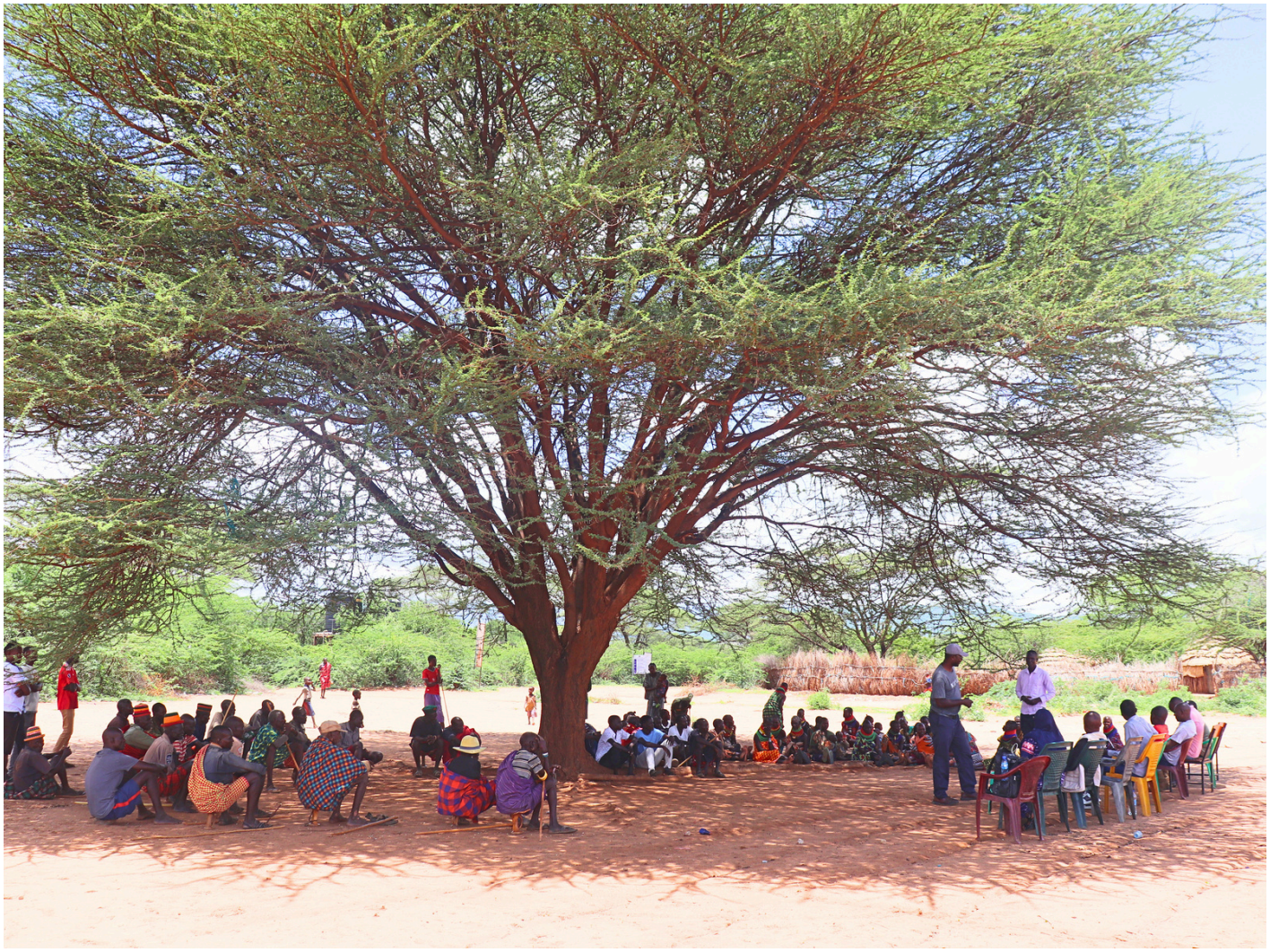
Drylands Learning and Capacity Building Initiative

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Community Rights, Stronger Drylands

Q3 (JULY–SEPTEMBER 2026)





From the CEO

Community rights, local leadership and pastoralist resilience shaped our work in the third quarter of 2026. Together with communities, public institutions and partners, we continued to advance community land rights and strengthen participation in decisions affecting land, livelihoods and shared resources.

In May, July, and September, in Turkana and West Pokot, we focused on community land registration and governance. Building on committee elections held in May, July induction sessions covered land management, shared resources and conflict resolution. We also supported surveys and demarcation in these Counties. The community land conference in Kinna also gave Isiolo communities a platform to share registration experiences and priorities.

Policy dialogue and learning exchanges connected these local experiences with wider conversations on governance, peace and resilience. Across our work, the lesson remains clear: stronger drylands depend on secure community rights, capable local institutions and a meaningful community voice.

