



Lukenya Pastoralist Declaration

We, Pastoralist Organizations from Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, met at the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub Regional Meeting for Eastern and Southern Africa, in Lukenya (Kenya) on 21-22 January 2016, to discuss pastoralist challenges and opportunities;

Eastern and Southern African Pastoralists face unprecedented threats to their livelihoods. This situation results from a lack of recognition and respect of their livelihoods that has greatly impacted their ways of living that has survived for millennia.

It is therefore paramount that policy makers listen to the voices of the pastoralist communities to better understand their livelihoods and way of life so as to design policies, provide services and address their needs in order to reverse the present threats. Failure to do so will endanger not only pastoralists but the whole society since the environmental, economic, social and cultural services they have provided for centuries will disappear.

We, pastoralists, civil society, women groups and parliamentary forum from Eastern and Southern Africa, came together to identify the threats faced by pastoralists and make recommendations;

The threats to pastoralists livelihoods include, and not limited to: i) lack of recognition of communal land rights, access, management and use, ii) conception that pastoralist land is no man's land; iii) climate change impact (e.g. droughts, floods and climate variability), iv) rapid demographic growth and increased demand for resources, v) invisibility of pastoralists in the national statistics that impairs equitable allocation of resources, vi) encroachment of pastoralist land, vii) proliferation of conflicts and violence, viii) limited representation of pastoralists in key decision making fora.

Despite this lack of recognition and policy support, development practitioners are increasingly improving their understanding of the different socioeconomic, environmental and cultural benefits that pastoralism provides. Pastoralists should be regarded as fundamental providers of ecosystem services and social wellbeing by International Organizations such as UNFAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, EU, IUCN, IFAD, AU, IGAD, EAC, etc.

Pastoralism preserves biodiversity while providing sustainable sources of livelihoods to pastoralist people. It produces a very high portion of food of animal origin, thereby making a key contribution to local food security and sovereignty. Pastoralist food and non-food products (e.g. fiber, skin, hide, leather) contribute significantly to export and national GDPs.





Pastoralism has been fundamental in the history, culture and identity of its people, who are the custodians of land, indigenous animal breeds and plant varieties. All pastoralist communities in the region are strongly influenced by a way of living that is perfectly adapted to the arid and semi-arid lands making the most efficient use of the resource base and ensuring its sustainable management.

In order to sustain pastoralists way of life, their food systems and ecosystem services, they must: retain their access to land so that, through mobility, they can cope with climatic variability; be able to make decisions on the use and management of their natural resources; have efficient representation in policy and legal dialogue to take into account their needs.

These needs include, and are not limited to: i) access to production factors and service (including access to credit and financing, animal health) and social services (human health, water, education); ii) access to communications means and adapted ways of disseminating information iii) access to markets and improvement of value chains; iv) support in value addition through labelling and branding of pastoralists products; v) empowering of women and youth in pastoral households; vi) facilitating mobility of livestock and cross-border transhumance; vii) ensuring adequate and secure communal lands and migratory routes.

We, therefore, call upon society for a better recognition of pastoralists, and appeal the following:

To the National, Regional and Global Institutions:

- International organizations to promote dialogue and action with national governments so to formulate and/or enforce adequate policies for pastoralists.
- Pastoralist representatives should actively be involved in the discussion, formulation, approval and implementation of these policies.
- National and international policies and laws affecting pastoralists are aligned with the AU Policy Framework on Pastoralism in Africa and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of the Tenure of Land, Natural Resources and Fisheries;
- Recognize and respect of pastoralists’ customary laws and traditional ways of governance of tenure, in particular with respect to common property of land, water and pastures.
- Regional bodies consult with pastoralists when dealing with matters that affect their lives and their environment.
- The investors/funding agencies/Governments should adhere to the internationally recognized Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principle.
- National Governments to harmonize Conservancy Concept with pastoralists’ livelihoods sustainability.

To the United Nations:





- Pastoralist matters are taken into consideration in policy discussions in the UN, in particular in the CFS of FAO, CBD and UNEP.
- For FAO and IFAD commit to support the work of the Eastern and Southern Africa Pastoralists Network.
- For FAO to support the continuity of the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub.
- For UN agencies to coordinate their pastoralists interventions through the Hub.
- Conduct studies and research on the environmental services provided by pastoralists, and their contribution to global wellbeing.
- Pastoralist knowledge to be taken into account and widely disseminated.

To the civil Society organizations:

- The consideration of pastoralists as a constituency and the inclusion of their representatives in the different coordination structures and mechanisms.

This declaration is the expression of pastoralists’ needs, priorities and recommendations that should be urgently taken into account.

We appeal for pastoralists’ voices to be more and better listened worldwide.

We appeal that this declaration is taken as a message by policy makers and international organizations to take action in favor of pastoralists.

We appeal to other partners to join and coordinate their work within the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub.

Lukenya, Kenya, 22/01/2016

