AFRICA'S RANGELANDS

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CHANGE

AFRICA RANGELANDS & PASTORALIST PLATFORM (RP3) | 2021–2026

INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION | UNITED FOR LAND RIGHTS



Established in 2020, the ***Africa Rangelands and Pastoralist Platform (RP3)*** is a member-led regional platform of the International Land Coalition (ILC), bringing together pastoralist People's Organisations, civil society networks, research institutions, and intergovernmental partners to advance people-centred land governance in Africa1. Hosted by ILC member RECONCILE (Resource Conflict Institute), the platform connects more than 30 ILC member organisations, People's Organisations, and strategic partners with a broader network of like-minded actors across Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The platform's current strategy is organised around ***four priority areas***: *(i) rangelands protection and restoration; (ii) consolidation of grassroots and pastoralist voices; (iii) land tenure security and customary rights protection; and (iv) securing mobility and transboundary movement for sustainable pastoralism*. Across these areas, the platform provides a coordination and advocacy space through which members and partners can strengthen pastoralist representation, exchange knowledge, and engage with policy processes at national and regional levels.

> ***Between 2020 and 2026, RP3 contributed to strengthening the visibility and influence of pastoralist perspectives across Africa's policy landscape. This contribution is evident in national policy and regulatory processes, where pastoralist and rangelands considerations have gained greater recognition, as well as in regional and global agenda-setting and advocacy spaces, where pastoralism is increasingly recognised not only as a livelihood system, but also for its contribution to climate resilience, food systems, sustainable land management, and the protection of land and resource rights.***

This report examines RP3's contribution to these processes since 2021, building on the ***2020 MDF Contribution Analysis*** on the Participatory Rangelands Management Project (PRM), from which the platform evolved2. It begins with a summary of key contributions and the broader context in which RP3 has operated, followed by a timeline of major milestones and ***three thematic chapters***: *(i) legislative and policy engagement; (ii) mapping, knowledge, and policy documentation; and (iii) global advocacy and pastoralist representation in the context of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.* The report concludes with an overview of key partnerships and platform membership.

1 The platform is mainly active in Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.

2 RP3 evolved from the East Africa Rangelands Initiative established in 2017 with EU-funding, to improve the livelihoods and food security of pastoralists in the context of competing land demands. The project was implemented by two ILC members – RECONCILE in Kenya and Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) in Tanzania in collaboration with various local and national government agencies. Following its success, the Initiative was reconfigured as a regional thematic platform of ILC. RP3 in its current form was established in 2020 and reconsolidated in 2023 with RECONCILE resuming the host role.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AT A GLANCE

At the **national level**, platform members contributed to key policy and regulatory processes in Kenya, including the ***first civil society memorandum*** submitted to the National Land Policy review (2024), the development of the ***Carbon Market Regulations*** (2024), and the ***Regulations on the Conservation and Management of Wetlands*** (2025). In Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, members also supported the establishment of Pastoral Policy Working Groups, creating sustained spaces for pastoralist perspectives to inform policy reform and implementation.

At the **regional level**, RP3 contributed to strengthening policy coordination and the evidence base for pastoralism. Through engagement with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development, the platform supported ***efforts to advance the domestication of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol***. It also contributed to regional policy dialogue and coordination on pastoralism through ***engagement with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS)***. In East Africa, members supported the development of a ***Regional Policy Compendium on Customary and Pastoralist Tenure*** covering Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. The regional evidence base was further strengthened through ***livestock corridor mapping in the Sahel*** and ***community land mapping in Kenya***, undertaken with LANDex and LandMark.

At the **global level**, RP3's advocacy gained particular momentum around the 2024 cluster of UN Conferences of the Parties and preparations for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026. The platform hosted the ***Rangelands and Pastoralism Pavilion at UNCCD COP16*** in Riyadh in December 2024, providing a space for pastoralist constituencies and Indigenous Peoples' representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the EMENA region to engage in global policy dialogue. Members also participated in ***CBD COP16 in Cali*** and ***UNFCCC COP29 in Baku***, while ***working with the Global IYRP Alliance*** to define regional priorities for IYRP 2026 and strengthen African pastoralist representation through the IYRP regional support groups for East, Southern, and West Africa.

The chapters that follow examine these contributions in greater depth: ***Chapter 1*** focuses on legislative and policy engagement; ***Chapter 2*** examines the evidence, mapping, and knowledge products that have supported advocacy and policy engagement; and ***Chapter 3*** explores the platform's role in strengthening the representation of African pastoralists in global policy frameworks and processes shaping the future of rangelands and pastoralism.

