

DARK HORIZON PASTORALISTS IN WEST AFRICA

FACTS

- a. Pastoralists population in Nigeria around 20million people;
- b. Livestock population (FAO, 2016):
 - Cattle:** Approximately 15.4 million
 - Sheep:** Approximately 14 million
 - Goats:** Approximately 24.5 million
- c. GDP contributions: 10% (ILRI, 2023)
- d. Pastoralists provide 95% of the meat consumed and about 35% of dairy to over 220millions Nigerians.
- e. Pastoralism support sustainable biodiversity
- f. Pastoralists are custodians of the environment since they depend on it for their survival
- g. Pastoralists are repository of traditional knowledge on herds and medicines.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. **Indigene- non- indigene dichotomy-** pastoralists are considered in many communities in Nigeria as **non-indigenous** people based on the UN definition.

My grandfather and my father lived in a community for more 150 years. They are dead and buried there, yet I cannot visit their graves. We were evicted by some community members who see us as not belonging to the community. We understand the local languages, cultures and the environment, we are now displaced and settled in a new community as **strangers**.

2. Currently, we are **being profiled** and associated with criminal activities just because we are pastoralists.
3. Pastoralists do not enjoy human rights like other citizens –
 - literacy level less than 3%
 - political participation less than 10%
 - freedom of movement denied through mobility restrictions
4. We do understand and appreciate that there is a climate change and population increase
5. But unlike other conflicts, conflicts between pastoralists and farmers in Nigeria has taken dangerous dimension with about **3.4 million people internally displaced**.



WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

1. Have a space to voice out our plight to the global community;
2. UN to support pastoralists through COP30 to advocate for the repeal of laws restricting livestock mobility (**Anti-open grazing Law (Nigeria)** and **Cross-border mobility prohibition law**) in West Africa sub-region.
3. UN and other bodies are called upon to take interest in ensuring the rights of pastoralists are respected.

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