

Message from the Founding ICPALD Director

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ICPALD

Served as the ICPALD Director from 2012-2022, overseeing the growth of the institution from inception. We examine how this unfolded and capture some wisdom nuggets, which are relevant for building into the future.

1. As the first Director of this young institution (ICPALD), we would like to take you back to reflect on the history of this centre?

The establishment of ICPALD followed all the steps provided for in the Agreement Establishing IGAD and internal procedures – this was critical as its establishment, stabilization and growth were challenged, for different reasons by some parties, from the inception to date (2022). While this was unfortunate, it served to invigorate and solidify the determination of those seized on ICPALD's vision, mission and objectives.

Committed, experienced, skilled and well trained human resource has been the cornerstone and the rock on which ICPALD was built from the word "GO". ICPALD remained deliberately small - with a very competent technical and administrative team. Future expansion needs to be weighed carefully as funding provided for by the 45th IGAD Council has not and may never materialize.

Over the years ICPALD earned a very good standing in the eyes of member states, development partners, non-state actors and individual experts in the member states, region, continent and internationally. A case in point is:

- a. ICPALD's representation in OIE, WTO and AU-IBAR.
- b. Passing assessments by USAID, SDC and FAO to receive and manage their funds, and obtaining authority from EU to receive and manage EU funds.
- c. Receiving very few qualified statements of accounts – internal and external audits.

2. Do you feel that you were able to make a difference? What achievements were accomplished during your tenure?

As indicated in my handing over report ([link to report](#)), ICPALD has achieved a lot in a very short time. The challenge is to sustain its standing in the midst of social, economic and political crises that have engulfed member states, the continent and the world. The inability of the member states to meet their assessed contributions will weigh heavily on ICPALD and other IGAD institutions now and in the future.

3. What key message would you like to deliver to the Member States, in relation to dry land and livestock?

Private sector investments and development partner funding will always be aligned to national development plans and strategies so unless development in livestock and drylands (arid and semi-arid areas) sectors are prioritized, these sectors that have been shown to have the potential to contribute to local economies (economic, food and nutrition security) and to the national GDPs shall not be realized. Member states need to prioritize and fund the livestock and agro-pastoral areas adequately.



4. How do you envision ICPALD ten years from now? What are the key areas that you would wish to see the ICPALD team focusing on in the coming years?

a. Areas of focus:

i. Within IGAD, greater synchrony is required in the areas of focus and mandates of the various institutions/departments, since they frequently overlap but seldom exploit complimenting organizational team synergies.

ICPALD has four departments – there is need to redefine the priority areas:

Livestock Health – including cross border animal health, one health, export and local trade in livestock and livestock products, quality assurance, standards and SPS;

Livestock Production - including range, water, fodder and feed and early warning system;

Policy, Marketing and Gender – policy and legal frameworks, gender and youth inclusion in wealth and employment creation, and value addition;

Arid and Semi-arid Land Development and Climate Change – development of communities and resources in ASALs including complementary livelihood resources, early warning system and response (animal health (LEWS), water and range including PET).

ICPALD may need to recruit an expert for complementary livelihood resources, policy and gender.

b. It would be strategic to guide ICPALD's growth organically and inclusively (all member states, persons with disabilities, both gender and across age groups) with core technical, administrative and support staff funded from member state contributions. Rapid expansion may not be sustainable given the social-economic-political dynamics in member states, the region, continent and the world.

c. Process the title for the land allocated by the Directorate of Veterinary Services Kenya and develop it – create a centre of excellence with facilities for training, laboratory services and conferencing.

d. To the ICPALD team – chart your way and remained seized until you achieve your goals.

Below are video links to some of the mentioned key achievements.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SjeLxt0-uA> - IGAD-FAO PP Achievements

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgPmFtesqJI> - IGAD-FAO PP Tractors Handover

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDMxJPZHJFw> - Launch of RPLRP Cross-Border Livestock Vaccination Exercise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sURzPoA2OZc> - Updated IGAD Transhumance Video

