate soils, and support pastoral economies.

Key focus areas will include gender and inclusion, stability and security in fragile areas, mobility and land issues, soil carbon and mitigation co-benefits, invasive species management, feed and fodder systems, and pastoral and red meat value chains.

2. Climate-Resilient Livestock Systems for Sustainable Land and Water Management

Advancing integrated and climate-resilient livestock systems that enhance productivity, optimise resource use, strengthen risk management, and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks, while contributing to climate adaptation and mitigation, improving sustainable management of land and water resources and maintaining environmental integrity.

3. Scaling public and private investment, and climate finance

Mobilizing and aligning public and private climate finance is essential to scale sustainable livestock systems and accelerate transformation across the sector. Increased investment can unlock opportunities for climate adaptation and mitigation, strengthen resilience in vulnerable landscapes, and support inclusive value chains that benefit smallholders, women, and youth.

4. One Health for Methane Mitigation for Transboundary Disease Control and Trade

Strengthening integrated One Health approaches to animal health that improve surveillance, enhance prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases, and support safe, resilient, and inclusive trade, while also contributing to methane reduction through improved animal health and productivity.



Shared Calls to Action for Collective Advocacy and Engagement

Across all priority issues, the following calls to action will guide collective engagement and advocacy efforts, underpin shared advocacy asks, and align outreach across key policy, development, and public platforms-while allowing flexibility for organizational nuance.

Sustainable Rangeland Restoration and Management

- Recognise rangelands as critical socio-ecological land-use systems within the climate–biodiversity–land nexus, including soil carbon, invasive species management, and pastoral and red meat value chains.
- Strengthen policy, legal, and institutional frameworks for inclusive and sustainable rangeland governance.
- Scale the implementation of sustainable rangeland management practices to restore degraded lands, enhance feed and fodder systems, and improve productivity and livelihoods.

Scaling public and private investment, and climate finance

- Scale access to risk management tools, including index-based livestock insurance, through increased public support to make premiums affordable and greater engagement of insurance providers in livestock systems.
- Increase the share of climate finance allocated to livestock systems by strengthening access to multilateral funding mechanisms and demonstrating clear adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.
- Enable inclusive access to finance for smallholder livestock keepers, including women and youth, to support investment in sustainable and climate-resilient livestock systems.

Climate-Resilient Livestock Systems for Sustainable Land and Water Management

- Scale climate-smart and sustainable livestock development approaches to increase productivity, resilience, and resource efficiency.
- Improve animal health and management practices to reduce emissions intensity and strengthen climate resilience.
- Strengthen inclusive value chains and market access for livestock producers, enhancing livelihoods while promoting sustainable land and water stewardship.

One Health for Methane Mitigation for Transboundary Disease Control and Trade

- Develop and implement common principles for animal identification and traceability to support animal health, food safety, trade, and methane mitigation efforts.
- Strengthen regional and national efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate trade-sensitive and transboundary animal diseases.
- Integrate animal health interventions into national climate strategies, including actions to support the achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).



Key Engagement Moments and Platforms in 2026

Collective engagement will be focused on high-impact global, regional, and national moments throughout 2026. The strategy delineates these moments across two levels of engagement. Tier 1 that encompasses all events and moments for high-level engagement and active participation, and Tier 2 moments that offer opportunities for message amplification and communications.

Tier1 High-Level Engagement and Active Participation

These are priority moments for 2026 that call for high-level engagement and active participation. They represent key opportunities for collective visibility and influence, where coordinated action by partners can deliver the greatest impact.



Global Celebrations for Desertification and Drought Day

June 17 Kilifi, Kenya

Issue

- Sustainable rangeland restoration and management
- Climate-resilient livestock systems for sustainable land and water management

64th Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies

June 8 - 18 Bonn, Germany

Issue

- Climate-resilient livestock systems for sustainable land and water management
- Scaling public and private investment, and climate finance
- Sustainable rangeland restoration and management
- One health for methane mitigation for transboundary disease control and trade

UNCCD COP 17

August 17 - 28 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Issue

- Sustainable rangeland restoration and management
- Climate resilience
- Scaling public and private investment, and climate finance



Africa Food Systems Forum

September 1 - 4 Kigali, Rwanda

Issue

- Sustainable rangeland restoration and management
- Climate-resilient livestock systems for sustainable land and water management

Tier 2 Message Amplification and Communications

These moments will be leveraged to amplify messages and strengthen coordinated communications. Engagement in these key moments will ensure a consistent and strategic presence across key platforms, and support in broader advocacy efforts.



