



OROMIA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE



PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY



Pastoral Development Policy and Strategies



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2026
January

January, 2026



Oromia Irrigation and Pastoral Development Bureau



Summary

Pastoralism is the livelihood system and way of life of pastoral communities. The economic foundation of pastoral societies primarily depends on livestock production and development. This is directly linked to the management and use of rangelands, as well as the community's adaptability to the climatic conditions of arid and semi-arid areas. Moreover, the mobility of pastoralists from place to place reflects a strategic way of sustaining their livelihoods. In addition, agro-pastoralism integrates livestock development with dry-land farming and other socio-economic activities that strengthen the resilience of pastoral livelihoods.

According to available data, Ethiopia has an estimated over 15 million pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. About 42% of the country's livestock population is found in pastoral areas. Livestock and livestock products contribute about 12–17% of Ethiopia's foreign exchange earnings. In the Oromia Region, pastoralism and agro-pastoralism support the livelihoods of millions of people. Approximately 43% of the region's total land area is pastoral, hosting over 5 million pastoralists and more than 15 million livestock. This demonstrates the significant role livestock development plays in improving livelihoods, ensuring food security, and generating foreign exchange.

Since 2020, a pastoral development policy and strategy has been developed and implemented at the federal level. Although pastoral development makes substantial contributions, the sector still faces complex challenges that hinder its full potential in contributing to sustainable national and regional development. Therefore, the Oromia Regional State has prepared its own Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy.

In preparing this policy and strategy, consideration was given to constitutional development rights of pastoral communities at both federal and regional levels, the federal pastoral development policy and strategy, political reforms, transforming challenges into opportunities, national macroeconomic policies, and continental and regional integration frameworks related to pastoralism.

The vision of the Oromia Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy is to see resilient, secure, and prosperous pastoral communities living in harmony with their cultural



identity and environment. The overarching objectives include eradicating poverty, ensuring food security, promoting sustainable ecology, expanding coordinated infrastructure, ensuring social protection, fostering innovation, and strengthening disaster risk governance to build resilient pastoral communities. Key objectives of the policy include:

- Improving livestock and dry-land agricultural productivity and diversifying income sources to eradicate poverty and ensure food security.
- Ensuring efficient and equitable use of water resources to enhance sustainable socio-economic development.
- Re-seeding rangelands, controlling invasive species, and promoting appropriate vegetation to improve rangeland security and productivity.
- Expanding infrastructure and social services that support pastoral livelihoods.
- Promoting environmentally sustainable development and ecosystem conservation.
- Enhancing resilience to climate change, natural disasters, and economic shocks.
- Strengthening effective and timely disaster risk management systems.
- Promoting and adapting innovative technologies for pastoral development.
- Encouraging inclusive and integrated policies to ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities.
- Strengthening institutional capacity and governance systems.
- Ensuring lasting peace, good governance, and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Promoting industrial development and sustainable employment opportunities.
- Strengthening cross-border pastoral linkages within the Horn of Africa.

The policy is guided by principles such as coordination, inclusiveness, community participation, climate resilience and adaptability, sustainability, and livelihood resilience.



The strategy is structured around three pillars: economic, ecological, and social development. These pillars are interrelated and, when implemented in a coordinated manner, will enhance resilience and promote sustainable development.

The first major policy issue focuses on ensuring food security and eradicating poverty by improving livestock production and productivity through breed improvement, animal health service expansion, and better veterinary coverage. It also promotes improved dry-land agriculture through modern agricultural technologies, soil fertility management, improved inputs and seeds, crop protection, and expanded extension services. Livelihood diversification through small-scale manufacturing, non-farm activities, micro and small enterprises, and skills development is also emphasized.

The second policy issue addresses sustainable environmental management, including improved land administration and use, rangeland rehabilitation, livestock feed development, water supply improvement, irrigation expansion, watershed development, forest conservation, biodiversity protection, mineral resource management, and facilitating mobility and voluntary settlement programs.

The third policy area focuses on social protection and infrastructure development. Key priorities include improving access to quality education, strengthening health services and facilities, enhancing financial services, telecommunications, energy access, road infrastructure, and market information systems, and strengthening cooperatives.

The fourth policy area emphasizes mainstreaming disaster risk management through early warning systems, emergency response mechanisms, post-disaster recovery, climate-sensitive interventions, and herd diversification strategies.

The fifth policy issue concerns strengthening institutional capacity by reinforcing traditional institutions, stakeholder coordination, capacity-building programs, partnerships with universities, technical and vocational training, human resource development, legal frameworks, and improved service delivery systems.

Ensuring sustainable peace and stability in pastoral areas is also a priority, including strengthening traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, promoting inclusive



governance, enhancing regional peace cooperation, and improving equitable access to natural resources.

Sustainable urbanization is another policy issue, aiming to improve livelihoods, promote economic growth, ensure inclusive urban planning, secure land tenure, expand infrastructure, diversify local economies, expand social services, and preserve cultural heritage.

Industrial development is prioritized to add value to livestock and other resources, create employment opportunities, strengthen value chains, expand industrial infrastructure, enhance skills, improve access to finance, ensure policy support, reduce environmental impacts, and promote market linkages.

The policy also emphasizes research and technology promotion to generate evidence-based decision-making, enhance digitalization, and strengthen information and communication technologies.

Cross-cutting issues include ensuring participation and benefits for persons with disabilities, women, and youth; improving food quality and nutrition; and promoting private sector engagement in pastoral development.

Overall, pastoral development is not a short-term or single-actor endeavor. It requires a comprehensive and inclusive approach involving government institutions at all levels, civil society organizations, pastoral communities, traditional institutions, and other stakeholders working collaboratively to achieve sustainable and resilient development



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1. Introduction

Pastoralism refers to a mode of subsistence that primarily involves the herding and breeding of livestock, adapted to environments where grazing resources are naturally available. This practice is characterized by mobility, allowing pure pastoralists to move seasonally in search of water and pasture. Their livelihoods depend almost entirely on livestock for food and income. On the other hand, agro-pastoralism combines livestock rearing with crop cultivation, providing a diversified livelihood that enhances food security and income stability. Together, these systems form integral components of the socio-economic landscape in Ethiopia, particularly in regions like Oromia, where millions rely on them for their livelihoods.

In Ethiopia, pastoralism embodies a holistic lifestyle deeply rooted in the herding and breeding of key livestock, such as cattle, goats, sheep, and camels. These animals serve not only as critical economic assets, providing food and facilitating trade, but also hold significant cultural importance. For many Ethiopian pastoral societies, livestock are symbols of wealth, social status, and community ties, making pastoralism a fundamental aspect of their social fabric. The economic contributions of pastoralism are substantial; livestock and their products account for 12 to 17% of the country's foreign exchange earnings. Moreover, pastoralism contributes approximately 16% to Ethiopia's GDP and about 33% of agricultural GDP, highlighting its vital role in national economic stability.

A defining characteristic of pastoralism is mobility, which enables pastoralists to undertake seasonal mobilities to optimize access to grazing and water resources. This adaptability is supported by a rich body of traditional knowledge that encompasses animal husbandry, land management, and ecological understanding, all passed down through generations. Such knowledge is crucial for navigating environmental challenges and maintaining the health of livestock. However, Pastoral communities in Ethiopia face significant challenges, particularly regarding water scarcity. Prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall patterns, exacerbated by climate change, have severely limited access to drinking water and grazing lands, jeopardizing their livelihoods and food security.



In Oromia, pastoralists primarily depend on Livestock rearing, which is central to their economy and cultural identity. The Pastoral area of the region is characterized by arid and semi-arid landscapes, making it particularly vulnerable to water scarcity and climate variability. Oromia is home to diverse pastoralist contexts across the different zones, each with unique cultural practices and economic systems. These communities have traditionally relied on extensive grazing lands; however, land encroachment, and illegal agricultural expansion have resulted in significant reductions in available pasture.

The challenges of water scarcity in Oromia are compounded by natural and anthropogenic factors. Climate change has led to more prolonged droughts, while erratic rainfall disrupts the seasonal cycles vital for livestock health. Additionally, invasive weeds and the rise of agricultural activities has depleted water sources and grazing lands, intensifying competition between pastoralists and farmers. This situation contributes to heightened food insecurity and social unrest, as communities struggle to secure the resources necessary for survival.

To tackle these complex challenges, it is crucial to implement inclusive policies that focus on enhancing water access and managing resources effectively. Pastoral communities frequently face severe food shortages and are frequently embroiled in violent disputes over scarce resources. Their marginalized political and economic status exacerbates their predicament, limiting their access to vital resources and denying them crucial infrastructure and socioeconomic support. Previous development strategies have strained pastoral ecosystems, weakened institutional structures and perpetuated unfair resource allocation.

Recent years have marked a significant shift in the recognition of pastoralism's importance within national discourse. Government initiatives have facilitated the incorporation of pastoralists' rights into the constitution, marking a pivotal development in Ethiopian history. Efforts to combat marginalization have led to the integration of pastoralists into national planning initiatives, with their concerns actively discussed in different policy agendas. The establishment of a Pastoralist Affairs Standing Committee demonstrates a commitment to addressing the specific needs of these communities and



ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes.

Historically, pastoral communities were often overlooked in policy making. However, the evolving internal and international landscape has led to a greater acknowledgment of pastoralism as a vital economic system requiring targeted improvements. This recognition has created significant opportunities to address water scarcity and enhance the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral societies in Oromia. This **Oromia National Regional Pastoralist Development Policy and Strategy** document outlines a comprehensive framework aimed at improving the lives of these communities by focusing on enhancing water management, promoting sustainable land use, and empowering communities through participatory governance. By recognizing and leveraging the traditional knowledge of these communities, the policy encourages adaptive practices that align with local customs and ecological realities.

This development policy is crucial for achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By improving livelihoods and economic opportunities for pastoralists, the policy aims to reduce poverty levels and directly contribute to ending hunger and enhancing food security. The emphasis on sustainable water management aligns with the goal of ensuring availability and sustainable management of water resources. Additionally, by addressing the impacts of climate change on pastoral livelihoods, the policy supports climate resilience, helping communities adapt to an increasingly unpredictable environment.

Furthermore, this policy document plays a pivotal role in achieving the development pillars of the Oromia Region. It aims to uplift the economic status of pastoral communities by ensuring year-round food availability through strategies for sustainable livestock management and dry-land agriculture. Promoting value-added products from livestock can stimulate local industries and create jobs, thereby reducing unemployment rates. By enhancing local production capacities, the policy seeks to diminish dependency on imported goods while strengthening the livestock sector to bolster export revenues, ultimately benefiting the national economy.



2. Description of Pastoral Area Development in the Policy

Pastoral development includes a wide range of people and endeavors beyond those pastoralists who are directly dependent on livestock. In this framework, pastoralists are at the center, but it also includes people who live in semi-arid areas and whose livelihoods are directly related to pastoralism, like traders who trade dairy products and livestock, civil society activists who advocate for the rights of pastoralists, and government representatives who work on policies that impact these communities. Furthermore, the pastoral economy is frequently the source of income for students and jobless people in these regions, whether through part-time work, training in livestock management, or participation in associated businesses. This inclusive definition underscores the value of a holistic approach to development that considers the varied roles and contributions of every community member while acknowledging the interdependence of many stakeholders in the pastoral economy.

In Oromia region, pastoral area constitutes 43 percent of the total land mass Oromia region and makes a livelihood for more than 5 million pastoral communities. Moreover, the region owns more than 15,740,794 of livestock. As any other pastoral areas of the country, the pastoral areas of Oromia region feature with arid and semi-arid areas marked by rainfall variability, and associated uncertainties in the spatial and temporal distribution of water resources and grazing for animals. Besides, the Oromia region pastoral areas characterized by 85 % of desert, 15% steppe with elevation of 400-1,600masl, average daily temperature of 25-35°C and average annual rainfall of 400-700 mm. The areas experience two rainy seasons in a year which are known as ‘Ganna’ (March to June rain) long rainy season, and ‘Hagaya’, (September to November rain) a short rainy season. Due to the small, fragmented and uneven distribution of rainfall, global climate change has made this situation worse. Furthermore, the previous data indicate that the Pastoral area of the Oromia Region cover 15,207,000 hectares, of which 9,124,200 hectares (60%) is pastureland, 1,737,727 (9%) for dry land agricultural development, and 4,345,073 (29%) is occupied by forests, mountains, settlements and rivers. On other hand, the Oromia Pastoral area are known for its natural resources such as grasslands, forests, forest products such as coconuts and incenses, wildlife, and various types of minerals, mountains and many tourist attractions.



3. The Rationale for Pastoral Development policy

The foundations for preparing the pastoral development policy and strategy in the Oromia Region are:

A. Federal and Regional Constitutional Rights to Development: Ethiopia's governing legal framework, the 1994 Constitution and the 1995 Oromia Region Constitution contain several important clauses that specifically acknowledge the rights of pastoral societies. In particular, the establishment of economic, social, and development policies, strategies, and programs in pastoralist regions is guided by Articles 40, 41, 43, and 44 of the constitutions. Like this, the Constitutions' economic goals, including Article 89 sub articles 2 and 4, include the subject of equity and other pertinent provisions that are especially pertinent to the least-privileged peoples and areas. The constitutional protections, however, are not reflected. Pastoralists' rights to common land have been violated by the annexation of their land for mega projects, and harsh limitations on cross-border trade have weakened their ability to obtain fair prices for their animals. To fulfill the constitutional right, this regional policy aims to examine and integrate the fragmented and sector-specific pastoralist development plans and strategies.

B. Federal Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy: Federal Government of Ethiopia has developed a National Pastoral Development Policy and implementation strategy document in 2019. In accordance with the regional states' constitutional function (FDRE constitution Article 52(2,c), the policy gives the regional government the authority to prepare thorough and contextualized regional pastoral development policies and implementation strategies. Moreover, the policy assigns the responsibility for converting the policy into legislation and for creating an organization tasked with spearheading the integration and coordination of the pastoral development sector bureaus to regional states, which rationalizes the formulation of this policy document.

C. Political Reform: Over the past four years, Ethiopian politics have changed with amazing implication for pastoralists. As per the EPRDF doctrine, pastoralist



regions and areas were not included in the political coalition ruling the country for 27 years, if they considered as Alliance/Associate for coalition because agriculture is the primary sources of income while pastoralism is a secondary source. The current ruling party (Prosperity Party), a reformed political party, now recognizes all regions/areas and ethnic groups as members, and it no longer promote a one-sided way of life. A policy document which expresses government intention and commitment for pastoral development, is one of the tools to lead all stakeholders in making the most of this potential for pastoral development within the regional and national frameworks.

D. Examining the Potential and turning the challenge to opportunity- In the past, the pastoral areas have been historically viewed from the humanitarian initiatives that conceptualize pastoralism as problematic way of life which usually call intervention that define difficulties they face and advocacy activities that uphold their right to development. Currently understanding of pastoral systems is almost the opposite of the model that dominated the field for most of the twentieth century. Accordingly, Pastoralism is the main livelihood and production systems that practiced in the arid and semi-arid lands. The potential of pastoral land areas is now the focus of an innovative perspective. In terms of soil fertility and mineral resources, pastoral areas offer enormous potential that underutilized, provide environmental variability for livestock nutrition, livestock productivity, ecological sustainability, mobility for increase productivity, and the potential of Ethiopia's in general and Oromia's arid areas to be used as a source fruits and animal products to help address the global nutrition crisis and shortage that the globe, nation, or region/areas is currently facing.

E. The National Home-Grown Economic Policy Commitment: Under the leadership of the Prosperity, Ethiopia adopted National Home-Grown Economic Policy that design to lead the country and the region in development for the next 20 years. The realization of this ambition is contingent upon the recognition of pastoralism/pastoral development as part of National Economic System, as demonstrated by efforts to improve access to water supply —such as the 'Finnaa'



project initiatives and mineral resources are being implemented in pastoral areas as part of the national economic system to realize the intended development aspirations. Moreover, Ethiopia is dedicated to achieving international development goals such as the sustainable goals (SDGs), which require attention to issues including food insecurity, climate change, and pastoral development for inclusive growth.

F. Continental and Regional Integration Frameworks- Sustainable pastoral development throughout Africa requires the integration of continental and regional policy, especially in areas where pastoralism is core to livelihoods and food security. The Pan-African Policy Framework, which promotes pastoral movement and secure land tenure, has played a significant role in strengthening the rights of pastoral populations on a continental basis. The survival of pastoralists, who depend on having access to large grazing areas across several borders, depends on these two factors. Pastoralists can adjust to environmental changes like droughts through mobility, and they are protected from encroachment and land grabs by strong property rights. Initiatives like the Livestock Policy Initiative, created at the regional level by organizations like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), aim to integrate livestock management into more comprehensive plans for reducing poverty. In order to coordinate livestock policy and guarantee pastoralists' access to resources and markets across borders, this project highlights regional collaboration while acknowledging the economic potential of livestock in Eastern Africa. But there are still issues, especially when it comes to coordinating these regional and continental strategies with national frameworks, where conflicting interests, different land tenure systems, and political unpredictability can make implementation difficult. Despite these challenges, there is optimism for the long-term growth and empowerment of Pastoral communities as to the continuous efforts to standardize regulations throughout Africa. Following this, detailed pastoral development and implementation strategies would facilitate continental and regional integration augmenting pastoral development.



4. Policy Visions, Values and Principles

4.1 Vision

To see a resilient, peaceful, and prosperous pastoral community that thrives in harmony with its environment and cultural identity.

4.2 Objectives of the policy

4.2.1 General Objective

To promote sustainable and resilient pastoral communities by ending poverty, ensuring food security, and preserving ecological and environmental sustainability through integrated infrastructure development, social well-being, innovation, and disaster risk management.

4.2.2 Specific Objectives

- To end poverty and achieve food security for all pastoral communities by improving livestock and dry land agricultural productivity and by diversifying pastoral livelihoods.
- To enhance and promote all efforts towards the efficient, equitable and optimum utilization of the available water resource of pastoral area for significant socio-economic development on sustainable basis
- To improve rangeland health and productivity through reseedling and management of invasive species and re-introduction of native species
- To develop integrated infrastructure that supports pastoral livelihoods and enhances social services.
- To promote practices that ensure and maintain the ecological and environmental sustainability of pastoral ecosystems.
- To build the resilience of pastoral communities to climate change, natural disasters, and economic shocks.



