RECOGNIZING THE ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS (ASALs)

FOR MORE VALUE

KEN OTIENO (RECONCILE) & RENE CLAUDE (UCL)
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. CONTEXT UNDERPINNING THE ASALS: IMPORTANCE AND CHALLENGES

2. GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE ASALS

3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING POLICY ND GOVERNANCE

4. ASALS AND THE SDGS
WHY RECOGNIZE THE ASALs/RANGELANDS?

• Rangelands/ASALs occupy more than 40% of the world’s land mass home to approx. 35% of the population and richest in community-based natural resources including a significant % of both livestock and wildlife resource [Mortimore, 2009].

• Uniquely, rangelands communities manage the land through indigenous systems for resource sharing and collective resource management;

• The ASALs are attracting the highest number of investments which are more outward looking;
CHALLENGES THAT UNDERPIN THE ASALs

• Even though ASALs constitute the rangelands appropriate for extensive and mobile forms of livestock-keeping, i.e. pastoralism; their importance of the ASALs is seldom recognised, the potential of the people and the resources in these areas continues to be neglected and undermined.

• Inadequate understanding of interventionists management dynamics of this fragile ecosystems has worsened the situation, as local knowledge and skills are not being valued and strengthened;

• Unfortunately, most countries in Africa with ASALs have the lowest development indicators and highest poverty incidences;

• The ASALs livelihoods are largely at risk (climate change); face vulnerability (famine in the horn of Africa) and increasing conflicts over natural resources access and use (pastoralists & farmers, water)
GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE ASALS

- **Policy**: the development process of policies have assumed that land governance process and context are similar including the decision-maker & decision-making process.
  - Need for a more rational model of the system, based on the traditional governance systems
- **Politics**: often captures the governance debates but with a lot of information gaps;
  - “avoid to undermine local voices”
- **Planning**: ASALs/rangelands require planning informed by local institutions and practices
  - ‘hybrid systems’ between statutory and customary?
- **Economy**: valuing local resources and economic systems:
  - inclusive economy
POLICY AND GOVERNANCE OPPORTUNITIES AT NATIONAL & REGIONAL LEVELS

• Global and regional policy frameworks such as the; CAADP, AU-PPF, AU-FGLPA and the VGGTs

• Economic and development plans, blocks such as the EAC, ECOWAS, SADC, etc.

• National and local land policies, land use plans and legal frameworks

• The very existence of a continent-oriented vision through a policy framework is an important opportunity;

• Possibility to engage in a conversation with AU Member States to define national engagement to operationalize it at national level;

• With some of these documents developed, it presents an opportunity towards ASAL or rangelands-oriented policies, legal and institutional frameworks

• Investment policies if developed, will ensure the equitable sharing of the accruing benefits.

• Global initiatives at national levels such as the IYRP will stop and reverse the current trends in the ASALs to ensure sustainable use, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources,
ASALS AND THE SDGS – LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND?

• **Food security**: the ASALs have broad systems of production including livestock, tourism, crop production but, rangelands has its own regeneration systems therefore a total rangelands analysis must be done.

• **Ending poverty & improving land governance**: Proper land administration for growth and production is possible in ASALs by way of making all investments relevant and inclusive (which and whose business? - Inclusive Business Model framework?) and ensuring equity, access and skills for production.

• **Resilience and environmental sustainability**: ASALs are delicate ecosystems; spatial and land use planning must account for this;