Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

BUILDING RESILIENT DRYLANDS THROUGH POLICY, PARTNERSHIPS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Q2 (APRIL–JUNE 2026)



Executive Summary

Quarter Two marked an important period for DLCI as we advanced one integrated agenda: securing community land rights, strengthening accountable institutions and internal delivery systems, and positioning Kenya's drylands as engines of resilience, responsible investment, and inclusive development. This edition highlights the partnerships, policy engagements, and community-driven initiatives that defined the quarter and the progress made toward building resilient drylands.



From the CEO

Dear Friends and Partners,

The second quarter of 2026 was defined by a focused strategic priority: strengthening the systems that secure community land rights, improve institutional accountability, reinforce DLCI's internal delivery capacity, and enable Kenya's drylands to thrive.

Over the past three months, DLCI worked with communities, government, Parliament, county governments, and development partners to move this agenda forward through community land governance, national policy influence, responsible investment, global drylands advocacy, and stronger organisational systems.

Internally, the quarter also focused on strengthening DLCI's delivery system, reviewing key organisational policies, and undertaking a mid-term programme outcome evaluation to assess progress, sharpen learning, and improve implementation quality.

As the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026) progresses, the quarter reinforced one central lesson: resilient drylands are built when secure tenure, capable institutions, strong internal systems, coordinated action, and community leadership work together.

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

Quarter at a Glance

Strategic Snapshot



6

Community Lands Supported



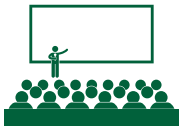
3

Global Platforms



8

National Policy Processes



1

National Campaign

Community Governance

- Community Investor Framework validated
- Community Land Management Committee elections supported across six community lands.

Policy Advocacy

- Launched the #SajiliArdhiYaJamii Campaign
- Contributed to validating the National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

Global Engagement

- Participated in GLF Africa 2026
- The Drylands Practitioners Summer School
- The Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women. - IYRP 2026

Institutional Excellence

- Strengthened delivery systems through organisational policy review
- mid-term programme outcome evaluation.

Knowledge Leadership

Advanced public dialogue through thought leadership articles and strategic communications on pastoralism, resilience, and community land rights



#SajiliArdhiYaJamii: Accelerating Community Land Registration in Kenya

Nearly a decade after the enactment of the Community Land Act (2016), thousands of communities are still waiting for their land to be legally recognized. Slow registration continues to expose communities to insecure tenure, land conflicts, and missed development opportunities.

To help change this, **DLCI**, together with **Namati, Natural Justice, MPIDO, Kituo Cha Sheria, CLAN,** and **IMPACT,** launched the **#SajiliArdhiYaJamii** Campaign, a national advocacy initiative calling for faster implementation of the Community Land Act.

The campaign is urging the Government of Kenya to commit to registering at least 60% of community land by 2027 while promoting community-led adjudication as a practical, affordable, and inclusive approach to land registration.

Through public awareness, policy advocacy, and community engagement, the campaign is reframing community land registration as more than a land issue. It is about securing livelihoods, strengthening climate resilience, protecting rangelands, reducing conflict, and unlocking sustainable investment in Kenya's drylands.

Campaign Priorities

- Accelerate community land registration.
- Promote community-led adjudication.
- Build political support for the 60% registration target.
- Strengthen accountability for Community Land Act implementation

> **Community land registration is not just about securing land, it is about securing Kenya's future.**



Hon Major (RTD) Dekow Barrow -MP Garissa Township



Bilach Jimale - Head of Programmes at DLCI

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE

Communities Shape the Community Investor Framework

Communities from Isiolo and Samburu Counties came together to validate the Community Investor Framework for the Drylands, an innovative framework designed to guide responsible investment on community land.

The process brought together community representatives, National Government Administrative Officers (NGAO), county officials, and technical experts to review every stage of the framework—from due diligence and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to monitoring and exit mechanisms.

The validation produced a stronger, community-informed framework that places consent, transparency, accountability, and long-term community benefit at the centre of investment decisions affecting land and natural resources.



Outcome

- Community validation completed.
- Framework refined using community feedback.
- Pilot implementation preparations initiated.



Strengthening Community Land Governance



Throughout May, DLCI supported the registration and election of Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs) across Lorengippi, Nakurio, Lokiriama, Uran, Obbu, and Turbi.

The exercises strengthened local governance structures under the Community Land Act and promoted inclusive representation of women and youth, who remain primary users and stewards of community land.

Strong Community Land Management Committees provide communities with the institutional foundation to manage land transparently, resolve disputes, and make informed decisions about their natural resources.





POLICY ADVOCACY

DLCI and PPG joined government institutions, county governments, development partners, and civil society during the validation of the National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

The forum reaffirmed a shared commitment to coordinated investment, stronger institutions, and long-term development planning for Kenya's drylands.

