

Report of the Kenya Pastoralists Week 2019 in Baringo, Kenya:

The Economy of Rangelands and Pastoralism





1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the outcomes of the Kenya Pastoralists Week (KPW) 2019 in Baringo Kenya. It focuses on and puts into context CELEP's targets and priorities in lobbying and advocacy for pastoralism in Eastern Africa. During this event, CELEP helped provide a platform of engagement for its members and partners by facilitating discussion on how to further increase the capacity of pastoralist civil society to influence policy processes at local, national, regional and global levels on an ongoing basis. This strong presence of CELEP revealed the relevance and synergy that exists within the coalition. It is important to strengthen pastoralist lobbying and advocacy efforts in view of the fast-changing policy context and increased pressure on pastoral land and other resources in the region. Even if the KPW is a national event, CELEP's involvement is relevant for influencing regional policies and frameworks, like in the case of the Ethiopia pastoralist event that took place last year, and helps place such events within a regional context.

Under the theme "*The Economy of Rangelands and Pastoralism*", this year's KPW was critical at local, national and global level. It was an opportunity to build the grassroots momentum in discussions around rangelands and pastoralism. Among other global events, a campaign was started in Nairobi in 2016 by several organisations and governments to have the United Nations (UN) declare an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). The combined International Grasslands and Rangelands Congress (IGC/IRC) will take place in Kenya in 2020. These initiatives, among others, called for engagement and participation of as many partners as possible in the KPW 2019 in Baringo.

2. CONTEXT

2.1. Background to the KPW

The KPW was conceived as an annual event that was meant to provide an open space for pastoralist communities in the country to engage and share with their leaders. It was started by the Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE) in 2003 together with other pastoralist advocacy organisations such as RECONCILE, networks such as the Pastoral Development Network of Kenya (PDNK) and donor institutions such as Cordaid, among others. The greater agenda was to serve as a means of raising awareness of issues affecting the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples (MIPs) who practise pastoralism. Over the years, KPW has grown to become a strategic avenue for various stakeholders to access pastoralist audiences and markets hitherto hard to reach.

CEMIRIDE was set up in 2001 to secure the rights and fundamental freedoms of MIPs in Kenya and to strengthen their capacities to advocate for and realise their economic, social, political and cultural rights. The KPW is well anchored within the objectives of CEMIRIDE. It used its unique position as the only Kenyan civil society organisation (CSO) whose work and mandate focuses specifically on research and advocacy on MIPs' rights at the national level to mobilise partners and other stakeholders in supporting and participating in this event over the years and thereby significantly shaping the pastoralism policy discourse.

Since the promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010, which effectively changed the governance structure from a power-centred system to a devolved system of governance, KPW took up a county-based approach by moving away from Nairobi to the counties. This also helped to reach out to the pastoralist community and to open up the areas for investment. The KPW was hosted by Turkana County in 2013, Narok County in 2014, Laikipia County in 2016 and Kajiado County in 2018.



The event in 2019 was held in Baringo County in partnership between CELEP and KPW network members on the one side and Baringo County on the other. The CELEP members Cordaid, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium (VSFB), SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and the CELEP partner Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE) jointly engaged in the planning through the representation of RECONCILE as the lead host organisation, contribution and participation from the International Land Coalition (ILC) Rangelands Initiative Africa and the technical facilitation of CELEP's Regional and European Focal Points.

Projects and partners included the Participatory Rangelands Management Project, the Centre For Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance (CEDGG, a local NGO that supported the pre-event radio talk shows), Lynof-Tech Ltd (a company that supported the printing, branding and publications of the visibility materials), the National Land Commission, CEMIRIDE and the Northern Voices, among a host of other organisations. The event was held on 18–20 December 2019.

2.2. Relevance and process

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM), CELEP members and partners discussed the CELEP agenda for 2019/20, clustered as events, publications, EU lobbying and advocacy, organisational development and projects. The theme of the KPW 2019 “The economy of rangelands and pastoralism” was deemed relevant for CELEP. For the first time, the members and partners defined the roadmap for the KPW by linking the theme to the CELEP action plan and creating a possible framework for in-country and regional engagements beyond the AGM. The KPW 2019 also provided CELEP members and partners an opportunity to reflect on planning and including the KPW event in the annual workplan for 2020.

