Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative

JUNE NEWSLETTER



CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In June, DLCI convened and supported a cross-border policy engagement process beginning with a policy discussion dinner in Kakuma and culminating in a multi-sector workshop in Lodwar. This platform brought together stakeholders from Kenya and Uganda to explore policy priorities for the borderlands, strengthen coordination, and co-create inclusive strategies across peacebuilding, climate resilience, gender, and natural resource governance. Communities, local authorities, leaders, and policy actors shared grounded experiences and action plans to shape a peaceful and resilient future across the Turkana–West Pokot–Karamoja corridor.

Discussions from this workshop were captured in a compelling blog by DLCI CEO Dr. Jarso Mokku: **Why Pastoralists Fight more than Cooperate?**



COMMUNITY LAND GOVERNANCE

As part of our community land registration and Natural resource governance efforts, DLCI conducted a visit to Lorengippi, Turkana County. The mission focused on evaluating local governance structures, community peace efforts, and natural resource access challenges. Discussions with elders, youth, and local leaders highlighted emerging priorities around mobility, drought preparedness, and inclusive development in one of Kenya's most remote dryland corridors.





A Tragedy of Policy: The Drylands of Kenya and the Folly of Forced Crop Farming

Drylands and communities thrive under pastoralism, not ploughs. Yet communities are now being encouraged—sometimes pressured—to clear indigenous shrubs,

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THOUGHT LEADERSHIP: CHALLENGING NARRATIVES AND POLICY SHIFTS

DLCI CEO Dr. Jarso Mokku continued to shape national conversations on dryland policy. In "Rethinking Early Action for Pastoralist Communities," he urged a shift toward grounded, community-led frameworks for peace and prosperity.

In another widely shared article, **"A Tragedy of Policy in Kenya's Drylands"**. he reflected on the impact of crop farming in ASALs, calling instead for strengthened pastoralist systems, rangeland investment, and indigenous knowledge. These pieces underscored DLCI's role as a thought leader in pro-pastoralist policy advocacy and dryland resilience.

DONOR VISIT: THRIVE PROJECT

DLCI, in partnership with ACTED, was honoured to welcome representatives from our donors in the Towards Holistic Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE) Project . The visit included a high-level meeting with the Governor of West Pokot County, where stakeholders discussed ongoing progress under the THRIVE project. The initiative aims to restore degraded rangelands and build climate resilience in Alale. Fruitful discussions reaffirmed the shared commitment to community-led rangeland governance and environmental restoration.





LOOKING AHEAD: JULY 2025

DLCI remains committed to deepening our partnerships, advancing the implementation of the 4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit resolutions, and scaling community-driven solutions across Kenya's drylands. Key focus areas will include strengthening policy coordination, supporting land governance structures, and amplifying local voices in climate adaptation and peacebuilding.

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