

PASSAGE PROJECT NEWSLETTER QUARTER 1 2025 JANUARY – MARCH



Q1 2025 highlights

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GHACOF



The 69th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF69) was convened from 20th to 21st January 2025 in Addis Ababa by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in collaboration with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of IGAD Member States, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and other partners.



The objective of the forum was to document and share the climate impacts across the region and formulate responses to the regional climate outlook for the March to May 2025 rainfall season over the GHA. The GHA region comprises Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The forum reviewed the state of the global climate system, including the ENSO conditions, IOD, and SSTs over the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and considered their expected impacts on the GHA during the March to May 2025 rainfall season. Climate information users from all relevant sectors (disaster risk management, agriculture and food security, livestock, health, water resources, and media), as well as NGOs and development partners, actively participated in the formulation of mitigation strategies.

During GHACOF68, the PASSAGE project supported the livestock sector as part of ICPAC's efforts to enhance the region's capacity to access and use climate information services tailored to its livestock sector and others. The approach was based on co-production methods and scientific advances that aimed to mainstream climate service into decision making processes at regional, national and sub-national levels. This activity contributes to the project's aim of enhancing operational anticipatory action systems for drought, animal diseases and pests' risks in pastoralist livelihood systems.

Sub-COF



ICPALD in collaboration with ICPAC, under the PASSAGE project, co-hosted the 4th sub-regional climate outlook forum (sub-COF4) from 4th – 6th February 2025 in Lodwar, Kenya.

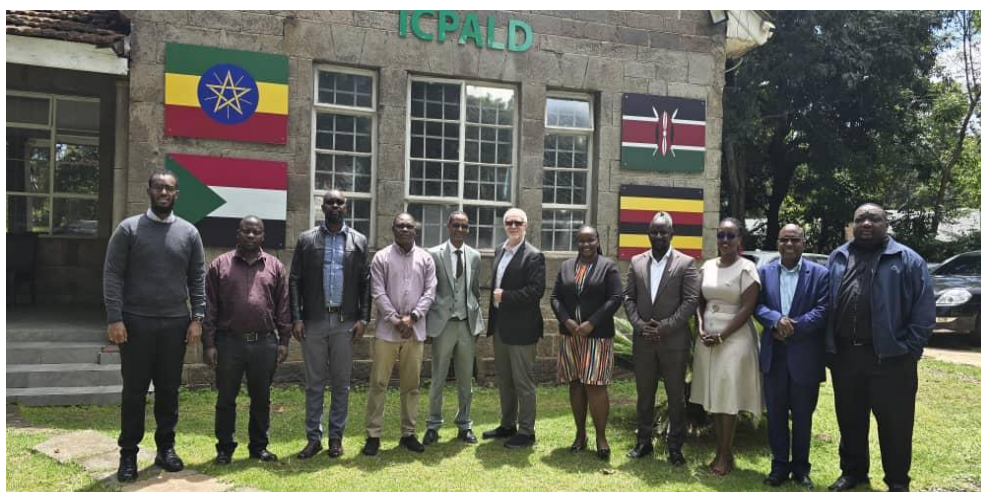
This forum brought together key stakeholders from agriculture, water, livestock, and conflict sectors to co-produce climate services tailored to the specific needs of the Karamoja Cluster.

Focusing on the use of climate information and services for IGAD cluster 1 (Karamoja cluster), which has a population that predominantly relies on livestock for livelihood, the meeting addressed early warning knowledge needs and gaps.

The forum also worked on downscaling seasonal climate forecasts for the March-May 2025 season and developing actionable advisories and impact scenarios for agriculture, water, conflict, and livestock. Local media practitioners were empowered through training on early warning systems, crisis reporting, and anticipatory action, which are all key to disseminating vital information to communities.

Prior to the meeting, forage condition forecasting was done for early warning of water and pasture conditions. This forecast influences movement of pastoralists' and their livestock in locating these shared resources.

[IDRC Visit to Kenya](#)



The IDRC visit to Kenya, from 29th - 30th January 2025, was led by Bruce Currie-Alder. This visit formed part of CLARE's mission to monitor the progress of projects in the region. During the visit, Bruce and the project team assessed various aspects of the project's implementation, reviewed progress, and discussed key milestones and challenges encountered.

The visit began at the ICPALD office on 29th January. In attendance was ICPALD, IFRC, RCMRD, WFP and UoN. Dr. Dereje Wakjira, ICPALD Director, opened the meeting after which the PASSAGE Project Implementation Unit engaged in discussions on the structure and content of the July-December 2024 technical progress report, coordination roles, and a presentation of the Gantt chart.