3. KPW THEME: *The economy of rangelands and pastoralism*

The rangelands ecosystem presents a wide range of resources utilised by different rangelands users. However, rangelands remain underestimated in terms of the economics of production from the resource as well as the financial contribution to and growth of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Rangelands contribute more value than is generally acknowledged. The ecosystems in the rangelands provide a significant portion of the world's biodiversity and culturally diverse habitats and are of great ecological and economic importance. Despite their significance, rangeland resources continue to be degraded, especially in the arid and semi-arid areas of Africa and Asia.

In Kenya, for example, the estimated adoption rate of sustainable land management (SLM) practices in rangelands is alarmingly low (14.2%), even with the declining productivity of the ecosystems. Just as SLM is important in general land management, Sustainable Rangelands Management (SRM) is important in targeted management for sustainable use and protection of rangeland resources. In the past and present, programmes have been designed to achieve this at country and regional levels. However, deliberate policies and programmes by governments would make SLM and rangeland governance more sustainable and security of tenure achievable. Projects such as SRM and Participatory Rangelands Management (PRM) in Kenya and Tanzania, which have also been implemented elsewhere in Eastern Africa by RECONCILE, ILC and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) with support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and other development partners, may have pride in success. However, impact at scale would be realised only through government programmes. Such initiatives would ensure that the role of communities is significant and is



backed within policies and legal frameworks that provide for collaborative management with a view to protecting the rangelands.

METHODOLOGIES THAT HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISM

Sustainable Rangeland Management (SRM) is a subset of SLM and uses the same definitions, with “land” being substituted by “rangelands”. SRM is the use of rangeland resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term potential of ecosystem services¹.

Participatory Rangelands Management Planning (PRMP) is an iterative/cyclic process laid down in essential steps that are often customised based on the country and local contexts. The aim of PRMP is to facilitate the participatory planning of managing rangelands in a simplified and practical way by outlining easy-to-follow steps. It is guided by some of the principles of IUCN’s field guidelines: a) continuous dialogue in which relevant stakeholders express their desires and interests and reach consensus on future rangeland use and management that respect the values of all rangeland users; b) an inclusive process in which all relevant stakeholders are represented and engaged in the initial dialogues, preparation of maps, discussions and final agreement on the management actions; c) centred on valuable local knowledge that is mobilised to shape the planning processes.

A **County Spatial Plan (CSP)** is a holistic plan that establishes the vision for a county’s development and lays out a strategy for addressing emerging opportunities and challenges in the county. As the premier plan setting the development agenda of a county, it helps to protect and guide the development of land and natural resources and to align county financial and institutional resources to agreed policy objectives and programmes for the entire county. Movement between grazing areas, waterpoints and markets is a crucial aspect of the production system in pastoral areas and of strategies for realising the economic potential of rangelands. Various factors, however, have increasingly constrained mobility. Good land-use planning at different levels can help ensure that pastoral resources are protected and that their use is optimised for local and national economic gain. To support livestock production and pastoralism, counties where pastoralism is prominent will need to take particular steps in the county spatial planning process in order to reconcile land-use competition and conflicts, facilitate mobility, protect key resources, strategically guide investment opportunities towards livestock production and marketing, and improve rangeland management².

Grass reseeding depends on sufficient moisture as a critical ecological factor that contributes to successful reseeding so that established grass stands improve soil physical, hydrological and chemical properties. Grass mixtures give better cover compared to pure stands. Human factors as opposed to climatic factors are the most important contributors to land degradation.

These methodologies lead to greater understanding of the land degradation problem in the drylands and the grass-reseeding technology used in addressing the problem. Improvement in soil hydrological properties, increased infiltration, reduced runoff and sediment production, and percentage ground cover can be used to measure success in rehabilitation.

¹ Liniger HP & Mekdaschi Studer R. 2019. Sustainable rangelands management in sub-Saharan Africa: guidelines to good practice (www.wocat.net/library/media/174/)

² National Land Commission (NLC). 2019. County spatial planning in pastoral areas. Nairobi: NLC.