- To ensure timely and effective disaster risk management practice in the Pastoral area.
- To encourage and promote the adoption of innovative technologies to improve pastoral practices.
- To promote coherent and inclusive policies that ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities for all pastoralists.
- To strengthen both formal and customary pastoral institutional and execution capacity and adopt innovative technologies to effectively implement pastoral policies.
- To ensure sustainable peace, good governance and conflict management system in the Pastoral area.
- To enhance sustainable industrialization and job creation in Pastoral area.
- To promote regional and continental integration of pastoral community in the different regions and countries of the horn of Africa.

4.3 Basic Policy Principles

The pastoral development policy aims to improve the livelihoods of pastoral communities living in arid and semi-arid areas. The basic principle for this policy includes:

Coherence and Integration: Ensuring the sectoral development interventions are harmoniously integrated to reflect the values and beliefs of pastoralist way of life and production system. Align pastoral development intervention with global, national, regional, and local regulatory frameworks and practices and recognize pastoralist rights.

Inclusive and Community Outreach: Ensuring all members of the pastoral community feel welcomed, valued and supported, and develop pastoral community outreach initiatives to connect with and support the wider community.



Community participation: Involving Pastoral communities in the demand assessment, issues prioritization, planning, implementation and Monitoring and evaluation of policies to ensure that their needs and knowledge are integrated into development strategies.

Resilience and climate adaptation: Developing strategies to help pastoralist adapt to climate change impacts, such as drought and extreme weather events, on basis of pastoral knowledge, practices, and strategies through improved practices and technologies.

Sustainability: Ensuring long-term viability of the pastoral infrastructure development and service delivery and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

Livelihood Diversification: Encouraging and supporting pastoral livelihood diversification activities to strengthen resilience and increasing income by increasing livestock production, productivity and commercializing.

5. Pillars of the Pastoral Development Policy

This policy is founded on the three core pillars of pastoral development: economic, ecology and social dimensions. These three pillars are interlinked and cannot function effectively in isolation. The livelihood of a pastoral household is primarily based on livestock and livestock products; therefore, livestock play a central role in the pastoral economy. However, livestock production and productivity largely depend on environmental sustainability and natural resources. Thus, when these pillars are managed in an integrated and coordinated manner can sustainable economic growth within pastoral communities be achieved. The three pillars are mutually supportive and inseparable. Progress in one area directly affects the others. For example, ecological development influences livestock production and productivity; livestock, in turn, affect ecological sustainability; and social factors similarly influence both the ecology and livestock systems. If all development interventions in pastoral areas are implemented based on these three pillars, overall success can be ensured. If one pillar lags behind, the success of the other two may be undermined. Therefore, implementing these pillars in a coordinated manner strengthens the resilience of pastoral communities



and promotes sustainable development. Policies and strategic actions must recognize the importance of livestock(economy), pastoral culture(social) and environmental (ecology) sustainability in supporting effective and sustainable pastoral development.

6. The Policy Issues

In pastoral area, securing access to grazing lands and water resources, recognizing and protecting the traditional land and resource rights of pastoral communities, ensuring equitable access to communal grazing lands and water sources, preventing encroachment, and promoting sustainable use of rangelands are important issues emphasized in ending poverty. Other key areas include accessing livestock development and marketing, improving livestock health through veterinary services and disease control, enhancing production and productivity of livestock through selective breeding and feed management, production and productivity of dry-land agriculture, developing livestock marketing infrastructure, facilitating access to fair markets, and providing financial services and credit to support pastoralist livelihoods.

Promoting alternative income-generating activities, improving access to education, health, vocational training, and extension services, supporting the growth of small-scale enterprises and value addition, and enhancing resilience and climate change adaptation through the development of early warning systems and contingency plans for droughts and other climate-related shocks, encouraging sustainable rangeland management practices, and investing in water harvesting, storage, and distribution infrastructure are crucial steps in addressing poverty and promoting sustainable development in pastoral areas.

Inclusion of governance and institutional strengthening is another important issue to be considered in pastoral development policy by recognizing and integrate traditional institutions and community-based decision-making, strengthen the capacity of local government to support Pastoral communities and improve coordination and collaboration between various stakeholders.



6.1 Ensuring Food Security and Ending Poverty

The livestock, dry land agriculture and diversifying pastoral livelihood are a pillar of the national and regional food system and a contributor to end poverty and ensuring food security. This policy issue is to adopt a holistic, integrated, and participatory approach that addresses the multidimensional nature of poverty and food insecurity in pastoral areas, while building on the strengths and resilience of pastoral livelihoods.

6.1.1 Increase Livestock Production and Productivity

Livestock are important assets for pastoral communities and play a major role in sustainable food systems. Regionally, in pastoral area more than 5million pastoralists rely on livestock herding for food, income, and as a store of wealth, collateral or safety net/emergency/ in times of need. In dry-lands, the only way to convert fiber-rich food into a system that humans can eat is through livestock, and in the upcoming years, the demographics of population expansion will need higher protein intake. Foods that originate from livestock tend to be considered as protein-rich and crucial for human nutrition. Increasing incomes, changing diets, and population growth have led to increased demand and made the livestock sector is one of the fastest growing in middle- and low-income countries. This represents a major opportunity for smallholders, agribusiness, and job creators throughout the livestock supply chain.

The transformations that accompany growth are an opportunity to move the livestock sector toward more sustainable development and improved contribution to human diets. Productivity levels and practices can be managed in ways that address adverse impacts on land, water, and the environment, as well as the risks posed to animal and human health.

Investing in veterinary services and animal disease surveillance is also crucial to improve animal health and welfare, reduce economic impact of animal diseases, improve food safety, and reduce risks of antimicrobial resistance. The prevention of animal diseases can limit transfer of animal pathogens to humans and control the emergence of deadly zoonotic diseases at the animal source, where action is most



cost-effective. Improved livestock management is an integral part of the “One Health” approach, which seeks to optimize human, animal, and planetary health.

Strategy 1: Conserving and Improving Livestock Breeds

Pastoral communities in the region own large number of livestock (cattle, goats, sheep and camels) population basically as a main livelihood foundation. The pastoral community keeps un-descriptive local livestock breeds (poor production performance) under traditional management system.

The deterioration animal genetic performance is not only due to feed shortage but also the type of animal restocked after occurrence drought and the uncontrolled mating practiced. Many communities ranch that was established in different parts of the pastoral zone that were intended to be a center for improve animal genetic performance, however majority of them did not continue to serve for the purpose intended.

Protecting indigenous livestock species and crossbreeding will be accomplished by focusing on productivity traits, selecting productive indigenous livestock breeds and applying community-based breed improvement practices. Considerations for choosing the right livestock breeds include the climate, the animal’s intended use (meat, milk, or labour), available resources locally and market demands. Breeds with desired characteristics like disease resistance, high productivity and effective resource use should be given priority. These breeds should also be tailored to the local climate. Breed selection that is adapted to regional conditions can improve Livestock health, increase production effectiveness, and support sustainable agriculture and food security. In addition, attention will be given for selecting different local livestock breeds for various production traits and crossbreeding to ensure increases in productivity.

The genetic erosion of indigenous can be protected by putting controlling mechanism animal movement in the pastoral areas. Necessary action needs to be taken on the type of animals used to be restocked through taking the necessary precaution restocking of animals from different ecology to protect livestock genetic erosion. Establish and strengthen linkage between research, government and community ranches are also important to improve the production and productivity of livestock in the pastoral areas.



Biotechnology provides a powerful tool for sustainable development of livestock industry. When integrated with other technologies of livestock production, it can be of significant assistance in meeting the needs of the expanding human population. Currently, biotechnology hasn't implemented in pastoral area that used for germplasm conservation, reproductive techniques such as artificial insemination, disease diagnosis and vaccine production. In the future, biotechnology can be used in various applications such as Multiple Ovulation Embryo Transfer (MOET), genetic transformation and cloning techniques, feed additives and vaccine production.

The pastoral area livestock breed has many advantages than other local and exotic breed in terms of adapting pastoral area climate, requirement of feed and disease resistance. Therefore, strategy implementation activities designed to identify the most productive livestock on an ecological basis; and preserve and protect their genes in centers; and identify indigenous breeds and acquire national property rights.

Strategy Implementation activities

- Undertake structured and continuous within-breed selection for best-performing indigenous breeds and distribute and/or cross them with other indigenous breeds.
- Protecting indigenous livestock species and crossbreeding shall be accomplished by focusing on productivity traits, selecting productive indigenous livestock breeds and applying community-based breed improvement practices. Crossbreeding with best performing breed is relevant.
- Promote artificial insemination by best performing breed semen in addition of selective natural mating by superior genotype to improve livestock productivity
- Promote the use of cost-effective biotechnology and bio-safety measures to improve livestock production and productivity.
- Promote participation of large, medium, and small-scale players in livestock production through increased investments
- Develop and strengthening of ranches for genetic conservation, improvement, commercialization and the multiplication of improved breeds.



- Promote quality feed production, availing adaptive forage seed, improve crop residue handling, management & utilization; and promote the construction and maintenance of water sources for livestock.
- Promote commercial and sustainable production of Livestock to meet domestic demand and export market; enhance food security and incomes.
- Undertaking adaptive research to improve local livestock breeds productivity through well-organized extension service (scale up existing adaptive breeds).
- The genetic erosion of indigenous can be protected by putting controlling mechanism animal movement in the pastoral areas.
- Strengthen traditional Institutions practices and knowledge on livestock genetic conservation
- To promote poultry as a climate-resilient, low-input, and quick-return livelihood option, particularly. Emphasis is placed on improving productivity through appropriate breeds, strengthening poultry health services, enhancing management practices, Promote low-cost poultry housing and improved feeding using locally available resources
- Promoting improved and climate-smart beekeeping practices to enhance productivity, quality, and income generation; Introduce improved hives, protective equipment, and modern honey harvesting tools and provide training on hive management and modern apiculture practices

Strategy 2: Expanding and Improving the Quality and Quantity of Animal Health Coverage

Livestock health inputs quality, safe and curative veterinary drugs and vaccines are essential to prevent and treat livestock pathogens and disease-transmitting to improve livestock production and the competitiveness of livestock and livestock products in the international market and protect public health. Considering the huge number of livestock population and the distribution and variety of animal diseases, there are inadequate and absence of equipment, drugs, vaccine and treatment materials, poor



revolving fund management and shortage of qualified staff are the major problem of animal health delivery pastoral areas of the region. Inappropriate (not pastoral friendly) animal health service delivery and little attention is given to utilize the ethno-veterinary knowledge that exists in pastoral areas. Its complementary role with modern veterinary medicine has not been given due attention. The lack of a forecasting system based on disease spread, livestock numbers, and season means that the supply of livestock medicine is not adequate for pastoralists and other users. The weak drug and vaccine control system at the regional level has resulted in illegal drug trafficking and improper handling and use of drugs and vaccines. Another issue for the commercial livestock industry is animal health and the lack of internationally standardized vaccines, especially for zoonotic diseases.

This strategy focuses specifically on the need to strengthen basic veterinary services and improve service delivery in pastoral areas. Additionally, this strategy recognizes supporting alternative animal health delivery systems with pastoralists, especially systems which link community-based animal health workers to higher levels of para-veterinarians and veterinary professional. In line to expand animal health services for disease prevention and protection the policy works to implement vaccination programs; strengthen laboratory and diagnostic services; and expand animal health infrastructure. There is also increasing support to the private sector provision of clinical services, under the regulation and supervision of national veterinary services. All these approaches are supported by the international standards of the World Animal Health Organization. These will reduce the negative effects of livestock diseases on production and productivity, commerce and human health; and ensure food security; job creation; poverty reduction; supply quality and sufficient products to the industry. Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) are notifiable requiring urgent actions. National, regional and international cooperation is necessary in the control of TADs through an enhanced system of early warning, early detection, coordination and harmonization of control strategies. Additionally, Livestock identification, registration and traceability are used to increase productivity and profitability of livestock and their products for local and export markets. It involves collecting data for each livestock throughout its entire life cycle such that individual characteristics and the history of



the livestock can be traced back. This data includes date and place of birth, ancestry, sex, geographic movement, health and other production records for purposes of tracing the animal and its products.

Strategic Implementation activities

- Strengthen the legal framework for the use and management of livestock drugs, vaccines and other related resources, strengthening the structural organization and developing infrastructure and administer to control the quality, safety and efficacy of veterinary drugs and biological products; regulate import and export of Livestock, Livestock products.
- Promote optimal production of healthy animals and welfare
- Strengthen livestock disease surveillance and information system
- Promote establishment of disease-free zone to meet the demand of national, regional and international livestock, livestock products and byproducts markets.
- Improve the efficiency and coverage of public clinical service and laboratory diagnostic services; expand private animal health services and public- private partnership
- Establish and strengthen of livestock identification and traceability system;
- Strengthen quarantine and inspection systems to mitigate the risk of introducing and spreading livestock diseases through international trade.
- Improve the logistics of delivering veterinary supplies and deploy mobile veterinary services to reach remote areas
- Enhancing community engagement and expanding education on the importance of all livestock health and the availability of related animal health services
- Utilize telehealth services for consultations, allowing pastoralists to connect with veterinarians remotely.



- Integrate traditional animal health practices with modern veterinary science to enhance acceptance and efficacy.
- Efforts will be made to harmonize national and regional policies on Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (TADs) control and eradication.

6.1.2 Improving Dry Land Agriculture Production and Productivity

Pastoral communities, primarily reliant on livestock, are incorporating agricultural production to diversify income, insuring food security, and adapt to changing environmental and economic conditions, ensuring a stable and sustainable livelihood. Thus, enhancing dry land agriculture production is crucial for pastoral food security, reducing livestock dependence, and enhancing resilience against drought and climate change in pastoral communities. By adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach to dryland agriculture, this strategy can help enhance the food security, livelihoods, and overall resilience of communities living in arid and semi-arid regions. Various strategies have been designed to enhance dry land agricultural productivity in the region.

Strategy 1: Adapting Modern Farming Technologies

This strategy enhances agricultural productivity and competitiveness by utilizing sustainable technology, providing quality agricultural inputs and services, and improving system deployments, including research, extension, and crop protection services. More specifically, this strategy boosts research, technology, extension, advice, crop production, mechanization services, agricultural inputs use incentive system, input demand and supply tracking system deployments. By this strategic direction, four important strategic actions can be taken:

- Expanding Micro Dams or Finna Projects:** Micro dams or finna projects involve constructing small-scale dams to capture and store runoff water. Water storage structures provide water for irrigation, flood control, ensuring consistent water availability for domestic use, livestock and agricultural needs



- b) Capturing and Storing Rainwater:** Implementing systems to capture and store rainwater maximizes the use of available water, reduces costs, improves crop yields, and promotes sustainability by capturing rainwater, reducing reliance on expensive infrastructure, and conserving local resources. Promote the adoption of soil and water conservation techniques, such as rainwater harvesting, micro-catchments, and contour farming, to improve water availability and reduce soil erosion.
- c) Installing Solar-Powered Water Pumps:** Solar-powered water pumps utilize solar panels to produce electricity for pumping water from wells, rivers, or storage tanks. By harnessing renewable solar energy, these pumps decrease reliance on non-renewable resources, cut operational expenses, and diminish greenhouse gas emissions. This technology ensures a consistent and uninterrupted water supply in off-grid locations.
- d) Expanding Small-Scale Vegetable Gardening:** Expanding small-scale vegetable gardening plays an important role in improving household food security and generating additional income. This practice enables the production of vegetables such as onions, tomatoes, carrots, cabbage and other vegetables within small areas. The expansion of small-scale vegetable gardening focuses on the use of improved seeds, simple irrigation methods, and the application of soil and water conservation techniques. In addition, providing training and technical advisory services helps increase productivity, quality, and overall agricultural benefits.

Strategy 2: Improving Soil Health and Fertility

Enhancing soil health and fertility is crucial for sustainable agriculture and long-term productivity in pastoral areas. Key practices and strategies include understanding soil composition, monitoring soil health through regular tests, improving soil structure with organic and inorganic substances, managing nutrients with balanced fertilization, implementing grazing management techniques like rotational grazing and stocking density control, erosion prevention, water management, biodiversity promotion, and



involving local communities in soil conservation efforts. These approaches aim to boost productivity and sustainability, supporting robust plant growth, increased yields, and enhanced crop quality to withstand environmental challenges.

- a) Organic Matter Management:** Utilize compost, manure, and crop residues to enhance soil organic matter, improve water retention, and nutrient availability. Moreover, apply fertilizers based on soil test results to avoid nutrient imbalances. Using both organic (e.g., compost) and inorganic fertilizers judiciously is important.
- b) Expand Agroforestry:** Agroforestry is the practice of integrating trees, forest plants, agricultural crops and/or livestock on the same land. This approach improves soil health, increases productivity, and reduces the impacts of climate change and water scarcity. Expanding agroforestry helps conserve and restore forests, rehabilitate degraded land, increase pastoralists' income, and ensure food security. Therefore, planting useful trees alongside crops, developing forests under sustainable management, and strengthening farmers' awareness are essential for expanding agroforestry.
- c) Protecting Soil from Erosion:** Implement terracing and contour farming techniques to reduce soil erosion on slopes and keeping the soil covered with vegetation or mulch to prevent erosion.