CONTEXT

THE RANGELANDS AND PASTORALIST CONTEXT IN AFRICA

> ***Rangelands cover an estimated 62% of Africa's land surface and support the livelihoods and food security of approximately 384 million people, or around 41% of the continent's population.***

They provide critical grazing, water, fuel, and biodiversity resources and play an important role in carbon storage and climate regulation. Yet these ecosystems are under increasing pressure from land fragmentation, agricultural expansion, climate-related droughts, and competing land uses. Across Africa, degradation, insecure tenure, and the loss or restriction of livestock mobility and access routes are placing additional pressure on pastoralist communities. For pastoralists, whose livelihoods depend on mobility, access to shared resources, and the ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions, the erosion of these systems can have significant implications for both livelihoods and resilience.

LEGAL FRAMEWORKS ON PASTORALIST TENURE

Legal recognition of pastoralism and rangeland tenure exists at continental, sub-regional, and national levels, but significant gaps remain between formal recognition and implementation. At the continental level, the African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism (2010) provides the principal normative framework for pastoralist governance. At the sub-regional level, the ECOWAS Protocol on Transhumance establishes a framework for cross-border livestock mobility in West Africa, while the IGAD Transhumance Protocol, endorsed in 2020, outlines a corresponding framework for transboundary pastoral mobility in the Horn of Africa.

At the **national level**, legal frameworks in several countries recognise customary, communal, or village-based land rights, but implementation and enforcement remain uneven:

- ***Kenya:*** The ***Community Land Act*** (2016) sets a strong legal basis for communal tenure. However, community land registration remains incomplete, limiting the ability of communities to secure and exercise their rights over rangelands.
- ***Tanzania:*** The ***Village Land Act*** and related land-use planning frameworks recognise village and customary land rights. In practice, however, significant areas of rangeland remain unsurveyed or insecure, while competing land uses can constrain pastoral access.
- ***Uganda:*** Customary tenure is legally recognised under the Land Act (1998), but explicit legal protection for pastoral mobility remains limited. The ***Draft National Rangelands Management and Pastoralism Policy*** (2020) seeks to address some of these gaps but has not yet been adopted.
- ***Sahel:*** In countries including Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal, pastoral legislation formally recognises mobility and transhumance corridors. In practice, these provisions are frequently challenged by agricultural expansion, insecurity, competing land uses, and limited institutional capacity.

Across these contexts, ***a persistent challenge is the gap between legal recognition and effective implementation***. This is particularly evident in the protection of mobility corridors, communal grazing areas, and access to shared natural resources, as well as in the capacity of land administration systems to recognise and secure pastoralist rights. These implementation gaps are compounded by increasing environmental and climate pressures on rangelands.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESSURES

African rangelands are facing growing ecological and climate-related pressures.

> ***An estimated 75% of Africa's drylands are affected by desertification, while approximately 700 million hectares of land require restoration.***

These pressures result from interacting drivers, including overgrazing, conversion of grazing areas to cultivation, urbanisation, infrastructure development, extractive industries and mining, agribusiness expansion, and large-scale land acquisitions. Climate variability and increasingly severe droughts add further pressure to already constrained land and water resources. The 2020–2023 drought in the Horn of Africa, for example, affected an estimated 23 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia and resulted in substantial livestock losses.

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CONTEXT

While national climate and environmental policies increasingly recognise land degradation, drought, and rural vulnerability, ***pastoralism is often not adequately recognised as a distinct and adaptive livelihood and land-use system***. Consequently, adaptation planning and climate finance can remain disproportionately focused on agriculture, forestry, and conservation, with insufficient attention to the specific needs and contributions of rangeland-based systems. This can limit recognition of pastoralists' mobility strategies, customary institutions, and role in managing and adapting to variable dryland environments.

Evidence from Tanzania illustrates this challenge. Key frameworks, including the National Environmental Policy (2021), the National Land Policy (1995, revised 2023), and the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021–2026)- address issues such as land degradation, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and rangeland management, but do not explicitly recognise pastoralists as a distinct constituency, according to LANDex (2026). Tanzania's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021) identifies vulnerable groups, including pastoralists, but evidence cited by LANDex indicates that stakeholder engagement in climate policy processes has remained limited, with participation often concentrated among urban civil society organisations and other established actors.

INEQUALITY, DISPOSSESSION, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

> ***Across rangeland areas of East and West Africa, land inequality and competition over land are major drivers of pastoralist insecurity.***

Available land Gini coefficients point to substantial inequality, with Africa's overall land Gini coefficient estimated at around 0.54 (ILC, ***Uneven Ground, 2020***), but with large discrepancies at the country level. These disparities reflect, among other factors, the expansion of agriculture and the growing allocation of land to conservation, infrastructure, commercial agriculture, and other competing uses. However, conventional measures of land inequality provide only a partial picture in pastoralist contexts. Land Gini coefficients generally focus on individually held or formally registered land and often exclude landless households and users of communal land. As a result, they can understate the forms of tenure insecurity experienced by pastoralist and Indigenous Peoples' communities, where dispossession may take the form of restricted access to grazing areas and water, loss or fragmentation of mobility corridors, or the reallocation of communal land to competing uses.