4. PROGRAMME

The KPW process included presentations in a public civic education format with technical presentations from different expert researchers and practitioners. The series of activities included community workshops, exhibitions and a goat auction. Below is an overview of the presentations on 19 December 2019.

Time	Activities	Responsibility
8:00–9:00am	Arrival and registration of participants	David Lusweti
9:00–9:30am	Welcoming of participants and guests: Official start of the programme CEMIRIDE RECONCILE CEDGG SNV KPW Chairperson Country Representative	
9:30–9:40am	KPW PRESENTATION	
9:40–10:10am	FAO Land Governance Programme	Chris Soweek
10:10–10:40am	Climate change implications to the pastoralist economy. Presentation here	Nyang'ori Ohenjo, CEMIRIDE
10:40–11:40am	Rangelands rehabilitation and management: a. <i>Piloting Participatory Rangelands Management in Kenya and Tanzania</i> b. <i>Grass seeding and reseeding; the case of Rehabilitation of Arid Environment (RAE) in Baringo</i>	Beatrice Kavati, RECONCILE Dr Murray Roberts, Rehabilitation of Arid Environments (RAE)
11:40–12:20pm	Livestock production systems in pastoral areas: Feasibility of organic certification of sheep and goats produced in pastoral systems in northern Kenya	Dr Wario Hussein, Center for Research and Development in Drylands
LUNCH BREAK		
2:00–2:30pm	Summary issues arising from morning session	Shadrack Omondi, RECONCILE
2:30–2:45pm	Arrival of HE Stanley Kiptis, Governor, Baringo County and his team	Governor Protocol Team
2:45–3:10pm	Financing Investments in Rangelands – the KCB case study	Bernard Barasa, KCB Foundation
3:10–3:40pm	A case for recognition of rangeland economy and pastoralism <i>Global, regional & national policy lobbying & advocacy: context and opportunities, including an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists</i> <i>Presentation of the CSP-Annex and Toolkits to HE Governor of Baringo County</i>	Ken Otieno, RECONCILE/ CELEP
3:40–4:10pm	County Departments: 1. Agriculture (Livestock) 2. Tourism 3. Culture	
4:10–4:40pm	Governor's speech and official closing of KPW 2019 followed by refreshments	

5. PRESENTATIONS

Rangelands rehabilitation and management

a. Piloting Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) in Kenya and Tanzania – Beatrice Kavati, RECONCILE

PRM is a project that was jointly conceived by CELEP and ILC in 2016 and approved by the European Commission in 2017. Implementation started in 2018. The project is part of the broader contribution to secure rangelands and pastoralism in Eastern Africa by CELEP through advocacy and by ILC through Commitment-Based Initiative (CBI) No. 3 on diverse tenure systems and is a flagship project under the ILC Rangelands Initiative Africa as an institutionalised approach to rangeland governance and management.

The PRM methodology was piloted in both Kenya and Tanzania by CELEP member Cordaid in joint processes with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Kenya building on experiences of Save the Children, FAO and ECHO in Ethiopia. The implementation was largely anchored with SOS Sahel Ethiopia under the USAID Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion (PRIME) project in collaboration with ILRI, Farm Africa and CARE, among others. It builds also on the Sustainable Rangelands Management Project (SRMP) in Tanzania, while seeking to strengthen the county spatial planning for mapping pastoral resources and rangelands in Kenya. Even with different actors in different countries and customisation of the process, the PRM steps have remained standard. The process enables interventions based on defined rangelands management and rehabilitation areas. The PRM process enables the establishment of community rangelands rehabilitation methodologies based on both traditional and legal frameworks.

The project contributes to the wellbeing of the rangelands through participatory natural resource management including resource planning, mapping, documenting and monitoring to ensure an equilibrium ecosystem. It is also an opportunity to maximise on the economy as steady and healthy rangelands generally enhance production.



