

# “Giving pastoralists a Voice”

Lobby Initiative on the occasion of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralist; funded by Misereor

Project region: East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania)



By Laureen Ongesa  
2/21/2025

## Introduction

The Resource Conflict Institute (RECONCILE), a regional policy, research and advocacy organization, and Ateker Cultural Centre (ACC) based in Karamoja, Uganda, on behalf of members of the Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) in Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA), submitted a proposal to Misereor for two years' funding support in 2025 and 2026. The proposal was approved. Major activities shall be undertaken with different institutions and actors working on rangelands and pastoralism in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, but it is expected that these activities will contribute to the wider work in ESA within the context of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP2026).

The overall goal of the project is to make pastoralists' voices and their concerns more widely heard in their respective countries. The goal will be realized through two key objectives:

### Objective 1

Pastoralist communities and their representing organizations at different levels in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania develop an operative strategy to make their voices widely heard at the level of decision-makers as well as the broad public during IYRP2026.

### Objective 2

Pastoralist communities and their representing organizations engage actively in policy dialogue at district and national levels during IYRP2026.

## Context

Rangelands and pastoralism are gaining global interest. Both the landscape and local livelihoods are being impacted by changes in land and resource use, impacting pastoralists who depend on livestock as their livelihood mainstay. Demand for more land by both the national governments and large-scale investors continues to impact on the rangelands and constrain pastoralism.

The lobbying initiative **“Giving Pastoralists a Voice”**, is a project developed to rally local voices towards the IYRP2026. The project has been fashioned to generate, package and disseminate information on the significance of rangelands and pastoralists and to engage with the IYRP2026 process. Through Misereor funding, RECONCILE – the Regional Focal Point for the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) and Co-Chair of the RISG in ESA – with Ateker Cultural Center (ACC), a member of CELEP and the RISG, are implementing this project primarily in Kenya and Uganda with linkages to other grantees in Tanzania, mainly the Pastoralist Women Council (PWC). However, with existing regional and global platforms, networks and partnerships, the project will engage with wider stakeholders in the Horn of Africa and beyond. Deliberate collaboration will be sought particularly with networks and platforms such as the Rangelands and Pastoralist Platform (RP3) of the International Land Coalition (ILC), which RECONCILE hosts and coordinates.



## Priorities for the first year

This year, the project has prioritized mapping of institutions, networks and platforms working in and supporting rangelands and pastoralists in the region. The project will work with these institutions and platforms to establish alliances and multistakeholder platforms, develop advocacy messages, consolidate and package communication materials for awareness-raising, advocacy and lobbying donors, governments and investors to support more initiatives building up to the IYRP2026.

“Giving pastoralists a voice” will support pastoralist communities in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to raise ways to address key challenges related to land tenure, climate change, livestock mobility and food security. By promoting inclusive policies and sustainable practices, the project seeks to enhance the resilience and livelihoods of pastoralists while ensuring the sustainability of rangelands. It directly targets both pastoralists and their respective institutions as well as institutions working on pastoralism and rangelands. However, it will also give attention to other African nations where pastoralism is a key livelihood, including Ethiopia and Somalia, and possible even countries in West Africa that face similar challenges related to land-tenure security, climate change adaptation and sustainable resource management.