The meeting also included an afternoon session with the larger PASSAGE team from ICPAC, RCMRD, NDMA, and the University of Nairobi. This session focused on progress tracking and deliverables, including next steps for the technical progress report, highlights on project progress, deliverables, challenges and plans for the upcoming year, as well as updates on the MEL and R4I plans.

On 30th January, the visit to IFRC continued at the Bomas Hotel. Gift Mashango gave an overview of IFRC's role, workplan, and budget. Thereafter a session on progress tracking and deliverables, featuring updates on project progress, work plan, and GEI with a focus on protection and safeguarding measures took place.

Data Collection Exercise

ICPALD in collaboration with cross border national and sub-national governments, under PASSAGE project conducted training for livestock data collection using mobile based applications along the cross-border areas of IGAD cluster 1, 2, 3 (Karamoja, Moyale & Mandera), from 10th March – 4th April 2025.



The purpose was to enhance the evidence-base that is used to produce advisories on pasture and water availability, disease surveillance, fodder production, livestock movement patterns and livestock trade, that are later downscaled to the communities.

This exercise will assist livestock sector groups by:

- enhancing the evidence-base used to produce advisories on pasture & water availability, disease surveillance, fodder production, livestock movement patterns, and livestock trade.

- enabling development of a digital livestock database to support sustainable rangeland use, guide infrastructure development and access to livestock data for anticipatory planning.

Strengthening MEL and R4I Linkages in PASSAGE



On 17th March 2025 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) and Research for Impact (R4I) working groups met at ICPALD office for discussions on strengthening the integration of MEL with R4I within the PASSAGE project. In attendance were ICPALD and RCMRD PASSAGE project staff. The session aimed to align MEL processes with R4I objectives to ensure that research outputs effectively translate into tangible impact.

Key discussion points included:

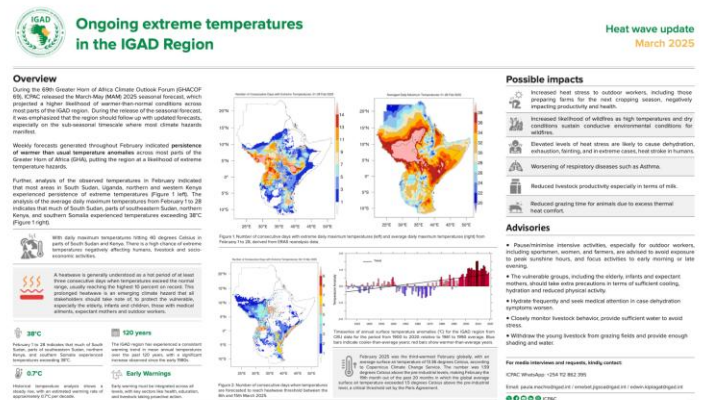
1. The need to commence the preparation for the Mid-Term Review: The review will be a critical checkpoint to assess whether the project is on the right trajectory. Adequate preparation is needed to showcase progress, particularly in the adoption of eight climate adaptation solutions, tools, data, and technologies directly supported by PASSAGE.
2. MEL framework and standardization of data collection: The MEL framework is well developed, but there is a need for better coordination to enhance reporting.
3. The R4I component should provide a comprehensive summary of all partner activities, ensuring that reporting is structured around impact-driven narratives.
4. There is also the need to push for stronger integration of gender and youth perspectives, ensuring that these cross-cutting themes are reflected in project outcomes.

This alignment between MEL and R4I will be crucial in demonstrating the project's achievements and informing strategic adjustments moving forward.

Extreme Heat

ICPAC has supported a statement on extreme heat which uses extreme heat indicators developed as part of ICPAC's PASSAGE work.

This statement was published online as part of the public communication on extreme heat and can be viewed [here](#).



Python Training for the Kenyan NDMA



Training on an **Introduction to Python for Remote Sensing and Drought Early Warning Systems** took place from the 27-29th January 2025 in Machakos Kenya. The University of Sussex delivered the training to drought information officers at the Kenyan NDMA.

In their roles at the NDMA the attendees are responsible for collecting data and generating NDMA monthly drought bulletins, there are many opportunities for

optimizing this work with Python. This training covered an introduction to the python programming language, working with different data types, creating data visualizations for drought bulletins and handling satellite images.

A report on the activities and outcomes of the training can be found [here](#)