

News

Drylands Transform's first project summary

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IGAD stands for Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the organisation is active in the region which comprises the countries of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. (IGAD logotype)

Now the first project summary is published for the SLU-led project Drylands Transform. One of the collaborating organisations in the project is IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) who are the ones that has produced the publication.

[Read the first project summary](#)

Introduction

Drylands Transform (DT) is a research project led by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in partnership with a multidisciplinary team from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Linnaeus University, Makerere University, Umeå University, University of Gothenburg, University of Nairobi, and World Agroforestry (ICRAF).

Drylands Transform investigates the links between land health, livestock-based livelihoods, human well-being, land management and governance. The project will contribute new knowledge for transformative change and sustainable development of rangelands in the drylands of East Africa. The overall goal of Drylands Transform is to contribute knowledge for implementing and achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the East African drylands while optimizing synergies and minimizing trade-offs between the SDGs.

Through strong stakeholder engagement in interdisciplinary research, DT explores the challenges and pathways towards a social ecological transformation in drylands. Drylands Transform uses innovative field research approaches focusing on livelihood improvement



Fig. 1. The research sites in the area provide a variation in livelihood strategy, land management and climate. The two southernmost sites – Chepararia, in West Pokot County (Kenya) and Motany, in Napak District (Uganda) – are dominated by agropastoralist communities, whereas the two northernmost, more arid, sites – Rupa, in Moroto District (Uganda), and Lokiriama-Lorengkipl, in Turkana County (Kenya) – are dominated by pastoralists.

The project is structured into five areas corresponding to the main project objectives:

1. Assessment of soil and land health.
2. Co-developing rangeland restoration and sustainable management options in knowledge-sharing hubs (Livestock cafés).
3. Linking climate variability to human health, nutrition and well-being.
4. Exploring innovative land governance

Drylands Transform Project in the IGAD Region - IGAD

IGAD is working according to the 5 pillars of cooperation:

- Pillar 1: Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment;
- Pillar 2: Economic Cooperation and Regional Integration;
- Pillar 3: Health and Social Development;
- Pillar 4: Peace and Security;
- Pillar 5: Corporate Development Services

Hence, all IGAD programmes are clustered under these Pillars.

Within IGAD there is ICPALD, which is the IGAD centre for pastoral areas and livestock development. The vision for ICPALD is to

"be the premier centre of excellence for promoting livestock and complementary livelihood resources development in arid and semi arid areas of the IGAD Region"

The Centre is supposed to promote, facilitate and advocate for a people centered gender responsive sustainable development in arid and semi arid areas in the IGAD Region. This is done through the following strategic objectives:

- Promote and facilitate regional livestock and drylands policies and development initiatives,

- Facilitate and support the domestication, adoption and transfer of appropriate research and technology in drylands and livestock development,
- Act as an interface between the extension, research, policymaking and execution and coordinate implementation,
- Establish linkages with other IGAD specialized institutions especially ICPAC, ISSP and CEWARN, and member state institutions and create synergy with international, continental and regional institutions' programs and projects on issues pertaining to drylands and livestock development.
- Promote and facilitate need driven capacity building

IGAD in general and ICPALD specifically are therefore important collaborators within Drylands Transform both in terms of dissemination and scaling of results.

Facts:



Drylands Transform

Drylands Transform is a 4-year research project funded by Formas that started up during the Covid-19 pandemic in October 2020. It includes an interdisciplinary research team representing SLU and seven other universities and international organisations from Sweden, Kenya and Uganda.

[Visit the website for Drylands Transform.](#)

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