

RECOGNIZING THE ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS (ASALs) FOR MORE VALUE



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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- 1. CONTEXT UNDERPINNING THE ASALS :
IMPORTANCE AND CHALLENGES**
- 2. GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE ASALS**
- 3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVING POLICY
AND 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;

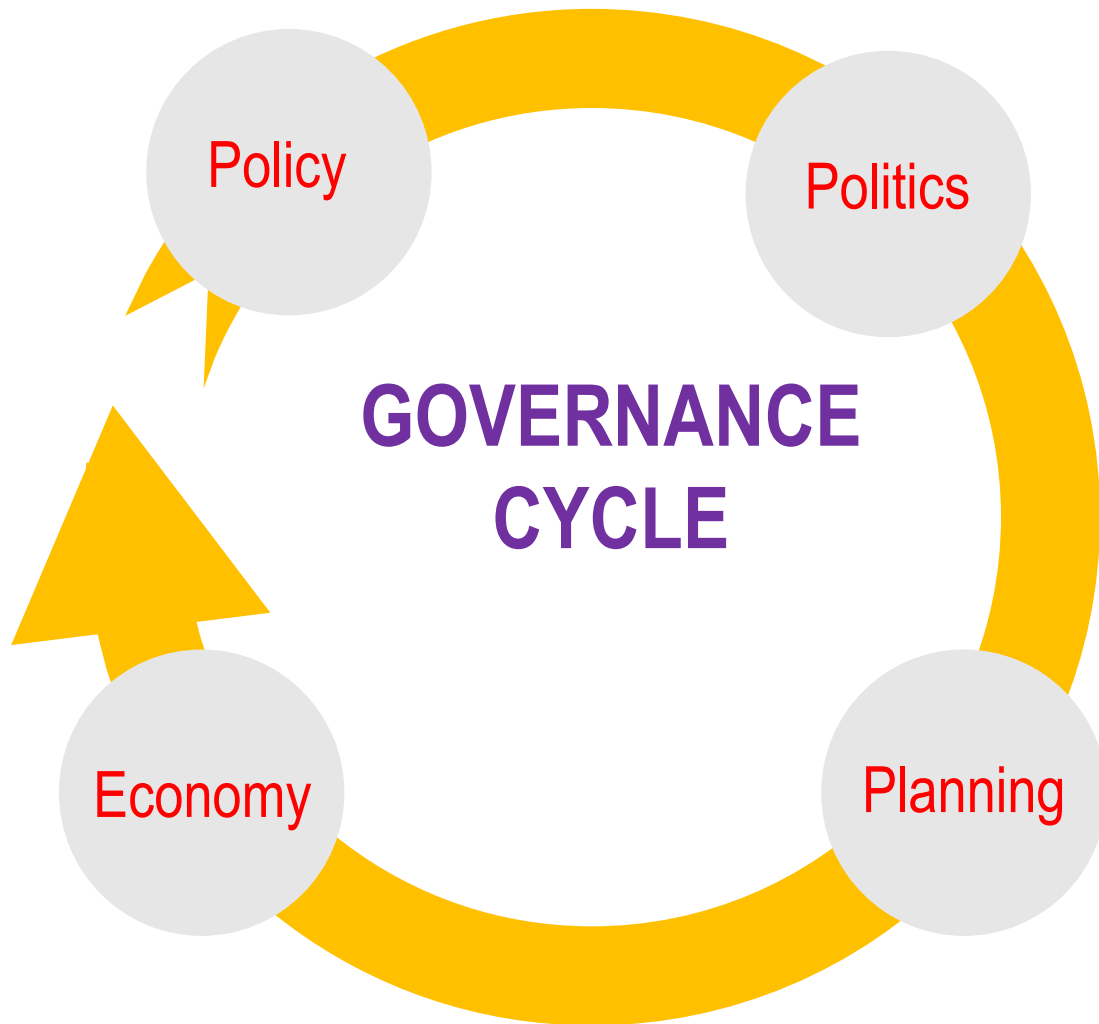


CHALLENGES THAT UNDERPIN THE ASALs

- 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;