

TANZANIA PASTORALISTS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Dodoma Hotel -Dodoma, Tanzania

29Th April 2026

Prepared by PINGOs Forum and ESAPN

Table of Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Introduction and Background	3
1.2	Purpose	4
1.3	Objectives of the TZ-PPG engagement	4
1.5	Participants of the Engagement	4
1.6	Expectations from members of Pastoralist Parliamentary Group.....	5
2.0	METHODOLOGY	5
3.0	PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	6
3.1	Welcome and Opening Remarks	6
3.2	Technical Presentations	8
3.2.1	<i>Meeting objectives by ESAPN.....</i>	8
3.2.2	<i>Importance of Pastoralism and Challenges facing pastoralists in Tanzania, A Call to Action for Parliamentary Leadership by PINGOs Forum.....</i>	9
3.3	Key Discussion and Responses MPs.....	11
4:	CONCLUSION.....	16
	SECTION 5: CLOSING REMARKS	17
6.	ANNEXES	18
	Annex 1: Programme	18
	Annex 2: List of participants -attached in separate file	18
	Annex 3: ESPN Presentation: Pastoralism in Eastern and Southern Africa- Policy Directions and Government Priorities) - attached in separate file	18
	Annex 4: PINGOs Presentation - Strengthening Pastoralism in Tanzania- A Call to Action for Parliamentary Leadership - attached in separate file.....	19

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Background

Pastoralism remains a vital livelihood system in Eastern and Southern Africa in general and Tanzania in particular, contributing significantly to food security, economic development, and cultural identity. Despite its importance, pastoralist communities' resilience is impaired by numerous constraints to accessing and utilizing cross-border rangelands, which are critical for seasonal mobility, drought resilience, and ecosystem balance. Fragmented legal frameworks, weak institutional coordination and limited recognition of transboundary resource use rights continue to impede effective cross-border transhumance.

FAO and the EU signed a four-year €47 million programme designed to strengthen the resilience of pastoralists in Eastern Africa. The initiative, named “**Pastoralism and Livestock Adaptation to Climate Change in Eastern Africa Programme (PLACE)**,” is designed to address the challenges in developing sustainable, climate-resilient pastoral systems across the environmental, economic and social dimensions of pastoralism in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

PLACE's holistic approach aims to foster an environment that promotes comprehensive and innovative solutions to enhance resilience, improve food security and establish sustainable livelihoods across four cross-border cluster areas—the Bahr el-Arab/Kiir (in the border region between Sudan and South Sudan), Karamoja (in the borderlands of Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda), Mandera (the border area of Ethiopia and Kenya), and Mara-Serengeti (across the Kenya and Tanzania border).

Among the project activities is the one to support regional pastoralists' associations' advocacy with national and regional pastoral parliamentary groups, in order to strengthen advocacy and policy implementation for pro-pastoral development contributing to cross-border peace and security. This includes the reflection into more inclusive and effective pro-pastoral policies and strategies, gender-sensitive peace and social cohesion initiatives, land tenure as an effective means to address climate issues, inclusivity for gender and people living with disabilities, and strengthening of conflict mitigation and resolution in pastoral systems at national and regional levels.

To actualize the above, from 28-30 April 2006, the Eastern and Southern Africa Pastoralist Network (ESAPN) in collaboration with its members and partners in Tanzania including PINGOs Forum, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) and Pastoral Livelihood Support Empowerment Program (PALSEP) engaged with the Tanzania Pastoralist Parliamentary Group

(TZ-PPG) to build political momentum for advancing pastoralist rights and resilience within pastoralist friendly regulatory, policy and legal spaces.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to connect local experiences with policy makers on pastoralism, rangeland governance, and climate change issues in Tanzania. The meeting focused on advancing pro-pastoral policies by aligning national legislation with regional and global frameworks, strengthening communal land tenure systems, protecting livestock mobility corridors, and increasing public investment in pastoral economies and services.

1.3 Objectives of the TZ-PPG engagement

The objectives of the engagement were to:

- Establish structured engagements between ESAPN and its members in Tanzania with the national Parliamentary Pastoralist Group to strengthen regulatory and policy dialogue while promoting legal recognition of pastoralist needs and building lasting mechanisms for advocacy and follow-up on pastoralism issues in the country and promote cross-border cooperation and strategic partnerships;
- Enhance Parliament's critical role in enacting and overseeing supportive laws, promoting cross-border cooperation, and ensuring pastoralist inclusion in governance processes.
- Foster strategic partnerships to enhance livelihoods, build resilience, reduce resource-based conflicts, and support sustainable natural resource management in pastoral areas.