DLCI Chairman Dr. Guyo Roba called for stronger institutional coordination to reduce duplication and maximize development impact, while Hon. Major (Rtd) Bashir Abdullahi, Chairman of the Pastoralists Parliamentary Group (PPG), emphasized unity among institutions implementing policies that strengthen pastoralist livelihoods.

Dr. Caroline Karugu reaffirmed the Government's commitment to unlocking the vast potential of Kenya's ASALs through coordinated investments, stronger partnerships, and inclusive development. She emphasized that the National ASAL Policy provides a roadmap for transforming drylands into hubs of resilience, productivity, and economic opportunity.

Highlight Quote:

"The sustainable development of ASALs is not a regional issue; it is a national priority". - Dr Karugu, PS - EAC and SDARD



Dr Guyo Malicha Roba - DLCI Board Chairman, and Head of Drylands Dellivery Unit at ICPALD



Dr. Caroline Karugu, AG PS, ASALs and Regional Development State Department,

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR GREATER IMPACT

Strong organisations are built through continuous learning, sound governance, and effective systems. During Quarter Two, DLCI invested in strengthening the internal foundations that support high-quality programme delivery and long-term impact.



Organisational Policy Review

As DLCI's programme portfolio continues to grow, the organisation reviewed key policies covering governance, human resources, finance, safeguarding, and operational procedures to ensure they remain fit for purpose and support effective organisational performance.



Mid-Term Programme Outcome Evaluation

A mid-term programme outcome evaluation assessed progress against intended results, identified key lessons, and informed adjustments to strengthen implementation during the remaining programme period.



Strengthening Delivery Systems

DLCI strengthened its internal delivery systems to improve coordination, accountability, implementation quality, and timely support to communities and partners.

Key Outcomes

✔ Internal delivery systems strengthened to support more consistent programme implementation.

✔ Organisational policies reviewed to improve governance, compliance, and operational effectiveness.

✔ Mid-term programme outcome evaluation completed to inform learning and adaptive management.

> **Strong organisations deliver stronger impact for communities.**

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Taking Kenya's Drylands Conversation Global

DLCI contributed to conversations leading up to the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women in Kathmandu, amplifying the voices of pastoralist women and advocating for greater recognition of their leadership, knowledge, and contributions to resilient livelihoods.



Drylands Practitioners Summer School



DLCI joined practitioners, researchers, government representatives, and development partners from across Africa during the 2026 Drylands Practitioners Summer School.

The gathering challenged outdated narratives around pastoralism while promoting practical, evidence-based approaches to drylands development.

GLF Africa 2026



DLCI participated as a panel contributor during the Global Landscapes Forum Africa 2026, contributing to discussions on:

- Community land governance
- Responsible investment
- Climate resilience
- Rangeland restoration
- Nature-based solutions

The event reinforced the importance of placing pastoralist communities at the centre of global conversations on biodiversity, food systems, and climate resilience.

KNOWLEDGE LEADERSHIP

Driving the Conversation on Drylands

Throughout the quarter, DLCI used evidence-based articles and public commentary to link pastoralist livelihoods, animal health, drought preparedness, and community-led drylands resilience.

Featured Articles

- **Why Pastoralism Cannot Die, and Why Animals Should Not Die of Drought**
- **No Animal Should Die of Drought**
- **Building Vaccine Demand for Pastoralist Livelihoods**
- **Digital Innovations: Transforming the Future of Kenya's Drylands**

Together, these publications strengthened DLCI's public voice on pastoralist systems, rangelands, vaccine access, drought risk reduction, and community-led solutions.

COMMUNICATIONS SPOTLIGHT

Throughout Q2, DLCI used its digital platforms to extend policy influence, amplify community perspectives, and sustain public engagement on priorities central to resilient dryland development.

- Community land governance
- Responsible investment
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Climate resilience
- Policy advocacy
- Pastoralist women
- International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)

This communication effort was structured around recurring weekly themes designed to maintain visibility, reinforce key messages, and connect technical work with public understanding.

- Governance Monday
- Impact Tuesday
- Resilience Wednesday
- Policy Thursday
- Impact Friday

LOOKING AHEAD

In Quarter Three, DLCI will focus on converting Q2 momentum into implementation, policy follow-through, and measurable community-level progress.

Priority actions include:

- Pilot the Community Investor Framework.
- Advance the #SajiliArdhiYaJamii Campaign.
- Support community land registration.
- Strengthen policy advocacy.
- Expand knowledge generation.
- Deepen partnerships that advance resilient and inclusive drylands development.

"The future of Kenya's drylands will be shaped by secure land rights, strong institutions, coordinated action, and community leadership"

STAY ENGAGED

DLCI welcomes continued engagement with partners, communities, policymakers, and supporters working to advance secure land rights, resilient livelihoods, and inclusive development across Kenya's drylands.

CONTACT US

Info@dlci-hoa.org

+254 791 057 443

www.dlci-hoa.org

Follow DLCI on Facebook | X | LinkedIn | YouTube