Global Landscapes Forum Africa 2026: Rangelands

May 6 - 7 Nairobi, Kenya

Issue

- Sustainable rangeland restoration and management
- Climate-resilient livestock systems for sustainable land and water management



CBD SBSTTA

July 27 - August 1 Nairobi, Kenya

Issue

- Sustainable rangeland restoration and management



One Health in Agrifood Systems Conference

September 23 - 24 Rome, Italy

Issue

- One health for methane mitigation for transboundary disease control and trade



22nd Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme Partnership Platform (CAADP PP)

October 22 TBC

Issue

- Climate-resilient livestock systems for sustainable land and water management



Global IYRP Event

October - November (TBC) Uruguay

Issue

- Climate-resilient livestock systems for sustainable land and water management

UNFCCC COP 31

November 9-20 Türkiye

Issue

- Climate-resilient livestock systems for sustainable land and water management



Stakeholders for Engagement

Achieving the objectives of this Strategy will require coordinated and differentiated engagement with a diverse set of institutional stakeholders that shape policy direction, investment decisions, technical standards, and public discourse on livestock, climate, biodiversity, and food systems.

Engagement will be prioritized based on stakeholders' level of influence and degree of alignment with sustainable livestock objectives. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening collaboration with strategic partners whose leadership, convening power, and resources can accelerate policy recognition, investment mobilization, and on-the-ground implementation. In some cases, sustained and proactive engagement will be required to deepen alignment and cultivate stakeholders as long-term allies for advancing sustainable livestock systems.

Tier One

Actively Engage

These stakeholders are strategic partners for joint advocacy, coordinated positioning, and investment mobilization. They have strong influence over policy, finance, and global or continental agendas, and share a high level of alignment with sustainable livestock objectives.

Engagement will focus on

- Joint advocacy and coordinated messaging
- Co-convening and shared leadership in high-level platforms
- Aligning investment, policy, and implementation efforts
- Amplifying collective influence across priority moments and platforms



FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
Who They Are / Mandate	Leads global efforts to end hunger and achieve food security.
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Sets global livestock standards and supports national policy development
Engagement Approach	Joint advocacy on rangelands, One Health, and sustainable livestock positioning; align technical evidence and policy messaging
Engagement Intent	Active engagement to maintain strategic alliance and global policy influence

UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
Who They Are / Mandate	UN convention focused on combating desertification, land degradation, and drought
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Central to global and national efforts on rangeland restoration, land health, and drought resilience, including the IYRP agenda
Engagement Approach	Position livestock within land restoration and rangeland initiatives; align advocacy with UNCCD processes and COP outcomes
Engagement Intent	Strategic global policy platform and advocacy ally

World Bank	
Who They Are / Mandate	Major multilateral development finance institution
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Shapes national investment priorities and finances large-scale agriculture and resilience programmes
Engagement Approach	Position livestock within climate adaptation and food systems investment portfolios; develop bankable livestock pipelines
Engagement Intent	Active engagement to scale investment flows

IFAD	
Who They Are / Mandate	UN financial institution focused on transforming agriculture, rural economies and food systems
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Strong mandate to advance pastoralist livelihoods, strengthen climate resilience and promote inclusive rural development
Engagement Approach	Integrate livestock into livelihood, youth employment, and resilience programmes
Engagement Intent	Strategic engagement partner



AUC	African Union Commission
Who They Are / Mandate	Continental policy and political coordination body
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Drives Africa-wide agricultural and climate agendas
Engagement Approach	Embed livestock within AU frameworks, CAADP implementation, and continental priorities
Engagement Intent	Critical political ally

IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
Who They Are / Mandate	Regional development organization for the Horn of Africa
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Leads pastoralism, mobility, and regional livestock trade initiatives
Engagement Approach	Strengthen regional One Health coordination and pastoral systems governance
Engagement Intent	Regional policy champion

National Ministries of Agriculture & Livestock	
Who They Are / Mandate	National policy and regulatory authorities
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Responsible for livestock policy development, implementation and investment decisions
Engagement Approach	Support integration of livestock into NDCs, national development plans, and investment strategies
Engagement Intent	Primary implementation partners

AFDB	African Development Bank
Who They Are / Mandate	Africa's leading development finance institution
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Mobilizes large-scale agricultural transformation financing
Engagement Approach	Align livestock with climate resilience and agricultural investment programmes
Engagement Intent	Investment mobilization partner



Gates Foundation	
Who They Are / Mandate	Global philanthropic investor in agriculture and development innovation
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Major supporter of livestock productivity and animal health innovation
Engagement Approach	Align innovation investments with sustainable livestock transformation priorities
Engagement Intent	Innovation and scaling ally

Tier Two

Targeted Outreach for Stronger Engagement

These stakeholders hold significant influence over policy, financing, standards, or public narratives, but alignment with sustainable livestock priorities may be partial, evolving, or inconsistent.