Strategy 3: Improving Agricultural Inputs Supply

Agricultural input supply involves providing pastoralists with the necessary materials and resources to produce crops efficiently. These inputs include seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, irrigation systems, and other tools and technologies. Ensuring a reliable supply of these inputs is critical for maintaining agricultural productivity and food security. Improving agricultural inputs is crucial for enhancing productivity, ensuring food security, and promoting sustainable farming practices. Key inputs in agriculture include seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Combining improved seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers with advanced farming practices and technology can significantly enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. A robust agricultural



input supply system is vital for modern agriculture. It involves a coordinated effort between governments, private sector, and agro-pastoralists to ensure that the necessary resources are available, affordable, and sustainable. This system not only supports individual pastoralist but also enhances global food security and agricultural sustainability.

a) Expand drought resistant seeds: Expanding drought-tolerant seeds is essential for coping with water scarcity and climate change. These seeds can produce good yields even when rainfall is low, reduce the risk of crop failure, and enhance food security. To promote their expansion, it is necessary to select seeds that are well adapted to local conditions, train pastoralists, and strengthen agricultural support services so that drought-tolerant seeds are widely adopted.

b) Improving the use and supply of organic and chemical fertilizers:

This approach is crucial for increasing dryland agricultural production and maintaining soil health. Improved chemical fertilizers enhance their efficiency by releasing essential nutrients gradually based on the needs of plants. Likewise, the use of balanced fertilizers ensures the proper supply of key nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium according to soil conditions and crop types. In addition, using organic fertilizers such as compost and animal manure strengthens the soil, improves aeration, and enhances soil organic content, serving as a slow-release source of nutrients. Therefore, the proper integration of organic and chemical fertilizers plays a significant role in ensuring sustainable agricultural productivity.

Strategy 4: Crop Genetic Improvement

Improving crop seeds is crucial for increasing agricultural production and ensuring food security. Seed improvement focuses on selected varieties that are adaptable to local conditions, as well as seeds that can withstand challenges such as water scarcity, diseases, and pests. Improved seeds can grow rapidly, produce higher yields, and mature within a shorter period of time. Moreover, the use of improved seeds plays a significant role in reducing the risks associated with climate change and in increasing



pastoralists' incomes. Therefore, expanding the use of improved seeds, establishing demonstration plots, and providing training to farmers are essential for achieving sustainable agricultural development in arid and semi-arid areas. In doing so:

- Developing crops that can survive with minimal water helps ensure productivity even during dry seasons.
- Expanding faster-growing varieties allow for shorter growing seasons, helping crops mature before adverse conditions.

Strategy 5: Improving Crop Protection:

The protection and use of improved crop varieties are crucial for increasing agricultural production and ensuring food security. Improved seeds varieties enable crops to withstand diseases, pests, and water scarcity while providing higher yields. Therefore, promoting the protection and utilization of improved seeds supports sustainable agricultural development. Key strategies include:

- a) Enhancing Integrated Pest Management:** Integrated pest management is a sustainable and eco-friendly approach to pest control, aiming to minimize chemical pesticide use and harm to non-target organisms. It focuses on prevention, monitoring, identification and various control methods such as biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical. Integrated pest management is widely used in agriculture and natural resource management for its effectiveness and sustainability.
- b) Enhancing Cultural practices:** This approach involves developing and strengthening platforms and processes that facilitate effective collaboration, communication, and coordination among various stakeholders. It strengthens the relationships among pastoralists, government institutions, research organizations, civil society associations, the private sector, and community groups, ensuring accountability and informed decision-making. It also promotes joint actions in technology transfer, sustainable development, and the improvement of dryland agriculture.



Strategy 6: Enhancing Agricultural Extension Services:

Expanding agricultural extension services ensures that agricultural knowledge, technologies, and modern farming practices reach agro-pastoralist effectively. This increases production and productivity, improves the sustainable use of natural resources, enhances food security and pastoralists income. Therefore, expanding agricultural extension services is essential through training pastoralists, establishing demonstration sites, strengthening the technical support of agricultural experts, and narrowing the gap between research and its practical application. To implement this strategy

- a) Providing Training for Pastoralist and Development Agents:** Extension workers, pastoralists, pastoral area development actors and all other stakeholders will receive regular professional development and specialized expertise in areas like dry land agricultural extension services, pest management, soil health, and climate-smart agriculture to stay updated on the latest agricultural technologies.
- b) Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Engagement:** This approach involves developing and strengthening platforms and processes that facilitate effective collaboration, communication, and coordination among various stakeholders. It strengthens relationships between pastoralists, government institutions, research organizations, civil society associations, the private sector, and community groups, ensuring accountability and decision-making. It also promotes joint actions, technology transfer, livelihood development, and the improvement of dryland agriculture
- c) Expanding Extension and Advisory Services.** This approach provides pastoralists and other stakeholders with timely, necessary, and practical support in modern agricultural practices, post-harvest management, climate-adapted activities, pest and disease control, and market access, thereby improving the accessibility, quality, and efficiency of the agricultural support system. Additionally, it includes building the capacity of agricultural extension workers, enhancing communication methods, and strengthening partnerships to ensure



that agricultural knowledge and innovations are effectively accessible and applied.

6.1.3 Diversifying Pastoral Livelihood

Strengthening the livelihoods of pastoralists refers to the process by which pastoralists, beyond traditional livestock herding practices, use various strategies and activities to ensure their economic stability, resilience, and overall security. Historically, the income, food, and social status of pastoralists have been based on livestock. Livelihood strengthening, however, helps reduce their vulnerability to risks such as drought, disease outbreaks, market instability, and social and political challenges

Diversifying Pastoral Livelihood refers to the process by which Pastoral communities adopt multiple strategies and activities beyond traditional livestock rearing to improve their economic stability, resilience, and overall well-being. While pastoralists have historically depended mainly on livestock for income, food, and social status; diversification allows them to reduce vulnerability to risks such as drought, disease outbreaks, market fluctuations, and socio-political challenges.

Strategy 1: Expanding Small-scale Manufacturing

In pastoral areas, small-scale manufacturing can provide communities with additional income, create employment opportunities, increase livestock productivity, reduce dependency on livestock, and help adapt to climate change risks. Establishing development infrastructure is essential to achieve this. Additionally, providing vocational training and education to pastoral communities enables them to acquire the necessary skills. Forming cooperatives and partnerships improves market access and sales opportunities for pastoral products. Activities in this area should be implemented in ways that respect cultural norms. Government and civil society organizations provide support through funding, training, and development of infrastructure. To enhance pastoral production, crops, livestock, and other products adapted to arid and semi-arid conditions should be promoted, with an emphasis on creating linkages and strengthening market connectivity.



Strategy 2: Enhancing Non- Farming Activities

Pastoralists, in addition to livestock rearing, are supported to create additional sources of income by engaging in activities such as trade, adding value to livestock products, organizing themselves in various work sectors through cooperatives or associations on tourism, handicrafts, and similar ventures. In particular, conditions are arranged for youth and urban community members to participate in business, woodworking, metalwork, and construction activities. Training is provided, enabling them to work in skilled labor, trade, woodworking, metalwork, various types of construction, tourism, and similar activities. Supportive conditions are established, and in collaboration with lending institutions, mechanisms are put in place to help them effectively implement these activities.

Strategy 3: Expand Small-Scale Trade and Entrepreneurship

Small-scale trade and entrepreneurship can be facilitated through strategies like access to capital, training, market access, regulatory support, technology adoption, support networks, innovation, and government and civil society organization (CSOs) involvement. These strategies enhance productivity, market reach, competitiveness, and resilience in changing market conditions. Support the establishment of community-based financial services, such as savings and credit groups, to improve access to capital and risk management.

Strategy 4: Skills Development and Capacity Building

Skills development and capacity building for livelihood diversification aims to enhance individuals and communities' knowledge, skills, and resources to expand income-generating activities, create resilience, and ensure economic stability. This includes providing vocational and entrepreneurship training, as well as support in business planning, record-keeping, marketing, value addition and others activities with a particular focus on pastoralists, especially women and youth.



6.2 Sustainable Management of Ecology

Ecological sustainability includes everything that relates to the Earth's ecosystems. Among other things, this includes the stability of climate systems, the quality of air, land and water, land use, biodiversity (diversity of both species and habitats), and ecosystem services. Ecological sustainability also includes human health, to the extent that it is affected by the external environment in terms of pollutants, noise, etc.

The strategy initiative is to adopt a holistic, participatory, and adaptive approach to pastoral ecological management, which recognizes the interdependence between pastoral livelihoods, the environment, and the social and institutional contexts in which they operate.

6.2.1 Sustainable Land Management

Sustainable land management (SLM) involves using land resources such as soils, water, animals, and plants to meet human needs while also preserving the long-term productivity of these resources and their environmental functions. It includes adopting land-use systems that allow land users to maximize economic and social benefits while maintaining or improving the ecological support functions of the land. The productivity and sustainability of a land-use system depend on the interaction between land resources, climate, and human activities. Given the challenges of climate change and variability, it is crucial to choose appropriate land uses based on biophysical and socio-economic conditions and implement sustainable land management (SLM) practices to prevent land degradation, restore degraded land, promote sustainable use of land resources (such as soils, water, and biodiversity) and enhance resilience.

Strategy 1: Improve Land Governance and Utilization

Many countries, including Ethiopia, do not have comprehensive pastoral area land-use planning strategies at the national or regional levels. When plans do exist, pastoralism is often overlooked as it is considered a sub-sector of agriculture. The important role of pastoralism in environmental management and conservation is generally not taken into account in planning efforts. Furthermore, current land use planning tools are not



equipped to address the unique challenges faced by pastoralists. The static nature of maps fails to capture the mobility and flexibility required by pastoral communities. Additionally, pastoralists are often misrepresented and have limited participation in the design and monitoring of land planning initiatives, leading to a neglect of the territorial significance of pastoralism.

A crucial step in empowering pastoral communities in drylands is to ensure their land tenure and resource rights are secure. This often involves strengthening customary institutions, as communal tenure relies heavily on these structures. It is essential that communal land rights, “ardalee jilaa, malkaa hayaa and horaa” are legally recognized on par with private and other forms of tenure to provide true security for pastoralists. Additionally, addressing issues of inequality within customary institutions, such as women’s rights to access, own, and inherit resources, is vital for sustainable land management.

Ensuring fair and secure land tenure for pastoralists relies on educating the broader society about their rights and duties as citizens, establishing effective dispute resolution mechanisms that respect both customary and formal institutions, and ensuring access to land resources. The property rights of pastoralists must be protected from infringement by others. In some cases, governments may need to implement temporary measures to protect pastoral lands until pastoralists can develop suitable tenure systems and until appropriate legal frameworks are established.

The Oromia National Regional State Council, known as ‘Caffee Oromiyaa,’ has enacted Proclamation No. 248/2023 on rural land holding administration and use, which includes provisions for pastoral and semi-pastoral land management. The aim is to ensure that the administration and use of such land align with the culture, traditions, and values of the people of the Region while also safeguarding development opportunities for future generations. The proclamation emphasizes principles such as transparency, efficiency, participation, and accountability. It establishes a system to protect the rights of pastoralists as outlined in the constitution, including land acquisition rights, the right to use and protect land based on land use planning, the ability to transfer rights, and the prevention of illegal land acquisition in pastoral areas.



Based, on the above proclamation enacting pastoral land regulation in the regional state was ongoing. and additionally, pastoral lands in the regional states practically, in the Borena what we call it with its cultural naming ‘Dheeda’ and in Bale zone pastoral area in the Ana/woreda/ areas are ongoing to register their communal landholding through cadastral registration and certification was held on progress. So, this practical progress has to be given attention to strengthen the pastoral areas communities, and it needs to transform their livings ways.

Strategy Implementation Activities

- Develop a strategy to address the challenges in the land use, development and management which adversely affect pastoral community livelihoods.
- Ensuring the right to use their communal land holding of their community.
- The manner of administration, registration and providing evidence of the communal land holding of the pastoralist community, shall be implemented based on study that considering the actual condition, culture, customs and values of the community and the way that ensures their rights to use their lands.
- The pastoral land management and use system shall be implemented transparently, effectively and in a manner that can ensure accountability and participation of the people.
- Land utilization should have to be implemented based on the integrated land use plan and conservation of natural resources.
- In the pastoral areas, both genders (men’s and women’s) should have equal rights in acquisition, utilization and administration of their pastoral landholdings.
- At the event of rural land distribution, a work system prioritizing persons with disabilities, women and jobless youth should have to be established and implemented.
- Any development activity undertaken on pastoral land shall be performed in a manner that ensures the benefits of the pastoralist to create job opportunities for the youth and in a way that bases on enhancing transfer of technology.



- Secure the land and resource rights of pastoral communities, ensuring their access to and control over critical natural resources, such as crop farming lands, grazing lands, water sources, and biodiversity
- Facilitate the development of inclusive, participatory, and integrated land-use planning processes at the local and regional levels to balance the diverse needs and interests of pastoralists and other land users.
- Promote the recognition and integration of customary land tenure systems into formal land governance frameworks.
- Create sound, functional, and legally recognized inclusive land governance system in lowlands considering local communities as front liners and drivers of development.
- Improve pastoral land registration and protecting pastoralists to exercise their land use rights including inheritance.

6.2.2 Improving Natural Resource Management and Utilization

Pastoral areas are rich and vast virgin fertile land, forest resources, domestic and wildlife resources, natural reserves, vast amount of surface and ground water resources, different types of minerals and enormous touristic attractions. Natural resources are at the core of pastoralist livelihoods, and the sustainable management of these resources determines pastoralism as a livelihood system. Concerning natural resources management (NRM), the interplay between people, their livestock and the natural resources determine the sustainability of pastoralism as a livelihood system, notably the poverty levels and food security of pastoral population.

Strategy 1: Rangeland Rehabilitation and Conservation

Rangelands diverse, encompassing grasslands, shrub steppes, desert scrubs, savannas, and open forests. Range land which is the major source feed of pastoral livestock production. While the following section briefly describes some of the key challenges in the rangelands are identified in the pastoral area.



Rangeland degradation: Land degradation in the context of drylands is: “a reduction or loss, in arid and semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain-fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns. Of key interest in the rangeland ecosystems is the biological degradation that normally manifests in loss of vegetation cover; increase in undesirable plant species; bush encroachment and soil erosion of various types associated with intensification of use. Majority of the drylands in pastoral area suffer various forms of environmental degradation and at varying degrees, including, soil erosion, destruction of wildlife habitats, loss of biodiversity, salinization of irrigated areas and soil compaction.

Insufficient research, knowledge management, extension, and human resource Capacity: There is a lack of adequate research funding for rangeland management in pastoral areas. Despite numerous research studies on rangeland management at the national and regional levels, the implementation of their findings remains limited. This could be partly due to the approach taken, but primarily stems from the lack of involvement of the target audience.

Inadequate investment for sustainable rangeland management: Rangeland management receives less investment compared to other sectors like agriculture, largely due to traditional misconceptions about rangelands and pastoral production systems, as well as a lack of empirical evidence on their value. Rangelands are often undervalued because information on their advantages over alternative land uses is insufficient, leading to unequal resource distribution and slower development in these areas. Government and policymakers struggle with limited data to make informed decisions for rangeland development, and even when data is available, the significant non-tangible benefits of rangelands are often overlooked. This results in a lack of interest and funding for rangeland development, making them less appealing to governments and private investors. The value of rangelands and pastoral ecosystems remains largely unrecognized, hindering the allocation of necessary resources and the development of appropriate policies for their advancement.



Inadequate governance of rangeland resources: The drylands in pastoral areas are characterized by a robust social organization and customary institutions that have enabled pastoralists to navigate uncertainty and enhance resilience in rangeland ecosystems. Traditional institutions play a crucial role in regulating rights to water, land, and other resources, as well as in resolving conflicts. However, the coexistence and evolution of formal and informal institutions in pastoral regions, without proper integration, present significant challenges to the effective and sustainable governance of rangeland resources. Furthermore, traditional institutions' control over access and management of rangeland resources has been eroded over time due to unsupportive policies and a prevailing state-centric approach to natural resource management in pastoral areas.

Recurrent drought and climate change: The impacts of drought in the rangelands is normally manifested in depletion of water points and reduced forage and livestock production, leading to food insecurity. The most devastating impact of drought and climate change in the rangelands is its role in amplifying range degradation, leading to pasture scarcity and the subsequent reduction of livestock productivity due to loss of condition and death.

Despite obstacles, protected vegetation has the potential to recover rapidly. Restoration techniques encompass reseedling, natural regeneration, soil and water conservation, water harvesting, dryland forestry, reduction of woody species, planting of fodder trees, enhancement of grazing systems, and addressing the root causes of degradation. By enforcing appropriate rangeland management practices and effectively restoring and rehabilitating the land, it is possible to mitigate and even reverse land degradation, ultimately boosting the carrying capacity of rangelands.

Recognize the land use right of customary institutions, based on the customary land administration provide technical support and conduct resource mapping and develop a land-use plan and identify, especially, grazing and farming lands and tourist attraction sites and establish a system of fair access to resources. Mitigation requires tailored measures considering physical, climate, socio-cultural, and economic factors.



Strategy implementation activities

- To improve legal framework for rangeland management by supporting processes towards requisite policy environment and institutional support.
- To improve rangeland health and productivity through reseedling and management of invasive species and re-introduction of native species, grazing management through participatory rangeland management planning and sustainable land management practices. This is expected to result in increased rangeland plant cover and diversity; reduced soil erosion and vegetation degradation; improved range condition resulting in increased availability and improved quality of pasture.
- To strengthen governance of rangeland resources through recognition and mainstreaming of customary institutions and development of legislation to enable enforcement of by-laws; integrating ecological sustainability with social equity and economic viability. This is expected to ensure regulated access and responsible use of rangeland resources.
- Promote selective bush clearing / thinning and use of prescribed burning to increase production of good quality forage and the adoption of flexible and responsive grazing practices that align with the seasonal variations
- Utilize technologies to transform undesirable and invasive bush species into wood chips, plywood, and other marketable wood products, generating employment opportunities for young people.
- Expanding and strengthen proper storage facilities and techniques are crucial to preserving feed quality and quantity for use during lean seasons.
- Develop guidelines on integrated development approach in sugar cane production and others with livestock feed.
- Secure land rights and tenure in the rangelands by formulating land policies and enacting relevant laws. Special attention will be placed on consolidating pastoral land laws and regulations, utilizing customary institutions to establish rangeland



rights, and creating and executing frameworks for regional and national land policies.

