



IGAD CENTRE FOR PASTORAL AREAS AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT (ICPALD)



ICPALD/FS/03/2024

FACT SHEET: PASTORAL LAND USE PLANNING

1.0 Introduction

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region comprises of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda. It has an area of about 5.2 million square kilometers composed of about 60-70% Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs). The ASALs are characterized by low erratic rainfall of up to 500mm per annum; substantially below the global average of 1,385 cubic meters and lower than the minimum amount (2000 cubic meters) required to meet human needs (Thomas, 2016).

Map of IGAD Region



1.1 Significance of IGAD Rangelands

The vast ASAL rangelands are the backbone of the livestock industry that provides various economic opportunities along the value chain. They support the majority of the region's 520 million livestock of which 242 million (35%) are small ruminants. They contribute 10% – 50% of the individual countries' agricultural GDP. They also host most protected areas such as

game reserves and national parks hence support tourism that is a good source of foreign exchange. Most IGAD rangelands have commercial deposits of oil and natural gas, sand, gravel, a wide range of precious minerals, soda ash, medicinal plants, gums and resins. They also host sacred sites that are valued for spiritual and religious purposes thus being linked to the cultural identity of certain ethnic groups.

2.0 Land Planning

Currently, land use planning is governed by both formal and informal (traditional) systems.

2.1 Formal System

The formal system is based on global, continental and regional protocols or agreements that form the foundation on which individual IGAD Member States have developed their national frameworks.

2.1.1 Global

The global frameworks related to IGAD rangelands use among others include:

- (a) The UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals that call for integrated solutions and commits nations to a new approach to sustainable development;
- (b) The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, 2020 that provide guidance to improve the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests with the overarching goal of achieving food security for all and to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food;
- (c) The Nagoya Protocol, 2010 that recognizes the uniqueness of traditional knowledge associated with rich cultural heritage relevant for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- (d) The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 1994 that recognizes the role of terrestrial ecosystems as a sink and reservoir for potential greenhouse gases;
- (d) The International Tropical Timber Agreement (IITA) of 1994 that aims at promoting sustainable management of tropical forests;
- (e) The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992 that highlights the importance of, and the need to promote global, international and regional cooperation among countries in promoting conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of bio-resources;
- (f) The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR Convention), 1971 that provides the framework for international cooperation for the conservation of wetland habitats.

2.1.2 Continental Protocols, Regulations and Strategies

The Continental instruments that are relevant to IGAD Pastoral rangeland use include:

- (a) The African Union Agenda 2063 that aims at delivering on inclusive, sustainable development and transformation of Africa into the global powerhouse of the future;
- (b) The AU Land Policy Framework 2010 that recognizes the central role that land plays in the development process;
- (c) The Policy Framework for pastoralism in Africa, 2010 that aims at securing, protecting and improving the lives, livelihoods and rights of African pastoralists; and
- (d) The African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1968 that embodies a comprehensive and integrated regional approach to environmental protection and sustainable development.

2.1.3 Regional

The regional protocols that guide pastoral land use planning in the IGAD region among others include:

- (a) The IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), 2019 – 2024;
- (b) The Regional strategic Framework: Rangeland Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of the IGAD Region (RRMSF) – 2020;
- (c) The IGAD Protocol on Transhumance, 2020;
- (d) The East African Regional Bioeconomy Strategy (2020-2030);
- (e) The IGAD Land Governance Strategy (2017 – 2022); and
- (f) The EAC Livestock Policy, 2016.

2.1.4 IGAD Member States' Legislations, Policies, Strategies, Regulations and Guidelines

Each IGAD Member State has a number of Legislations, Policies, Strategies, Regulations and Guidelines anchored on global, continental and regional protocols that guide rangeland use planning. The national frameworks among others relate to (a) Land, Environment and Natural Resources Management; (b) Pastoralism and Range Management; (c) Extension Services; (d) Livestock Production and Development; (e) Climate Change; (f) Trade, Marketing and Value Addition.

2.2 Tradition System

On the other hand, the traditional system is based on several traditional principles and strategies that have been developed to control access to and manage the utilization of pastoral rangelands in order to adapt to harsh and variable physical environment. These community by-laws are enforced by Councils of Elders who arbitrate over issues of water use and natural resource management, migration strategies to reserved areas, land disputes, uncontrolled bush burning and tree cutting, and punish offenders. Traditional institutions are thus good at enforcing rules for sustainable use of rangelands especially when pastoralists are clearly recognized as the beneficiary community.

2.3 Challenges in Land Governance

The formal governance structures have tended to weaken customary institutions because of failure to integrate and legally recognize them. Yet the traditional system had developed an intimate knowledge of the environment and many successful techniques that could still be of use today. In addition, traditional management knowledge is gradually being lost as more younger generation of pastoralists are attracted to urban areas. IGAD region is thus facing a breakdown of the traditional institutions that govern access to grazing lands with a corresponding lack of regulatory mechanisms to control use of resources.

2.4 Effective Pastoral Land Use Planning

Owing to land governance challenges faced, a new pastoral land use planning framework is proposed in order to harness the abundant opportunities in the IGAD region. The framework among others shall ensure:

- (i) Gender mainstreaming to address the different needs of women and men, reduce gender inequalities and promote women's rights and entitlement over land, water and markets to ensure equity and provide the basis for efficient planning of land use in the IGAD rangelands.
- (ii) Strengthening pastoral communities' capabilities to achieve social and development objectives by addressing access to education, extension, health services, and security among others, that compound the decline in adaptive capacity and undermine pastoral resilience.
- (iii) Effective participation to enhance pastoral and agro-pastoral community participation in defining solutions to ensure that strategies adopted improve their well-being.
- (iv) Effective coordination of multiple actors (including governments) to reduce transaction costs, ensure unity of action and complementarity towards a common goal.
- (v) Legal recognition of customary systems to ensure trust and respect which creates the foundation for collaboration.
- (vi) Recognition of Indigenous Knowledge that is a critical component of the ecological-social interactions in sustainable rangeland management that underpins food security.

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