WOMEN AND PASTORAL SYSTEMS

> ***Pastoralist women play central roles in livestock production, dairy processing, natural resource management, biodiversity stewardship, and household economies, yet their contributions and rights remain insufficiently recognised in formal land governance.***

Their ability to secure land and resource rights and participate in decision-making is often constrained by customary inheritance practices, legal frameworks centred on male household heads, and limited representation in rangeland management institutions. These gaps highlight the need for policy and advocacy approaches that recognise pastoralist women as rights-holders and decision-makers, and ensure their meaningful participation in reforms affecting rangelands, land tenure, and natural resource governance.

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TIMELINE



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2026

» The Platform enters the implementation phase of regional IYRP advocacy, focusing on mainstreaming rangelands and pastoralism in continental and global policy agendas and sustaining momentum beyond the International Year.

2025

» RP3 contributes to Kenya's Regulations on the Conservation and Management of Wetlands.

» ILC member IPAR leads livestock corridor and transhumance route mapping in the Sahel, while community land mapping in Kenya advances with technical support from LANDex and LandMark.

» The Regional Policy Compendium on Customary and Pastoralist Tenure covering Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda is launched at the Regional Conference on Customary Tenure in the East and Horn of Africa in September.

2023

» RECONCILE resumes the hosting and coordination role for RP3.

» ICPALD initiates the regional process to domesticate the IGAD Transhumance Protocol, beginning in Kenya with support from RP3 members.

» Pastoral Policy Working Groups are established in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania with RP3 support, creating dedicated spaces for continued policy engagement.

2024

» Kenya's Ministry of Lands launches the National Land Policy review; RP3 contributes the first civil society memorandum and participates in the policy write-shop.

» RP3 members contribute to Kenya's Carbon Market Regulations, giving effect to the Climate Change Act 2016.

» RP3 leads a regional IYRP advocacy campaign and co-defines 12 thematic priorities with the Global IYRP Alliance.

» RP3 hosts the Rangelands and Pastoralism Pavilion at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh in December; members also participate in CBD COP16 in Cali and UNFCCC COP29 in Baku.

2022

» The UN General Assembly adopts Resolution A/RES/76/208 (March 2022) designating 2026 as the IYRP, backed by 102 countries and 303 organisations.

2020-21

» By the end of the PRM period, 246,773 hectares of rangelands are secured- 85,629 hectares in Kenya and 161,144 hectares in Tanzania- and eight PRM committees are established across the two countries.

» IGAD Member States formally endorse the Transhumance Protocol, establishing a regional framework for pastoral mobility.

» The FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) endorses Mongolia's proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

» The Rangelands Initiative is reconfigured as RP3, establishing a member-led regional platform within the ILC.

2017

» The EU-funded Participatory Rangelands Management (PRM) Project is launched in Kenya and Tanzania, led by ILC members RECONCILE, TNRF, and ILRI.

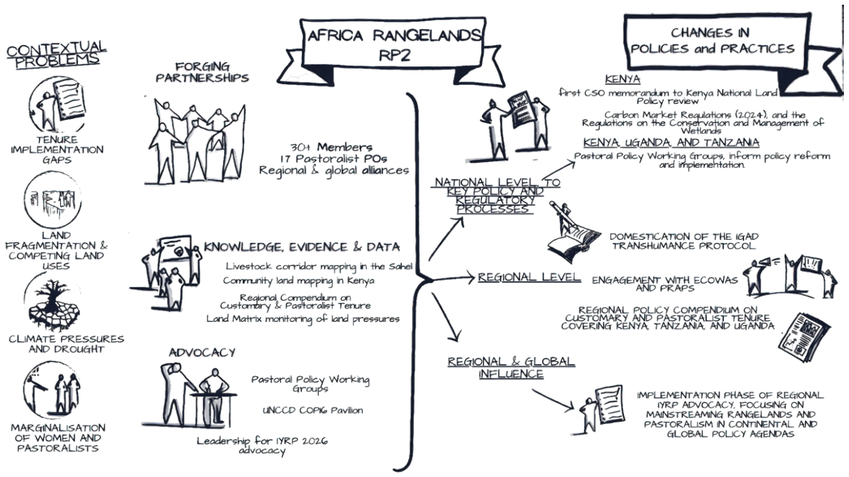
2018–19

» The IGAD Transhumance Protocol is developed through IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), with inputs from ILC members and partners.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEOPLE-CENTRED LAND GOVERNANCE

The platform's contributions to advancing people-centred land governance are organised below into ***three interlinked areas***:

- ***ensuring*** pastoralist inputs to legislative and policy reform;
- ***formulating*** the mapping, knowledge, and policy documentation that underpin pastoralist advocacy; and
- ***representing*** African pastoralists in regional and global advocacy spaces, including in the lead-up to IYRP 2026.