PRM has a unique capability of promoting the general wellbeing of rangelands and the resources within it, thus promoting a steady ecology and economy. The objective is to improve the livelihood and nutrition status of pastoralist communities in East Africa by improving the management of rangelands. The piloting process entails identifying rangelands and communities, negotiations, plans, agreements, new roles, and monitoring and evaluation.

The major results expected are: security of land/customary rights; diverse livelihood options; improved pasture productivity; women's role in rangeland management promoted and improved; monitoring activities led by communities and increased; capacity building for communities in management of grazing land; healthy grazing land and improved livestock production; policy dialogue with government; food security improved through

increased income and food; and empowerment. As a result of implementing the SRMP, Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCRO) are issued. The project has benefited from support by the CELEP-trained project team, which developed a toolkit for lobbying and advocacy to strengthen policy influencing at local, national, regional and global level.

b. Grass seeding and reseeding; the case of Rehabilitation of Arid Environment (RAE) in Baringo – Dr Murray Roberts, RAE Ltd Executive Director

In Baringo, and other dryland areas, the effects of climate change and increasing populations of people and livestock have resulted in serious degradation of rangelands. As a result, traditional nomadic pastoralism has become untenable, with food insecurity, ethnic conflict and poverty commonplace.

RAE’s main objective is to facilitate the further restoration of degraded land into productive pasture. Leveraging on over 30 years of experience operating as a charitable organisation, RAE Ltd continues to expand its operations through the wider distribution and sale of its branded quality grass seed together with support and extension services to marginalised communities in remote dryland counties throughout Kenya’s arid and semi-arid areas.

The sustainable restoration of degraded rangelands has multiple benefits for people and the environment. Dryland farmers improve their livelihoods by generating income and harvesting goods from their restored fields such as dry-season grazing, fattening of cattle, leasing fields for grazing, seed harvesting, thatching grass and selling milk. Local environments and pasture are restored, with a potentially large impact on the global environment as indigenous savannah grasses sequester carbon in their roots.

RAE’s improvement of pasture has now become an important source of income and food security in Baringo and other dryland areas. Pastoralists produce quality livestock for market and are able to support their herds throughout dry seasons and droughts on their well-managed fodder fields. Additionally, conflict between ethnic groups has been reduced. With fodder available on their restored fields, dryland grass farmers no longer need to poach grazing from neighbouring areas. This is of particular importance in the lowlands of Baringo, where overall security due to ethnic conflict has plagued the area for many years.

Degraded rangelands have basic characteristics including reduced grass cover as a significant visible form of land degradation. Baringo has increased woodland vegetation, mainly *Prosopis juliflora* among other invasive species. Livestock numbers are also significant contributors to the current vegetation change. In Baringo, the potential for





successful range rehabilitation through reseeding in the area includes sufficient moisture, creation of micro-catchments, use of indigenous grass species, and communities defining such areas and also small farms to undertake reseeding for commercial use. RAE Trust has promoted this technology in Baringo. RAE has worked with the communities and reclaimed degraded semi-arid land and established sustainable income-generating opportunities on well-managed productive grass fields. The RAE programme is based on the active participation of pastoralist communities to meet local needs as defined by both men and women.

Outputs realised by RAE in Baringo:

- **Land rehabilitation:** RAE's successful rehabilitation techniques have transformed over 6600 acres into productive grasslands throughout Kenya's drylands, mostly in Baringo County, RAE's home base.
- **Quality grass seed:** RAE has six species of indigenous dryland grass seed in stock: seed processing, storage (for the required one year) and germination trials ensure that RAE seed is of the highest quality.
- **Seed regulations:** RAE is a registered seed merchant, with 'breeder maintainer' rights for *Cenchrus ciliaris, Baringo Var 1*, an indigenous, drought-resistant and nutritious grass variety bred on its fields.
- **Environmental benefits:** RAE fields, planted with grasses and trees, have increased biodiversity, carbon sequestration and hydrological flows, while decreasing soil erosion and invasive species (e.g. "*Mathenge*"; *Prosopis juliflora*) and mitigating climate change.
- **Social benefits:** RAE has established land and livestock management practices, enhanced food and area security, and improved livelihoods and opportunities for men, women and youth.
- **Income generation:** RAE outgrowers and community-based organisations earn up to KES 5 million a year from their well-managed grass fields, through activities such as selling fattened livestock, milk, hay and grass seed.

