Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative

EMPOWERING PASTORALISTS – ELEVATING DRYLAND VOICES

NEWSLETTER

Q3 (JULY–SEPTEMBER 2025)

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends and Partners,

This quarter, our journey has taken us from the resilient borderlands of Turkana and Karamoja to the corridors of national policy in Nairobi and global platforms in Addis Ababa. At every step, one guiding truth has remained clear:

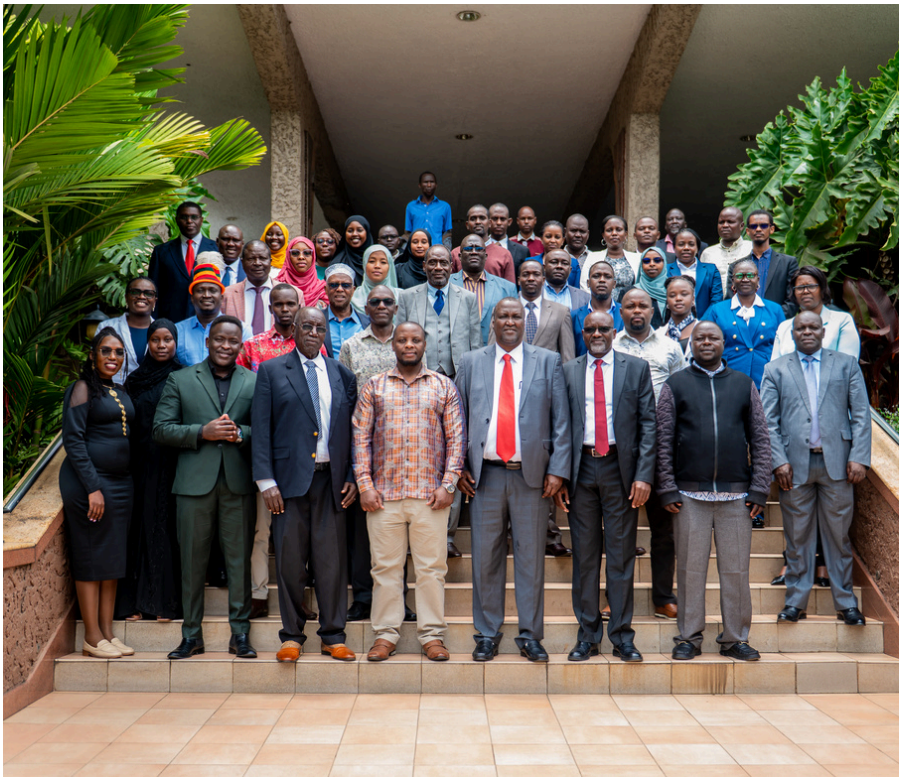
The future of Kenya's drylands must be built on community leadership, inclusive policy, and shared accountability.

From advancing the implementation of the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit resolutions to shaping global discourse on pastoralism, DLCI continues to champion locally led, evidence-based solutions that foster peace, equity, and resilience.

We are proud to stand with pastoralist communities, amplifying their voices and supporting their leadership in transforming Kenya's drylands into spaces of opportunity, dignity, and hope.
Thank you for walking with us on this journey.

Warm regards,
Dr. Jarso Mokku
Chief Executive Officer, DLCI





National Peace Policy Dialogue

On September 30, 2025, DLCI and Saferworld hosted a National Peace Policy Dialogue in Nairobi, officially opened by Hon. Daniel Nanok, MP for Turkana West and Vice Chair of the PPG.

The event brought together MPs from Turkana West, Kacheliba, Turkana South, and Kapenguria, along with county speakers, civil society, and private sector leaders.

The discussions identified policy gaps, weak enforcement, and limited inclusion as the main barriers to peace and adaptation.
Panels explored how markets, livestock corridors, and green investments can anchor peace by creating shared prosperity.