- Establish and operational trans-border agreements within countries for transhumance and inter-community resource sharing. This will promote the free, safe, and peaceful sharing of rangeland resources. This will ensure equitable use of range landscapes and help reduce conflicts over resources.
- Enhance research, extension, human resource capacity and knowledge management by providing support for research activities and training for different levels of rangeland management personnel. This will include raising awareness and improving understanding of rangeland ecosystems and pastoral production systems among experts and decision-makers.
- Encourage investment in sustainable rangeland management through the implementation of incentives. This includes showcasing the overall economic value of rangelands and developing avenues for adding value to rangeland products to entice private investment in rangeland management.

Strategy 2: Improve Livestock Feed Supply

Despite the significant potential of livestock in pastoral areas, the access and availability of feed remain the most critical limiting factors for improving livestock productivity and production in a sustainable manner. Providing high-quality fodder in sufficient quantities year-round in pastoral regions presents a considerable challenge. The insufficient availability of feed, both in quantity and quality, is identified as the primary factor contributing to poor livestock production. Inadequate feed supply, particularly during the dry and cropping seasons, leads to a lack of essential nutrients, resulting in decreased livestock productivity. Drought and climate change further exacerbate the challenges related to feed supply and quality.

Poor feeding limits the ability of an animal to reach its genetic potential, so livestock grow slowly, give low output, are susceptible to diseases and produce few calves.



Moreover, poor feed reduces the impact of other interventions, such as artificial insemination and oestrus synchronization, to boost livestock productivity. Expanding and enhancing animal feed and feeding systems, as well as improving rangeland management, are crucial for increasing livestock production and productivity. This involves creating an enabling environment for the supply of high-quality, affordable feeds and fodder, and integrating feed and fodder quality control and certification into mainstream practices. To realize this, strategy implementation activities designed to ensure livestock feed security in the pastoral areas.

Strategy implementation Activities

- Promote initiatives to evaluate feed resources, assess feed balance, determine water availability, and estimate water requirements at regional and community levels. These efforts will facilitate the implementation of technological solutions to increase availability and improve efficiency, as well as forecast future demands for feed and water.
- Promote the development of improved, higher-yielding, disease-resistant, and drought-tolerant forages, including native species, along with the preservation of harvested feed varieties for timely release to maintain a consistent supply throughout the year. Additionally, enhancing the seed production and distribution system for cultivated forages, including native species, will greatly contribute to these efforts.
- Identify potential food land and implement irrigation-based forage production where rivers or harvested water is available.
- Promote farming practices such as crop mix, including inclusion of legumes, multiple harvesting, as well as cropland improvement to enhance quantity as well as nutrient contents of crop residues and other feed ingredients, enabling feeding of balanced diets to livestock
- Promote methods that enhance feed quality and efficiency by utilizing advanced feed processing technologies, enhancing feeding practices, ensuring safe and



efficient water supply, and embracing circular economy principles and practices.

- Analysis of the climate change problem and use of adaptive climate-smart technologies in livestock feeding, feed processing and water provision including clean drinking water
- Facilitate the adoption of more productive forage production technologies, including over-sowing with improved grass and legume species; strengthen of feed banks for emergencies
- Support research in and identification and production of, novel high quality feed resources.
- Promote feed business development in the pastoral areas through capacity building of livestock feed and forage-seed value chain actors and strengthen advocacy that supports linking of prospective actors to credit and producers to markets.
- Provide improved technical support services to value addition enterprises, including small and big feed and forage seed processing, packaging, storage and distribution entities and pastoral production/agricultural/ equipment manufacturers.
- Provide services that empower actors (producers, processors, marketers, associations) undertaking animal feed including forage-seed related innovations.
- Formulate guideline that regulate free distribution of feeds and forage seeds and enhance sustainability of animal feed businesses.
- Identify incentive mechanism and support its enforcement to stimulate private sector engagement in the feed processing business

Strategy 3: Improve Drinking Water Supply

Water development enables the provision of a vital resource to sustain humans, animals and plants in pastoral areas. For centuries, pastoral communities have developed a sophisticated network of water resources – including rivers, rainwater and ground



water-fed permanent sources – and complex customary institutions through which to coordinate development and manage access. This system, including both its physical and its institutional components, critically ensures that the availability and exploitation of water resources does not jeopardize other resources, particularly by avoiding high concentrations of animals, which can threaten the health of livestock itself and lead to conflict.

Inadequate water storage such as small-scale dams, ponds, and other alternative water harvesting schemes and limited water resource development infrastructures such as water supplies are common challenges in the Pastoral areas. Water scarcity is one of the main problems in Pastoral area despite the growing water demand where access to safe water and affordable water sanitation and hygiene is insufficient. It is also a common challenge of conflict over scarce water resources for water use among pastoralists.

Pastoral society in rural areas have no access to potable water. Pastoralists have to travel long distance for many hours and fetch unsafe and unreliable water from ponds and traditional Ela's and rivers. Even in urban areas, the supply and quality of water is inadequate and unreliable compared to the demand. The pastoralists are forced to drive the livestock long distances in search of water. As far as the economic problems are concerned, the long-distance movement of the livestock in search of water resulting in low yields and poor health has a negative impact on the economy.

The problem is that in pastoral areas, sufficient and quality water for humans and animals is not available; water resources development activities are not in line with settlements and animal distribution and have become causes of conflict and degradation. And also, unsafe water and lack of adequate sanitation facilities is also a primary cause of fecal contamination of water supplies in the Pastoral areas. To solve those Problems, the strategies implementation activities designed.

It is therefore necessary to provide adequate clean water sustainably and fulfill sanitation services and ensure protection of the health of pastoralists and strengthen productivity and address the water needs of the people, animals and others. The water services provision in pastoral areas shall be close to the national average and standard.



Strategy Implementation Activities

- Identify and promote the development of appropriate, efficient, effective, reliable and affordable water supply and sanitation (WSS) technologies which are demand driven and have great acceptability among the local communities. Develop the appropriate water supply planning parameter design criteria and standard along with acceptable desirable and parameter range and limits
- Develop national standards, specifications and design criteria which are rational, affordable, acceptable, implementable and sustainable for the design, installation, implementation, operation, maintenance and inspection of the water supply and sanitation systems. These are to be based on internationally recognized norms and to be in conformity with the socioeconomic, historical, geographical and cultural factors of pastoral area.
- Promote the use of sustainable and cost-effective technologies such as the hand pumps to expand water supply coverage in rural communities. Use springs where available. Adopt economically affordable and appropriate waste-water treatment and management systems.
- Provide adequate, safe, and affordable water to pastoral communities.
- Develop ground water resources and ensure its optimal utilization for different water uses. The spatial and temporal occurrence and distribution of the pastoral area's ground water resources will be identified and its utilization for the different water uses ensured.
- Recognize the livestock water supply is an integral part of the overall water sector and incorporate its development plans with comprehensive water resource management undertakings.
- Develop and enforce standards and guidelines for maintaining water quality in all recognized water uses (domestic, industrial, livestock, others etc.) and sewerage and sanitation.



- Improve water governance and sustainable management with the development and reinforcement of water sector regulatory frameworks
- Ensure self-reliance, through the promotion of local self-financing of programs and projects, based on the overall socio-economic development conditions of local communities, and through appropriate incentive mechanisms. To this end, engage the participation of banks, private operators, micro financing institutions, national water fund, and rural credit services, etc.
- Subsidize the capital costs only for communities that are unable to cover the cost of the basic services to ensure social equity; establish financial resource allocation criteria to access these subsidies based on local socio-economic factors and implement phasing out mechanisms of such programs (to promote self-reliance).
- Promote the development of site-specific water tariffs based on financial, economic, and social equality considerations. Involve local communities in price setting to ensure that tariff structures are compatible with consumers' ability to pay, with a view of providing sustainable services at affordable prices and based on equitable and practical guidelines and cost-sharing criteria.
- Ensure transparency, fairness, responsibility and accountability in the utilization and management of the water supply and sanitation funds, namely through Pastoral community Water Committees (rural) and Consumers' Councils (urban), and by conducting regular audits and inspections by community members who are not members of the water committees/councils. Establish line of responsibility and authority within these community-based structures.
- Promote improvement of environmental sanitation in urban centers and rural areas and protect water bodies from being polluted and contaminated.
- Build institutional and technical capacity and strengthen indigenous experiences and knowledge for better service delivery and effective coordination, information management, and quality assurance.



Strategy 4: Expansion and Governance of Irrigation

Reliable food and fodder supply is almost impossible due to the temporal imbalance in the distribution of rainfall and the consequential no availability of the required water at the required period. The absence of a system of fair distribution of water; and absence of thorough study on surface and ground water resource capability are also major problems in the pastoral areas. Water can be made to contribute to the national economy through the development of the region's water resources and expanding irrigation schemes so that agricultural and livestock feed production is improving by solving the problem of water shortage problem caused by the unpredictability of the rainfall.

Irrigation in Pastoral area is considered as a basic strategy to alleviate poverty and hence food security. It is useful to transform the rain-fed agricultural/Pastoral development which depends on rainfall into the combined rain-fed and irrigation agricultural system. This is believed to be the most prominent way of sustainable development in the Pastoral area of the region. Irrigation being a development activity requiring huge capital investment, large and convenient infrastructure and trained human resource; this policy has been formulated to foster the realization of reliable and sustainable irrigation development which is harmonious with the capabilities and realities of the pastoral area and the strategies implementation activities designed.

Strategy Implementation Activities

- Promotion of irrigation study, planning and implementation on economically viable, social equitable, technically efficient, environmental sound basis as well as development of sustainable, productive and affordable irrigation schemes
- Design appropriate irrigation schemes by considering the physical conditions, hydraulic characteristics, irrigation engineering, management capacity of the users, and detailed agronomic and agricultural considerations such as crop and fodder water requirements, irrigation methods, integrated pest management and farming practices.



- Develop, maintain, and rehabilitate, revitalization and expansion sustainable water infrastructure, such as wells, ponds, and small, medium and large-scale irrigation schemes to ensure the equitable and efficient use of water resources.
- Promote the integration of traditional water harvesting and conservation practices with modern water management approaches.
- Development and enhancement of small, medium and large scale irrigated dry land agriculture and grazing land for food security and food self-sufficiency including export and to satisfy local agro-industry demands
- Ground water development, small, medium and big dams and others water harvesting structure shall be built and expanded to ensure food security. This has proven to be the most sustainable and cost-effective technology that could be planned, implemented and managed with the involvement of local communities.
- Expand access to improved solar-powered irrigation systems (e.g Solar irrigation pumps, solar powered drip ,Sprinkler and pivot irrigation systems)
- Promotion of water use efficiency, control of wastage, protection of irrigation structure and appropriate drainage systems
- Develop climate resilient irrigation infrastructure and rehabilitate infrastructure for irrigation
- Adopt participatory approaches in the management of irrigation schemes to ensure that relevant government sector and stakeholders play their rightful roles.
- Intensify irrigation extension and advisory services so that irrigators are supported with appropriate technologies
- Encourage private sector investment in irrigated pastoral production/agriculture/ value chain
- Develop necessary technical guidelines and standards for mechanisms, systems, materials and technologies to be used for improving water use efficiency in small, medium and large-scale pastoral production, to avoid both shortages (stress) and



excesses (loss). Ensure enforcement of these standards and continue to improve upon these standards as new knowledge is gained.

- Establish water allocation and priority setting criteria, as well as fair and transparent management systems. Prioritize the implementation of various types of irrigation schemes based on a well spelled out evaluation criteria that considers reliability and availability of physical resources, economic and financial parameters, social equity considerations, technical feasibility, technological options, environmental impact assessment, and availability of project management capacities.
- Establish users' fee according to the related level of cropping and fodder patterns and farm level profits, scheme efficiency, and in a simple and clear cost recovery system. Ensure that the water charges and fees are timely collected for effective operation and maintenance of water user association irrigation schemes
- Develop and empower pastoralist organizations/water user association/ for effective participation in irrigation scheme management
- Develop training programs which address capacity gaps in the public and private sector. Facilitate pastoralists training programs to transform the mind-set from subsistence to commercial irrigation

Strategy 5: Integrated Watershed Development

In recent years, environmental management has become a key focus area in the Oromia region. The main environmental problems in the country include land degradation caused by soil erosion, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, recurrent drought aggravated by the effects of climate change resulting in declining productivity, and continuing food shortages.

Besides the loss of essential natural resources such as drinking water, which increases burdens on women's time and labor requirements, efforts have been made to address the existing environmental challenges. Watershed development has been a focus in many parts of the region through regular government programs and projects.

However, the impact of the interventions is not as promising as expected in the pastoral



area. To improve watershed development performance and contribute to the growth and transformation of the pastoral sector, strategic development challenges such as:

- Lack of integration among stakeholders involved in the watershed development,
- Poor standard and quality of implemented physical soil and water conservation structures,
- Inadequate level of community ownership and sustainability of development interventions,
- Lack of strategic interventions based on the land use, land terrain, socio-economy, agro-ecology and livelihood (Agro-pastoral, pure pastoral, riverine pastoral etc).
- Poor documentation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation system,
- Lack of guidance on integrating payment for ecosystem services in watershed development

The pastoral areas have significant water harvesting investments like the micro dam/ Finna project, but severe land degradation and siltation problems hamper its viability. Therefore, integrated watershed management would help address the problems and provide solutions that are inclusive and sustainable to steer the region towards its stated plan and goal of ensuring food security in the pastoral area.

The development and protection of natural resources will play an important role in creating a healthy environment, increasing the production and productivity of grazing land, promoting sustainable agricultural development, and ensuring food and nutrition security.

The Watershed management, which deals with the rational utilization of land and water resources for optimum production with minimum hazard to natural resources, considers soil and water conservation as one of the major interventions. This includes proper land use, protecting the land against all forms of deterioration, building, and maintaining soil fertility, conserving water for rangeland and farm use, proper management of local water drainage, flood protection, sediment reduction, and increase in productivity from



overall land use. Thus, good watershed management must consider the social, cultural, economic, environmental sustainability, and institutional factors operating within and outside a given watershed area. Water sheds that need physical natural protection will be identified with detailed action plan. In order to strengthen these efforts, multipurpose biological natural resource development activities will be accomplished. Watershed develop activities will be in accordance with the local contexts. Areas which are easily developed will be identified with the participation of the local community for protection and development.

Strategy Implementation Activities

Identification and mapping of stakeholders: Many stakeholders (including government sectors, donor partners, non-governmental organizations, projects, programs, private sectors, research institutes, academic institutions, etc.) are involved in the development of the watershed. Therefore, stakeholder identification and mapping should be considered a priority intervention.

Establishment of multi-stakeholder platform: Strengthening integration and coordination minimizes duplication of effort, creates common understanding among stakeholders, lessons can be learn from one another, good to bring synergetic effect at regional level, important to have maximum benefit from the limited resource available etc. Besides it helps to address new emerging issues like livelihood enhancement, rural youth employment, women and fair benefit sharing from watershed development among community members.

Therefore, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach that involves various sectoral agencies and stakeholders. Establishing a watershed development multi-stakeholder platform is seen as a way to enhance harmonization, alignment, integration, and coordination. Participatory watershed development will be implemented in local contexts.

Enhancing the connection between natural resource management interventions and livelihood enhancement: Over the past thirty years, many



valley development projects have been implemented in the region. However, these developments have not clearly contributed to improving people's livelihoods, increasing production and productivity, or strengthening connectivity. Therefore, by identifying and addressing the challenges, these efforts shall enhance natural resource management, create employment opportunities, generate sustainable income sources, and strengthen these linkages.

Implement physical soil conservation measures: Physical soil and water conservation structures are permanent features constructed using earth, stones, or masonry. They are designed to prevent uncontrolled runoff and erosion, as well as to retain water in necessary areas. These structures promote proper watershed management practices to enhance water yields, improve water quality, and decrease reservoir siltation.

Improve soil management: Implementing optimal soil management practices, such as using suitable tillage methods, planting drought-resistant tree species to enhance soil health, applying organic manures and mineral fertilizers, mulching, and utilizing crop residues, can enhance water infiltration and increase the soil's ability to retain water, thereby reducing runoff and erosion.

Strengthen the organization of the integrated watershed research: The research outputs of Integrated Watershed Management should contribute to sustainable development and livelihood improvement. Therefore, the strategy should include basic, applied, and adaptive research approaches for technology development, demonstration, transfer, dissemination, and adoption.

Institutionalize watershed users: After developing watersheds, user groups are established to manage the utilization of rehabilitated resources. User groups shall be strengthened and institutionalize further into watershed users' association to ensure sustainability

Establishment of robust information management system: Nowadays, an information management system is a powerful tool for managing information in various fields, including watershed development. However, it has been observed that natural



resource management intervention data is not readily available to end users, of low quality, and difficult to manage. Therefore, the establishment of a robust information management system is crucial for the sector.

Strategy 6: Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization

The forests and woodlands in the Pastoral area, along with agroforestry practices, play a significant role in providing essential ecosystem goods and services, as well as having socio-economic and ecological importance. Despite their national significance and the benefits, they offer, these forests are currently poorly managed and lack proper silvicultural treatments and attention. They are fragmented, have low regeneration rates, and are degraded in terms of species composition and productivity. Additionally, the dry forests, woodlands, and Agroforestry systems in the area are also experiencing challenges due to technical gaps in skills and knowledge needed for their sustainable management and utilization.

Nevertheless, due to the growing uncertainty of climatic conditions, as well as over utilization and mismanagement, the forest and woodland resources in the Pastoral area are in jeopardy. This situation calls for innovative management strategies to enhance the ecosystem's productivity and resilience in the face of current socio-economic conditions and climate variability.

Given the delicate ecosystems of pastoral regions and the challenges posed by both human and natural factors, along with existing technical deficiencies, it is imperative to implement proactive, context-specific, evidence-based solutions that prioritize practical approaches for the sustainable management of pastoral areas, forests, and woodlands. Additionally, promoting agroforestry practices should be a central focus in addressing these issues.

Strategy implementation activities

Expansion of forest development technology: Forest development will be fostered and widely made use of through the appropriate use of technologies destined for forest development, conservation and utilization.



