Pathways to overcome risks impacting pastoralist livelihoods in the Horn of Africa:

Opportunities, enablers, and challenges

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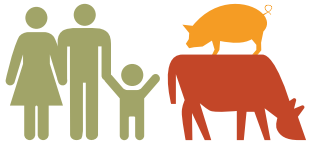
Importance of livestock in global development



Livestock sustains the livelihoods of

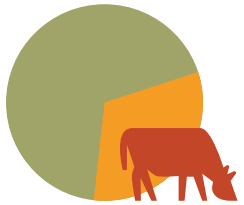
1.7 billion

people globally



60%

of rural households in developing countries rely on livestock for economic security.



Livestock contributes

40%

of total agriculture GDP (on average). In Africa, it can range from 20-80%).



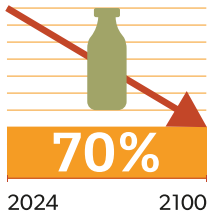
Micronutrients in animal source foods are essential for young children and pregnant women



Just over half the earth's surface is classified as rangelands. Of this,

21%

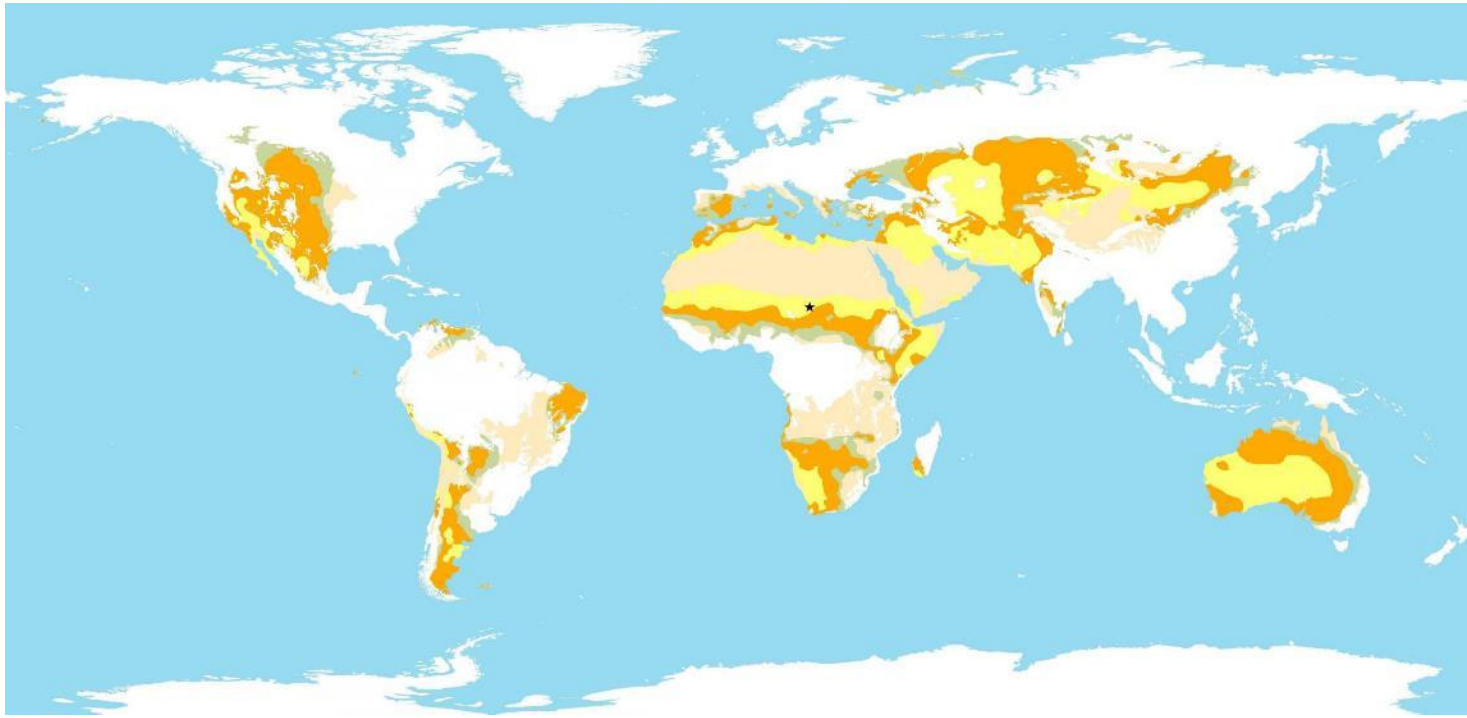
is not suitable for any other agricultural production system than livestock.



