



**Ministry of East Africa
Community, The ASALS and
Regional Development
State Department for ASALs**

6th KIPPRA ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2023

**THEME: ACCELERATING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN
ASALS**

21ST-23RD JUNE 2023

Conference Communique

23rd June 2023

PREAMBLE

The 6th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference (KARC) was held at Pwani University in Kilifi County, Kenya, from 21st to 23rd June 2023. The conference was organized by KIPPRA in conjunction with the State Department for ASALs and Regional Development, the National Youth Service, International Potato Centre, National Information Platform for Food and Nutrition (NIPFN), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and other key partners. The conference brought together over 1,800 delegates drawn from across the public sector, private sector, civil society, and the development community to discuss opportunities and policy interventions needed to accelerate economic growth and development of arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) in Kenya.

For the first time since the 1st KIPPRA annual regional conference, the conference hosted a three-day youth event bringing together students from universities, TVET colleges and the National Youth Service. The youth event was preceded by a one-day pre-conference training of selected youths on the policy making process and how the youth could engage with policy makers in the policy making process.

The three-day conference was officially opened by Hon. Rigathi Gachagua, the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya. In attendance was the host County Governor, Hon. Gideon Mung'aro, Hon. Gideon Nathif Jama Adam—Governor Garissa County, Hon. Rebecca Miano, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development, Mr James Muhati—PS State Department for Economic Planning, Mr Idris Dokota, PS— State Department for ASALs and Regional Development, among other key dignitaries.

We, the delegates of the 6th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference, acknowledge that ASALs constitute over 89 per cent of the country's land mass and are home to over 38 per cent of Kenya's population. The ASALs host 90 per cent of Kenya's wildlife and over 75 per cent of livestock.

We acknowledge the need to support policy dialogue among stakeholders in the public policy space to explore and discuss potential areas and opportunities to exploit in forging a common front to accelerate the achievement of sustainable and inclusive development.

We appreciate that the conference provided a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on the immense opportunities in ASALs and the required interventions to unlock the opportunities in full. Two key policy analysis tools, namely the new Kenya Social Accounting Matrix and the Food Systems Simulator were launched on the sidelines of the conference. The two tools were developed through joint effort involving the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) under the CGIAR Initiative on National Policies and Strategies.

The resolutions of the conference support the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA) for the country by informing policy interventions in various sectors for accelerated economic growth and development of Kenya's ASALs.

The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and development community are committed to taking up the recommendations of the conference for mainstreaming in public policy and targeted interventions.

Therefore, WE, the Delegates of the 6th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference (KARC) 2023 identify these opportunities in ASALs and make the following Resolutions:

6th KARC Conference Resolutions

Theme	Policy area/Issue/Sub-theme	Opportunities/Policy Intervention	Responsibility/Actors
ECONOMIC SYSTEMS IN ASALS	Land tenure system in ASALS	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of huge tracks of land in ASALs, making the regions ideal for various economic activities including agriculture, and establishment of industrial parks and economic zones. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitize communities on the significance of land registration to reduce conflicts over grazing land and encourage effective management and utilization of land for proper planning. • Set aside adequate land for establishment of industrial parks and economic zones to support the economic transformation through industrial development. Examples include the Isiolo Economic Zone, and Centum Industrial Park in Kilifi County. 	<p>County Governments; Ministry of Lands; Development partners; Legislature</p> <p>ASALs' County Governments; National Government; Ministry of Lands</p>
	The pastoralism economy	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undeveloped and unstructured livestock export market. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote regional integration, including in the EAC, COMESA and ACFTA, to expand market for livestock and livestock products. • Provide affordable animal feeds to pastoralists to increase 	<p>The Ministry of East African Community; Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) County Governments; and Regional Development Authorities</p> <p>National and County Governments; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries</p>