Impact: In addition to giving training and advice, RAE has carried out consultancies and sold grass seed (up to 10 t annually) to 18 semi-arid counties in Kenya, Somalia and Somaliland.

Livestock production systems in the pastoral areas

Feasibility of organic certification of sheep and goats produced in pastoral systems in northern Kenya – Dr Wario Hussein, Center for Research & Development in Drylands (CRDD)

This paper discussed the implications of the organic certification of small ruminants, recognising that – in pastoral systems of Kenya – sale of small ruminants is the main regular income source of the majority of households. Although small ruminants produced in Marsabit County are renowned for their taste, there are no mechanisms for a price differentiation based on the quality. This undermines the economy of the pastoralists, as they do not always get value for money and, because of price fluctuations in the markets, the prices offered cannot match their expectations. An option proposed to improve the marketing of small stock is to explore value chain development for branded sheep and goat meat. The research particularly explored the feasibility of organic certification in the pastoral production set-up. This, if established, would enable the pastoralists to profit from the high process and product quality of their production.

The study concludes that, apart from the structural market-oriented and policy challenges, results show that pastoralists' production is in large parts compatible with organic certification systems. For instance, their animals are fed on naturally growing fodder with no chemicals applied and are allowed free movement and animals' natural behaviour. However, a number of challenges hamper organic certification.

- The practice of ear notching and castration without anaesthesia, supplementary feeding of home-based animals with non-organic feeds during drought, unguided application and lack of records of veterinary drug use, challenges in record keeping and traceability system and financial difficulties to undertake internal control and monitoring on account of the extensive nature of the production area.
- The market for organic meat in Kenya is also yet to be explored – there is uncertainty with regard to demand.

Further recommendations include:

- Improvement of veterinary infrastructure, innovative record-keeping systems for illiterate producers, and further market studies to ascertain demand.
- While organic certification is desirable, labelling for designation of origin is a feasible starting point that would allow entry into higher-priced markets while hurdles to organic certification are being addressed.

In summary, the economy of pastoralists and rangelands is hinged on two fundamental concepts: technology and value addition. The discussions around market access and infrastructure have been ongoing, but it is critical to take advantage of technology to promote the economic opportunities available within the pastoral livelihoods systems.

A case for recognition of rangeland economy and pastoralism

Global, regional & national policy lobbying & advocacy: context and opportunities, including an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists – Ken Otieno, RECONCILE/ CELEP



Ken Otieno represented CELEP and gave a presentation of the international and global connections to policymaking that connect the KPW to other policy processes. The African Union (AU) pastoral policy framework, for instance, is a continent-wide initiative aimed at securing, protecting and improving the lives, livelihoods and rights of African pastoralists. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) policy framework, on the other hand, is very unique because of its conceptual framework, which permits addressing overlapping issues

critical to supporting pastoralists' livelihoods – food security, pastoralism as a production system, and vulnerability.

The underlying objective of the AU policy framework is to provide the basis for pastoral policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The key elements in applying the framework include initiation of country-level pastoral policy development processes, which start with the establishment of a national steering committee and a national interdisciplinary support team of experts. The AU policy framework is shaped around two main areas: a) addressing generic policy constraints that arise from misconceptions and misunderstandings of pastoralism as a production system and way of life, and b) livestock production as a core economic activity in pastoralist areas and approaches to protect and develop livestock assets.

Important in the discourse around the economy of rangelands and pastoralism are the priority issues within the COMESA policy framework specific to the vulnerable and food-insecure pastoralist populations in the COMESA region and designed to achieve Pillar III of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of increasing food supply, reducing hunger and improving responses to food emergency crises.



The policy indicates that reducing vulnerability and ensuring food security amongst pastoralist communities requires adequate provision of at least three basic services:

- Human health services to improve human capital
- Education services to improve human and financial capital
- Veterinary services to protect livestock assets and financial capital.