Climate change seriously threatens livestock productivity. Reduction in milk and meat production in African and Asian countries may exceed 50 or even 70% under high-emission scenarios by 2100.

Rangelands matter, far more than we realize

- **Rangelands** cover 54% of the world's land surface
- They support **biodiversity** and **store carbon**.
- They're home to about **500 million pastoralists**.
- **Pastoralists sustain food systems** that are local and resilient.
- In Africa, they provide **75% of the milk** and **50% of the meat**.



Dryland types found in rangelands globally. 78% of rangelands (approximately 62 million km^2) are classified as ***drylands***. Source Rangelands Atlas.



Despite all this, rangelands remain underfunded and poorly understood.

A crisis in motion: drought, displacement, degradation

- **Pastoral systems are under pressure** from climate shocks, land degradation, population growth, conflict, transboundary pests and diseases, price volatility, pandemics, asymmetric information, and macroeconomic instability.
- **In the Horn of Africa**, three consecutive droughts culminated in the worst March–May rains in 73 years.
- **The 2020–2022 drought** killed 9.5 million livestock, left 22 million food insecure, and displaced 1.7 million people.
- Swings between drought and flood leave **little room to adapt**.
- **Traditional routes are harder to follow** as rains become less predictable, grazing windows shrink, and risks multiply.



Climate extremes are testing the limits of rangeland systems.

Protecting pastoralists from climate shocks

- **Index based livestock insurance (IBLI)** provides timely payouts when forage levels drop, helping herders act before a crisis hits.
- Since 2010, over **100,000 policies** have been sold across Kenya and Ethiopia; now >**1.1 million people** are covered through the DRIVE program.
- A study where **43% of policyholders were women**, resulted in strengthened household resilience and financial independence.
- During severe drought years, payouts totaling **US$ 11 million** have helped families avoid selling off herds or going hungry

Turning early warning into early action provides pastoralists with a window to manage the present and plan for the future.



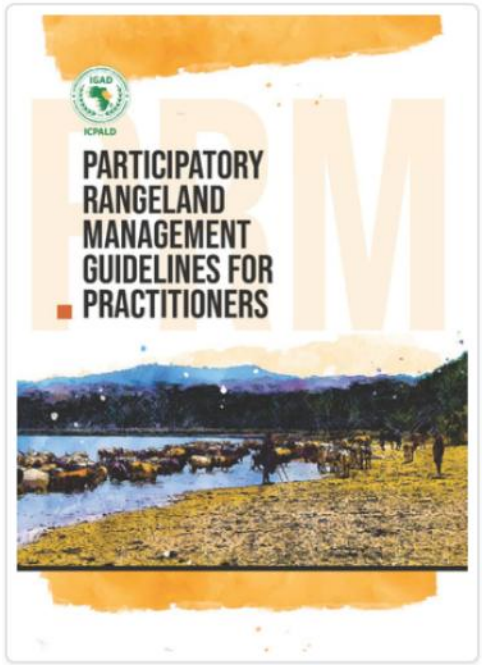


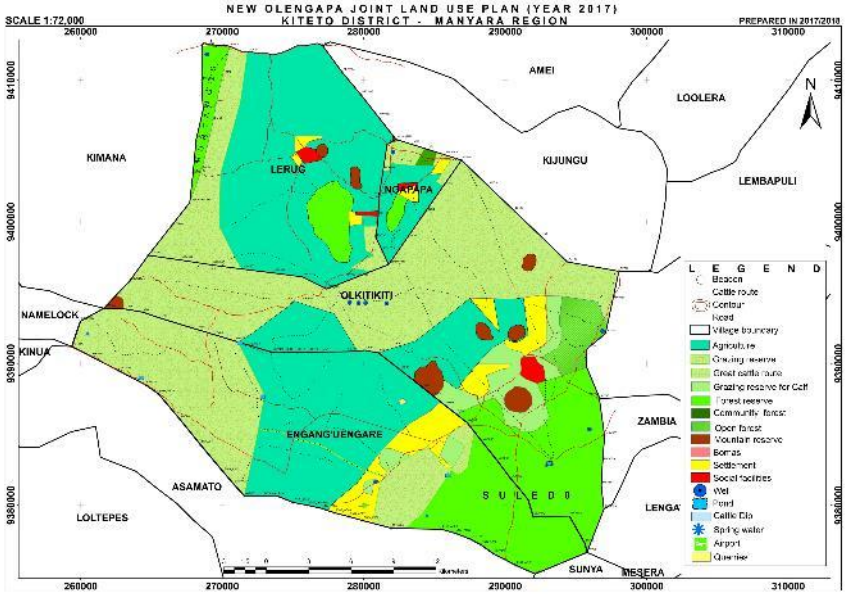
Improving productivity of assets

- **Innovation with grazing management, breeding and animal husbandry**
  - Getting governance arrangements in place first, from local to national.
  - Protocols for management and restoration
  - Community-based breeding.
  - Public/ private sector partnerships for animal health.
  - Mapping of invasive plant species.
  - Investments in fodder production and management.

Collaborative planning for resilient rangelands

- **ILRI supports pastoral communities and other national actors** to co-develop rangeland management and land use planning.
- **Participatory Rangeland Management** (PRM) and **Joint Village Land Use Planning** (JVLUP) have secured millions of hectares for shared grazing.
- **These approaches reduce** conflict, clarify access, and strengthen governance from local to national levels.
- Now **embedded in policy across East Africa** and scaling through partners like IGAD.
- **Integrated** with peacebuilding, animal health, and climate adaptation – proving the value of joined-up solutions.



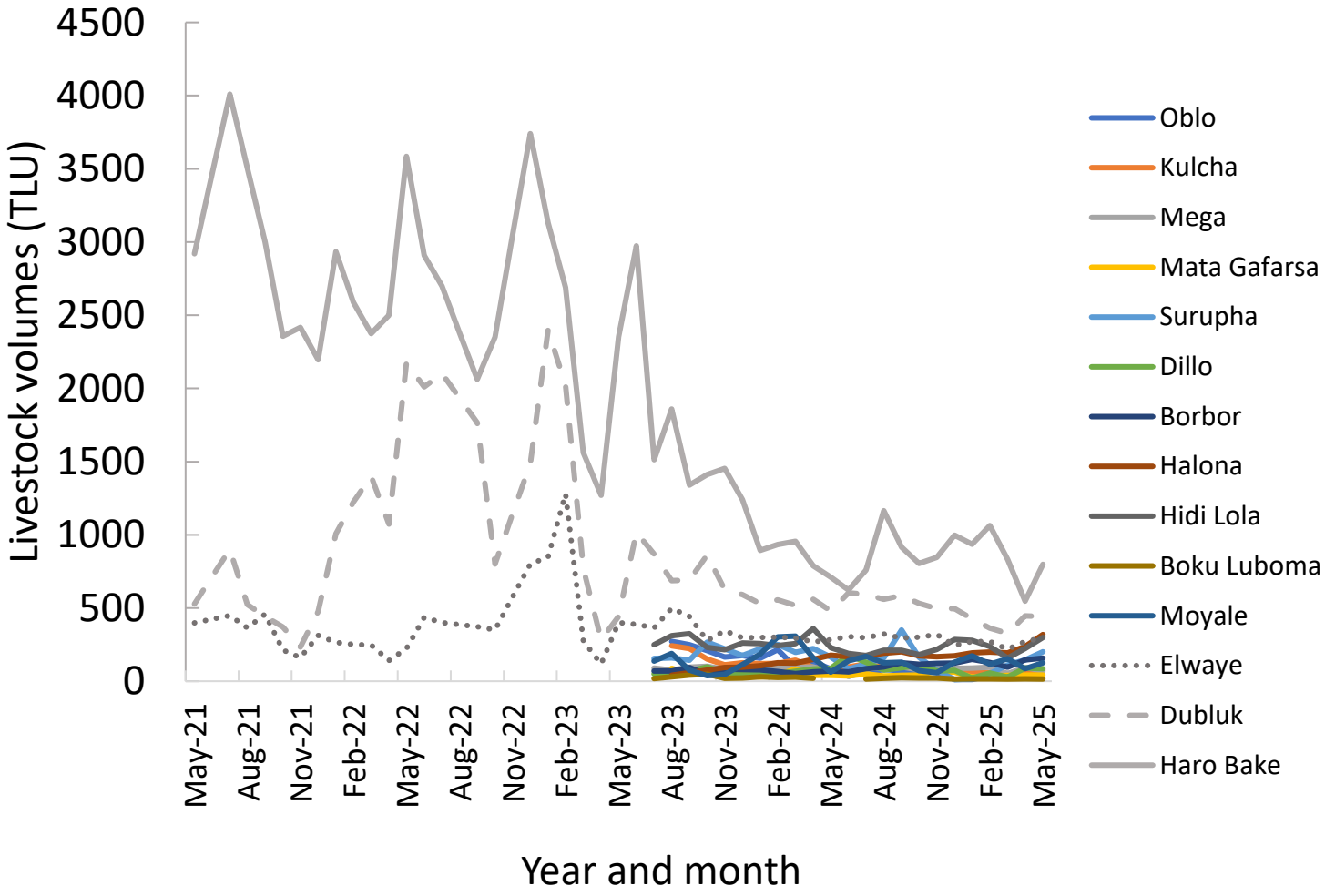




Linking assets to economic opportunity

The role of livestock markets

- Need opportunities for increasing economic value.
- Link to drylands information systems
- Help develop “pathways” to resilience.