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		livestock productivity. This is consistent with the government's commitment to subsidizing production as opposed to subsidizing consumption.	and Cooperatives.
	Climate change adaptation and mitigation	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International organizations such as International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) supporting climate-resilient agriculture in the ASALs. • Climate finance from international organizations operating in Kenya, such as the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development (DFCD), which enables private sector investment in projects aimed at climate adaptation and mitigation. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on climate-resilient agriculture to improve agricultural productivity and enhance food security. • Foster reforestation and dry lands management through tree planting, conservation of indigenous trees and environmental conservation. • Enhance sustainable rangeland management practices, such as rotational grazing, proper herd management, and range rehabilitation to maintain the health and productivity of these ecosystems, reduce land degradation, and contribute to climate change mitigation. 	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry; The National Treasury

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	<p>Tapping indigenous knowledge and the role of social systems in propelling economic growth</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities in ASALs have accumulated knowledge and practices over generations adapted to the local environment and climatic conditions. This knowledge includes sustainable agriculture techniques, water harvesting methods, and natural resource management practices. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value and tap into indigenous knowledge, and leverage on social systems to enable ASALs contribute to their economic development while preserving cultural heritage and natural resources. This could be done by recognizing and integrating indigenous knowledge into County Integrated Development Plans and national development strategies. 	<p>Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development -KICD; Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage; Private sector; research institutions; ASALs' County Governments</p>
<p>INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN ASALS</p>	<p>Inclusion of women and disadvantaged groups in bridging the digital divide</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASALs face low levels of digital literacy and skills due to limited exposure to technology and educational resource. This creates opportunities for investments in digital literacy initiatives and technologies. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement gender-responsive digital skills training programmes covering basic digital literacy, Internet usage, and more advanced digital skills such as coding, digital marketing, and e-commerce. 	<p>Government of Kenya; Educational institutions; Financial institutions; Venture capitals; Telecommunication companies; Private sector</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide subsidies and/or tax incentives for mobile devices including tax reduction for the low-cost phones, Internet charges, and installation of telecommunication masts to provide affordable connectivity in ASALs. 	
	<p>Transitioning to clean energy, exploiting solar and wind energy</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abundant sunlight throughout the year, and favourable conditions for generating wind energy. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable grid integration, to facilitate smooth integration of renewable energy into the existing power infrastructure. 	<p>Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation (REREC) in collaboration with other stakeholders in the energy sector, such as Kenya Climate Change Working Group - KCCWG</p>
	<p>Access to clean and sufficient water in ASALs</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New dams such as Kavingo earth dam in Kitui are being completed in several ASAL counties while Thwake Dam at the border of Makueni and Kitui counties is currently under construction, thus expanding access to clean water. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in the development and maintenance of water infrastructure, including water treatment plants, distribution networks, and storage facilities, for reliable access to clean and safe piped water to enhance the quality of life, health, and economic opportunities of communities in ASALs. 	<p>Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation</p>

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	<p>Transport and accessibility</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling legislation for Public Private Partnerships - PPP (Public Private Partnership Act, 2021) provides for the participation of the private sector in the financing, construction, development, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or development projects through public private partnerships. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize use of PPP framework to mobilize finance to fast-track completion of the planned LAPSET projects. 	<p>Northern Corridor Transit and Transport Coordination Authority (NCTTCA); National government; LAPSET; KENHA</p>
	<p>The role of digital economy in supporting growth</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of enabling legislation for Data Protection (Data Protection Act, 2019), which supports usage of digital platforms. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce the stringent data protection laws and promote data privacy awareness in the country and more importantly in ASALs given the low digital uptake in the region. Bridge the digital divide by providing digital literacy training and ensuring access to affordable digital technologies for all ASAL communities. 	<p>Data Protection Commissioner; Technology Companies and Service Providers; community-based organizations - CBOs; Non-governmental organizations - NGOs</p>