In the final quarter, we will shift our focus to policy engagement. Priorities include reviewing the draft Livestock Bill 2026, particularly provisions for the proposed Camel Centre of Excellence and a new legal framework for the National Livestock Development and Promotion Services, supporting the Dryland Observatory community of practice policy day, and preparing for the mini–Pastoralist Leadership Summit. Community education on livestock health will also continue.

Dr. Jarso Mokku

Chief Executive Officer, DLCI

Quarter at a Glance

Community Land and Governance Snapshot

5

Communities supported through demarcation and survey

75

CLMC members and 5 chiefs brought together for induction

1

Waso Community Dedha Land Conference convened in Kinna on 26–27 September 2026

SHE GROW WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING · TURKANA & WEST POKOT

277 women reached

9 self-help groups

2 counties reached

Community Land Registration and Land Governance

- **5 communities** supported through demarcation and survey activities
- **75 CLMC members and 5 chiefs from 5 communities** were brought together for induction and capacity strengthening

Community Dialogue

- **Waso Community Dedha Land Conference convened in Kinna on 26–27 September 2026**

Policy & Learning

Engagement in national, county and international platforms on community land, pastoralism, ASAL development, peacebuilding and resilience

~50%

Women and youth representation in all five Community Land Management Committees

Where we worked

Turkana: Lokiriama, Lorengippi, Nakurio
West Pokot: Lokitonyala, Kalapata
Isiolo: Kinna



FEATURE STORY 1

Advancing Community Land Rights

Moving the Community Land Registration Process Forward

"Community land rights are strongest when legal recognition is supported by practical systems that enable communities to understand, secure and exercise those rights."

During the quarter, DLCI, in partnership with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with support from the European Union, supported a series of community land engagements in Lokitonyala and Kalapata in West Pokot, and Lokiriama, Lorengippi and Nakurio in Turkana.

The work began with sensitisation sessions where communities were taken through the survey and demarcation process, raised questions, and engaged with the institutions responsible for implementing it.

Demarcation and survey followed, bringing together technical teams from the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing and Urban Development, the National Land Commission and the Survey Council of Kenya, alongside partners supporting the communities.

These stages help establish a basis for land administration, identify public utilities and give communities and technical institutions a clearer understanding of the land being considered for registration.

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Importantly, the process did not end with fieldwork.

After the fieldwork, the 5 communities (Lokitonyala and Kalapata-West Pokot) (Nakurio, Lokiriama and Lorengippi - Turkana) met in their respective counties to review the exercise, share feedback, identify matters requiring follow-up, and agree on the next steps.



Community land registration is more than a technical or administrative exercise. Keeping communities at its centre enables them to engage with their rights, institutions and responsibilities for land and natural resources.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

Building Stronger Community Land Management Committees





[PHOTO: CLA 4 certificates presented]

Community land governance depends on institutions that are representative, informed and able to carry out their responsibilities.

During the quarter, DLCI, in partnership with ACTED and FAO, supported the strengthening of Community Land Management Committees in five communities: **Lorengippi, Nakurio, and Lokiriama in Turkana, and Lokitonyala and Kalapata in West Pokot.**

CLMC elections in Lorengippi, Nakurio, and Lokiriama took place in May 2026, during the second quarter. Building on that foundation, induction and training in July 2026 brought together committee members from all five communities, alongside five chiefs.

Each committee has 15 members, bringing the total inducted to 75. Women and youth together account for approximately half of the membership in almost all five committees, strengthening their representation in community land governance.

The induction covered committee roles and responsibilities under the Community Land Act, land governance, natural resource management, and conflict resolution, with technical input from officials from the Ministry of Lands and the National Land Commission.

Learning together enabled committees to exchange experiences and consider how land and resource decisions affect their neighbors. Discussions on community by-laws focused on shared interests in grazing, water and other natural resources, informing peaceful cohesion among the communities, with the CLMCs leading this.

The trainings culminated in the issuance of Certificates of Community Recognition (Form CLA 4) to Nakurio, Lorengippi, and Lokiriama, which had not previously received them. These certificates record each community's registration and its rules and by-laws in the Community Register; they are not community land titles.

Together, these activities strengthened the foundations for inclusive community land governance, community-led decision-making, and constructive engagement around shared resources.

5
communities

75
committee members inducted

~50%
Women and youth participation in governance

3
CLA 4 certificates issued



FEATURE STORY 2 · SHE GROW:WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TRAINING

Strengthening Women's Leadership Across Turkana and West Pokot

277 women reached

9 self-help groups

2 counties

3 languages used



DLCI, in partnership with ACTED, delivered leadership training for **277 women from nine self-help groups** in Turkana and West Pokot counties. The programme aimed to strengthen leadership skills, confidence and agency, supporting meaningful participation in community decision-making, peacebuilding and local development.