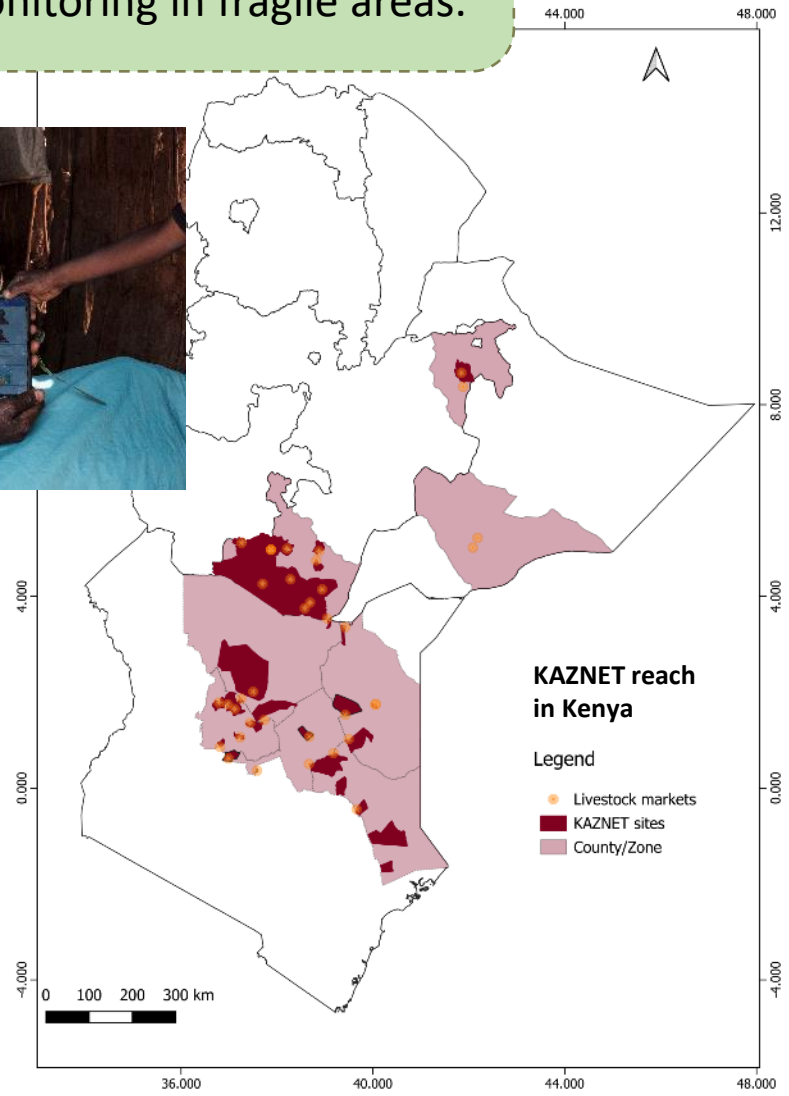


Real-time data to drive better decisions

- **Pastoralists face growing uncertainty:** near real-time data helps them plan, adapt, and avoid losses.
- ILRI's tools combine **citizen science** and **crowdsourced data** to track indicators like rangeland conditions, market trends, and nutrition.
- Through **KAZNET**, community contributors report from:
  - 264 rangeland transects
  - 45 livestock markets
  - 528 households in Kenya and Ethiopia
- In Kenya, where data is linked to national hubs and alert systems, the potential reach is more than **2 million livestock keepers.**

Real-time data supports early warning, market decisions, and conflict monitoring in fragile areas.





Enabling peace and inclusion

- **When women lead**, pastoral systems grow stronger and more resilient.
- Women already manage livestock, dairy, and trade – yet **their voices are often missing in decisions**.
- **ILRI supports** women's leadership through forums, tenure frameworks, and inclusive planning.
- PRM is also a **peacebuilding tool** – aligning communities around shared land and resource goals.

Inclusion delivers real outcomes: stronger institutions, better resource management, and more cohesive communities.







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Thank you!

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Better lives, better planet through livestock