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<p>HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN ASALS</p>	<p>Education and skills development</p>	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced government-supported programmes such as Kenya Primary Education Development (PRIEDE) Project implemented by the Ministry of Education, which targets marginalized and disadvantaged regions, including ASALs. The programmes aim to improve access and quality of primary education through infrastructure development, teacher training, provision of learning materials, and community involvement. Ajira Digital Programme by the Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology aims to provide digital skills training and entrepreneurship opportunities to young people, including those in ASALs. The programme gives participants the opportunity to get equipped with digital literacy, online work skills, and entrepreneurship training to enhance their employability and income-generating prospects. Involvement of non-State actors (NGOs, development partners, faith-based organizations) in supporting education and skills development in ASALs, such as the school feeding programme in ASALs. Education, training, skills development and economic empowerment inclusivity programmes targeting persons with disability (PWDs) and marginalized communities; for instance, through enhanced skills development opportunities reserved for PWDs under the Access to Government Procurement (AGPO) programme for economic empowerment. This is expanding access to education and skills development to the marginalized segment of the population. 	<p>Ministry of Education; NACONEK; Tertiary education institutions (eg TVETs, VTIs); Industry; Private sector; County governments; Development partners; NITA, TSC; KISE; KICD; MoALD; MoH; Community-Based Organizations; NGOs; and Think Tanks</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging new technologies are being introduced in ASALs to address problems of access to clean water. For instance, NACONEK has developed an atmospheric water generation project to provide water in ASAL schools and to create a conducive learning environment in schools. A pilot project was started in Garissa County at Kunok Primary School and has been successful so far. Currently, there are plans to roll out the project in thirteen (13) other schools to support conducive learning. <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in foundational learning and in quality learning environment in ASALs. • Create and sustain collaborations between industry and educational institutions to address higher education disparity, access, participation, and graduation rates in the ASALs. • Invest in Technical, Vocational Education Training (TVETs) through a multidimensional approach where partners, including county governments, and other stakeholders come together to support higher education among ASAL communities, to address higher education disparity in the ASALs. • Create a databank of needy students to be funded through initiatives that include support from development partners. • Build and enhance partnerships between industry and academia through mentorship and visits programmes for learners. • Upskill TVET trainers to the changing technological environment. 	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance security in ASALs to attract and retain qualified teachers. • Support and scale-up the implementation of feeding programmes in Early Childhood Development (ECDE) institutions in ASALs in collaboration with County Governments. The school feeding programme to be extended to primary schools, special needs schools and secondary schools. • Integrate local knowledge into formal education and skill development programmes in ASALs to promote cultural preservation. This could be supported with practical learning, research, and documentation of indigenous knowledge. • Enhance inclusion and disability mainstreaming including through affirmative action for education, training and skills development in ASALs by equipping education institutions with facilities that support PWDs. 	
	<p>Population dynamics and migration</p>	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The International Organization for Migration (IOM) offers technical and stability support to the Government of Kenya while addressing cross-border migration challenges such as smuggling. They work with border management to establish Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and help during adverse situations. • The National Council for Population and Development (NCPD) collaborates with other government agencies through technical working groups to ensure a one-government approach where all institutions are coordinated in delivering the population 	<p>National Council for Population Development – NCPD; National and County Governments; Development partners</p>

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		<p>development agenda. Development programmes are also involved in collaborative efforts.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address factors that influence migration, including drought, floods, terrorism, and pastoralists moving in search of water. • Establish a framework to assess the skills of migrants and map their capabilities to recognize them as a development opportunity. • Enhance early identification of young people during the issuance of national identity cards to avoid duplication of identity cards. 	
	<p>Poverty, health, and nutrition dynamics</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced support of NGOs and other non-State actors towards improving livelihoods in ASALs. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen primary healthcare services in ASALs, including community health interventions. • Adopt multisectoral and multiagency interventions to address malnutrition, water and sanitation issues, and maternal and child health deprivations in ASALs, including through community-based programmes. 	<p>National Government and County governments; NGOs and CBOs; Development Partners (e.g UNICEF, World Bank, UNDP), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, and Ministry of Health; private sector' ASAL County governments</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support farmers who are dropping out of pastoralism due to dwindling herds and have no alternative source of livelihood. Adopt a multisectoral approach in addressing poverty in the ASALs to improve food and nutrition security, school enrolment, access to markets and households' resilience to climate shocks. 	
GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASALS	Private sector coordination	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many NGOs and international organizations are undertaking various projects in ASALs. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance coordination, monitoring, evaluation and learning of NGO activities to effectively deliver on the planned development agenda of ASALs. 	NGOs Self-regulation; NGOs Co-Ordination Board
	Devolution and economic growth	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devolution has changed the livelihoods of people in ASALs. It has led to improved access to services and infrastructure. The Frontier Counties Development Council (FCDC) coordinates engagements in 10 ASAL counties. The FCDC efforts revolve around increasing people's access to essential services in agriculture and livestock, education, water, land, peace and cohesion sectors. The FCDC organizes sector forums where stakeholders from different sectors come together to discuss and address specific 	COGs, County governments, National government