1.4 Venue and date and Programme

The meeting was held in Igada Hall, Dodoma Hotel on 30th April 2026. For a detailed programme see Annex 2.

1.5 Participants of the Engagement

The engagement was attended by Members of Parliament from pastoralist constituencies, Office of the Speaker, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and representatives of PINGOS Forum, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) and PALSEP as well as ESAPN. A total of 26 participants disaggregated in Table 1 below attended.

Table 1: Participants of the TZ-PPG engagement

Category	Male	Female	Total
Members of Parliament from pastoralist constituencies	10	6	16
Development partners: FAO Tanzania (PLACE)	1	0	1
Government official: Staff from Office of the Speaker	0	1	1
Tanzanian NGOs and ESAPN	8	-	8
Total	19	7	26

(For details of participants see annex 1)

1.6 Expectations from members of Pastoralist Parliamentary Group

At the beginning of the engagement, participants were requested to introduce themselves and based on the engagement objectives state their expectations. They expressed the following:

- Understanding of the conflicting provisions of the legal frameworks that affect pastoralism;
- Issue that are currently facing pastoralists in Tanzania;
- Acquire evidence of the key issues that affect pastoralists in Tanzania requiring parliamentary action;
- Obtain experience of how others countries handle and manage pastoralists and mobility
- Build synergies between MPs and NGOs, CSOs, FBO and CBOs in creating awareness to pastoralists across the country;
- Rangeland management techniques that optimize pasture availability including improved pasture throughout the year; and
- Diversification of livelihoods through alternative and complementary activities.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Prior to the engagement, consultations were held between the ESAPN team and the Office of the Speaker seeking clearance of the activity. Together, the two agreed on a list of influential Members of Parliament from Tanzania Pastoralists Preliminary Groups. The request of the meeting was cleared by Speaker of National Assembly to take place on 30th April 2026.

The engagement was consultative and adhered to all National Assembly meeting protocols. It was moderated by Ms. Magret Baraka, Secretary to the Parliamentary Standing Committee and chaired by Hon. Masanja K. Kadogosa MP.

It was an open roundtable discussion meeting moderated in Tanzania language (Swahili) under the leadership of Chairperson of TZ-PPG. After official opening, the Chair of the meeting allowed and invited key Power Point presentations from FAO TZ, ESAPN and PINGOs Forum that built a foundation for the discussions.

There were key interactions from all participants discussing issues raised in the presentations and gave the MPs direction toward building strong consortium to support the government to address them.



Plate 1: Ms. Martha Swau, Secretary Parliamentary Standing Committee Office of the Speaker moderating one of the sessions

The TZ-PPG members unanimously elected the following leaders:

Hon. Masanja Kadogosa	Chairman
Hon. Mwita Getere	Vice Chairperson
Hon. Kundi Majala	Co-Chairperson
Hon. Edward Olekaita	Secretary
Hon. Asia Halamga	Deputy Secretary

3.0 PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Parmelo Laurent Saitoti the Pastoralism Advocacy Coordinator from Pastoralist Indigenous Network Organization Forum (PINGOs Forum)¹ welcomed the participants. In his remarks, he told the meeting that they were setting up a platform meant to see that Tanzania adopts a more favourable legal and policy frameworks from the perspective of pastoralists as long as they were aligned to national, regional, continental and global commitments.

Dr. Moses Ole-Neselle who is focal person for PLACE in Tanzania on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations representative, shared key messages from the Development Partners. He informed the participants that, the event was part of the overall PLACE project activities in seven Eastern Africa countries. The main objective of the PLACE was to promote resilience of pastoralists since they were continually suffering from effects of climate change. He was hopeful that the TZ-PPG would open space for dialogue between pastoralist civil society and Members of Parliament for the good of every party. He further

¹ PINGOS Forum is the ESAPN member in Tanzania

informed the meeting that FAO not only works on pastoralism but also crops and natural resources all of which have potential for synergizing with pastoralism.



