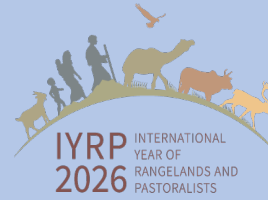




IYRP
EASTERN AFRICA
PASTORALIST YOUTH
GATHERING
2025 UGANDA



2025



Concept Note: IYRP2026 East Africa Pastoralist Youth Gathering in Moroto Uganda 20th to 21st November 2025

Pastoralist Youth Gathering: Advancing pastoralist
youth voices on Peace and Unity on climate justice and
resilience

JACOB LEKAITOGO - IYRP YOUTH WG,

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALIST | EAST AND
SOUTHERN AFRICA





IYRP2026 East Africa Pastoralist Youth Gathering: Advancing pastoralist youth voices on climate justice and resilience in East Africa

Location: Moroto, Uganda

Date: 20th to 21st November 2025

Background

Globally, there are half a billion pastoralists and an estimated 1.3 billion people who benefit from pastoral value chains¹. Rangelands and pastoralism are central to livelihoods and ecosystems in Eastern Africa. They provide grazing resources, sustain agro-pastoralist communities, and support ecosystem services. However, pressures from land demand, unsustainable practices, and climate change increasingly threaten these landscapes (Das et al., 2024; Lal et al., 2021; Pongratz et al., 2021).

In Eastern Africa pastoralism is the predominant livelihood and production system practiced in the arid and semi- arid lands (ASALs), which cover at least 75% of the land area of the Horn and East Africa.² The practice contributes to food security and nutrition in the dry zones of countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda. It offers direct support to an estimated 20 million people, accounting for 90% of the meat produced in East Africa and 80% of the total milk produced in Ethiopia. As such, pastoralism represents important added value for the local and national economies. And yet pastoralists face a lot of challenges.³

Youth are the powerhouse of sustainability of pastoralism, supporting mobility, household food security, and market systems. They play a vital role in ensuring income, nutrition, and resilience for their families and communities. Yet most youth in Eastern Africa depend on pastoralism, small-scale farming, or informal businesses all highly sensitive to climate shocks and shifting policy environment. Despite their potential, pastoralist youth are often excluded from governance and decision-making. This is not due to lack of capacity but to weak institutional mechanisms for meaningful participation. As a result, climate policies rarely reflect their needs, reinforcing inequality and reducing effectiveness.

There is an urgent need for an IYRP Engagement Roadmap to institutionalize youth participation, strengthen advocacy, and build accountability. Such a framework would enable pastoralist youth to contribute to governance and policy processes, fostering more inclusive, just, and effective responses to climate and livelihood challenges.

¹ World Bank. 2021. Moving towards sustainability: the livestock sector and the World Bank. Available at: www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/moving-towards-sustainability-the-livestock-sector-and-the-world-bank

² Alliance for food Security in Africa (2017) pastoralism, policy and law in the EAC and IGAD regions (East African Community & Intergovernmental Authority on Development Regions)

³ Pavanello, S. (2009). Pastoralists' vulnerability in the Horn of Africa: Exploring political marginalisation, donors' policies and cross-border issues—Literature review. *Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute, London*.





About International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralist (IYRP) 2026

On 15 March 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution and declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). It reflects the importance of rangelands in creating a sustainable planet and supporting economic growth and resilient livelihoods for pastoralist communities around the world. Although the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be facilitating the implementation of the IYRP in 2026, the IYRP International Support Group is already actively involved in preparing for the Year.



The IYRP seeks to increase worldwide understanding of the value of rangelands and pastoralism for food security, economy, environment and cultural heritage, to fill knowledge gaps about rangelands and pastoralists through participatory research. It further seeks to promote informed, science-based policy and legislation for current and future generations, advocate for strengthening the capacity of the pastoralism sector and for increasing responsible investment in sustainable land-use practices, equitable access to markets, and the health and wellbeing of people and animals in the rangelands as a climate solution.