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		<p>issues related to the development of the ASAL counties. These sector forums provide an opportunity for representatives from various sectors such as agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, tourism, and others to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices. The forums focus on identifying challenges, discussing potential solutions, and formulating strategies for sustainable development of the ASAL counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big infrastructure projects are being implemented by the government (such as under the LAPPSET), creating more employment opportunities. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen collaboration and partnerships between political leadership, development partners, County governments to enhance accountability in achieving inclusive growth. • Promote women representation in leadership positions, incorporate locals and non-locals in the design and implementation development projects, and implement initiatives that empower women and youth. 	
	<p>Political leadership and development</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASALs is a hub of investment, but it requires exploiting public-private partnerships (PPPs) in addressing land issues. • The ASALs are rich in mineral resources, but there is need to review and develop proper policy framework to guide the exploitation and sharing of benefits to local communities. 	<p>COG, National Assembly</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of various forms of tourism, such as conference tourism, sports tourism and beach tourism. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish mechanisms for collaboration, dialogue and partnerships while committing to providing finance and human resources, and strong monitoring and evaluation for proper project management in the counties. • Adopt an integrated programmes and collaboration approach across counties in undertaking sustainable projects that uplift livelihoods of people at the grassroots level. For example, this can be achieved through signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between counties and regional development authorities. • Ensure proper planning and budgeting for ASALs, with adequate emphasis on children, youth, women, PWDs and the marginalized communities to ensure no one is left behind. • Develop and implement common legislation and funding mechanisms to support the key areas of development in ASALs. 	
	<p>Refugees' economy and the host economy</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coexistence of host and refugee communities. • Vast refugee support programmes in the country supported by development partners under UNHCR. 	<p>NGOs; Development partners; National government</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge refugee economy in Kenya, estimated at US\$ 56 million. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate both locals and non-locals in development projects across all sub-counties with refugee community. • Establish a framework for engagement between government and development partners to ensure both host and refugees benefit from such services as education, health, social assistance, economic empowerment, among others. 	
	<p>Peace building initiatives for accelerated development</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches, communities, government and other stakeholders are collaborating to promote peace. • UNHCR has community-based protection approach, which allows for the formation of leadership structures and coming up with solutions. • UNHCR supports the government by providing vehicles for patrol and capacity building. • UNHCR programmes target both hosts and refugees to limit conflicts. • UNHCR rolls out development initiatives for both host and refugee communities. 	<p>Clan elders; National Cohesion and Integration Commission; Religious leaders; Political leaders; UN agencies (UNDP, UNHCR)</p>