On the International level, CELEP is a coalition of several international organisations, networks and governments that is part of a still broader coalition that seeks to have a UN-designated International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). This was initially hoped to be in the year 2020, but the dynamics in the process of designating International Years after the idea of an IYRP was presented at the Second UN Environment Assembly in 2016 in Nairobi has meant that the UN may consider an IYRP in 2026 at the earliest. The focus of the process by the different actors was informed by the economic importance of rangelands and pastoralism throughout the world. Once approved by the UN General Assembly, the profiles of rangelands and pastoralism will be raised and a platform to highlight the need to improve pastoral production systems while safeguarding the environment will be well recognised.

Key in celebrating the IYRP shall be that pastoralists are both livestock herders and environmental stewards and that sustainable pastoralism, centred on organised herd movements, contributes to food and water security. The practice of sustainable pastoralism ensures resilient livelihoods and national economies, and provides environmental services



including carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and protection of land and ecosystems. The demand for livestock products is growing globally, but efforts to promote sustainable investment in rangelands are limited and the livestock sector is increasingly regarded as an environmental threat.

Experiences from various countries have been provided with the intention to push for a transformation towards sustainable pastoralism. Examples include Norway's experience with reindeer husbandry, pastoralist women's participation in Chad, policy changes in Mongolia and various examples from Africa's Sahel region.

Policymakers and institutions have been called upon to draw attention to traditional know-how, to facilitate access to pastoralist rights – especially regarding land tenure, and to create institutional arrangements that enhance herd mobility. Momentum at the grassroots for better use and management and protection of rangelands and pastoralism requires fora such as the KPW.

6. GENERAL CONCLUSION OF THE KPW

The challenges that pastoralism and pastoralist communities in Eastern Africa continue to face are to a very great extent a result of policy failure by successive governments in the region – failure not only to enhance pastoral development but also to deal with the consequences of failed policy prescriptions, which led to many pastoralists falling into deeper destitution and vulnerability. Policy gaps and concerns can most of the time be addressed by policymakers. KPW presents an opportunity for reflection by community members, academicians, political leaders and development partners. CELEP for its part uses such spaces to highlight existing opportunities and gaps and steps for lobbying and advocacy on the issues at national level through CELEP members and partners and also at regional and global level to influence the debates on pastoral policy and rangeland governance.

This report was written by Ken Otieno, RECONCILE, CELEP Regional Focal Point Eastern Africa & Technical Coordinator Rangelands Initiative Africa; and Koen Van Troos, VSF-Belgium, CELEP European Focal Point & Policy and Education Manager



Annex

STATEMENT BY CELEP MEMBERS AND PARTNERS for the Kenya Pastoralists' Week 2019

Putting a case for recognition of rangeland economy and pastoralism

The [Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism \(CELEP\)](#) believes that the health and wellbeing of rangelands and the resources therein is the foundational framework for pastoralism and is essential for sustainable long-term economic, social and environmental development of Eastern Africa's drylands. A big threat to pastoralism is the growing interest of investors in rangelands, leading to land-use change through expansion of large-scale cultivation and other projects such as tourism and oil and gas exploitation. Therefore, CELEP recognises the need to help pastoralists protect their strategic grazing areas and push for development and implementation of a legal framework to secure their rights to rangeland resources. CELEP contends that it is possible to invest in rangelands but through a participatory process that allows the resource users the opportunity to co-define the investment scope.

Pastoralism in a changing landscape

Pastoralism is the most sustainable livelihood in the rangelands, which make up more than a third of the world's total land area but face several governance challenges. Rangelands present a paradox for the conservation ethic; most rangelands are not 'natural' and very often prove to be recent formations³. They are largely anthropic creations and this is particularly true where the dominant livelihood strategy is pastoralism. The main inhabitants of anthropic rangelands are pastoralists, hunter-gatherers and increasingly subsistence crop farmers depending on uncertain rainfed crops or irrigating semi-arid land from non-rechargeable water sources. These emerging land-management systems with a bias toward crop production are not making things any better for both pastoralists and rangeland resources.