Fostering private forest development and conservation: Development of forests intended as a source of fuel wood, material for construction, industry environmental conservation and other purposes will be undertaken through individuals, customer institution, associations and organization

Expanding market development for forest: Pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, investors, cooperatives, government and non-government organizations, and relevant institutions are encouraged to supply standardized and competitive forest products to both domestic and international markets.

Strengthen administration and management of state: state forests and forests lands in the pastoral areas will be administered based on a management plan to be drawn on a two-pronged approach of protected forest and proactive forest management systems

Protecting forest resources from threats: Remedial action will be implemented to avert natural or anthropogenic threats on forest placed under any forms of ownership to keep from devastation

Establishment modern information system of forest development, conservation and utilization: An appropriate system of data collections, analysis and distribution focusing on forest development, protection and utilization will be established for implementation and use at any level

Strategy 7: Wildlife Resource Development and Protection

The pastoral area is home to valuable and unique wildlife that has the potential to contribute significantly to the country's development. However, threats to the wildlife in this area stem from improper land use, such as habitat destruction from illegal agricultural encroachment, settlement, and poaching.

The government has prioritized the development and protection of wildlife in the region by formulating a strategy that aligns with international principles of natural resource conservation. The goal is to reverse the decline in wild animal populations and maximize the benefits of the wildlife sub-sector through activities like tourism,



trade, and sport hunting.

It is crucial to implement effective strategies to safeguard and develop the region's wildlife resources, preserve endemic species and natural resources for future generations, boost the region's economy through revenue from wildlife, prevent threats to the nation's wildlife, promote sustainable wildlife development, and adhere to international wildlife agreements and conventions.

Strategy Implementation Activities

- Identify and safeguard critical habitats, wildlife corridors, and areas of high biodiversity value within pastoral landscapes.
- Conduct research on the population and distribution of selected species to effectively manage wildlife resources outside protected areas.
- Enhance existing protected areas and establish new ones along borders with neighboring countries in accordance with international wildlife conservation agreements.
- Implement measures to protect and conserve threatened and endemic species, including mechanisms to safeguard wildlife from disasters.
- Establish an integrated system for disease prevention and control in wildlife, as well as for monitoring and regulating wildlife trafficking.
- Promote sustainable utilization of wildlife resources in pastoral areas for activities such as tourism, hunting, trade, ranching, and food production.
- Conduct eco-tourism activities in protected areas that do not harm the environment.
- Encourage the production of high-quality wildlife products to meet local and international market demand, increasing revenue for local communities and wildlife conservation efforts.
- Implement international laws and conventions related to wildlife trade.
- Incorporate and apply indigenous conservation knowledge and practices widely.



Strategy 8: Conserve and Development of Biodiversity

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are essential for the economic and social development of a region. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are not only technical concerns but also political imperatives. Biodiversity plays a vital role in supporting the economic livelihoods of pastoralists, but it is facing growing pressures that also threaten essential ecosystem services. For this reason, conserving and sustainably utilizing the biodiversity resources must be a priority to secure long-term benefits for current and future generations. The lack of data and documentation hinders the efficient utilization of biological resources in the region, while ongoing habitat destruction is resulting in the loss of biological diversity before it can be adequately documented. The biological resources in the region are under threat from various factors, including agricultural expansion, unsustainable natural resource use, demographic pressure, climate change, and invasive species. Urgent and collaborative efforts are needed from multiple stakeholders to halt or minimize biodiversity loss and promote sustainable utilization. Biodiversity considerations should be integrated into policy documents to ensure effective coordination and integration of conservation efforts and fair benefit-sharing from genetic resources.

Strategy Implementation Activities

- Conduct biodiversity mapping to focus on the distribution of biological resources, threat status, and level of protection (prioritization),
- Develop an effective framework/roadmap for conserving endemic, endangered/threatened, and economically important species, as well as key ecosystems,
- Implement restoration and rehabilitation of degraded habitats/ecosystems and recovery of populations,
- Advocate for the protection of other effective conservation measures and the establishment and development of biosphere reserves,
- Enhance regional scientific capacity for assessing, collecting, characterizing, and evaluating biodiversity in the region,



- Secure financial, technical, and other resources to support biodiversity research efforts,
- Improve the delivery of extension and research services for managing agricultural, forestry, and pastoral systems to ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,
- Increase carbon sequestration by enhancing biodiversity management and promoting vegetation cover,
- Empower communities (including women, youth, and people with disabilities) living near protected areas to engage in protected area management through training and education.

Strategy 9: Improve Mineral Utilization and Management

The significance of utilizing mineral resources for social and economic advancement in the region, as well as the necessity of identifying the mineral potential of pastoral areas, has been emphasized in previous development plans. Despite the acknowledgment of the importance of mineral resources by various Ethiopian government administrations, the pastoral area has not fully benefited from its mineral resources.

The primary policy goal is to ensure effective governance of the mining sector so that it can serve as an input provider and driver of development by establishing connections between the sector and industrial development, agricultural modernization, and the service sector. Essentially, the aim is to establish clear policy implementation mechanisms to create linkages between the mining sector and other key economic sectors to achieve structural transformation and national development. It is also crucial to establish clear policy direction and implementation mechanisms to ensure that the sector generates the necessary foreign currency for national development, job creation, and enables citizens to benefit from mining activities. Special attention must be given to ensuring that marginalized pastoralist community members benefit from the development of mineral resources in their areas, where social and economic amenities are limited. The government's focus is on creating a conducive environment for private investors to explore and develop mineral resources in order to generate job opportunities



for local community members. Among other initiatives, the government will gather, analyze, and interpret basic geo-science information for potential investors. Policies, laws, and new regulations that establish an institutional framework favorable for the sector's contribution to the economy will be implemented during the planning period. Ensuring that this institutional framework is enabling, promotes competition, and considers international and national interests will be of utmost importance. Increased private investment in the exploration and exploitation of high-value minerals will enhance the prospects of discovering additional deposits and increasing the foreign currency earnings for the region and the country.

Strategy implementation activities

- Establish comprehensive, stable, transparent, efficient and effective regulatory framework to maximize mineral development.
- Develop and implement a stable, transparent, predictable and competitive fiscal regime to optimize collection and management of mineral revenues.
- Enhance collection and access to geological data.
- Strengthen and build institutional and human capacity for effective and efficient governance and management of mineral sub-sector.
- Develop a framework for mainstreaming and formalizing artisanal and small-scale mining operations to support livelihoods and entrepreneurship.
- Provision of conducive economic environment for private sector investment in the mineral sector.
- Establish a mechanism to monitor and enforce compliance to health, safety and environmental standards.
- Develop and implement frameworks, structures and mechanisms that ensure equitable participation, ownership and decision-making of vulnerable groups.
- Establish mechanisms for promotion of investments in mining and value addition.
- Promote and develop a marketing system of minerals to ensure that miners get



right values of minerals traded in formal markets.

- Develop and implement measures to enhance local workforce, facilitate knowledge and skills transfer and promote the use of local goods and services in the mining industry
- Establishment of adequate land compensation, relocation and resettlement schemes in mining
- Promotion of relationship between mining companies and communities surrounding mines
- Promote national, regional and international cooperation in the development and management of the mineral sub-sector
- The mining industry shall strive and adopt the principles of sustainable development to maximize social and economic benefits without compromising environmental sustainability for the benefit of present and future generations.

Strategy 10: Pastoral Mobility

Pastoral mobility is not a matter of choice but a necessary coping mechanism. There are several reasons why pastoralists continue to move seasonally. Firstly, mobility allows them to make efficient use of limited pasture and resources in a sustainable manner. Secondly, it helps them manage and conserve rangelands effectively. Thirdly, mobility plays a crucial role in the seasonal reproduction of livestock, especially during wet season grazing movements.

The policy explicitly supports pastoral strategic mobility, recognizing it as essential for the efficient use and protection of rangelands and as a key factor in adapting to climatic and other trends. The policy aims to identify internal and external factors that hinder pastoralist mobility and implement strategies to address these challenges. This principle is reflected in practical strategies outlined in the framework, such as securing access to rangelands for pastoralists through supportive land tenure practices and improving the lives, livelihoods, and rights of Pastoral communities.



Strategy Implementation activities

- Recognize the right of pastoralists to move with their herds for the purpose of accessing and using pastoral resources to feed their cattle. They shall establish appropriate mechanisms for ensuring the fulfillment of this right and protection of pastoralists.
- The region adhering to the present guidelines shall undertake to establish appropriate mechanisms for surveying, marking and protecting transhumance routes. They shall, in collaboration with the local governments and pastoralist organizations, keep and update national and international transhumance routes within the borders of their national territory.
- The region to the present guidelines shall, in collaboration with the regional economic communities, undertake to share information on a regular basis on transhumance movements. They are urged to work towards the review, periodical updating and effective enforcement of regional agreements and bilateral arrangements on transhumance with special emphasis to IGAD Protocol on Transhumance
- As part of internal or international transhumance movements, the Pastoral communities shall urge their members to strictly comply with the legislation on animal health. They shall ensure the sound monitoring and control of their herds during the entire period of transhumance to avoid damage to the environment and agriculture. They are also encouraging them to participate in both national and regional pastoral activity monitoring initiatives. In case of international transhumance, the Pastoral communities shall urge their members to adhere the rules and regulations of the host countries, notably with respect to gazette areas and wildlife reserves.
- Ensure strong extension institution, Provision of extension and infrastructure service access to mobile pastoralists
- Strengthening the cross -border natural resources development and governance system by improving the cross -border dynamic issues such conflict management, economic integration and social ties.



Strategy 11: Conduct Pre-Planned Voluntary Commune Programs to Enable People in Pastoral Areas Benefit from Settled life

These communities are geographically dispersed and lack access to infrastructure, which is costly and time-consuming to build. The Voluntary Commune programs aim to offer an alternative to pastoralists who struggle with mobile pastoralism and wish to broaden their livelihood options.

Development centers could be chosen based on resource availability and job creation potential. They should have ample surface and groundwater resources, as well as other assets like mineral deposits and tourist attractions. The commune programs in these areas will be guided by studies on natural resources and land use planning. The development centers will complement rather than compete with mobile pastoralism and other pastoral livelihoods, fostering cooperation among different lifestyles.

These centers will offer government and private services to boost production and productivity, expanding access to basic amenities. By leveraging pastoral resources, integrated development could pave the way for industrialization centered on livestock products.

In areas lacking water resources for animal rearing, communes can serve as a risk mitigation strategy. Water collection technologies can be used to harness seasonal rainfall, with systems in place to ensure efficient use for drinking and livestock. This approach aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability to drought, enhancing livelihoods and income, potentially leading to industrialization based on animal products.

Bakka bishaan gahaa hin jirreetti teknooloojiin roobaa cimmisuun tajaajila dhiyeessii bishaanii foyyeessuun hawaasni fi beeyladaa bishaan dhugaatii gahaa akka argaatan gochuun murteessaadha.

Strategy implementation activities

Commune activity in pastoral areas shall be based on the community's customary administration and resource mapping. Then land administration and land use plans shall be prepared and the land for forest, grazing, settlement areas, tourism, etc., shall



be identified. A system that ensures fair access to resources shall be established. It shall be ensured that the commune program that will be undertaken along watersheds and rivers does not impede the constitutional rights of mobile pastoralists to use the rangelands and water resources. To realize this:

- Settling those who wish to reside in both existing and newly established pastoral settlement centers; creating adequate awareness; preparing a manual for the implementation of settlements; conducting surveys and assessments of interests; and carrying out analyses to learn lessons from settlement programs.
- Ensuring community participation and benefit in settlement centers; prioritizing the establishment of organizations and development infrastructure; providing programs that enhance knowledge and skills, such as necessary training; organizing exhibitions, experience-sharing sessions, workshops, conferences, and similar activities.
- Encouraging existing community organizations in pastoral settlement centers to participate in and benefit from development, security, and democratic governance, and organizing those that do not yet exist; establishing and supporting various community associations.
- Ensuring that settlement centers are modern, hygienic, and conducive to living; utilizing suitable construction technologies; developing recreational spaces; and establishing essential development infrastructure.

6.3 Social Well-being and Infrastructure

This policy issue addresses education, health, road, financial services, telecommunication services, market, and energy infrastructure, as well as cooperative unions that enhance the social well-being of people in the pastoralist area. The existing scenario indicates that there is poor infrastructure, poor social well-being, and poor service delivery to the pastoral communities. To improve the service delivery and social well-being of the pastoralists and communities in the pastoral areas, the following policy initiatives shall be followed.



6.3.1 Improving Access and Quality Of Education

Education is crucial for the development and well-being of communities. However, Pastoral communities face challenges in accessing quality education. The current educational services do not cater to the unique lifestyle, livelihood, and environment of pastoral communities, making them inaccessible. The quality of education in these communities falls below national standards. To address this, education services need to be tailored to the specific needs of pastoralists, considering their mobility and dispersed settlements.

It is essential to establish educational institutions and services that align with national standards while accommodating the mobile and settled lifestyle of pastoralists. These services should be designed to meet the needs of the community and integrate modern technology.

Educational facilities will be set up in development centers where pastoralists have settled voluntarily or are in the process of settling. These facilities will be designed to suit the local ecology, weather, and climate, taking into account the nomadic lifestyle of the community.

To improve education in pastoral communities, regular and mobile schooling, distance education, adult education platforms, and alternative Basic Education facilities should be established. These programs should be developed at the national level and promote community participation and ownership.

In moisture-stressed areas where pastoralists rely on grazing and water, mobile education services should be established to accommodate their mobility patterns and seasonal movements.

Accessibility issues in pastoral communities include children being kept out of school to help with herding livestock, inadequate school infrastructure, and gender disparities in education. To address these challenges, it is essential to expand school facilities tailored to local circumstances and ensure that every child, regardless of gender, has access to education. Boarding schools and alternative education facilities should be expanded in pastoral areas, and community organizations should be involved in promoting education and preventing dropouts.



Strategy 1: Increasing Education Accessibility

Access to education in Pastoral communities will be ensured by establishing education facilities that are widely available. Standards for education facilities in pastoral communities will be developed, including school proximity, infrastructure, class sizes, and other key factors. Efforts will be made to prevent students from pastoralist backgrounds from dropping out of school due to distance and the demands of herding livestock. Alternative education systems, such as mobile schools, adult education programs, distance learning, radio and television lessons, and boarding schools, will be implemented to ensure that pastoral children receive an education.

Emphasis should be placed on expanding boarding schools in Pastoral area to increase access to education in the pastoralist community. Different incentive systems should be implemented to enroll students in school and encourage them to stay.

Strategy 2: Enhancing Education Quality and Relevance

Another serious concern is the quality of education. The facilities and availability of educational inputs in the pastoral areas make education not only inaccessible but also poor in quality. To ensure the quality of education in the pastoralist area, the region works on ensuring that a curriculum relevant to the pastoral community is developed, pedagogical training is accessible to pastoral area teachers, and teachers are trained. School principals and leaders should be provided with the necessary training and resources. Teaching aids, books, materials, and supplies should be eagerly available in the school. The teaching process should be participatory and student-centered.

Strategy 3: Enhancing School Leadership Capability

School principals and leaders should be competent in school management, resource mobilization, community mobilization, leadership, and managing the affairs of the school and the pupils. In line with this, existing principals should receive capacity-building training. The school principals shall mobilize and engage the community in school management and pupils' affairs. The curriculum shall recognize the local context of the pastoral community, where the co-creation and co-design of a curriculum are imperative.



Strategy 4: Teachers' Development Programs

Special efforts shall be made to motivate and retain experienced teachers in the area. Special incentive programs shall be designed to attract and retain teachers in the area. Teachers shall be given training in different subject areas and pedagogical techniques in the area. School facilities, living facilities, and other important facilities should be developed and maintained to attract, motivate, and retain competent teachers. School leaders and principals should receive training to build their leadership capacity and develop specific to the pastoralists' culture, indigenous wisdom, and livelihoods.

Strategy 5: Making the Education Calendar of Pastoral Area Locally Convenient and Nationally Compatible

School calendar in pastoralist area is creating injustice in the education system. Pastoral students frequently move along with the livestock in search of water and grass for the livestock. Moreover, the inter-semester break in pastoral areas is more than one month. That forced pastoral students to sit for national exams without fully covering the portions. Hence, the school calendar in pastoral areas shall be tailored to the pastoral community, and the national and regional exam calendars shall consider the peculiar context and realities in the pastoral community. In addition, the academic calendar—particularly the start of the school year and the timing of regional and national examinations—should be aligned with the real-life conditions and seasonal mobility patterns of pastoral communities to ensure effective completion of the curriculum.

Strategy 6: Making Comprehensive and Realistic Affirmative Action

Students from pastoral communities and other parts of the region and country are not on the same level to compete together. Therefore, while affirmative actions are not a permanent solution, appropriate and reasonable affirmative actions should be taken to support pastoral students at all levels of education when competing with other students.



Strategy 7: Strengthening Communities' Participation and Sense of Ownership in Education

Continuous awareness creation activities to improve community participation and ownership of education shall be conducted. Communities shall be empowered to participate and develop a sense of ownership in students' affairs, educational administration, educational planning, implementation, and monitoring, building and expanding schools, revenue generation, and fulfilling educational inputs.

To enhance pastoralists' participation and sense of ownership, it is crucial to focus on improving structures at all levels. This includes coordinating customary, religious, and clan organizations within communities to ensure that they benefit from initiatives. Additionally, establishing an effective and transparent system that enables schools and training institutions to generate income and improve their performance in education is essential. These activities are necessary to elevate pastoralists' involvement and ownership to a higher level.

Moreover, teachers should be trained from the pastoralist community to ensure cultural relevance and enhance the acceptability of education among the pastoral community.

Strategy 8: Strengthening Coordination and Participation of Stakeholders

Activities undertaken in the education sector by government, non-governmental organizations, and the community shall be coordinated. Collaborative work shall be strengthened through partners' forums to help implement problem-solving projects based on study and research to benefit pastoralists. Special focus and support from community and non-governmental organizations shall be given to educational structures at every level.