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		<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement peace building programmes such as irrigation schemes, that benefit ASAL communities, to promote peaceful co-existence among different communities. 	
<p>CREATIVE ECONOMY AND TOURISM IN ASALs</p>	<p>Promoting tourism in ASALs</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant potential for ASAL tourism, which offers unique opportunities for visitors to explore the diverse landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and wildlife found in these regions. • The diversity and richness of tangible and intangible cultural resources and cultural heritage, including traditional crafts, music, dance, and storytelling, which can support the preservation and promotion of these cultural assets, allowing local communities to benefit from their unique traditions. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market ASALs as a tourist destination through collaboration with tour operators specializing in eco-tourism or adventure travel to include ASALs in their itineraries. Provide tour operators with comprehensive information about the region, including attractions, accommodations, activities, and local guides. Offer incentives and support to encourage tour operators to promote ASALs to their client base. • Undertake a comprehensive mapping of cultural sites throughout the country, with a focus on promoting sites in arid and semi-arid lands. 	<p>Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage; Kenya Tourism Board; County Governments; Development partners; Private sector</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harness indigenous knowledge for economic development by keeping an inventory of paleontological (study of fossils) and archaeological heritage, and indigenous knowledge and cultural expressions. 	
	<p>Creative economy and tourism</p>	<p><i>Opportunity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging creative entrepreneurship in ASALs, which encompasses creative arts, design, fashion, film, music, and more. Also, donkey rides/sports in Lamu County and Camel derby in Samburu County. <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize and promote cultural festivals and events that showcase the traditional arts, crafts, music, dance, and cuisine of ASAL communities. • Develop and promote cultural tourism experiences that allow visitors to engage with local communities, participate in traditional activities, and learn about the customs, rituals, and way of life of ASAL regions. 	<p>Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Kenya Tourism Board, County Governments.</p>
	<p>Commercializing sporting activities and performing arts</p>	<p><i>Opportunity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talented sports men and women that have won medals in international sports. • Emerging cultural sporting events, such as traditional camel and donkey races in ASALs. 	

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		<p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize sports competitions, tournaments, and leagues in ASALs. This can include traditional sports such as camel racing, camel polo, traditional wrestling, and athletics. • Establish and upgrade sports facilities and venues, including stadiums, arenas, and performing arts centres, to meet international standards. • Provide tax incentives or subsidies for private investments in sports infrastructure. • Facilitate cultural exchange programmes that bring performing arts groups, and artists from ASALs to national and international stages. This exposure helps promote their talent, build networks, and attract commercial opportunities such as sponsorships, performance contracts, and collaborations with artists and organizations from other regions. • Incorporate sports and performing arts into the national curriculum, ensuring that students have access to quality training and education in these fields. • Establish talent identification programmes at grassroot levels to identify and nurture promising athletes. • Develop specialized training programmes for athletes, coaches, and performers to enhance their skills and knowledge. 	

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	<p>Exploiting opportunities in culture, heritage, archaeological sites, and museums for economic growth</p>	<p><i>Opportunity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of world-renowned archeological sites such as the Cradle of Man in Turkana, which hold significant historical and cultural importance and offer opportunities for tourism and preservation. • The ASALs have a rich and unique heritage that is of significant interest to domestic and foreign tourists. • There is no museum in Kenya that specifically focuses on the rich cultural heritage and history of ASALs, yet if established, this would be of interest to tourists especially if located in ASALs. <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in the preservation and restoration of cultural and historical sites in ASALs. This includes archaeological sites, ancient ruins, traditional settlements, and historical buildings. Preserve the authenticity and integrity of these sites through careful conservation efforts to ensure their long-term sustainability. • Design and promote heritage trails and routes that connect significant cultural and archaeological sites in ASALs in collaboration with local communities to ensure their involvement in the management and interpretation of these trails. • Develop informative signage, maps, and guidebooks that provide visitors with a comprehensive understanding of the historical and cultural significance of each site. • Establish museums that showcase the rich cultural heritage and history of ASALs. These museums could display artifacts, exhibits, 	<p>National Museums of Kenya; Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage; Kenya Tourism Board; County Governments.</p>

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		<p>and interactive displays that educate visitors about the traditions, customs, and way of life of ASAL communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide basic amenities and infrastructure to encourage visits to cultural sites. • Facilitate access to and promote cultural assets, both tangible and intangible. 	
<p>NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE IN ASALs</p>	<p>Livestock, poultry and apiculture</p>	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASALs are well-suited for livestock production, including cattle, goats, sheep, and camels thus providing an opportunity to invest in improved breeding, animal health, and nutrition practices to enhance productivity. • ASALs offer the opportunity to diversify poultry breeds beyond the commonly reared exotic breeds - indigenous and dual-purpose breeds are well-adapted to the local environment and have good meat and egg production characteristics. These breeds often require less intensive management and can be more resilient to harsh climatic conditions. • ASALs offer favourable conditions for beekeeping and honey production. Honey production can provide a sustainable income source, while beekeeping contributes to pollination and biodiversity conservation. <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce high-quality breeds, promote sustainable grazing management, and provide veterinary services to improve 	<p>Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives; County Governments</p>