ENSURING PASTORALIST INPUTS TO LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY REFORM

RP3's contribution to national policy processes has taken ***three main forms***.

First, direct ***technical participation***, with platform members engaging in formal drafting, consultation, and review processes, including Kenya's National Land Policy review and the establishment and operation of Pastoral Policy Working Groups.

Second, ***convening and coordination***, through which members bring together civil society organisations and pastoralist constituencies, consolidate their inputs, and channel them into policy processes through credible coalitions and alliances.

GOOD PRACTICE

SETTING UP PASTORAL POLICY WORKING GROUPS AS DURABLE ADVOCACY INFRASTRUCTURE

One of RP3's most significant institutional contributions has been the ***establishment of national Pastoral Policy Working Groups*** in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Since 2023, RP3 has convened multi-stakeholder meetings in each country, supported the identification of anchor organisations to host the groups - including the *National Land Coalitions* in all three countries, alongside ILC members *PINGOS Forum* and *TNRF* - and provided a regional framework for the three groups to exchange evidence, documentation, and experience across borders.

The Working Groups bring together pastoralist organisations, civil society organisations, government counterparts, and research institutions to engage with specific policy and regulatory processes, including Kenya's Community Land Act (2016), Tanzania's Village Land Use Planning framework, and Uganda's draft Rangelands Policy. This has created a more structured pathway for pastoralist perspectives to enter national policy processes, while generating evidence and documentation of implementation challenges and lived experience. These inputs have also contributed to the Regional Policy Compendium on Customary and Pastoralist Tenure (see Section 2.4), illustrating how national-level engagement can generate comparative regional knowledge.

The Working Groups represent a shift from one-off consultation towards sustained policy engagement.

This structure enables pastoralist organisations and their allies to track multiple policy processes, build and consolidate evidence, maintain relationships with government counterparts, and respond to emerging policy opportunities. The experience demonstrates the value of investing in durable national advocacy infrastructure, rather than relying solely on time-bound campaigns or individual policy consultations.

Third, ***regional and global amplification***, connecting national reform efforts to wider continental and intergovernmental frameworks, including the IGAD Transhumance Protocol, the African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism, and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.

> ***Together, these mechanisms have enabled pastoralist perspectives to move beyond isolated consultations towards more sustained participation in policy processes, while creating stronger links between local experience, national reform, and regional and global policy agendas.***

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL LAND POLICY IN KENYA

> ***In 2024, Kenya's Ministry of Lands commenced a review of the National Land Policy, reopening, after 15 years, the policy framework governing the recognition of customary tenure, community land, and rangelands.***

The review is particularly significant for pastoralist areas, where it intersects with the implementation of the Community Land Act (2016) and the governance of land in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands.

RP3 contributed to the review through a combination of institutional engagement, coalition-building, and technical inputs. As the platform's host, ILC member RECONCILE sits on the review's coordinating committee, providing a direct channel for pastoralist and rangelands perspectives within the process. RECONCILE also worked with the Land Sector Non-State Actors (LSNSA) coalition, the ILC-member-led National Land Coalitions (NLCs) of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, and other East African partners3 to develop and submit the first civil society memorandum to the Ministry. RECONCILE subsequently participated in the Ministry's policy validation workshop, providing technical inputs on customary tenure, pastoralist mobility, and community land governance. These inputs were complemented by a targeted review and position paper on the National Land Policy, developed with support from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) that served as an evidence base for engagement throughout the review process.

Taken together, these interventions created multiple entry points for pastoralist and rangelands perspectives, from formal representation within the review process, to coordinated civil society advocacy and evidence-based policy input. The extent to which these contributions influence the final policy will only become clear once the revised National Land Policy is adopted and its provisions can be assessed against the priorities advanced through the memorandum and related submissions. As of August 2026, the review process remains on hold.

CARBON MARKET REGULATIONS (KENYA, 2024)

> ***In 2024, RP3 contributed to the development of Kenya's Carbon Market Regulations, which operationalise the Climate Change (Amendment) Act 2023 and establish rules for the generation, registration, and trading of carbon credits, including projects on community and pastoral lands.***

The regulations have important implications for rangelands governance. As carbon-market investments increasingly extend into conservancies, community lands, and pastoral territories, provisions governing consent, benefit-sharing, and project oversight will shape whether pastoralist communities are able to participate in and benefit from emerging climate-finance opportunities.

