Better lives through livestock

Pastoral livestock systems in ASALs: production, mobility, climate change and challenges

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National Livestock Development and Promotion Service technical workshop on development and operationalization of the pastoralists livestock cooperative model (PLCM), Naivasha, 1-6 February 2026

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Kenya’s pastoral livestock systems at a glance

ASAL covers 89% of Kenya’s landmass and 70% of livestock herds

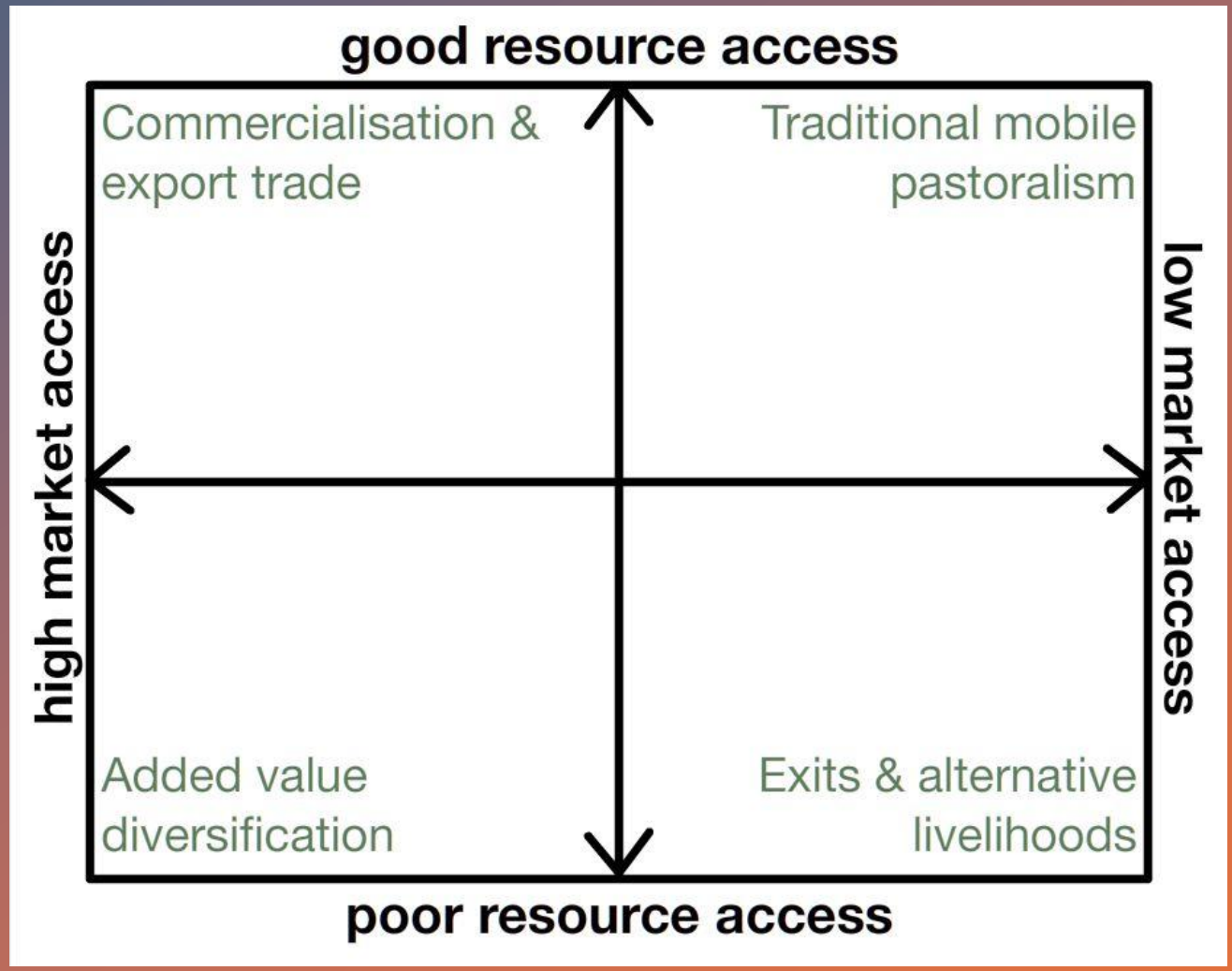
Nearly 10 million pastoralists in Kenya, 25-30% of population