Participants also called for better alignment between national and county frameworks and emphasized inclusive participation—especially by women and youth—in peacebuilding and governance.

The dialogue reaffirmed that peace is not just the absence of conflict—it is the presence of justice, opportunity, and shared prosperity.



National Private Sector Dialogue on Responsible Investment in Kenya's Drylands

Held at Serena Hotel, Nairobi, the National Private Sector Dialogue brought together government, private sector, and community representatives to discuss responsible investment in Kenya's drylands.

The event was hosted by DLCI, Jameel Observatory, Landesa, ILRI, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The dialogue was opened by a representative of the PS, State Department of Investment, followed by welcoming remarks from Dr. Guyo Malicha Roba, Head of the Drylands Development Unit at IGAD and Chair of the DLCI Board.

The first session, "Creating an Enabling Environment for Investment," featured expert perspectives from KIPPRA, KEPSA, the Ministry of Lands, and the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG).

Later, community pitching sessions, led by Dr. Jarso Mokku, showcased grassroots investment opportunities and highlighted real barriers to inclusive development.

In the afternoon, Landesa's Racheal Kisiangani presented a Framework for Responsible Investment in Drylands, followed by a roundtable featuring KEPSA, Dr. Hassan Roba - TCF country Director, George Wanyonyi- Director NGEC, and Landesa Tanzania, who discussed practical models for equitable partnerships.

The dialogue closed with a commitment to advance county-level investment dialogues, ensuring dryland prosperity grows from the ground up.



Dr. Guyo Malicha Roba - Head of Drylands Development UNit - IGAD - DLCI Board Chair



Racheal Kisiangani - Senior Land Tenure Specialist - LANDESA

CROSS-BORDER MASS IN LORENGIPPI

On September 13, 2025, DLCI joined faith leaders and communities in Lorengippi, Turkana County, for the Cross-Border Mass for Peace.

The event was hosted by the Dioceses of Lodwar, Kitale, and Moroto (Uganda) under the theme ***"Pilgrims of Hope Walking for Peace."***

The mass played a crucial role in calming tensions, strengthening trust, and bringing together Turkana, Pokot, and Karamoja communities — reaffirming that peacebuilding is both spiritual and social.









Cross-Border Policy Engagement

Under the ADA Project (Strengthening Locally Led Solutions to Intersecting Peace, Gender, and Climate Challenges in the Borderlands of Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan), DLCI, together with Karamoja Herders of the Horn (KHH) and Saferworld, hosted the Second Cross-Border Policy Meeting in Lodwar.

Day 1 revisited earlier resolutions around peace, gender, and climate adaptation, while Day 2 focused on co-creation of a joint cross-border work plan.

A highlight of the meeting was the signing of an MoU between the Speaker of the Turkana County Assembly and the Regional Speakers' Forum of Uganda, formalizing collaborative cross-border governance.

The Speaker of Turkana County Assembly was also unanimously elected as Chairperson of the Forum, marking Kenya's leadership in cross-border policy dialogue.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG), supported by DLCI, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Future Growth Forum (FGF) to deepen collaboration in livestock development, halal investment, and farmer certification training.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing pastoralist livelihoods, strengthening livestock value chains, and unlocking new opportunities in the halal economy—anchored in responsible investment and inclusive growth across Kenya's drylands.





Championing Pastoralist Systems at the Kenya Meat Expo 2025

As champions of pastoralist systems, Drylands Learning & Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI) joined the Kenya Meat Expo 2025 as a strategic partner to spotlight the policy shifts needed for sustainable livestock development in Kenya's drylands.

Held from August 6–8 at KICC, the Expo brought together government agencies, industry leaders, and dryland producers to discuss innovations across the meat value chain under the theme "Driving Sustainable Growth Across the Meat Value Chain."

DLCI's CEO, Dr. Jarso Mokku, PhD, participated in NTV's Fixing the Nation segment, where he emphasized the need for stronger veterinary systems and vaccine access, noting:

"In the last drought, 2.6 million livestock died, costing Kenya KSh 226 billion. This is not a climate crisis; it's a policy failure."

