

INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONGRESS

**PASTORALISTS AS USERS AND PROTECTORS OF RANGELANDS:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES UGANDA CONTEXT**



Rangelands are common pool resource for pastoralists, farmers and wildlife provides avenues for social safety nets for its users.

A secure land tenure means a secured pastoral system and hence food systems from an agro-ecological perspective.



Rangelands provide many benefits to pastoralists ranging from seed, pasture, water and wild foods – this forms indigenous pastoral systems.





OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The existing policy environment in Africa still provides very fertile areas for a secure pastoral production system. An example: pastoralism in the IGAD countries provides economic values and strengths to the national GDPs.

For pastoralism, the herd size, the natural resource base and labour are critical components that are interlinked to form a basic rangeland resource control level.



The policy environment in Uganda also still provides an avenue for investments in pastoral lands in Uganda, for example open wetlands are available for responsible land-based investments for the extractive sectors.



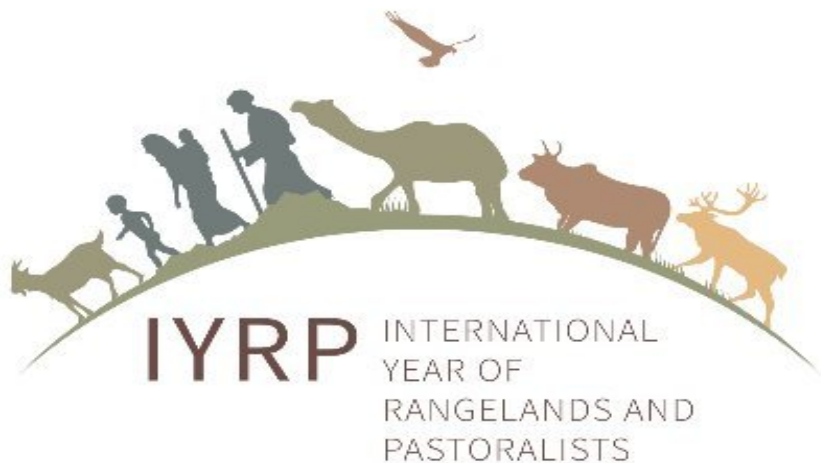
Responsible rangeland restoration by pastoralists is critical to support sustainable harnessing of socio-economic values of rangelands.



Rangelands/ drylands such as Karamoja Rangelands are of high biodiversity value in Uganda, hence host the second large protected areas of Uganda such as Kidepo National Game Park.



The Uganda Government support towards the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists is an indicator of commitment towards recognition of rangelands and its users in a state of climate action. IYRP establishes grounds for pastoral voices at all levels.



Rangelands ecosystem challenges are generated majorly from human actions. These challenges are underpinned by climate change, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, population explosion, inadequate data available for planning and development. Insecurity making access, use and control difficult, all above challenges have an impact on pastoral livelihoods security and economic growth



It is important to note that pastoral lands have become a target for investment, expansion of conservation and protected area, areas for huge development infrastructures and therefore these lands are diminishing with time and space. This calls for ecosystem restoration and improving data on rangelands, and available resource, guidelines and frameworks for pastoral resource management.



THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

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