Through its Climate Change Advocacy Working Group, RP3 worked with national platform members to engage the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry and the National Treasury and Economic Planning during the regulatory process.

> ***This engagement brought pastoralist priorities, including free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), equitable benefit-sharing, and protection of customary land rights, among others, into the policy dialogue.***

The contribution is therefore visible in the inclusion of pastoralist perspectives in the regulatory process. Its longer-term significance will depend on how the regulations are implemented, particularly whether carbon projects on rangelands uphold the safeguards and rights advanced through this engagement.

DOMESTICATION OF THE IGAD TRANSHUMANCE PROTOCOL

> ***The IGAD Transhumance Protocol, adopted by the IGAD Council of Ministers in 2021, outlines a regional framework for recognising and regulating cross-border pastoral mobility in the Horn of Africa.***

For pastoralist communities whose livelihoods depend on movement across national borders and access to seasonally variable grazing and water resources, the Protocol sets out a common framework for aligning national legislation, border governance, and related policy responses.

3 The memorandum drew on inputs from National Land Coalitions in Tanzania and Uganda, ILC-member People's Organisations including PAICODEO, PINGOS Forum, TNRF, COPASCO, LandNet Uganda, KINNAPA, UCTR, IMPACT, ILEPA, and MPIDO, and the CLAN Network.

CONTRIBUTIONS

RP3's contribution to this process builds on the involvement of its members in the 2018–2019 drafting of the Protocol, led through the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD). This earlier work involved RECONCILE, IGAD partners, CORET (Confederation of Pastoralist Civil Society Organisations of Tanzania), and the wider Participatory Rangelands Management Project consortium, bringing together field experience from Kenya and Tanzania with regional policy and negotiation expertise.

Member inputs contributed to provisions addressing issues such as the registration of transhumant herders, recognition of grazing reserves, and joint management of shared resources.

Following the Protocol's adoption, ICPALD initiated the domestication process in May 2023, beginning with Kenya. RP3 has engaged in the Kenya process and maintained dialogue with ICPALD on awareness-raising and outreach, while tracking related developments across other IGAD Member States. ***Progress remains uneven***: Kenya is the most advanced, with national consultations under way, while processes in Uganda and South Sudan remain at an earlier stage.

Engagement in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia is more dependent on national political and institutional conditions.

RP3's contribution at this stage is therefore f***ocused on supporting the translation of a regional commitment into national policy and legal frameworks***, while maintaining pastoralist perspectives within the domestication process. The longer-term outcome will depend on whether domestication leads to effective national implementation and improved recognition and protection of cross-border pastoral mobility.

REGULATIONS ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF WETLANDS (KENYA, 2025)

> ***In 2025, RP3 contributed to the development of Kenya's Regulations on the Conservation and Management of Wetlands.***

Wetlands are important seasonal grazing areas and dry-season water sources for pastoralist communities, particularly in the arid and semi-arid lands of northern and eastern Kenya. Their regulation therefore has direct implications for pastoralist livelihoods, access to natural resources, and customary land-use practices.

RP3's engagement sought to ensure that pastoralist resource use and customary access rights were recognised within the regulatory framework, alongside conservation objectives. The contribution reflects the platform's broader approach of bringing pastoralist perspectives into policy processes where land and natural resource governance decisions can have significant implications for rangeland-based livelihoods.



Photo: ©ILC/Michael Benanav

CONTRIBUTIONS

MAPPING, KNOWLEDGE, AND POLICY DOCUMENTATION

The platform's second key area of contribution centres on the production and mobilisation of the knowledge that underpins pastoralist advocacy across the continent.

The work has been concentrated in five areas: West African livestock corridor mapping, Kenyan community land documentation, the coordination of the Land Matrix Initiative, the Regional Policy Compendium on customary tenure, and the scale-up of the Participatory Rangelands Management model. Together, these efforts strengthen the evidence base needed to make pastoralist land use and mobility more visible in policy and planning processes.

LIVESTOCK CORRIDOR MAPPING IN WEST AFRICA

Through ILC member IPAR (Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale) in Senegal, RP3 has supported the mapping of livestock corridors and transhumance routes in the Sahel.

These corridors connect seasonal grazing areas, water points, and markets across pastoral landscapes and are increasingly affected by agricultural expansion, urbanisation, infrastructure development, conservation measures, and conflict. ***Documenting these routes provides an evidence base for recognising and protecting pastoral mobility***, identifying areas of heightened competition or conflict, and informing land-use planning. The mapping also creates a basis for engagement with regional institutions, including ECOWAS and the Comité Inter-États de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), on the implementation of regional frameworks governing pastoral mobility and transhumance.

