

STRUCTURED SUMMARY

STATUS OF MOBILITY OF LIVESTOCK IN KENYA

Mohammed Said, Irene Nganga, Yasin Getahun, Julius Muyizzi and Fiona Flintan

Motivation

Livestock in Kenya play a critical role in the economy, contributing to food security, employment and income generation, particularly in pastoral areas. Livestock mobility is increasingly being restrained, however compromising livestock production.

Purpose

We assess the status of livestock routes and mobility in Kenya.

Approach and methods

Livestock routes, supporting infrastructure and services were mapped by Kenya county government experts on topographical maps and later digitised. Blocked routes were noted, and case studies selected for follow-up local-level qualitative research on causes of these blockages.

Findings

Mapping identified approximately 31,597 km livestock routes that form the arteries of movement across 47 counties in Kenya in both pastoral lowlands and mixed crop-livestock highlands. Routes are concentrated in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). More than 76 routes were no longer functional owing to land conversion for agriculture, urban expansion, invasive species, increasing conflict and infrastructure development.

Facilities to support livestock mobility, such as veterinary posts, abattoirs, holding grounds and loading ramps, are scant, particularly in pastoral areas.

Policy implications

To preserve these vital corridors, government needs to set policies to recognise and legally protect livestock routes, and invest in veterinary services, abattoirs, holding grounds and loading ramps.

Funded by



This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK government; however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies.