



Governance for sustainable pastoralism

Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress 2021 - Governance for sustainable pastoralism that creates value out of variability

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- Governance of resources in the pastoral landscapes is critical and these resources need adequate attention which include; Land, Water, wildlife, people and livestock and others.
- The policies exist but have limitations on governance of pastoral lands and the activities such as herding/ open grazing have received policy and wide spread criticism from government shareholders. Practices of open grazing such as those of mobility are considered as non-land uses and are considered as destructive to the rangelands and yet more sustainable for managing variable resources in the rangelands.
- The breakdown of local institutions such as “Akiriket” in Karamoja setting sets precedence of whether rangelands will survive with initiatives being established to restore them without adequate understanding of the rangelands ecosystem.

Key areas of acknowledgement for policy and key players

1. Pastoralist (ism) -Relies on natural resource base for its sustainability and to larger extent indigenous and traditional knowledge and Mobility is critical both in social, political, environmental and economic prospects
2. Land governance factor – pastoral land resource is in abundance and balances with its human and livestock population -Policy actions that provide payments for conservation stewardship of rangelands should be considered to land owners to maintain their land as rangelands.
3. Water resources – rangelands are a made up ecosystem with sufficient and most variable resources for livestock and wildlife productivity. Water governance for different uses in the rangelands resulted in inter-ethnic conflicts.
4. Governance structures such as resource sharing committee established by pastoralists have instituted agreements to guide access, use and control of water resources
5. Extractive investments and environmental governance – pastoral lands provide high valuable extractive benefits such as mineral deposits. The extractive sector has ideally undermined the variable landscape of pastoralist, and
6. There is a missing link as a requirement for responsible land based investments at policy level monitoring frameworks and governments have failed to protect the rights of pastoralists.
7. Pastoral livestock resource management - Pastoralist own different livestock species and the distribution is affected by geography, space and time. Management of such a resource requires a stakeholder based system.

Finally, global players need to commit time, and resources to save the planet. This is first by putting blame games aside, considering Socio-economic, cultural, and environmental safety guards forward.