Throughout the Expo, DLCI advocated for climate-smart livestock value chains, fair trade frameworks, and pastoralist inclusion in national livestock policy—reaffirming its role as a leading voice for sustainable livestock systems and resilient dryland economies.



Invitation video from Hon. Mohamed Ibrahim Elmi CBS EGH - Chairperson of the National Livestock Development and Promotion service (NLDPS)



Plenary session on the livestock policy at the MEAT Expo





STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY LAND GOVERNANCE IN ISIOLO COUNTY

In August 2025, the Isiolo CSO Network – Land Sector Forum, including DLCI, Ardha Jabesa Foundation, Pastoralist Women for Health and Education (PWHE), and ISID, facilitated the Community Assembly and election of the Community Land Management Committee (CLMC) for the Kina–Kulamawe–Gotu Dedha Community.

Presided over by Mr. J.G. Wanjohi, the Isiolo County Community Land Registrar, the process was conducted under Section 7(2) of the Community Land Act, Cap 287.

The event brought together representatives from all seven community locations and key government officials, including Hon. Yussuf Dahir, Francis Lekasime, Andrew Khaemba, and the Deputy County Commissioner for Kinna.

This election marked a major milestone in strengthening community-led land governance, collective ownership, and sustainable use of dryland resources — turning land into a foundation for resilience and equity.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

This quarter, DLCI strengthened its position as a thought leader on dryland policy, peace, and resilience through powerful contributions published in national dailies and across our digital platforms.

Each article reflected our commitment to evidence-based advocacy, amplifying community voices, and influencing policy conversations that shape Kenya's drylands and borderlands.

From pieces in leading newspapers to in-depth features on our website, these publications continue to advance dialogue around peace, governance, and sustainable development.

- **Partnerships for Peace, Dignity for All: A Borderlands Reflection on the International Day of Peace** — A powerful reflection on peacebuilding efforts across Kenya–Uganda borderlands and the role of communities in sustaining harmony.
- **Rethinking Gender Equity in Pastoralist Areas** — A thought-provoking look at the evolving role of women in pastoralist systems and the need for inclusive policy frameworks.
- **Drought Deaths of Animals Reflect a National Failure** — Published in Daily Nation, this article highlights the urgent need for proactive livestock policies and stronger drought resilience planning.
- **Soaring Cost of Animal Feed a Threat to Livestock Farming** — Featured in Daily Nation's Seeds of Gold segment (July 26, 2025), this article spotlighted the growing challenges facing livestock farmers due to rising input costs and weak policy interventions.



Elevating Drylands at the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS4)

From July 27–29, 2025, DLCI CEO Dr. Jarso Mokku, PhD, represented Kenya's drylands at the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS4) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia — the first time this global event was held in Africa.

As part of the ***"Voices from the Field"*** segment, Dr. Jarso delivered a strong message on pastoralism as a sustainable food system, emphasizing the role of drylands in food security, climate resilience, and livelihoods.

He called for policies that protect pastoralism, secure livestock corridors, and recognize pastoralist systems as models of adaptive food production.

Driving Implementation of the 4th PLS Resolutions

From July 15–16, 2025, DLCI, in partnership with ILRI, the Jameel Observatory, and the State Department for ASALs, convened a Technical Review Meeting in Nairobi to align the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit (PLS) resolutions with the Presidential Directives Management Information System (PDMIS). Opened by PS Harsama Kello, the forum emphasized structured follow-up and stronger policy linkages for Kenya's ASALs. Key contributions came from FCDC, DLCI, and ILRI, focusing on pastoralist leadership, research, and innovation. Six thematic groups refined actionable priorities such as peace, livestock, gender, human capital, infrastructure, and land rights, turning the PLS resolutions into measurable, community-driven outcomes.