About pastoralist youth Gathering:

The IYRP 2026 East Africa Pastoralist Youth Gathering (EAPYG) will be held in Moroto, Uganda, bringing together at least 150 rural pastoralist youth from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. The gathering aims to; Advance the role of African youth in sustaining rangeland resources for the future of pastoralism, create awareness on IYRP 2026, share knowledge, learn, and advocate for climate justice and resilience, generate the **IYRP EA Youth Roadmap and resolutions towards the 2026 events** in Madrid and Mongolia in 2026.

In addition, the gathering through field learning visits to a pastoralist landscape seeks to ignite a regional movement that recognizes the vital role of pastoralist youth in sustaining ecosystems, livelihoods, and cultural heritage bringing together diverse actors such as policymakers, civil society, and development partners to co-create a shared vision and strategic actions for sustainable rangeland management in East Africa.

Expected outcomes of the youth gathering:

- IYRP E.A Pastoralist youth roadmap during and after 2026
- Awareness on IYRP 2026 is created among pastoralist youth
- Pastoralist youth resolution,
- E.A pastoralist Policy brief
- Youth Resolution on climate justice and resilience
- Gathering Report

Activities during the gathering:

- Plenary dialogues at the main venue
- Outdoor activities
- Story telling
- Traditional dances by Masai, Karamojong, Toposa, Turkana, Nyangatom, Samburu, Hazades
- Field visit to the cattle Kraal camps and water points Kobebe Dam and Lotisan grazing areas Kraal to share experience from karacuna and morans youth.





Main thematic topics:

- Living No one Behind: Peace, Unity and Integration unlocking borders
- IYRP 2026: Why pastoralism and rangelands now
- The status of pastoralist youth engagement in policy change (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda)
- Peace building and Karamoja question

Methodology

- Dialogue meetings with elders of Karamoja at Lotisan
- Experience sharing among pastoralist youth
- Plenary presentations and discussions
- Story telling of experiences per country/ country caucus
- Field visit to areas of practice on sustainable pastoralism in Uganda

Target Groups

The gathering will bring together over an estimate of 70% of rural pastoralist youth, and a company by pastoralist CSOs, youth leaders, government representatives, Pastoralist elders blessing

- Rural pastoral youth from (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan)
- Pastoralist CSOs
- Youth political leaders of (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan)
- Selected member of parliament (host)
- Strategic partners (FAO, EU, UNDP, OXFAM Uganda)
- Media houses

Budget: USD63,344.6: Detailed budget

Access

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17IV4BWhMPPT7UYSkSamsboOBmWEFrqxtOYKBvZZo4Pc/edit?usp=sharing>

S/no	Description of activities	Amount (UGX)	USD	Notes	Partner
1	Accommodation for participants in Moroto	73,200,000	20,914.3	Accommodation for four nights for participants coming from outside the meeting district	
	Airfare for youth delegates (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Tanzania)	57,600,000	16,457.1	We are also suggesting a option of a bus or van from Kenya and Tanzania	
2	Meals (Break, lunch and Evening tea)	18,240,000	5211.4	Karamoja Youth Efforts Save Environment is covering this budget in one of the projects	KAYESE
3	Dinner meals cover	6,300,000	1,800	Meals for Karachuna 70 delegates from Kenya, Tanzania and South Sudan and Ethiopia	ACC
3	Bulls roasting (3 bulls)	6,000,000	1714.3	Bulls to show solidarity for pastoralism	ACC
4	Refreshments (Soda and Water)	1,250,000	357.1	During dialogues and field day	KAYESE



For People and Nature



3	Transport refund for participants	42,000,000	12,000	This may vary depending on the place one is coming from.	
4	Stationary, projector	2,000,000	571.4		
5	Printing of materials copies of IYRP leaflets, T.shirts, posters design and printing, banners	19,200,000	5,485.7	Leaflets, T.shirts and posters	
6	Facilitators remuneration/ honoraria	1,000,000	285.7	Two facilitators to guide the discussions and field visits	
7	Rapporteur facilitation	800,000	228.6	Note taking	
8.	Fuel and accommodation cover for MAAIF Commissioner - IYRP Uganda focal point from Kenya	5,490,000	1,568.6	Focal point and Driver	
9	Transport hire and guides	4,000,000	1142..9		
	Grand Total	237,080,000	67,737.1		