Livestock employs 50% of agricultural labour force

Livestock contributes 42% to Kenya’s Agric GDP and 12% national GDP



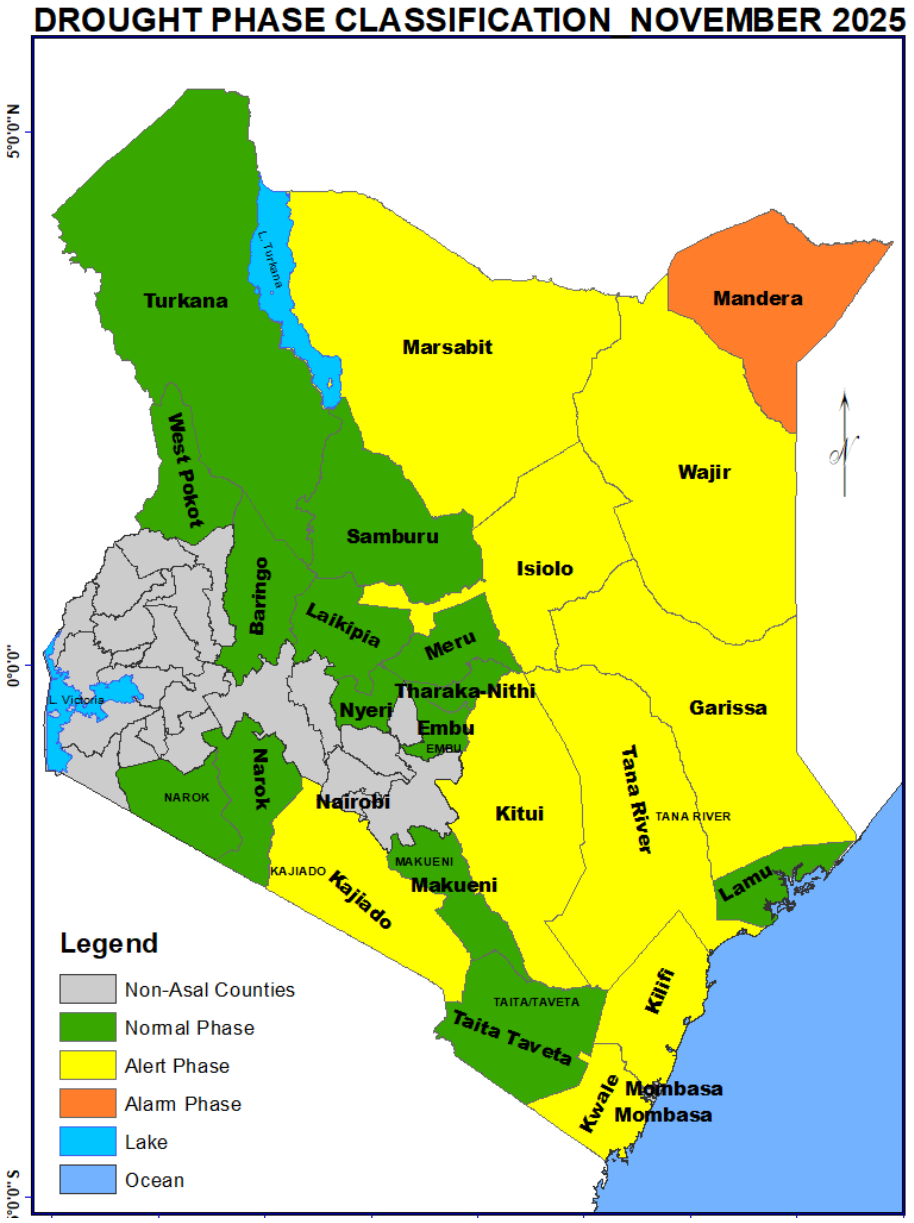
Pastoralism pathways





Climatic pressure

- Persistent crisis: floods, drought, disease
- Climate change and anti-livestock narrative on investment
- Livestock in national adaptation plans and NDCs

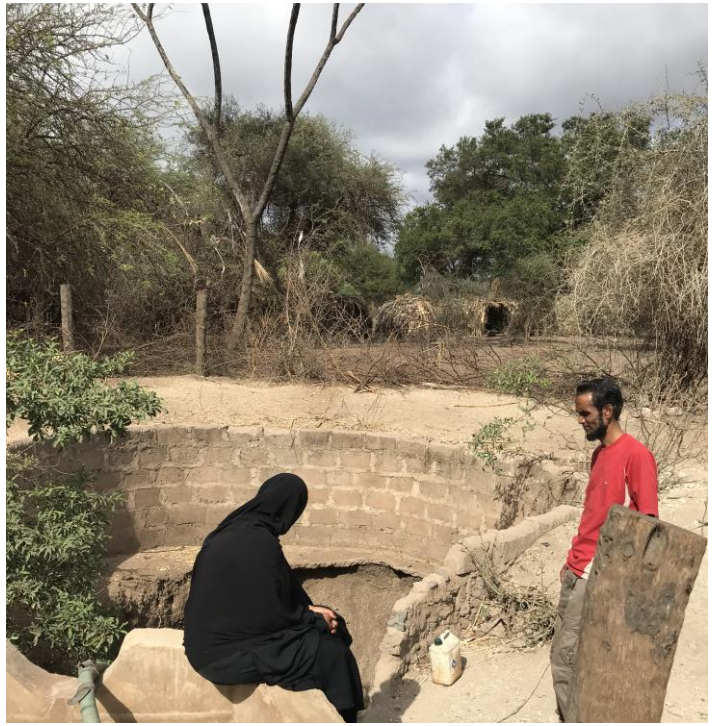




Livestock feeds and forage

- Up to 60% feed deficit, affecting national productivity
- Significant livestock losses due to feed scarcity and frequent dry spell
- Government plans to set up 450 feedlots across 21 ASAL counties. Need to think about its sustainability







Pastoralism, land and investment

- Competing interest: pastoralists, state and investors
- Complex land tenure governance e.g county, conservancy, CLA 2016
- Myth around pastoral land as ‘underutilized’, ‘idle’



Pastoralism and mobility

- Pastoralists productivity is built on mobility
- Rangelands fragmentation limits mobility
- Pastoralism, conflict and constrained movement
- Conflict between mobile land use and capital intensive sedentary use

Pastoralism, institutions and extension services

- Animal health services: Logistical constrain, funding priority, and negative narrative e.g anti-vaccines campaign
- Extensions services: County vs national government role
- Access to markets, financial services and inputs: limited by lack of organized cooperatives
- Early warning systems: Improved climate information services and digital apps, but access is challenging



Pastoral systems in policy domain

Domains	Assumption	Alternative
Land & investment	Controlled exclussive use	Shared hybrid system, flexible access
Mobility	Mobility is linked to insecurity, backward	Flexible movement is a core survival strategy, central to livelihoods
Climate	Livestock are bad for the planet and must be reduced	Extensive livestock farming , with better feeds are good for environment and people.
Market	Pastoralists are disconnected from market engagement	Vibrant mobile and informal market exists in pastoral areas
Conflict	Conflict is inherently norms	Long-term marginalization of pastoral areas are the cause
Disasters	Pastoralism seen to be inherently dependent on emergency aid	Robust community solidarity and anticipatory actions exists in pastoral areas

Way forward

- Invest in research and evidence on livestock productivity
- Support value addition of pastoral produce and establish sustainable cooperatives
- Improve extension services, climate information and disease control
- Facilitate adaptive mobility
- Maintain strategic infrastructures, water, energy
- Enable market access and financial services
- Capacity development, J0-DFA, KSG





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