The programme built on the groups' existing role as platforms for mutual support, collective action and socio-economic development. It equipped participants with practical knowledge and skills to take on leadership responsibilities and engage more effectively in matters affecting their households and communities.

Using a leadership curriculum developed and validated under the project, facilitators combined discussion, practical exercises, role-play, group work, reflection and experience-sharing. Participants also developed group action plans, focusing on skills they could apply in their households, self-help groups, peace structures and local governance forums.



[PHOTO: Women from Turkana and West Pokot working together in group discussion]



[PHOTO: Role-play or practical exercise during the training]

FEATURE STORY 2 · CONTINUED

Learning Together Across Two Communities

Women from Turkana and West Pokot worked together in discussions, practical exercises and reflection sessions. By sharing experiences and exploring common challenges, participants built relationships, strengthened trust, and supported peaceful coexistence and collaboration across the two communities.

To accommodate different literacy levels and linguistic backgrounds, sessions were delivered in Swahili, Turkana, and Pokot, with interpreter support. Familiar languages and practical methods helped participants understand the material, contribute actively and connect leadership concepts with everyday experience.

The training provided a practical space to build leadership knowledge and confidence, as well as communication, decision-making, conflict mediation, and community engagement skills



NINE SELF-HELP GROUPS

- Ekeunoth
- Kabulwos
- Yoto Kalya
- Losabuni
- Lochola
- Katich
- Kariamakeris
- Kapulio
- Nauyapong

Beyond individual skills, the programme sought to strengthen women's groups as platforms for collective action, enabling a more active role in peacebuilding, inclusive decision-making and community development.

COMMUNITY VOICES

Communities Reflect on Land Registration in Kinna



"Community land governance is strengthened when communities have spaces to share their experiences, identify challenges and influence the conversations around their rights."

On 26–27 September 2026, DLCI, alongside the **Land Sector Forum in Isiolo County,** facilitated the **Waso Community Dedha Land Conference in Kinna, Isiolo County.**

Community representatives from **Kinna–Kulamawe–Gotu Dedha, Charri Dedha, and Cherab Dedha** shared lessons and challenges from the community land registration process.

Together, they identified persistent barriers and explored practical ways to advance registration and strengthen local land governance.

The discussions underscored the need for collaboration among communities, government institutions, and land-sector actors so that communities can exercise their rights and participate meaningfully in decisions about land and natural resources.

Merti Integrated Development Programme (MID-P), Pastoralist Women for Health and Education (PWHE), Ardhi Jabesa,PARAAN Alliance Kenya and the County Government of Isiolo supported and participated in the conference.

LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS

What Afghanistan and Kenya Can Learn from Each Other About Peace

On 24 September, DLCI welcomed a delegation of Saferworld partners from Afghanistan to its Nairobi boardroom as part of a learning exchange in Kenya. Participants explored locally led peacebuilding, community governance, customary institutions, and the management of land, water, and pasture. Women's leadership and meaningful participation in public decision-making were also central to the conversation.

Although the contexts differ, the exchange revealed common challenges for communities navigating conflict, climate pressures, and social and environmental change.

For DLCI, listening was as important as sharing. The delegation's perspectives prompted reflection on our own experience and on how locally grounded approaches can inform learning across borders.

The lesson was simple: effective ideas need not be copied exactly to be useful elsewhere. Grounded in local knowledge and community leadership, they can inspire new approaches to peace and resilience.



PASTORALIST VOICES AND POLICY

Bringing Community Perspectives into Policy Conversations

During the quarter, DLCI helped connect pastoralist experiences and priorities with wider policy discussions.

At the **Marsabit Pastoralist Dialogue,** DLCI Head of Programs Bilach Jimale joined an expert panel on policy and intervention priorities, alongside government, civil society, and development agency representatives. Pastoralist communities and stakeholders reflected on the realities shaping pastoralism, rangelands, and community futures.





1On 2 July 2026, DLCI published "From Policy to Progress," reflecting on the earlier Nairobi validation forum for the **National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs),** already reported in the second-quarter newsletter. At that forum, national and county governments, Parliament, development partners, civil society, and pastoralist institutions reviewed the policy intended to shape the future of Kenya's drylands.

DLCI Chairman Dr. Guyo Roba called for stronger institutional and partner coordination to reduce duplication and maximize impact. Speaking on behalf of Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) Chairman H.E. Governor Mohamud Ali, FCDC Chief Executive Officer Dr. Idle Omar Farah urged a shift from narratives of vulnerability towards recognizing dryland opportunities in livestock, renewable energy, tourism, trade, and climate resilience.