COMMUNITY LAND MAPPING IN KENYA

In Kenya, RP3 has worked with LANDex and LandMark to support the mapping and updating of community land documentation.

This work contributes to implementation of the Community Land Act (2016), which provides for the registration and protection of community land but whose implementation has progressed unevenly.

Updated community land maps strengthen the evidence available to communities seeking to document and secure their land rights, while making pastoral land use and resource access more visible to decision-makers. The resulting evidence can support engagement with the National Land Commission and county governments on land registration, tenure security, and land-use planning.

LAND MATRIX COORDINATION ACROSS AFRICA

The Land Matrix is an independent global land-monitoring initiative that tracks large-scale land acquisitions and information on the location, scale, investors, and intended use of land deals in low- and middle-income countries.

In the region, RECONCILE, working with RP3 members, hosts the Land Matrix initiative and supports the ongoing updating and validation of data, including information on deals affecting rangelands and pastoral territories. This ***provides a structured evidence base for identifying emerging pressures on pastoral land*** and informing advocacy on land governance, tenure security, and competing land uses.

REGIONAL POLICY COMPENDIUM ON CUSTOMARY AND PASTORALIST TENURE

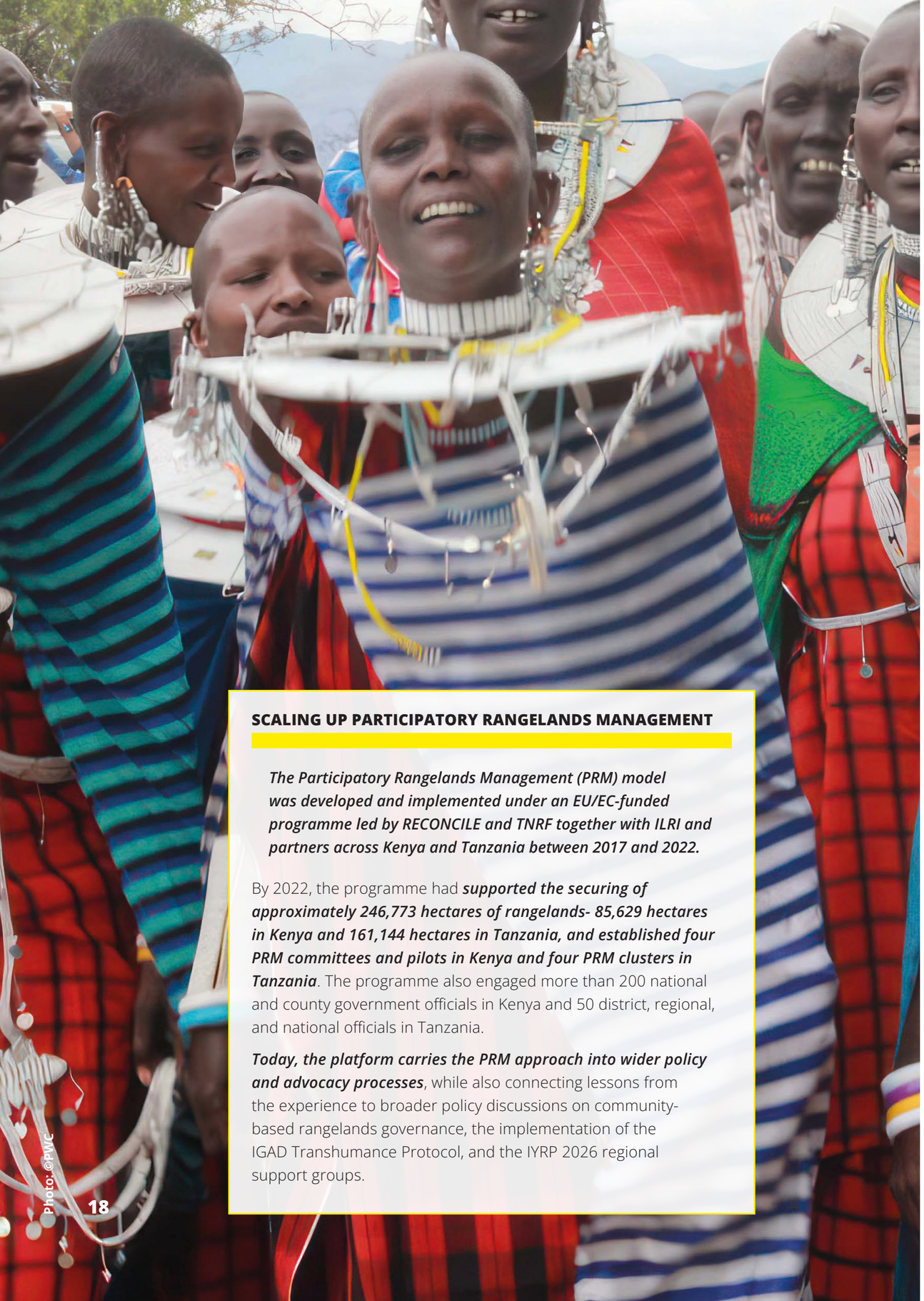
A key knowledge product developed by the platform is the Regional Policy Compendium, which brings together documented country experiences of policy implementation on customary and pastoralist tenure rights across East Africa.