Plate 2: FAO/PLACE representative Dr. Mosses Ole -Nessele sharing key messages from Development partners during round table discussion meeting in Dodoma on 30 April 2026

The official opening was done by the Chairman of the TZ-PPG Hon. Masanja K. Kadogosa. He called for clear collaboration and fruitful roundtable discussion among TZ-PPG members. He pointed out that since majority of the members were coming from pastoralists constituencies, each of them was expected to use the opportunity of the engagement to bring into discussion what their voters sent them to discuss for the benefit of the pastoralists and government in general.

The chairman officially welcomed the organizers (ESAPN and local members PINGOs Forum) to share with MPs the objectives of the meeting and what they expected from the MPs and government of Tanzania to attend to.



Plate 3: Official Opening of the meeting by Chairman of TZ-PPG, Hon Masanja K. Kadogosa (right)

3.2 Technical Presentations

3.2.1 Meeting objectives by ESAPN

The ESAPN Coordinator Mr. Benjamin B. Mutambukah presented the meeting objectives as to:

- Align national legislation with regional and global commitments to advance pro-pastoral policies;
- Strengthen communal land tenure systems and protect livestock mobility corridors;
- Enhance Parliaments' role in enacting and overseeing supportive laws and inclusive governance;
- Promote cross-border cooperation and strategic partnerships; and
- Increase investment to improve livelihoods, resilience, and sustainable natural resource management.

Mr. Mutambukah also shared ESAP Strategy in the region that envision to see resilient pastoralist communities with empowered people, healthy livestock and sustainably managed natural resources. Among others ESAPN works on the following thematic areas:

- Legal recognition of pastoralism;
- Land and resource rights;
- Access to public services (health, education, water);
- Engagement with parliaments, regional and global bodies; and
- Protection of indigenous and minority pastoralist groups.

He pointed out pastoralism issues and policy direction in the region of relevancy to Tanzania and called upon the MPs to advocate for ratification and domestication of many agreements and commitments leading to effective implementation. *(For details of the presentation, see Annex 3)*



Plate 4: ESAPN Coordinator sharing the engagement objectives and ESAPN strategy during TZ-PPG meeting in Tanzania.

3.2.2 Importance of Pastoralism and Challenges facing pastoralists in Tanzania, A Call to Action for Parliamentary Leadership by PINGOs Forum

Mr. Saitoti of PINGOs highlighted the importance of pastoralism and challenges it faces in the country. Notably he indicated the importance as:

- The country hosting 1.4% of global and 11% of Africa's cattle population;
- The national herd of 30.5million cattle; 18.8million goats; 5.3million sheep; 1.9million pigs; 38.3million indigenous chickens and 36.6million exotic chickens;
- Livestock markets offer substantial revenues to local governments;
- Contribution of 7.4% of national GDP and 26% of agricultural GDP; and
- Employing close to 50% of population with 4.6million households' incomes derived from livestock.

He, however, also indicated a number of challenges which include:

- Conflicting laws and policies;
- Unfavorable laws and policies leaning towards crop farming;

- Political constraints/ideology;
- Low awareness of livestock's economic value;
- Weak enforcement of existing laws and policies including delays in effecting court rulings;
- Competing land uses; limited community consultation (FPIC gaps);
- Restrictions on pastoral mobility;
- Climate shocks: droughts, floods, land degradation, livestock losses, poverty; and
- Limited services: animal and human health, education and infrastructure.

He requested government through Parliamentarians to:

- Strengthen governance: revamp the parliamentary pastoral caucus and ensure community/CSO engagement;
- Recognize and protect communal rangelands, grazing land, and mobility routes;
- Harmonise legal frameworks and strengthen regional cooperation (through ratification and domestication of various declarations and conventions);
- Increase investment in livestock systems, markets, animal health, and social services;
- Improve data systems and evidence use in pastoralism; and
- Promote sustainable, climate-resilient pastoralism, including traditional knowledge and practices. *(For detail see Annex 4)*



Plate 5: Mr. Saitoti of PINGOs highlighted the importance of pastoralism and challenges in the country



Plate 6: Members of Parliament following a presentation on pastoralists' challenges in the country

Finally, Mr Saitoti informed the engagement that PINGOs was the Tanzanian member of the ESAPN and that in return PINGOs drew membership from a number of organizations such as TNRF and PALSEP which had attended the forum.

PINGOs in a call to action asked the TZ-PPG to:

- Revamp a Tanzania Parliamentary pastoral caucus;
- Harmonize conflicting legal frameworks to support pastoralism;
- Increase livestock sector funding including social services;
- Engage communities and CSOs in legal and policy development, implementation, monitoring and learning;
- Enhance pastoralism related data capture, analysis and interpretation;
- Protect grazing land and support participatory rangeland management;
- Recognize traditional knowledge and practices in livestock and rangeland management; and
- Champion pastoralism as a sustainable and climate resilience livelihood.

For detail of the PINGOs presentation see *Annex 4*.

3.3 Key Discussion and Responses MPs

Members of Parliament deliberated on the pressing challenges affecting pastoralist communities in their constituencies and on concrete actions that the government should take to address them as follow:

3.3.1 Outdated Wildlife Law is Stifling Livestock Growth

MPs noted that there was a need to reform policies that created paid grazing reserves in buffer zones and amend laws. They questioned the relevancy of the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1974 which was written when Tanzania had just nine million livestock. Today, the sector has transformed: by 2019-2024, cattle alone had reached 33-35 million, with 24 million goats and sheep. Total livestock now exceeds 150 million. Therefore the 1974 law was no longer conforming with the reality and is holding the sector back.

3.3.2 Empty Game Reserves vs. Land-Starved Herders

Members of Parliament noted that the recurrent land use led to under stocked big game reserves side by side with over stocked pastoralist grazing areas. MPs noted that many game reserves were gazetted in 1974 when wildlife was present. Decades later, they remain with little or no wildlife value, yet pastoralists struggle to find grazing land nearby.

3.3.3. Unlock Land Through Paid Grazing Reserves

Members of Parliament recommended that government does reallocate portions of under-utilized reserved areas into designated grazing reserves. The arrangement would allow pastoralists to pay user fees. This creates win-win outcomes that the herders secure pasture, and at the same time the government earns revenue, and rebuilds the trust between communities and government.

3.3.4. Reform the 1974 Act for Today's Tanzania

MPs noted that the outdated law - 1974 Wildlife Act doesn't reflect current livestock population and land pressure. They recommended for an amendment of the Act to align with current demographics, land use, and economic needs. A modern law must balance conservation with the livelihoods of 150+ million livestock.

3.3.5. Justice Delayed is Justice Denied

MPs noted that many pastoralists had won court cases nationwide, but compensation remained outstanding. They called for having a mechanism in place through which those responsible for delayed compensation could be held accountable.

3.5.6. End One-Sided Punishment in Farmer-Herder Conflicts

The MPs argued that in most herder crop farmer conflicts, the former is normally presumed to be the guilty party and hence they are consistently penalized, even when authorities have a mandate to act fairly. They called upon government to ensure impartial enforcement and dispute resolution that protects both sides.

The Members of Parliament jointly affirmed that updating legal frameworks to protect and uphold the rights of pastoralists, reforming relevant laws, unlocking the productive use of underutilized land, and ensuring access to justice would secure pastoral livelihoods and strengthen relations between communities and government.



Plate 7: MPs in a plenary discussion



The TZ PPG committed to engage and work very closely with related government Ministries, Departments or Agencies (MDAs) such as those with local government, natural resources and the budget committee of Parliament to ensure harmonized approaches and synergizing with other interventions to protect and deliver pastoralists rights to improve their livelihood .

The meeting identified an urgent need to revisit the current Livestock and Natural Resources Act of 1974 to reflect the realities of increases of both human and livestock populations. This calls for revisiting the access and user rights of pastoralists including possibilities of leasing at a fee user of certain grazing areas. The aspect of payment would possibly stimulate a higher sense of ownership and protection;

The Members of Parliament noted the importance of finding out how the country stands in complying with the various international arrangements the country has signed as a way of stimulating action where it's found to be waning;

Since pastoralism affects more than the agriculture and livestock docket, the Members of Parliament agreed to start the process of convening a multi stakeholder of meeting with MDAs and representatives of the pastoralist communities as a way of comprehensively analysing issues and development of mutually agreed approaches to solutions;

It was pointed out that conflicts between pastoralists and crop farmers were an impediment to security. Although in most cases pastoralists are presumed to be the guilty parties in such conflicts, this was not always true and equally pastoralists should undergo attitude change when it comes to how they relate with affected crop farmers.