PASTORALIST PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Strengthening the Implementation of Pastoralist Leadership Summit Resolutions

The Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (PPG) convened its Leadership Retreat to review implementation of the **4th Pastoralist Leadership Summit (PLS)** resolutions and strengthen coordination, policy engagement and planning. The retreat brought together PPG leaders, government representatives, technical experts and partner organisations.

In opening remarks, PPG Chairman **Hon. Major (Rtd) Bashir Abdullahi** and Vice Chairman **Hon. Daniel Epuyo Nanok** emphasised sustained engagement and collective action. Dr. Evans Atera represented the State Department for ASALs and Regional Development on behalf of Principal Secretary Dr. Caroline W. Karugu.



Land governance was another priority. Hon. Mohamed Elmi contributed to deliberations on updates to the **National Land Policy,** while Eileen Wakesho of Namati presented the **#SajiliArdhiYaJamii** campaign and ongoing efforts to implement the Community Land Act. The discussion linked community land registration with secure collective rights and stronger participation in decisions about land and natural resources.

Across these priorities, participants considered what it takes to turn commitments into measurable progress: clear responsibilities, institutional coordination, sustained engagement and follow-up on agreed actions. These discussions also informed forward planning for the PPG's **2027 priorities.**



Lead consultant Dr. Piers Simpkin presented the proposed **Camel Centre of Excellence,** highlighting the strategic importance of camels to pastoralist livelihoods. The consultancy's key outcomes included identifying the county that will host the institution, which will support research, innovation, skills development, and knowledge-sharing in the camel sector. The proposal was linked to the practical implementation of the summit resolutions.





RESILIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

Recognising the Knowledge that Communities Already Hold

Resilience depends not only on new technologies, policies and external support, but also on the knowledge, institutions and practices communities have developed and adapted over generations.

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During the quarter, DLCI highlighted how Indigenous and local knowledge supports pastoralist resilience, including the use of traditional weather knowledge alongside scientific forecasts to understand changing conditions and guide decisions.

This work recognised pastoralist women as knowledge keepers whose understanding of livestock, plants, water, food systems and seasonal patterns contributes to biodiversity, livelihoods and community resilience.

It also considered how this knowledge can reach future generations. DLCI's feature, **"The Bridge Generation: Youth, Technology, and the Future of Pastoralist Knowledge,"** explored young people's role in connecting inherited knowledge with digital tools, technologies and networks.

These contributions formed part of DLCI's engagement with the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026),** with a focus on Indigenous and local knowledge, culture and innovation.

From the Field

Community Land Sensitisation

Engagements with communities helped strengthen understanding of community land rights and the registration process ahead of technical field activities.

Demarcation and Survey

Technical teams worked with communities in five locations to advance key stages of the community land registration process.

Post-Exercise Engagement

Communities in Lokitonyala, Lokiriama, Lorengippi, Nakurio and Kalapata reviewed the field exercise, shared feedback and discussed the way forward.

Community Land Management Committees

Building on CLMC elections held in three communities in May 2026, induction and technical training in July 2026 brought together committees from all five communities, covering governance, natural resource management and conflict resolution.

Annual Community Land Conference

Meeting in Kinna on 26–27 September 2026, community representatives shared registration experiences, identified challenges and explored ways forward.

She Grow Women's Leadership Training

Leadership training brought together 277 women from nine self-help groups in Turkana and West Pokot to develop practical skills and support participation in community decision-making.

Looking Ahead

Advancing community rights requires sustained work through registration and beyond: informed participation, accountable land governance and capable local institutions. These foundations, together with community knowledge and local leadership, support pastoralist resilience.

The next phase calls for follow-up on technical field activities, continued community engagement and stronger local institutions, supported by collaboration among communities, government, development partners and land-sector actors.

DLCI will continue to connect community experience with policy dialogue, strengthen locally led institutions and support inclusive participation, so that communities can shape decisions affecting their land, livelihoods and futures.

As the year moves into its final quarter, we remain focused on advancing community rights, strengthening local leadership and supporting pastoralist resilience—the foundations of stronger drylands.

DLCI IN PUBLIC CONVERSATION

Selected Q3 Publications

From Policy to Progress
By Hillary Kitel

From Political Leadership Commitment to Results: Pastoralist Kenya Is Finally Moving Forward
By Dr. Jarso Mokku

TheBridge Generation: Youth, Technology, and the Future of Pastoralist Knowledge
By Hillary Kitel

What Afghanistan and Kenya Can Learn from Each Other About Peace
By Dr. Jarso Mokku

Together, these publications brought pastoralist perspectives into wider conversations on livelihoods, drought resilience, policy implementation, Indigenous knowledge, youth and the future of drylands.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow DLCI for updates on our work in community land governance, pastoralism, policy advocacy, resilience, peacebuilding, and institutional learning.

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