Engagement will focus on

- Strategic outreach to maintain institutional support and openness
- Targeted engagement to strengthen understanding of sustainable livestock contributions
- Demonstrating alignment with broader climate, biodiversity, trade, and development objectives
- Progressively shifting these stakeholders toward stronger advocacy and partnership roles



The objective is to reduce misalignment and transition priority Tier 2 stakeholders into stronger allies over time.

UNEP, AMCEN and UNEA	
Who They Are / Mandate	Global environmental governance body
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Influences biodiversity and land narratives
Engagement Approach	Position livestock within nature-based solutions and restoration agendas
Engagement Intent	Move toward stronger alignment

UNFCCC Negotiators	
Who They Are / Mandate	National representatives shaping climate policy
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Determine climate recognition and finance eligibility
Engagement Approach	Promote livestock inclusion in adaptation and NDC implementation
Engagement Intent	Increase policy recognition

GEF, GCF, Adaptation Fund, and Loss and Damage Fund	
Who They Are/Mandate	Global climate finance mechanisms
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Control access to climate finance
Engagement Approach	Develop livestock-aligned investment proposals
Engagement Intent	Reposition livestock for climate finance eligibility

Media	
Who They Are/Mandate	Public narrative and awareness actors
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Influences perception of livestock systems
Engagement Approach	Provide evidence-based storytelling and expert engagement
Engagement Intent	Shift public narrative



Tier Three

Recruit to Help

These stakeholders play a critical role in implementation, innovation, evidence generation, and field-level delivery, particularly at national and sub-national levels. While their formal influence may be lower, their technical expertise and operational credibility are essential to advancing sustainable livestock outcomes.

Engagement will focus on

- Leveraging technical, operational, and contextual expertise
- Supporting greater visibility and participation in policy and advocacy processes
- Connecting implementation experience to high-level policy and investment discussions
- Building capacity and pathways to elevate influence over time



The strategy will seek to progressively elevate Tier 3 stakeholders into stronger advocacy allies and strategic contributors to regional and global livestock agendas.

SNV	
Who They Are/Mandate	Development NGO focused on market systems
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Field implementation and private- sector engagement
Engagement Approach	Scale demonstration models
Engagement Intent	Elevate as advocacy ally

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	
Who They Are/Mandate	Global conservation authority
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Biodiversity expertise
Engagement Approach	Align conservation and livestock narratives
Engagement Intent	Strengthen ecosystem positioning

Heifer International	
Who They Are/Mandate	Livestock development NGO
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Community-based livestock programmes
Engagement Approach	Showcase scalable livelihood models
Engagement Intent	Implementation partner

AfCAP	African Climate Action Partnership
Who They Are/Mandate	Regional partnership supporting climate action, resilience building, and sustainable development initiatives
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Advance climate adaptation and resilience solutions across land, water, and livestock systems
Engagement Approach	Support integration of pastoral and livestock systems within climate resilience and adaptation initiatives
Engagement Intent	Strategic operational and collaboration partner

IWMI	The International Water Management Institute
Who They Are/Mandate	Water management research institute
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Water–land–livestock nexus expertise
Engagement Approach	Integrate water stewardship into livestock advocacy
Engagement Intent	Systems partner

Universities & Research Institutions	
Who They Are/Mandate	Academic and research bodies
Why They Matter for Sustainable Livestock	Innovation and data generation
Engagement Approach	Strengthen science-policy interface
Engagement Intent	Knowledge partners



Engagement and Advocacy Pack

To support effective and coordinated implementation of this Strategy, an Engagement and Advocacy Pack will be developed to provide partners with practical resources and guidance for aligned advocacy and outreach throughout 2026.

The pack will strengthen collective visibility, reinforce shared positioning, and enhance the overall impact of sustainable livestock engagement and advocacy across key platforms and moments. It will also include key messages to ensure consistent framing of issues and aligned calls to action across partners, alongside a social media pack with ready-to-use posts and visuals to support coordinated amplification and increased visibility of priority issues.



Conclusion

Advancing the sustainable livestock agenda will require continued collaboration, shared ownership, and coordinated action among partners. We are grateful to the key actors who contributed to the development of this Strategy for their valuable expertise, insights, and commitment.

Through the LiveSys project, these partners will continue to convene to identify opportunities for joint action, align efforts, and strengthen engagement across policy, investment, and public platforms. Their continued collaboration and leadership will be essential to strengthening collective advocacy and accelerating progress toward more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive livestock systems throughout 2026 and beyond.