Plate 9. Member of Parliament from Ngorongoro constituents contributing in the Discussion

Also, it was pointed out was the need to increase production and productivity of pastoralists' livestock through growing of pasture and provision of many scattered micro dams in order to ensure availability of pasture and water throughout the year hence building adaptation to climate change.

Given the proximity and symbiotic relationships enjoyed between pastoralists and communities in various parts of the country, it was recommended that efforts should be directed on having coordinated pastoralist grazing in game parks /reserves especially during the wet seasons when there is excess grass therein and also during dry season when there is drought in village land .

The members of Parliaments discussed on cross border cooperation, a concern was raised about possible influx of badly behaved aggressive pastoralists.



Plate 10: Deputy chairperson of TZ PPG issuing the way forward of the agreed meeting of PPG.

View all Meeting Photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/ZrdpCCHjZWG2gaBe9>

4: CONCLUSION

The Tanzania Pastoralist Parliamentary Group (TZ-PPG) engagement provided an important platform for dialogue among Members of Parliament, pastoralist organizations, development partners, and other stakeholders on the future of pastoralism in Tanzania. Participants reaffirmed the vital contribution of pastoralism to livelihoods, food security, employment, and the national economy, while recognizing the growing challenges facing pastoralist communities.

Members of Parliament highlighted the need to review and harmonize existing laws and policies, strengthen communal land tenure systems, protect grazing areas and livestock mobility corridors, and increase investment in livestock development and essential services. They also emphasized the importance of addressing unresolved compensation claims, promoting peaceful coexistence between pastoralists and farmers, and strengthening climate resilience.

A major outcome of the meeting was the revitalization of the Tanzania Pastoralist Parliamentary Group and the election of interim leadership to spearhead advocacy and follow-

up actions. Participants committed to continued collaboration with government institutions, civil society organizations, and development partners to advance pro-pastoral policies and ensure that pastoralist concerns are effectively represented in national development and legislative processes.

SECTION 5: CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman of the newly formed group Hon. Masanja K. Kadogosa thanked the FAO for funding the activity and both PINGOs and ESAPN for organizing the engagement. He called upon the members present to mobilize other MPs from pastoralist areas to jointly pull their efforts to work with other stakeholders for the good of the communities they represent with more focus the decisions agreed during the TZ-PPG engagement.

6. ANNEXES

Annex 1: Programme



Annex 1: PROGRAMME

High-Level Meeting on Parliamentary Engagement for Pastoral Development
Igada Hall, New Dodoma Hotel, Dodoma Tanzania

Time	Session	Lead
08:30 – 09:00	Arrival and Registration	PINGOS FORUM Secretariat
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome Remarks	Nominee of the National Assembly Administration
09:05 – 09:20	Introduction of Participants and highlight of the meeting objectives.	Moderator
09:20 – 09:35	Messages from Development Partners	FAO/EU
09:35 – 10:00	Pastoralism in Eastern Africa: Policy Directions and Government Priorities	ESAPN
10:00 – 10:25	Presentation of challenges and opportunities facing pastoral communities requiring Parliamentary action.	PINGOS FORUM
10:25 – 10:45	Coffee Break	Hotel
10:45 - 11:45	Discussions of MPs addressing the following issues and proposing a way forward: - What are the key challenges? - What laws/policies exist (Village Land Act, National Land Policy, Livestock Policy and Land Use Plans, Climate Change)? - What is missing? - What should Parliament do?	Members of Parliament
11:45 - 12:15	Presentation and discussion of the meeting Declaration	All participants
12:15 – 12:25	Closing Remarks	To be advised
12:25 – 13:25	Lunch	Hotel
13:25	Departures	All participants

Annex 2: List of participants -attached in separate file

Annex 3: ESPN Presentation: Pastoralism in Eastern and Southern Africa- Policy Directions and Government Priorities) - attached in separate file

Annex 4: PINGOs Presentation - Strengthening Pastoralism in Tanzania- A Call to Action for Parliamentary Leadership - attached in separate file