This is one of the many land-use changes in dryland areas that are jeopardising pastoral production systems and ignoring the economic, social and environmental values of pastoralism. Changes in land use, loss of access to land and fragmentation of the rangelands have increased dramatically in recent years on account of both 'external' and 'internal' influences. These include inadequate recognition of land- and resource-ownership rights, poor land-use planning and privatisation processes. The competition from large-scale rangeland acquisition for investment has drastically changed the traditional land use by pastoralists and hunter-gatherers. The comparative advantage that rangelands and local peoples have is increasingly being compromised by their loss of rights of access to resources, which affects the users, their livelihoods and rangeland health. These complex changes in land use must be analysed before any policy framework is developed for the governance and management of rangelands.

A progressive policy and legal framework for an enabling pastoralist environment in Kenya

Traditional rangeland users have inherently weak collective land rights as a result of failure of governments in many African countries to recognise customary and community land rights. This puts the very existence of rangelands at jeopardy. Secure rangelands and pastoralism result from a functional policy, legal and institutional framework and political goodwill. Rangelands and pastoralism have registered gains in recent decades at the national, regional and global level thanks to sustained advocacy. At the national level, for example, Kenya promulgated a progressive policy on land that recognises the unique demands of rangelands and pastoralism, which require a more targeted approach and management. In recent months under the stewardship of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an important protocol on transhumance was developed. The protocol sees the lifeline of pastoralists' livelihoods in facilitation of mobility across the borders of IGAD Member States. Cross-border mobility is key in realising the objectives of the African Union's Policy Framework for Pastoralism. Other important documents are the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT)

³ Blench R & Sommers F. 1999. Understanding rangeland biodiversity. ODI Working Paper. London: Overseas Development Institute (ODI).



adopted in 2012 and the VGGT Technical Guide on improving governance of pastoral lands issued in 2016.

The challenge in all of these documents lies in their implementation. In fact, all these policy processes require effective multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue for their full implementation. It is imperative that people-centred land policies and governance engage all the stakeholders to secure rangelands and livelihoods therein. Relevant knowledge, skills, capacity and institutions for protecting and managing rangelands and pastoralism are essential at the community level but even more so at the policymaking level to ensure that a correct narrative about rangelands and pastoralism is projected.

Economic contribution of pastoralism in Eastern Africa

Pastoralism contributes 10–44% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of African countries with approximately 1.3 billion people benefiting from the livestock value chain (Karaimu 2013). Over 75% of cattle herds in Kenya and 90% in Tanzania are kept by pastoralists, who supply the bulk of meat consumed in those countries (Wakhungu *et al* 2014; International Livestock Research Institute 2013). Pastoralism directly supports an estimated 20 million people and produces 80% of the total annual milk supply in Ethiopia, provides 90% of the meat consumed in Eastern Africa, and contributes 19%, 13% and 8% of GDP in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, respectively (Nyariki 2017). It also contributes close to 60% of the meat and milk products consumed in West African countries (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2016). Despite the role of pastoralism in the local, national and global economies, it faces several setbacks that hinder the realisation of its full potential. These setbacks include misconceptions on pastoralism, climate change, globalisation, urbanisation and undervaluation of the pastoral economy (Amwata *et al* 2015)⁴.

CELEP and Kenya Pastoralists Week

The Kenya Pastoralists Week (KPW), conceived in 2003, kicks off with what promises to be a series of interesting and historic events for pastoralists and rangeland resource users in Kenya and elsewhere in the drylands of sub-Saharan Africa. The KPW presents a space for strategic engagement where pastoralist community members can interact directly with their leaders, academics, researchers, policymakers and representatives of various other communities to learn and to share. This provides an opportunity to raise fundamental questions and issues to address the challenge of (in)adapted policies and their implementation, just as CELEP – through its members and partners – grasps opportunities to create such spaces at the level of the European institutions. Together, CELEP’s European members and Eastern African partners seek to foster dialogue and debate on these issues towards securing access and tenure rights of pastoralists to rangelands.