RECONCILE, as platform host, coordinated the documentation of experiences from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, working with both RP3 members and other relevant stakeholders. The Compendium examines Kenya's Community Land Act (2016), Tanzania's Village Land Use Planning framework, and Uganda's draft Rangelands Policy.

Launched at the Regional Conference on Customary Tenure in the East and Horn of Africa in September 2025, the Compendium draws directly on the work of the national Pastoral Policy Working Groups, which had tracked and engaged with these policy processes. By bringing the country experiences together, it lays out a comparative picture of progress, implementation gaps, and emerging opportunities around customary and pastoralist tenure. ***The Compendium*** therefore ***serves both as a practical reference for policymakers and practitioners and as an evidence base for advocacy***, helping stakeholders identify common challenges and policy gaps while drawing lessons across countries.



Photo: ©ILC/Michael Benanav



SCALING UP PARTICIPATORY RANGELANDS MANAGEMENT

The Participatory Rangelands Management (PRM) model was developed and implemented under an EU/EC-funded programme led by RECONCILE and TNRF together with ILRI and partners across Kenya and Tanzania between 2017 and 2022.

By 2022, the programme had ***supported the securing of approximately 246,773 hectares of rangelands- 85,629 hectares in Kenya and 161,144 hectares in Tanzania, and established four PRM committees and pilots in Kenya and four PRM clusters in Tanzania***. The programme also engaged more than 200 national and county government officials in Kenya and 50 district, regional, and national officials in Tanzania.

Today, the platform carries the PRM approach into wider policy and advocacy processes, while also connecting lessons from the experience to broader policy discussions on community-based rangelands governance, the implementation of the IGAD Transhumance Protocol, and the IYRP 2026 regional support groups.

Photo: ©PWC

GLOBAL ADVOCACY AND PASTORALIST REPRESENTATION

Alongside its national and regional engagement, RP3 has worked to strengthen the representation of African pastoralist perspectives in global policy processes and agendas shaping the future of rangelands and pastoralism.

Its global engagement has focused particularly on the 2024 cluster of UN Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and the regional mobilisation around the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026. Through these processes, RP3 has helped connect national and regional priorities with wider global debates on climate, biodiversity, land governance, food systems, and pastoralist rights.

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS (IYRP) 2026

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 provides an important global platform for raising the visibility of rangelands and the communities that depend on them. For African pastoralists, it creates an opportunity to strengthen recognition of pastoralism not only as a livelihood system, but also as a contributor to climate resilience, food systems, biodiversity stewardship, sustainable land management, and rights-based land governance.

RP3 and its partners have helped anchor African pastoralist participation in the IYRP regional support groups for East, Southern, and West Africa, strengthening links between community organisations and the wider Global IYRP Alliance. Engagement from francophone members has also expanded within the West African support group, broadening the regional reach of the process.

In 2024, ***RP3 organised a regional IYRP advocacy campaign, bringing together members, partners, and pastoralist organisations beyond the ILC network***. Working with the Global IYRP Alliance, a network of more than 1,000 individuals and 400 organisations, researchers, and civil society bodies, RP3 contributed to the development of 12 thematic priorities and associated advocacy messages. The priorities cover issues including mobility and transhumance; customary tenure and community land; rangeland restoration and ecosystem services; climate adaptation and resilience; biodiversity; women and youth in pastoral systems; Indigenous and local knowledge; livestock and food systems; conflict and peace; governance and representation; and rangeland degradation.