Strategy 9: Modernizing the Information System

Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation system, establishing and implementing technology user information systems, ensuring accountable information flow to address issues of misinformation, credibility, and backwardness in pastoral areas, and improving the quality of education by providing updated and reliable information to decision-makers and researchers are the key focus areas of activities in this regard.

6.3.2 Improving Access to Quality Health Services

Health services in pastoral areas are not tailored to the needs and way of life of Pastoral communities, resulting in limited access to adequate healthcare. The coverage and quality of health services in these regions fall below national standards. It is crucial to develop health services that align with national standards and are adapted to the unique ecology of the area. Health service delivery should take into account the mobility of pastoral communities by establishing health facilities at strategic points such as villages or specific locations.

Our health policy aims to prevent and control diseases, ensuring accessibility to mobile pastoralists and other communities to promote a healthy society. The expansion of health facilities and provision of services are intended to enhance access to basic healthcare, improve quality of life, and foster modern living with the support of technology.

Health facilities and services should be established near development centers where people have settled voluntarily or are in the process of settling. These facilities should be based on effective regional and national-level programs and packages, with a focus on ensuring community participation and ownership.

In areas where livelihoods depend on grazing and water, and in moisture-stressed regions where mobile pastoralists reside, health services should be established considering people's mobility, seasonal movements, and ecological conditions. Mobile health services should be accessible to pave the way for future settled livelihoods.



To ensure that health extension services emphasizing disease prevention are available at the gndaa/kebele level in all pastoral areas, adequate training and deployment of young women and men should be carried out to provide house-to-house services.

It is essential to explore and analyze the experiences and perspectives of pastoralists, enabling them to understand the differences in participation and benefits between settled and mobile lifestyles. Emphasis should be placed on their learning experiences to empower them to make informed decisions about permanent settlement.

Strategy 1: Improving Health Sector Capacity

The capacity of health sector staff in the pastoralist area will be enhanced. Health Sector leaders will receive various leadership and administration training, and medical and clinical staff will undergo training to increase their capacity. Education and professional development opportunities will be arranged in consultation with the universities and colleges.

Strategy 2: Increasing Community Participation Health Sector

The pastoral community shall be empowered to actively engage in health sector planning, preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes. A platform should be created to enhance the participation of the pastoral community through experience sharing, co-planning, and co-creation of health services.

Strategy 3: Improving Health Facilities

Standards for health facilities in pastoral areas shall be developed in consideration of the pastoral living style. In accordance with this, the distance between health facilities, geographic distribution, and coverage shall be considered to ensure the accessibility of health stations. In that endeavor, the region works on both the prevention and cure of diseases.



Strategy 4: Ensuring Access to Health service

Health facilities' hygiene shall be maintained. Mobile health workers shall be deployed to assist with house-to-house extension services. Due to the mobility of the pastoralist community, the extension workers' team shall also consist of men to ensure convenient commuting with the pastoralists.

To ensure healthcare services, the region shall train and utilize community health workers from the pastoral community and engage pastoralists in the planning, designing, and implementation of healthcare services.

Strategy 5: Enhancing Mobile Outreach-based Health Service

Mobile health clinics and health teams should be organized to ensure accessibility of health services to the pastoralist community. These health clinics and teams should move along with the pastoralists when the community moves with the livestock. Moreover, the mobile healthcare services shall be augmented with tele medicine, where pastoralists can call health professionals for help, guidance, and counseling.

Strategy 6: Integrated Service Delivery

To ensure pastoralist development, integrated service delivery shall be in place. Hence, schools, health stations, water points, roads, telecom infrastructure, and market infrastructures shall be developed in an integrated way.

Strategy 7: Traditional and Complementary Medicine

The indigenous knowledge and practices of the pastoral community shall be integrated and utilized to ensure health in the pastoral community and beyond. Accordingly, indigenous knowledge, traditional healing practices, and practitioners shall be recognized and incorporated into the formal healthcare system.



Strategy 8: Ensuring Sustainable Supply of Medicines and Supplies

Many of the few health facilities in Pastoral communities do not have an adequate supply of medicines, vaccines, and supplies. To ensure quality health services, the region shall ensure the reliable and timely delivery of essential medicines, vaccines, and medical supplies to remote Pastoral communities. The region shall also develop context-appropriate storage and distribution systems that can withstand the challenges of the pastoralist environment.

6.3.3 Improving Road Infrastructure

Roads connecting aanaas/woredas and gandaas/kebeles/ shall be maintained to ensure ease of mobility and accessibility to social infrastructures. Gandaas will be connected to neighboring Kebeles /araddaas/gandaas, and Woredas (Aanaas) shall be connected to neighboring aanaas and godinaas/zones/.

There should be roads connecting the pastoral society to service centers and service points such as Kebeles/gandaas/, schools, health stations, financial service stations, and market points.

There should be roads connecting the pastoral community to local, national, and international market centers. All-weather roads connecting the community to those markets should be made available. In line with this, the three corridors shall have standard roads connecting neighboring countries. There shall be transportation infrastructure that takes into account the mobility of the pastoralists.

6.3.4 Improving Access to Financial Services

Improving access to financial services is essential to reduce poverty, create employment opportunities, expand agriculture and trade, and ensure economic growth and social stability. Therefore, it is necessary for the government, financial institutions, and the community to work together to provide financial services widely, easily, and affordably.



Strategy 1: Ensuring Financial Inclusion

Farmers and pastoralists currently do not have access to financial services as they are not included in the banking system. Traditional banks do not cater to their needs, as they prioritize other types of investments and require collateral for loans. Unfortunately, the assets owned by pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are not recognized as collateral under existing financial laws. Moreover, limited awareness and inadequate banking infrastructure further hinder their access to banking services. To address this situation, it is crucial to reform existing banking procedures and services and, based on needs assessments and studies, establish additional financial institutions—such as agricultural banks—to ensure pastoralists and their associations can participate in the financial system and access the services they require.

Strategy 2: Increasing Access to Saving Services

The pastoralist community is one of the most unbanked communities in Ethiopia. Banks and microfinance institutions should be mobilized to operate in Pastoral area to provide saving and credit services to the pastoral community. Innovative service developments are encouraged; banking platforms at market centers and on market days shall be made available in pastoral communities to encourage and facilitate transactions. Mobile banking and internet banking services, as well as cashless transactions, should be widely adopted to facilitate marketing transactions in the pastoralist area.

Strategy 3: Increasing Access to Credit Services

Credit services that cater to the lifestyles of pastoral communities shall be established. Access to credit services for the pastoral community shall be ensured to facilitate the commercialization of pastoralism. Access to credit using livestock or community trust as collateral shall be put in place. The lending capacities of banks and other financial institutions in pastoral areas shall be increased.



Strategy 4: Increasing Access to Insurance Services

The government is committed to creating insurance policies to help build disaster-resilient pastoral communities. In this regard, ensuring access to livestock insurance services is crucial to protect against risks associated with the loss of their livestock assets.

6.3.5 Improving Telecommunication Services

The communication service in Pastoral area is very poor. They cannot access information regarding prices, markets, and other relevant issues due to the prevailing poor telecommunication service. To solve this gap, strategic telecommunications infrastructure will be expanded. A pastoral information center shall be established to collect, analyze, and disseminate information regarding market and product prices, as well as livestock prices. The information center will have a call center to provide relevant and important information to the pastoral community and other market players. The center will work closely with existing media outlets to share information. The information center shall work with telecommunication corporations (Ethio telecom, Safaricom, etc) to create a short code thorough which the pastoralist community shall get access to market information.

6.3.6 Ensuring Access to Energy Infrastructure and Developing Alternative Energy Supplies

In pastoral areas, the supply of energy is inadequate. Currently, pastoral communities do not have sufficient and reliable access to electricity. Schools, health facilities, and other service-providing institutions also experience shortages in energy supply. Despite these challenges, there is significant potential to develop renewable energy in these areas. Efforts are being made to improve and expand energy supply by promoting the use of clean energy options. Accordingly, solar energy, biogas, and hydroelectric power should be expanded. In addition, schools, health facilities, and other institutions will be supported to access reliable energy supply



6.3.7 Creating Market Access and Market Information System

Access to and information about markets is crucial for pastoral communities. Market infrastructures should be established to connect the pastoralist community to local, regional, and international markets. Market points should be established at locations closer to the pastoral community for marketing livestock and livestock products. Livestock rehabilitation centers should be made available for livestock taken to central markets and livestock intended for export. Export corridors shall be established along the corridors. Livestock certification centers will be established for each livestock export corridor in convenient places, and customs centers shall be facilitated to oversee the cross-border livestock trade. Common markets shall be established along the borders to create community linkages and integration.

A livestock quarantine center is a government and privately managed facility that inspects, tests, and isolates animals to prevent infectious diseases. It serves import and export control purposes, conducts health inspections, issues certificates, monitors animals, and ensures regulatory compliance. These centers protect public health, support livestock trade, and maintain bio-security. Livestock quarantine centers are crucial for the livestock and meat trade by ensuring animal health and safety, facilitating trade, building consumer trust, supporting price stability, and ensuring compliance with legal and trade regulations. They screen for diseases before entering the market, protecting buyers and other animals, and certify animals for import/export, reducing trade barriers and promoting international market access.

6.3.8 Strengthening Cooperatives

The pastoral communities will be organized into cooperative unions to empower them to overcome exploitation by merchants. The pastoralists unions will work on providing essential supplies (seeds, fertilizers, modern hives for beekeeping, and other essential inputs to the pastoral community and collecting and marketing the pastoralists outputs (milk, yogurt, butter, livestock, honey, and other commodities. Important facilities and training shall be given to the cooperatives and unions to make them competitive in the modern market. The cooperatives and cooperative unions shall work on facilitating credit for the pastoral community by creating and working with cooperative banks and other institutions.



6.4 Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

Pastoral areas are particularly vulnerable to poverty caused by natural hazards, especially recurrent droughts. Although a disaster risk management strategy for droughts and other hazards has been developed, it has not been fully implemented. As a result, most assistance focuses on providing immediate humanitarian relief rather than proactive risk reduction. The goal of this policy is to prioritize disaster prevention and preparedness while ensuring timely humanitarian response for sudden and severe events. Pastoral communities, with their social capital, play a crucial role in supporting those in need. Therefore, mobilizing and utilizing the community-based social support within a strategic disaster risk management framework is essential for effectively managing and mitigating disasters. In doing so the following strategies are designed.

Strategy 1: Strengthening Early Warning Systems

Strengthening Early Warning Systems (EWS) is crucial for disaster risk management, involving advanced technology, data integration, risk assessment, communication, public awareness, preparedness planning, training, community involvement, coordination, international cooperation, and sustainable investment. This approach reduces adverse disaster impacts and ensures community safety. Indigenous knowledge and customs can be used to strengthen early warning systems in disaster risk management. By integrating traditional practices, community-based approaches, and modern scientific methods, early warning systems can be more accurate and timely. This method fosters trust and cooperation between authorities and local communities, enhancing the effectiveness of early warning systems. Communication strategies can be tailored to resonate with local customs and languages, and historical examples can serve as models for integrating indigenous knowledge into formal warning systems. This move towards can lead to more resilient and prepared communities. Provide early warning systems and advisory services to help pastoralists make informed decisions about crop selection, planting dates, and resource management in response to changing weather patterns. Establish community-based early warning systems to monitor and disseminate information on extreme weather events, droughts, and other climate-related risks.



Strategy 2: Enhancing Early Response System

Disaster risk management can be significantly improved by enhancing early response systems, improving disaster preparedness, and diversifying livelihoods. This can be achieved through regular training sessions, risk assessments, resource allocation, community involvement, and improved livestock insurance coverage. Additionally, alternative income sources, skill development, microfinance, and market access can be promoted. Integrated communication systems, rapid response teams, and coordination frameworks can ensure real-time information sharing among agencies.

Develop contingency plans and enhance the capacity of pastoral communities to prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters, such as droughts and floods. These measures can lead to more effective and timely responses, reduced community impact, and quicker recovery from disasters.

Strategy 3: Ensuring Post-Disaster Rehabilitation Systems

Post-disaster rehabilitation requires a swift response and a robust disaster recovery system. This includes rapid assessment, resource mobilization, coordination, immediate assistance, long-term planning, community involvement, sustainable practices, and continuous monitoring and evaluation. By focusing on these elements, a post-disaster rehabilitation system can support affected communities and facilitate a smoother recovery process. Facilitate the timely and appropriate delivery of emergency relief assistance, as well as the implementation of long-term recovery and rehabilitation programs, to support the post-disaster restoration of pastoral livelihoods. Strengthen emergency relief and humanitarian assistance mechanisms to support pastoral communities during climate-induced crises.

Strategy 4: Resource Mobilization and Partnership

Resource mobilization and partnership for disaster risk management (DRM) involve strategically gathering and utilizing resources, both financial and non-financial, and forming partnerships to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Busaa Gonofaa play a crucial role in mobilizes resources through partnerships,



donations, and fundraising activities while Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in resource mobilization, advocating for funding and forming alliances with other organizations.

Donors provide financial resources for development, humanitarian aid, and capacity-building initiatives. Partnerships among local, regional, and international aid organizations enhance financial stability, capacity building, and collaborations. These partnerships reduce duplication of work, extend program reach, and ensure long-term sustainability by building resilient systems and communities. Promote the integration of traditional disaster risk management practices and the participation of pastoral communities into formal disaster governance frameworks.

Strategy 5: Enhancing Climate-smart Pastoral Practices

Climate change is a significant global issue affecting the long-term climate system, particularly posing a significant challenge to pastoralist production systems. Climate-smart pastoral practices enhance sustainability, productivity, and resilience in pastoral systems, involving rangeland management, livelihood diversification, improved livestock, water management, early warning systems, capacity building, and institutional frameworks. Governments and institutions support these practices through policies, infrastructure investments, and research. The strategic initiative is to adopt a holistic, community-centered approach that combines technical, institutional, and policy-level interventions to enhance the resilience of pastoral systems in the face of climate change. Thus, the following strategic action will be taken.

- Strengthen climate-smart pastoral systems by promoting sustainable rangeland management, restoring degraded areas, integrating trees and shrubs, and protecting key natural resources
- Enhance pastoral resilience by diversifying livelihoods, integrating crop-livestock systems, and providing risk management tools like insurance and credit.. Establish risk management mechanisms, including weather-based index insurance and access to credit and savings facilities.



- Improve livestock productivity and resilience by promoting climate-resilient breeds, better veterinary care, and optimized feeding practices.
- Enhance water security by improving access, harvesting rainwater, using efficient irrigation, and conserving water for crops and livestock
- Strengthen early warning systems and climate information to help pastoralists make timely decisions on grazing, livestock movements, and climate risks
- Engage pastoral communities through training, education, and inclusion in decision-making, integrating traditional knowledge into climate adaptation.
- Strengthen policies and institutions to support pastoralist needs by investing in infrastructure, research, and capacity building. Include pastoral concerns in national climate policies and provide education and training on climate adaptation and mitigation
- Build climate-resilient infrastructure, including water points, markets, and community facilities, to withstand climate-related disasters

Strategy 6: Stocking and Destocking Livestock

Stocking and destocking are crucial practices in livestock farming, adjusting animal numbers to maximize production, protect the environment, and optimize productivity. They help pastoralists match livestock numbers to resources, protect pastures, manage financial risk, and adapt to seasonal and climate variability. Stocking and destocking livestock require careful planning, assessing resources, climate, and market conditions. Stocking involves assessing availability, choosing livestock type and number, acquiring reputable sources, quarantining new animals, and monitoring rang conditions.

6.5 Developing Institutional and Execution Capacity

Institutional capacity development is a process that improves the capabilities of institutions such as governments, organizations, and communities to perform their functions effectively, achieve their goals, and sustain improvements over time. Key aspects include human resources, organizational structures, financial resources,



infrastructure and technology, institutional culture, collaboration and partnerships, policy and regulatory environment, and advocacy and reform. These elements ensure that these entities can respond to challenges, manage resources efficiently, and provide quality services.

Strategy 1: Strengthening Customary Institutions

Customary institutions are traditional governance systems based on cultural practices and norms within a community. They operate alongside formal state structures, maintaining social order, resolving conflicts, and managing resources. Key characteristics include community-based governance, oral traditions, legitimate dispute resolution, resource management, cultural preservation, and adaptability. These institutions are rooted in tradition and can portmanteau customary law with formal legal systems, ensuring sustainable use and cultural preservation. The strategy aims to legitimize customary institutions, enhance knowledge sharing, build capacity, and empower them through legal frameworks, collaboration, conflict resolution, and informal practices. It also provides capacity gap training, legal assistance, and advocacy for their rights.

Strategy 2: Institutionalizing Multi Stakeholder Integration and Coordination

Institutionalizing stakeholder integration and coordination involves implementing systematic processes within an organization to ensure effective involvement and alignment in decision-making and operational activities. Key components include structured communication channels, governance frameworks, collaborative tools, stakeholder mapping and analysis, performance metrics, and training and capacity building.

These measures help manage expectations, resolve conflicts, and foster a culture of cooperation and shared purpose. Promote platforms for dialogue and coordination among pastoralist organizations, government agencies, private sector, and civil society actors. Facilitate the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships to develop and implement integrated solutions for pastoralist development. Encourage the exchange of knowledge, resources, and best practices among various stakeholders.



Strategy 3: Enhancing Agile Capacity Building Schemes

Strategies for agile capacity building improve adaptability and proficiency in dynamic environments by emphasizing continuous learning, adaptive leadership, collaborative culture, lean processes, technology integration, feedback mechanisms, and flexibility. To achieve this, a comprehensive needs assessment is conducted to identify specific challenges, resources, and opportunities in pastoral areas. Tailored training modules are then developed focusing on topics such as sustainable livestock management, drought resilience, water resource management, pasture rehabilitation, and alternative livelihood strategies. Mobile training units are established to reach remote pastoral communities, and community-based resource centers provide access to information, training materials, and technical support. Partnerships with government agencies, international donors, philanthropic organizations, and private sector stakeholders are explored to enhance support. Technical and organizational capacities of dryland pastoralists, extension agents, and local institutions are strengthened through customized training programs and knowledge-sharing platforms. Traditional ecological knowledge and innovative practices are exchanged among dryland communities to promote local innovation and adaptation.