For the 2019 KPW, CELEP urges the leaders and governments at the county, Kenyan and Eastern African level to recognise the dangers and risks that the economy of rangelands and pastoralism is facing because of:

- **Small-scale crop farming**, which has been expanding more and more in the drylands in recent decades, leading to change in traditional rangeland use and management – a trend that is likely to continue in the coming years: The paradox with small-scale cropping is not only its expansion through immigration of farmers from non-pastoral areas but also the fact that many pastoralists themselves are starting to practise small-scale cropping because of the increase in human population density, droughts and sedentarisation.
- **Large-scale investment** in agriculture for commercial food production, which is happening not only in Kenya but also in most of sub-Saharan Africa: Thus far, the experience in Kenya has not been very positive in the counties where irrigated crop farming has been tried in the rangelands. In the Tana Delta of Kenya, for example, proposed land deals included the appropriation of 250,000 ha of land (Arale Nunow 2013)⁵. Among the investors are national governments and international companies and funds. This is a threat to the economy of the

⁴ Nyariki DM & Amwata D. 2019. The value of pastoralism in Kenya: application of total economic value approach. *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice* 9:9 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13570-019-0144-x>

⁵ CELEP position paper on “Sustainable pastoralism and land use change trends in East African drylands”



rangelands and pastoralism, since there are hardly any figures about the costs of replacing rangelands economic value with that of large-scale crop production in the drylands of Kenya. The presumption is that the livestock sector and more specifically meat as the contribution represents the total economic value of the rangelands. This myth can be debunked only by undertaking a Total Economic Value (TEV) analysis of rangelands in order to inform the development planners and policymakers.

- **Private area enclosures:** Kenya has a history of group ranching, largely practised in the southern and northern rangelands and also embracing conservancies. However, with time, the group ranches have faced many challenges based on issues of governance and management, among others. Private ranching has been an issue since several decades and is still an issue today. The traction that the conservancy model is recently gaining has led to debate about this model. Legal and policy guidelines such as the County Spatial Planning Guidelines produced by the National Land Commission to guide counties in mapping and managing pastoral lands in Kenya is expected to provide proper and inclusive management and protection of rangelands and pastoralism even as private resource enclosures continue to grow.
- **Tourism:** Closely related to conservation is annexation of land to improve the potential for tourism. For many Eastern African countries, tourism is an interesting opportunity for economic benefit. Land is taken over for infrastructure development and services. In Kenya, for example, three large Resort Cities are planned (LAPSSET Corridor Programme). These cities are meant to optimise the rich tourism potential and attract economic activities and investments to the region (GoK 2008).
- **Extractive use of natural resources:** Drylands are attractive spaces to explore for and extract natural resources, including oil, gas and other minerals, but also to exploit wind and water energy. One example is Turkana County in Kenya, where exploratory oil rigs and oil wells have been built. Traditional areas of grazing land are fenced off by oil companies, investors and local land speculators (Johannes *et al* 2014). In addition, a large wind-power project, supported by the European Investment Bank, will be developed in Marsabit County (European Investment Bank 2013). Impact assessments state that there is no negative impact on the pastoralists in this area. However, one of the consequences of such projects is that they attract more investors and projects that, in fact, jeopardise pastoral production systems.

Securing access to land and natural resources is fundamental for sustainable development in the rangelands. CELEP members and partners contend that the above issues and processes should be considered in land-use planning, management and protection of rangelands and pastoralism. Mixed-use landscapes such as rangelands present a particular challenge. Overlapping rights and the diverse ways in which different land users may access, use, control or manage land and resources require flexible and context-specific approaches to recognising and formalising customary tenure systems and the appropriate planning of resource use.

How best this can be achieved is a matter of discussion and debate, and opinions and conclusions differ. CELEP members and partners in Kenya, including SNV, Cordaid and RECONCILE, and the International Land Coalition (ILC) Rangelands Initiative programme are alive to these facts and propose a multidimensional approach of engaging in policy and legal processes through advocacy, dialogue and sharing of different experiences. At the forefront of this is the need for governments, regional bodies, United Nations agencies and development partners to explicitly recognise the value of pastoralism and consequently invest in pastoralism and rangelands to secure the future of millions of people and preserve the unique natural resources within the rangelands.