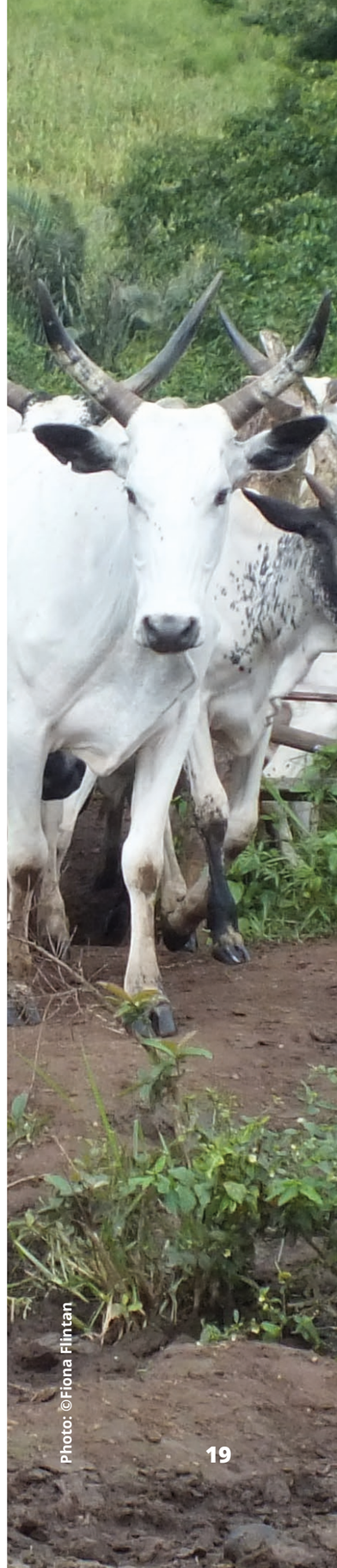


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Together, they provide a shared advocacy framework for members and partners, helping align national and regional engagement while ensuring that African pastoralist priorities are visible within global IYRP discussions.

PASTORALIST PRESENCE ACROSS THE 2024 UN COP CLUSTER

Throughout 2024, ***RP3 strengthened African pastoralist representation across three intergovernmental processes of direct relevance to rangelands***: the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The most visible engagement was the Rangelands and Pastoralism Pavilion at UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh in December 2024, which brought together pastoralist organisations and Indigenous Peoples' representatives from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the EMENA region, alongside governments, donors, and intergovernmental organisations including AU-IBAR, IGAD, FAO, and UNEP.

The Pavilion served three complementary functions: it ***raised the visibility of African pastoralist priorities, established a coordination space, and created opportunities to build relationships with potential funders and institutional partners***. While these initial engagements have not yet translated into concrete partnerships or funding, they established relationships that can support future advocacy and resource mobilisation.

RP3 also extended its engagement to CBD COP16 in Cali in October 2024 and UNFCCC COP29 in Baku in November 2024, including a side event focused on rangelands degradation in Africa. This helped carry rangelands and pastoralist perspectives beyond the UNCCD process and into global discussions on biodiversity and climate change, reinforcing the connections between rangeland health, pastoralist livelihoods, climate resilience, and ecosystem stewardship.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND PLATFORM MEMBERSHIP

RP3's contribution is supported by a diverse regional network that brings together a wide array of pastoralist People's Organisations, civil society coalitions, research institutions, intergovernmental organisations, and development partners. This network enables the platform to connect community-level experience and evidence with national, regional, and global policy processes, creating channels through which pastoralist perspectives can inform institutional decision-making.

> ***As of 2026, the platform brings together more than 30 ILC member organisations, including 17 People's Organisations directly representing pastoralist constituencies.***

Working alongside wider partners, these organisations contribute complementary expertise in advocacy, research and knowledge generation, legal and policy analysis, and community-based practice.

COUNTRY	ILC MEMBERS	KEY PARTNERS
Benin	» Association Nationale des Organisations Professionnelles d'Éleveurs de Ruminants (ANOPER)	—
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Cameroon	» Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED) » Community Assistance in Development (COMAID) » Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA) » Plateforme Régionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale (PROPAC)	—
Ethiopia	» Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia (PFE) » SOS Sahel Ethiopia	—
Kenya	» Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA) » Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT) » Maasai Community Forest Association (MACOFA) » Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP) » Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE)	» Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) » Land Matrix Initiative » Landmark » Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
Senegal	» Initiative Prospective Agricole et Rurale (IPAR) » L'Institut Panafricain pour la Citoyenneté, les Consommateurs et le Développement (CICODEV)	—
Tanzania	» Kinnapa Development Programme (KINNAPA) » Parakuiyo Pastoralists Indigenous Community Development Organisation (PAICODEO) » Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) » Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organisations Forum (PINGOs Forum) » Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) » Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCTR)	—
Uganda	» Coalition for Pastoralist Mobility (CPM) » Coalition of Pastoralists and Settled Communities (COPASCO)	—

COUNTRY	ILC MEMBERS	KEY PARTNERS
West Africa / Sahel (Regional)	» CORET » Réseau Billital Maroobé (RBM)	» Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) » Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS) and CILSS
Horn of Africa (Regional)	—	» Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD)
Continental (Africa)	—	» African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
International	» French Agricultural Research and Cooperation Organization (CIRAD) » Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) » Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) » International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) » International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) » Oxfam	» European Union » Global IYRP Alliance

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