Strategy 4: Establishing University and Stakeholder Linkage

A successful partnership between a pastoral area university and stakeholders involves several key steps. These include identifying stakeholders, setting mutually beneficial goals, developing a strong communication strategy, mobilizing resources, and implementing capacity-building programs. The partnership should encompass funding, infrastructure, and training programs to enhance skills and knowledge. Pilot projects can be used to test feasibility and impact, with regular communication and feedback mechanisms in place. Sustaining the partnership requires ongoing engagement, continuous improvement, and thorough documentation of all activities, agreements, and outcomes. Regular progress reports and sharing of successes can help ensure sustainable collaboration and mutual benefits.



To achieve this, specific projects or initiatives such as research projects, community development programs, capacity-building workshops, or outreach activities can be identified for collaboration between the university and stakeholders. A formal partnership plan should be created outlining objectives, roles, responsibilities, and expected outcomes, with regular reviews and updates to ensure relevance and effectiveness over time. Engaging with research institutions and universities can help generate and disseminate context-specific knowledge and technologies for dryland areas.

It is also important to document and share the traditional ecological knowledge and innovative practices of pastoral communities to inform the design of more effective and culturally appropriate development interventions. Facilitating the co-creation of knowledge and exchange of ideas among pastoral communities, researchers, and development practitioners can further enhance the partnership's impact and sustainability.

Strategy 5: Strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Pastoral Training Center

The strengthening TVET initiative aims to improve employment opportunities, economic development, and social inclusion in Pastoral communities. It focuses on skill development, economic growth, and social inclusion. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs include curriculum development, infrastructure investment, teacher training, context-specific training, mobile training units, and community engagement. Design curricula to align pastoral livelihood with industry needs and technological advancements. Ensuring that TVET and Pastoral training center (PTC) institutions have modern infrastructure, equipment, and facilities to deliver high-quality training; allocating adequate funding and resources to support TVET and PTC institutions and providing entrepreneurship training and support services to equip graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to start and manage their own businesses are among the strategic actions.



Strategy 6: Human Resource Development

It is crucial to satisfy the needs of pastoralists and stakeholders by organizing human resources efficiently and effectively and establishing operational systems. Human Resource Development (HRD) is a strategic approach to enhance an organization's effectiveness by enhancing its workforce. It includes training and development, career development, organizational development, performance management, talent management, and learning and development. Training focuses on specific skills for current jobs, while career development involves planning and managing employees' career paths. Organizational development focuses on improving the overall health and effectiveness of the organization, while performance management sets goal and provides feedback. Learning and development provide learning opportunities for individual and organizational performance.

Strategy 7: Improving Regulatory Frameworks

Historically, development and policy efforts in our country have focused on sedentary agricultural communities, overlooking the unique needs of pastoralists in Oromia. This has limited institutional support for their specific challenges. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive, integrated, and participatory approach that enhances resilience, improves access to services, and promotes sustainable natural resource management through tailored policies, land management, and sectoral strategies. Advocacy should prioritize dryland development, including infrastructure, market access, and risk management, while ensuring collaboration among government, private sector, and civil society. Policies and programs must recognize the rights, needs, and perspectives of pastoral communities to support sustainable livelihoods and food security

Strategy 8: Strengthening Pastoralist Organizations

Strengthening pastoralist organizations helps communities better manage resources, access services, and influence policies. This involves supporting associations, cooperatives, and community institutions while building their governance and



organizational skills. It improves service delivery, stakeholder engagement, and resource management. These organizations are also empowered to take part in policy dialogue, advocacy, and evidence-based planning. Ultimately, it ensures pastoralists voices are included in relevant policies and programs.

Strategy 9: Improving Service Delivery Mechanisms

Collaborate with local and regional authorities and pastoralist organizations to enhance access to healthcare, education, and veterinary services through decentralized and mobile delivery models. Establish information hubs and knowledge centers to provide market, weather, and technical data, and promote the adoption of appropriate technologies such as mobile apps, early warning systems, and solar energy. Provide training and support to enable pastoralists to effectively use these services and technologies, boosting their productivity, resilience, and access to vital information.

6.6 Promoting Peace and Security

Strategy 1: Develop Indigenous Knowledge and Customary Practices Promoting Peace and Security to Prevent Conflict

Identify and address the causes of conflict in pastoral areas, fostering understanding and resolving outstanding concerns to establish stable and productive peace. Utilize existing social capital and actively engage stakeholders and the public, ensuring that indigenous knowledge and customary practices are central to preventing conflict and maintaining sustainable, reliable peace

Strategy 2: Strengthen and Institutionalize Alternative Dispute Resolution Systems

Recognize, endorse, and institutionalize the Gadaa system, engaging elders, community leaders, and customary laws to preserve pastoralist safety and community harmony. Promote cultural practices aligned with human rights, democracy, and constitutional principles, while reinforcing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and primary courts to provide accessible, efficient, and flexible justice that strengthens relationships and ensures social stability



Strategy implementation activities

- Facilitate regular meetings and discussions between different pastoral groups and communities to air grievances, negotiate resource sharing, and build trust.
- Support the capacity of local government and traditional authorities to administer justice, enforce rules, and coordinate resource use.
- Promote inclusive and participatory decision-making processes that give pastoral communities a voice.
- Develop early warning systems to detect and respond to emerging tensions before they escalate.
- Foster the exchange of knowledge and best practices on pastoral conflict management and peace building among various stakeholders, including policymakers, practitioners, and pastoral communities.
- Invest in the capacity-building of local institutions and leaders to strengthen their conflict resolution and peace building capabilities.
- Ensure that development interventions in pastoral areas are designed and implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner, avoiding the exacerbation of tensions.
- Integrate peace building and social cohesion initiatives into development programs targeting pastoral communities.
- Establish or strengthen indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms, such as customary courts and community-based dialogues.
- Facilitate the mediation of conflicts over natural resources, land, and livestock between different pastoral groups and with sedentary communities.
- Strengthen Customary Court System(Mana Murtii Aadaa) through logistic, infrastructural and technological aspects.
- Strengthening and institutional Arbitration Award by formal court system
- Capacity Building on integrating indigenous wisdom and skills to formal justice system.



Strategy 3: Regional Integration in Peace and Security

Strengthening the joint administration of communal land and natural resources is essential to promote peaceful coexistence and enhance the community's economic cooperation, while preventing unhealthy competition over farmland, grazing areas, and other natural resources. It is also important to address the root causes of conflict—such as poor governance practices, harmful traditional practices, and competition over water and grazing land—by utilizing customary institutions and implementing an effective land administration and conflict resolution system. Furthermore, ensuring that public and private investments do not exacerbate conflicts and that disputes are resolved early and sustainably. The following strategic activities will be used to ensure the achievement of these goals:

- Promote cross-border cooperation and the development of regional frameworks for the management of shared natural resources and the movement of pastoral communities.
- Facilitate the harmonization of policies, regulations, and institutions related to pastoralism across national boundaries.
- Encourage cross-border cooperation on issues like disease control, natural resource management, and conflict resolution.
- Foster the development initiatives that are essential to upholding justice and preserving peace through decentralized judicial and administrative systems as well as consensus-building among the population at large and that of surrounding nations.
- Work to reserve law and order by upholding equality and reciprocity in society and ensuring justice, prosperity, and safety for citizens by building institutions that uphold the rule of law and provide institutional and social cultures that strive for community involvement.
- Strengthen dispute related pre-warning and quick response mechanisms because of the customary management; and create systems that enable dispute resolution before they are transformed into conflict.



- Create development corridors among pastoralists in neighboring regions/ countries in development and good governance to enable creation of sustainable peace between them.
- Leverage social and kinship ties to promote collaboration and conflict resolution.

Strategy 4: Inclusive Governance and Representation:

It is well known that pastoralism was marginalized within past political and administrative systems and was not adequately understood or recognized in line with the community's way of life. Its formal acknowledgment and appreciation as a distinct livelihood system has emerged in recent years.

Moreover, many of the policies and administrative frameworks designed and implemented in the past largely reflected the interests and realities of highland communities. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure that the voices and interests of pastoral communities are properly reflected in decision-making processes concerning governance, resource management and utilization, sustainable peace, socio-economic development, and other related issues. Some of the strategic implementation activities include:

- Ensure the meaningful participation of pastoral communities in decision-making processes at local and national levels.
- Support the capacity-building of pastoral civil society organizations and their engagement with policymakers.
- Ensure the meaningful participation of pastoral communities in the design, implementation, and monitoring of development programs and policies that affect their livelihoods.
- Build the capacity of pastoral civil society organizations and local institutions to advocate for their rights and engage with policymakers.
- Improve the provision and accessibility of essential services, tailored to the unique needs and mobility patterns of pastoral communities.
- Coordinate the delivery of these services with other livelihood support and natural resource management interventions.



Strategy 5: Improving Access to Natural Resources

Conflicts in pastoral areas are often driven by scarcity and competition over grazing lands, water points, mobility routes, etc. Developing infrastructure, managing resources sustainably, and ensuring equitable access can reduce tensions. Some of the strategic activities include:

- Recognize and protect the land and resource rights of pastoral communities, including through the formal recognition of customary land tenure systems.
- Develop and implement equitable policies and mechanisms for the allocation and management of natural resources, such as grazing lands and water sources.
- Establish clear and equitable systems for managing access to shared resources like grazing lands, water sources, and mobility routes.
- Implement sustainable land use planning and zoning to prevent encroachment and resource depletion.
- Invest in infrastructure like water points, veterinary services, and feed reserves to reduce competition over scarce resources

6.7 Promoting Sustainable Urbanization

Urbanization that embraces the culture and values of society aims to improve community livelihoods, achieve economic growth, ensure sustainable urban development, and create environmental balance, thereby building a modern and inclusive urban transformation. Its goal is to build modern, inclusive, and resilient cities. This inclusive and participatory approach to urbanization benefits both pastoralists and urban residents by enhancing socio-economic development. It creates employment and business opportunities, strengthens market linkages, diversifies income sources, improves access to essential services, and supports balanced and equitable development. To achieve this, the following implementation strategies will be put into practice.



Strategy 1: Ensure Inclusive Urban Planning

Urban planning will be proactive in recognizing the unique challenges faced by Pastoral communities. This includes integrating their needs into broader urban development frameworks. Policymakers must ensure that land-use plan and strategy do not disproportionately favor urban expansion at the expense of pastoral lands. This can be achieved by creating zoning regulations that protect grazing areas and communal lands while allowing for sustainable urban growth.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- To ensure that pastoralists' voices are heard, participatory planning processes should be established. This could involve;
 - organizing regular meetings where pastoralists can express their concerns, needs, and suggestions regarding urban development.
 - Facilitating workshops that bring together urban planners, local government officials, and pastoral community leaders to collaboratively develop urban plans.
 - Implementing systems for ongoing feedback from pastoral communities on urban development initiatives, ensuring their perspectives are continuously integrated into planning efforts.

Strategy 2: Enhance Land Tenure Security

Land tenure security is crucial for safeguarding the rights of pastoral communities. Clear policies that recognize and protect their land rights can prevent conflicts and promote more sustainable land use practices. This includes recognizing the importance of communal grazing lands and traditional land management practices to secure land tenure for pastoral communities to prevent displacement and promote sustainable land management.



Strategic Implementation Activities

- Conducting surveys to document pastoral lands and customary rights, creating a comprehensive database that reflects the traditional use of lands.
- Establishing legal frameworks that formalize customary land rights, ensuring they are recognized alongside formal land tenure systems.
- Providing training for local authorities on the importance of customary land rights and how to incorporate these into formal land management practices.

Strategy 3: Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure development is vital for facilitating access to markets, services, and opportunities for pastoral communities. Investments should focus on creating a network that supports both urban and rural populations, enhancing mobility and economic integration. Therefore, government encourages investment in infrastructure that connects pastoral areas to urban centers.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- Building and maintaining all-weather roads that link pastoral areas to urban centers, improving access to markets for pastoral products.
- Expanding mobile and internet connectivity to pastoral areas, allowing pastoralists to access market information, weather updates, and other essential services.
- Developing local market centers where pastoralists can sell their products directly to consumers, reducing reliance on middlemen.

Strategy 4: Economic Diversification Programs

Economic diversification can help pastoralists reduce their dependence on livestock herding, making them more resilient to economic and environmental shocks. This strategy should promote alternative livelihoods that are compatible with pastoral lifestyles. Therefore, the government encourages economic diversification among pastoralists.



Strategic Implementation Activities

Offering skills training in areas such as agro-pastoralism, handicrafts, or ecotourism, enabling pastoralists to explore new income-generating activities.

- Establishing microfinance programs that provide pastoralists with the capital needed to start small businesses or invest in alternative livelihoods.
- Creating partnerships with local businesses and cooperatives to facilitate market access for alternative products and services.

Strategy 5: Social Services Expansion

As urban areas grow, maintaining access to essential services for pastoralists is critical. Policies should prioritize improve the delivery of health, education, and social services in both urban and rural contexts.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- Deploying mobile health units that travel to remote pastoral areas to provide regular medical services, vaccinations, and health education.
- Setting up satellite schools or learning centers in pastoral areas, ensuring that children have access to education without needing to travel to urban centers.
- Training local community members as health workers to provide basic healthcare and education about health issues relevant to pastoral communities.

Strategy 6: Cultural Preservation Initiatives

Cultural preservation is essential for maintaining the identity and cohesion of pastoral societies in the face of urbanization. Sectors should recognize and support the unique cultural practices of these communities which support initiatives that preserve and promote the cultural heritage of Pastoral communities.



Strategic Implementation Activities

- Hosting annual cultural festivals that celebrate pastoralist traditions, music, dance, and crafts, fostering pride and community cohesion.
- Offering workshops that teach traditional skills, such as weaving, pottery, or livestock management, ensuring these practices are passed down to future generations.
- Supporting projects that document and archive the oral histories, traditions, and knowledge of Pastoral communities, preserving their cultural heritage for future generations.

6.8 Expanding Industrialization in Pastoral Areas

Expanding industry involves enhancing modern economic activities at the micro, medium, and large levels based on the resource base of pastoralist areas, producing and marketing goods in a way that contributes to integrated development, creates employment opportunities, improves the livelihoods of pastoralist communities, and strengthens their contribution to national economic growth. This includes expanding industrial facilities and other development infrastructure in ways that increase the production of livestock products such as milk, meat, hides, and skins, among others.

This, in turn, helps pastoralists increase the value of their livestock products and their labor skills, thereby expanding their income sources and strengthening their economic resilience. It also creates new employment opportunities and improves market access and the spread of development infrastructure in the region. Furthermore, by enhancing the benefits pastoralists gain from industrial development and utilizing their unique skills and capacities, it is possible to contribute to the foundation of national economic growth.

The products obtained from industry also allow pastoralists to access inputs for their livestock production more easily. Therefore, to align the livelihoods of pastoralist communities with broader economic development, a strategy for balanced industrial



expansion needs to be implemented. This requires comprehensive decision-making, securing land ownership, enforcing supportive legal frameworks, and expanding development infrastructure.

Additionally, policies must be implemented in ways that meet the needs of pastoralist communities, ensure sustainable development, preserve local culture, and create a strong national and regional economic environment. In this way, subsequent strategies can be put into practice

Strategy 1: Value Chain Development-

Enhance the value chain of pastoral products to increase income and economic opportunities.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- Conduct studies to identify market demands for pastoral products (e.g., livestock, dairy, meat, hides). This helps tailor production practices to meet market needs.
- Establish local processing units for pastoral products, such as dairy processing plants or hide tanneries. This adds value and creates jobs within the community.
- Facilitate the creation of cooperatives among pastoralists to collectively market their products, negotiate better prices, and share resources.
- Provide training on best practices in livestock husbandry, product processing, and quality control to ensure products meet market standards.

Strategy 2. Infrastructure Development: -

Invest in infrastructure that supports industrialization efforts in Pastoral area.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- Construct and upgrade roads connecting pastoral areas to urban markets, facilitating the movement of goods and services.
- Improve access to electricity and water in pastoral regions to support small-scale industries and processing facilities.



- Build marketplaces where pastoralists can sell their products directly to consumers and businesses, enhancing economic linkages.
- Invest in telecommunications to ensure pastoralists can access market information and engage in e-commerce.

Strategy 3: Skills Development and Education

Enhance the skill set of pastoralists to prepare them for participation in industrial activities.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- Establish training centers focused on skills relevant to both traditional pastoral activities and emerging industrial opportunities (e.g., agro-processing, crafts).
- Implement literacy and numeracy programs to increase the educational level of adult pastoralists, enabling them to engage more effectively in business and industry.
- Organize practical training sessions in areas such as animal husbandry, agricultural practices, and entrepreneurship.

Strategy 4: Improve Access to Finance

Improve financial access for pastoralists to support industrialization initiatives.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- Establish microfinance services tailored to the needs of pastoralists, providing small loans for starting or expanding businesses.
- Offer workshops on financial management, budgeting, and savings to help pastoralists effectively manage their resources.
- Collaborate with banks to develop financial products that meet the unique needs of pastoral communities, such as flexible repayment schedules that align with livestock cycles.



Strategy 5. Policy and Regulatory Framework

- Create a supportive policy environment for industrialization in pastoral communities.
- Strategic Implementation Activities
- Engage with government bodies to advocate for policies that recognize the rights of pastoralists within industrialization frameworks.
- Work towards simplifying regulations that affect small-scale industries in pastoral areas, making it easier for pastoralists to start and operate businesses.
- Involve pastoralists in the policy-making process to ensure that their perspectives and needs are integrated into industrialization strategies.

Strategy 6. Sustainability and Environmental Considerations

Promote sustainable industrial practices that protect pastoralist livelihoods and the environment.

Strategic Implementation Activities

- Educate pastoralists and local entrepreneurs about sustainable practices in industries such as agro-processing and eco-tourism.
- Conduct assessments for proposed industrial projects to ensure they do not negatively impact grazing lands and water resources.
- Support initiatives that integrate conservation with industrial activities, ensuring that natural resources are managed sustainably.

