

Submission for Local Livelihoods and Community Investment Plan (LLCIP)
Northern Vision Community-Based Organization (CBO)
Isiolo County and Northern Kenya

Introduction to Northern Vision CBO:

Northern Vision CBO is a community-based organization deeply invested in the well-being of indigenous agro-pastoralist communities across Isiolo County and Northern Kenya. Our mission centers on building resilience against climate impacts, fostering sustainable livelihoods, and promoting environmental stewardship. Recognizing the intersection of climate change and social justice, we advocate for equitable development that empowers marginalized ASAL communities. Through this submission, we aim to highlight practical, justice-focused strategies that address community needs while tackling the systemic challenges of climate change.

LLCIP Contributions from Northern Vision CBO

1. Climate Resilience, Adaptation, and Justice

In the context of extreme and unpredictable climates in ASAL regions, our approach to climate resilience also underscores justice for communities disproportionately affected by climate change. We propose:

- **Water Conservation and Accessibility:** Access to water is a fundamental right. We advocate for sustainable water infrastructure, such as sand dams, water pans, and rainwater harvesting systems. This will ensure equitable access to water for all, especially for marginalized groups who often bear the brunt of water scarcity.
- **Land Reclamation and Indigenous Plant Restoration:** We recommend scaling up land reclamation projects that utilize *Prosopis juliflora* to revitalize degraded lands. This approach not only combats land degradation but also restores indigenous species, fostering environmental justice by reviving ecosystems that support community life.
- **Drought-Resilient Crop and Livestock Management:** We propose training on drought-tolerant farming methods and rotational grazing practices. These initiatives recognize and integrate indigenous knowledge, allowing communities to sustainably manage scarce resources and uphold their right to a stable livelihood.

2. Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Justice for Agro-Pastoralist Communities

Northern Vision CBO is dedicated to securing economic justice for ASAL communities, ensuring that agro-pastoralists benefit equitably from their resources. We propose:

- **Value Addition in Livestock for Livelihood Security:** Collaborating closely with the Isiolo Export Abattoir, we aim to establish robust market linkages that benefit local producers. By organizing cooperatives, we empower pastoralists to access high-demand markets, earn fair incomes, and mitigate the economic disparities often faced by rural communities.

- **Prosopis juliflora Utilization for Economic Empowerment:** By utilizing Prosopis juliflorapods for animal feed and timber, we are creating alternative revenue streams. This approach addresses both environmental challenges and economic injustices, empowering marginalized groups to benefit directly from local resources.
- **Cooperatives and Financial Inclusion:** Through the formation of cooperatives and Saccos, Northern Vision supports economic justice by enabling communities to pool resources and secure credit for local enterprises. This initiative addresses systemic barriers to financial inclusion, enabling equitable economic growth.

3. Environmental Stewardship and Climate Justice

Our environmental stewardship strategy prioritizes equitable resource management, ensuring that communities have access to and control over local natural resources. Our recommendations include:

- **Community-Driven Resource Management:** By supporting community-based governance for water and grazing lands, we help safeguard resources from external exploitation. Through participatory planning, communities retain agency over their resources, promoting climate justice and sustainability.
- **Controlled Utilization of Invasive Species:** Our work with Prosopis juliflora balances environmental restoration with resource utilization, addressing the local impacts of invasive species. By incorporating indigenous practices and knowledge, this initiative fosters ecological justice, allowing communities to thrive within their environment.
- **Respect for Indigenous Knowledge and Practices:** We believe climate justice includes honoring indigenous ways of life, such as seasonal livestock migrations and cultural practices in water management. By integrating this knowledge, we promote justice that respects community traditions and environmental needs.

4. Social Well-Being, Health, and Equity

Climate justice is incomplete without addressing the social and health needs of vulnerable ASAL communities. Northern Vision CBO's focus on social well-being encompasses access to education, health services, and infrastructure improvements:

- **Community Health Access:** We aim to promote mobile health units and partnerships with local health providers to address health disparities, particularly those exacerbated by climate challenges. Our approach ensures equitable access to healthcare, a crucial element of climate justice.
- **Education for Empowerment:** By fostering community-based education on climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and economic diversification, we are equipping communities with the knowledge to navigate climate impacts. This educational approach empowers individuals and supports their rights to informed participation in development.

Conclusion

Northern Vision CBO is committed to promoting climate resilience, environmental stewardship, and justice for ASAL communities. Our approach integrates equitable access to resources, community-led decision-making, and the preservation of indigenous knowledge, creating a foundation for sustainable and inclusive development. We believe the LLCIP can be a transformative blueprint, rooted in both climate resilience and social justice, that addresses the unique challenges faced by Northern Kenya's ASAL communities.