Host organization

Organisation	Profile	Role
Karamoja Youth Effort Save Environment	Indigenous youth organization dedicated to fostering dignified, healthy lives for communities and their environments.	Local Lead Host (Moroto, Uganda)
Coalition of pastoralist Civil Society Organisations	The organization provides a platform for pastoralist and indigenous civil society organizations to advocate for policies that recognize pastoralism and rangelands as a vital way of life for indigenous peoples and local communities in Uganda's cattle corridor and the Horn of Africa.	National Host (Uganda)
Rangelands Community Partnership	Community Partnership organization dedicated to connecting rangeland users to protect and conserve rangelands through one health and community action development.	Stakeholders' mobilization
African Youth Pastoralist initiative	AYPI is the African Youth Organisation with a focus on pastoralism in Africa. Builds on a network of pastoralist youth on IYRP2026	Regional youth mobilization (Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan)
Ateker Cultural Center (ACC)	Ateker Cultural Centre in Karamoja focuses on promoting the sharing and celebration of the pastoralist's traditional values and cultures through media and advocacy, socio ecological and cultural activities, art galleries, exhibitions and the museum; conducting of excursions, advertising and recreational activities such as dances, food festivals, traditional events, film/photography, historical sites, cultural festivals and sharing experiences	Regional mobilization for Women Youth

Key contacts

Obin Gordon, Karamoja Youth Efforts Save Environment (KAYESE)

Kayese256@gmail.com

Rangelands Community Partnership rangelanduganda@gmail.com

Agaba Brian – COPACSO Uganda

Jacob Lekaitago – African Youth Pastoralist Initiative/ IYRP Youth

Loupa Pius IYRP ESA WG – piusloupa89@gmail.com

PROGRAMME OF THE GATHERING

Day	Focus	Description	Responsible presenter	body/
Day 1	Arrival & Cultural Night	Participants arrive, register, and take part in a cultural night Ateker Youth. This will include showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Karamojong.	KAYESE, RCP, AYPI	
Day 2	Key Note speeches and Breakout session Dialogues	Key Note address on; Full day of in-depth dialogues on pressing issues	KAYESE	Community Organisation
		- Opening traditional Akiriket prayers and Cultural dance and folks by each country. - Presentation about the event by Rangelands Community Partnership - Opening remarks from LCV Moroto - Remarks from UPDF division Commander - Moroto - Remarks from Ministry of Agriculture, animal industry and Fisheries Uganda		
		- IYRP 2026 the gateway to steer the pastoralist and rangelands rights protection and restoration	IYRP ESAWG	
		- Pastoralism in East Africa: The role of Youth in advancing pastoralist agenda in E.A by African Youth Pastoralist Initiative	African Youth Pastoralist Initiative (AYPI)	
		- Individual Country Caucus dialogues: on advocacy, climate change, Conservation, Peacebuilding, and rangeland restoration.	COPACSO	
Day 3	Field Exchange Visit to areas of best practice of pastoralism, resource sharing	Morning: Pastoralist Youth hold field experience with Karachuna Youth at the cattle Kraal, rangelands and Kobebe cross border water facility	KAYESE, MADEFO,	
		Afternoon: Interactive dialogue at Karamojong Manyatta meeting with pastoralist elders in Lotisan. - Closing remarks from RDC Moroto	KHH, RIAMRIAM, KAYESE CO	
Day 4	Departures	Official departures	KAYESE	

RURAL YOUTH PARTICIPANT TARGETS

Country	Target Rural Youth	Target Urbanised/educated	Total	Notes
Ethiopia	5	5	10	Borona, Afar, Nyangatom,
Kenya	15	5	20	Masai, Turkana, Pokot, Samburu
Uganda	80	10	90	Karamojong, Balalo, Bayangkole, Teso
South Sudan	8	2	10	Toposa, Jie, Mundari,
Tanzania	15	5	20	Masai, Hazades,
			150	

Prepared by

Loupa Pius

Co – chair- IYRP East and Southern Africa Working Group

Ploupa89@gmail.com

Lekaitogo Jacob

Chairperson IYRP Youth Working group

jacobmpapaiye1994@gmail.com