Strategy 7. Market Linkages and Networking

Establish connections between pastoral communities and broader markets to enhance economic opportunities.



Strategic Implementation Activities

- Organize trade expos and events that showcase pastoral products, allowing producers to network with buyers, retailers, and other stakeholders.
- Provide support for pastoral communities to develop business plans, marketing strategies, and branding for their products.
- Foster partnerships between pastoral communities and larger industries to create supply chains that include pastoral products.

6.9 Promoting Research and Technology

Pastoral communities face challenges such as limited understanding of their livelihoods, resource management pressures, and gaps in policy relevance. To address these issues, research should be conducted to identify their needs, assess the impact of existing programs, and inform evidence-based policies. Engaging pastoralists, traditional institutions, and stakeholders ensures their perspectives are incorporated. The findings can guide sustainable management of grazing lands, water, and biodiversity, and support innovative tools and technologies that enhance resilience, productivity, and overall well-being, resulting in policies that are effective, context-sensitive, and credible.

Strategy 1: Ensuring Research Based and Informed Decision Making on Pastoral Areas

This policy issue aims to develop a comprehensive research strategy that guides policymakers, development practitioners, and pastoral communities to work together to design and implement effective, evidence-based strategies for sustainable pastoral development. Some of the major strategies focus on understanding the unique contexts of Oromia Pastoral area and making evidence-based decisions.

- Understand the pastoral area Context:** Conduct in-depth ethnographic studies to document pastoral livelihoods, decision-making processes, and value systems; Analyze the social, economic, political, and environmental factors shaping pastoral communities; and identify key challenges, vulnerabilities, and development priorities from the pastoralists' perspective.



- ii. Assess Pastoral Production Systems:** Examine the dynamics of pastoral land use, herd management, and resource access; Evaluate the ecological sustainability and productivity of pastoral production systems and; identify opportunities to improve animal health, breeding, and feeding practices.
- iii. Investigate Pastoral Institutions and Governance:** Analyze the role and functioning of indigenous institutions, such as *the gadaa* councils and customary tenure systems; Assess the interactions between formal government structures and pastoral self-governance mechanisms and; Identify entry points to strengthen inclusive and accountable local governance.
- iv. Explore Pastoral community market participation:** Examine the marketing channels, value chains, and commercial activities of pastoral communities; identify barriers to market access and opportunities to enhance pastoral income diversification; and assess the potential for value addition, product differentiation, and access to niche markets.
- v. Assess Pastoral community Resilience and Adaptation:** analyze how pastoral community cope with and adapt to environmental shocks, such as droughts, floods, and disease outbreaks; evaluate the effectiveness of existing coping mechanisms and early warning systems; and identify opportunities to strengthen pastoral community resilience through innovative risk management strategies.
- vi. Engage Pastoral community in the Research Process:** adopt a participatory and community-based approach to research design, data collection, and knowledge sharing; empower pastoral communities as co-researchers and experts, leveraging their traditional ecological knowledge; and ensure that research findings are communicated back to pastoral communities in accessible and actionable formats.
- vii. Inform Policy and Practice:** Synthesize research insights to inform the development of pastoral area-friendly policies, programs, and interventions; promote the integration of pastoralist perspectives and needs into broader rural development and natural resource management strategies; and establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the impact of interventions on Pastoral communities.



Strategy 2: Enhancing Digitalization and Information Communication Technology

Pastoral areas face challenges such as limited internet and electricity access, low adoption of information communication technology (ICT), minimal private sector participation, and fragmented digital initiatives, which hinder efficient livestock and agro-pastoral development. To address these issues, a comprehensive ICT strategy should be implemented to provide appropriate technologies, digital extension services, and advisory support. ICT can improve monitoring of livestock and crops, conduct surveys, enable early warning and risk analysis, and facilitate rural financial services. By strengthening digital tools and innovations, Pastoral communities can enhance productivity, resilience, and active participation in broader socioeconomic development.

The following are some of the strategies and strategic activities to realize the ICT based pastoral development endeavors.

- i. **Improve Connectivity and Infrastructure:** Expand mobile network coverage and reliability in remote pastoral areas through public-private partnerships, alternative technologies like satellite or long-range Wi-Fi, and community-managed digital hubs to enhance accessibility and affordability
- ii. **Develop Relevant Digital Services and Applications:** Create culturally appropriate mobile and web platforms for pastoralists, providing early warnings, weather updates, livestock management, and market information, using local languages, voice interfaces, and visual designs to ensure accessibility and usability
- iii. **Strengthen Digital Literacy and Capacity Building:** Provide training and support to improve pastoralists' digital skills, engage community leaders and youth as ICT champions, and establish learning centers for hands-on practice, knowledge sharing, and technical support



- iv. Foster Collaborative Partnerships and Ecosystems:** Partner with telecoms, technology companies, research institutions, and development organizations to develop and pilot innovative ICT solutions, create multi-stakeholder innovation hubs for knowledge sharing, and ensure pastoralists are actively involved in the design and governance of digital initiatives
- v. Leverage Data and Analytic for Informed Decision-making:** Develop robust data collection and management systems to gather real-time information on pastoral livelihoods, natural resource use, market dynamics, and climate-related risks; implement data-driven decision-support tools and analytical models to assist pastoralists, policymakers, and development practitioners in making informed choices about resource allocation, risk management, and sustainable development strategies; and ensure the ethical and responsible use of data, respecting the privacy and data rights of pastoral communities.

6.10 Inclusiveness and Cross Cutting Issues

In pastoral areas, it means working in coordination among government institutions, civil society organizations, communities, and the private sector to achieve common goals through strong linkages. Issues such as livestock development, dryland agricultural development, food systems, health, education, water, natural resources, economic development, and related sectors are closely interconnected; therefore, working on only one sector does not bring sustainable results. Hence, participation and coordination among different sectors are essential

Strategy 1: Securing Participation and Benefits of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities in pastoral communities face challenges such as limited access to healthcare, education, and social services, geographic isolation, inadequate infrastructure, social stigma, and exclusion from economic and community activities. To address these barriers, adopt a comprehensive approach that engages local leaders, promotes inclusive policies, and implements community-based programs that empower persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation, equal opportunities, and access to benefits within pastoral societies



Implementation Activities

- **Ensure Accessibility and Inclusion:** Develop guidelines to ensure that infrastructure, services, and programs are accessible and inclusive for Person with disability in pastoral societies.
- **Train community leaders and service providers** on the needs and rights of Person with disability, promoting inclusive decision-making processes.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Establish vocational training centers tailored to the needs of Person with disability in pastoral societies, focusing on skills relevant to both traditional pastoral activities and emerging industrial opportunities.
- **Facilitate the creation of cooperatives and self-help groups** for Person with disability in pastoral societies to collectively market their products, negotiate better prices, and share resources.
- **Legislation and Advocacy:** Advocate for the amendment of existing laws and regulations to ensure the protection of the rights of Person with disability in pastoral societies.
- **Collaborate with local and national government bodies** to develop and implement policies that address the specific needs of Person with disability in pastoral societies.
- **Awareness and Stigma Reduction:** Implement awareness-raising campaigns to challenge stereotypes and reduce stigma associated with disabilities in pastoral societies.
- **Engage community and religious leaders** in advocating for the rights and inclusion of Person with disability in pastoral societies.
- **Health and Rehabilitation Services:** Improve access to healthcare services, including rehabilitation and assistive devices, for Person with disability in pastoral societies.
- **Train healthcare workers** on the unique needs of Person with disability in pastoral societies, ensuring culturally sensitive and appropriate care.



Strategy 2: Ensuring Women Participation and Benefit Among Pastoral Community

Pastoral women are vital to livestock management, household livelihoods, and income generation but face challenges such as limited education, restricted land and property rights, low access to markets and technology, health risks, and exclusion from decision-making. Policies and programs should guarantee equitable access to resources, education, technology, and markets, strengthen women's land and inheritance rights, and ensure their active participation in development initiatives. Building women's capacity and providing targeted support enhances their productivity, resilience, and the overall well-being of pastoral communities. The following are some of the major strategic activities to empower the Pastoral women.

- i. Improving Access to Resources and Services:** Ensure pastoral women have secure land and livestock rights, access to water and grazing, participation in value chains, and financial services to strengthen their empowerment and economic opportunities
- ii. Strengthening Women's Leadership and Participation:** Empower pastoral women by strengthening the Siinqee institution, ensuring representation in governance, providing leadership training, supporting women's groups and cooperatives, and challenging gender norms to promote inclusive decision-making and sustainable community development
- iii. Addressing Gender Norms and Barriers:** Pastoral women face stereotypes, exclusion, and harmful practices like early marriage, limiting their participation and empowerment. To address this, programs should challenge gender norms, integrate women's knowledge and roles into development initiatives, provide gender-sensitive services and protections, and implement policies that promote equitable participation and safeguard women in pastoral communities.
- iv. Enhancing Women's Knowledge and Skills:** Empower women in pastoral communities through tailored programs that build technical and business skills for sustainable development



- v. **Fostering Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Engage diverse stakeholders—government, civil society organizations, women’s groups, and communities—to address gender barriers, empower women, and ensure their voices shape pastoral development through coordinated, gender-responsive policies and programs.

Strategy 3: Enhancing Youth Participation and Development in Pastoral Community

Pastoral youth face limited opportunities, low participation in decision-making, and barriers to education, skills, and economic engagement. Empowering them through inclusive programs can enhance entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer, market access, cultural preservation, and community resilience, ensuring their active role in sustainable development. Here are some key components of an effective strategy activities to empower pastoral youth:

- i. **Education and Skills Development:** Invest in pastoral youth through accessible education, life skills, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support to empower them, promote sustainable livelihoods, and create economic opportunities.
- ii. **Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Diversification:** Support pastoral youth to start businesses, diversify incomes, gain vocational and business skills, access mentor-ship and networks, and engage with policies that foster sustainable economic opportunities
- iii. **Civic Engagement and Leadership:** Empower pastoral youth to take leadership roles, participate in decision-making, engage in community initiatives, and influence policies for sustainable and resilient pastoral development.

Strategy 4: Ensuring Nutrition and Nutritious Food Accessibility and Quality in Pastoral Areas

Pastoral communities, particularly women and children, often suffer from poor nutrition and limited access to diverse foods. Solutions include supplementation, food fortification, nutrition education, promoting varied diets, improving livestock health and products, and providing nutrition-sensitive social protection such as food aid and cash transfers. These measures enhance health, resilience, productivity, and food



security in pastoral communities. The key elements of an effective nutrition strategy for pastoralists; include:

- i. Diversifying Dietary Intake:** Promoting the production and consumption of diverse food groups such as fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, cereals, and small livestock within their production systems and local livelihoods. This involves encouraging backyard gardening, small-scale irrigation, and other innovations that improve year-round access to and availability of diverse food sources, as well as developing and utilizing naturally drought-tolerant and nutrient-rich crop varieties and locally adapted wild foods
- ii. Enhancing Nutritional Knowledge and Practices:** Educating pastoralists particularly women and children—on healthy nutrition using culturally appropriate approaches, guidelines, and community support systems. This method can effectively deliver information on diversified diets, balanced nutrition, as well as proper food preparation and food safety practices through social networks, community dialogue, education sessions, public demonstrations, and various communication platforms.
- iii. Addressing Micro-nutrient Deficiencies:** Improve the nutrition of children, women, and infants under one year of age by providing nutrient-rich complementary foods and supplements, along with access to safe drinking water and promoting environmental and personal hygiene practices (WASH)

Strategy 5: Engaging Private Sectors in the Development of Pastoral Areas

The private sector can play a crucial role in supporting and advancing pastoral development through various mechanisms. Accordingly, private sector contributes to value chain integration through engaging pastoralists as suppliers of livestock, dairy, and other agricultural products by establishing fair and transparent procurement systems. They can also invest in processing, storage, and transportation infrastructure to improve market access and value addition for pastoral products. Private sectors also provide technical assistance, inputs, and services to help pastoralists enhance the quality and consistency of their products to meet market demands.



Owing to the major limitation of financial service in pastoral areas, private sectors can offer tailored financial products and services, such as savings, credit, insurance, and mobile money, to address the unique needs of Pastoral communities. They also develop innovative financial models, including risk-sharing mechanisms and weather-based index insurance, to enhance the resilience of pastoral livelihoods in collaboration with other development partners to design and scale up inclusive financial services that reach marginalized pastoral households. In addition, private sectors introduce up to date technology that improve pastoral productivity, market access, and natural resource management. Therefore, by actively engaging with the private sector, development partners can harness their resources, expertise, and innovative approaches to create sustainable and inclusive opportunities for pastoral communities, ultimately contributing to the overall development and resilience of pastoral systems. Some of the strategic activities include:

- i. Identify Mutually Beneficial Partnerships:** Build collaboration between pastoral communities, private sector actors, and development partners by aligning business interests with pastoral development needs for inclusive and sustainable growth..
- ii. Co-designing Collaborative Initiatives:** Engage pastoral leaders and groups in designing locally tailored partnerships through inclusive dialogue and joint planning.
- iii. Equitable Benefit-Sharing:** Ensure transparent agreements, inclusive decision-making, and social safeguards so risks and benefits are fairly shared among all partners, especially vulnerable groups.
- iv. Risk-Sharing and De-risking Mechanisms:** To expand commercial activities among public-private partnership, use blended finance, supportive policies, and public-private partnerships (PPP); this reduces investment risk and encourages greater participation of private investors in pastoral development without hesitation.



7. Implementing Bodies and their Roles

In pastoral areas, community participation, coordination among all sectors, and a clear understanding of the implementing bodies and their roles form the foundation for effective and sustainable development. This ensures proper management of pastoral resources, guarantees income and food security for the community, helps address problems and gaps, strengthens development activities through the use of local knowledge and resources, and reinforces inter-sectoral relationships to protect natural resource and social assets. However, if community participation, sectoral coordination, and the roles of implementing bodies are unclear or not recognized, several problems arise: first, activities become fragmented; second, transparency and accountability are lost—for example, it becomes unclear who is responsible for each task and how results are measured; third, resource wastage occurs, as many activities are duplicated in different locations, wasting time and resources and preventing pastoralists from receiving the expected services and benefits. Therefore, clearly identifying the implementing bodies and their roles is essential.

7.1 The Role of Federal Executive Bodies

The federal government plays a major role in formulating and implementing policies and laws for pastoral development, providing financial and technical support and also essential services, and coordinating development plans. It also has a key role in establishing agreements and partnerships with regional authorities and communities. Furthermore, the federal government holds the highest authority and responsibility to monitor and supervise the proper implementation of pastoral development strategies.

7.2 Role of Regional Sectors

The Oromia Bureau of Irrigation and Pastoral Development (OBIPD) serves as the lead coordinating and facilitating body. It is responsible for creating an enabling environment through supportive policies, legal frameworks, and institutional arrangements tailored to pastoral communities, strengthening the development implementation system, monitoring and improving activities over time, preparing short-, medium-, and long-term plans and submitting them to higher authorities for approval, mobilizing domestic and international funding, issuing general guidelines, and ensuring the participation of pastoralists and community leaders.



The Bureau works in coordination with all government and non-governmental institutions, transforming fragmented efforts into a coordinated approach. This focuses on four main areas: ensuring that the plans of different actors are aligned, assessing whether outcomes bring meaningful change to pastoralists' livelihoods, maintaining transparency and safeguarding resources, and addressing implementation challenges and risks promptly.

Community participation is implemented in all directions; gaps in development and capacity are identified, projects that address local challenges are prioritized, indigenous knowledge and practices are strengthened, plans are developed, approved, and implemented in coordination with government structures and civil society organizations, activities are monitored and evaluated; findings from research and studies are applied in practice, and training and strategic alignment are conducted to ensure that pastoral development is effective, sustainable and resilient.

7.3 The Role of Civil Society Organizations

Civil society organizations, development partners, and community-based organizations play a key role in implementing pastoral development strategies. Their roles are to strengthen community participation and capacity, create coordination between government bodies and communities, identify existing challenges and seek solutions. In addition, they participate in the implementation and monitoring of policies and strategies, provide technical and financial support to help pastoralists expand their sources of income, enhance resilience, advocate for pastoralists' rights, introduce new technologies, strengthen indigenous knowledge, and act as participants and overseers in livestock development activities, thereby playing a key role in ensuring sustainable and effective development.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

The monitoring and evaluation system of the pastoral development policy and strategy ensures that all activities are implemented in the right direction and in accordance with planned objectives. This system should incorporate input, process, output, and outcome indicators. These indicators must be aligned with the actual conditions of pastoral areas.



The system involves regularly monitoring the implementation of development programs, identifying implementation challenges, and providing appropriate solutions. It also ensures that strategic actions are consistent with the overall objectives of the strategy and assesses changes in the livelihoods of pastoral communities. Accordingly, comprehensive evaluations are conducted in areas such as socio-economic development, natural resource governance, community participation, and related sectors, based on accurate and reliable data.

During implementation, selected policy interventions may first be piloted in specific locations. By evaluating their results, gaps and emerging opportunities can be identified. Periodic reports confirm whether planned activities are on track, thereby enabling leaders to make timely and informed decisions. Based on feedback, evidence, and lessons learned, the policy can be refined to respond effectively to changing circumstances, emerging challenges, and the evolving needs of pastoral communities.

To ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the pastoral policy and strategy, a clear and practical roadmap should be developed. This roadmap, grounded in the overall objectives of the policy, must clearly outline short-, medium-, and long-term actions.

Overall, when the monitoring and evaluation system of the pastoral policy and strategy is established on the principles of transparency, accountability, community participation, and reliable information, it ensures that planned activities achieve tangible and sustainable results.

9. Policy Distribution

This pastoral development policy and strategy document of Oromia will be made accessible to all relevant stakeholders. Training and awareness will be provided to participants, giving them the opportunity to understand the expected outcomes of the policy and strategy. Moreover, it ensures that all actors can support the policy and contribute effectively to its implementation. This process strengthens transparency, promotes coordination and collaboration, and fosters a shared commitment to achieving the objectives of the pastoral development strategy.



Oromia Irrigation and Pastoral Development Bureau

January, 2026