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		<p>livestock health and productivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance fodder production and conservation practices in ASALs by promoting the cultivation of drought-resistant forage crops, such as Napier grass, sorghum, and legumes. Promote apiculture by providing training on bee keeping, equipment, and access to local and international markets. Explore climate-smart poultry farming practices that include proper housing design for heat management, water conservation techniques, and feed formulation using locally available resources. Implementing these practices could enhance the resilience of poultry enterprises in ASALs. 	
	<p>Blue economy</p>	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASALs have several freshwater lakes such as Lake Turkana, Lake Baringo and Lake Bogoria that provide important water sources and support sustainable fish farming practices, such as pond aquaculture and cage culture, utilizing freshwater lakes and reservoirs. Blue economy is a significant opportunity in some ASAL counties such as Kilifi with 165km coastline. <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strictly enforce laws and regulations to govern the blue economy sector, particularly fishing. 	<p>Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement conservation initiatives to protect and restore coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, and other critical habitats. • Promote sustainable fishing practices, enforce marine protected areas, and raise awareness about the importance of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	
	<p>Irrigated agriculture to secure food and nutrition security</p>	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASALs often face water scarcity and irregular rainfall patterns. The government is investing in water harvesting techniques, such as building dams, reservoirs, and small-scale water catchment systems that can capture and store rainwater for irrigation purposes. • ASALs possess about 700 hectares of arable land that can be utilized to achieve food security. • Potential for development of water reservoirs including boreholes and dams in ASALs. Some counties such as Turkana have significant water deposits that can be exploited through boreholes for irrigation. <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt efficient irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation to optimize water usage and maximize crop yields in ASALs. • Incentivize public-private partnerships in expansion of irrigation schemes such as the Ewaso Nyiro North Project, which can irrigate over 200 hectares. 	<p>Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Cooperatives; World Bank; Private sector; County governments; International Potato Centre</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize individual farmers to embrace innovations such as solar-powered irrigation. • Increase budgetary allocation towards development of dams and boreholes in ASALs. • Promote resilient farming systems in ASALs through diversification of cropping systems, and introduction of climate-smart and nutritious staple crops such as orange-fleshed sweet potato. 	
	<p>Extractive economy</p>	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities exist for exploitation of minerals such as limestone, gypsum, gemstones, diatomite, and soda ash through responsible mining practices. • Abundant quarrying materials such as sand, gravel, and building stones are essential for construction activities and infrastructure development. <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the natural resources available in ASALs, including minerals, oil, gas, and other extractive resources while factoring in the potential environmental impact, biodiversity conservation, and the social and cultural implications of resource extraction. • Establish robust resource management framework to ensure responsible and sustainable exploitation of extractive resources 	<p>Ministry of Mining; County Governments</p>

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		and ensure resource benefit sharing with the local community.	
TRADE AND FINANCE	Financial inclusion	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital infrastructure investment opportunities including expansion of Internet connectivity and mobile network coverage. • Opportunity to enhance financial literacy through innovative financial literacy programmes. • Existence of Financial Inclusion Funds such as Hustler Fund, Uwezo Fund, Youth Fund, Women Enterprise Fund. • Opportunity to form and strengthen co-operative societies in ASALs given current low uptake. • Existence of an Equalization Fund established under Article 204 Constitution of Kenya (2010), which mandates the allocation of funds to marginalized counties and regions to address imbalances in development. <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain budgetary allocation to the Equalization Fund for continued support of economic development in ASALs. • Facilitate the formation of cooperatives to consolidate investments and enhance marketing and income generation. 	Commission on Revenue Allocation; County Governments; and the National Government Executive

Theme	Policy area/Issue/Sub-theme	Opportunities/Policy Intervention	Responsibility/Actors
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and training to the newly established cooperatives for effective management and coordination of investments. • Expand Internet connectivity and mobile network coverage to facilitate accessibility to financial services. 	
	Trade financing	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building opportunities to boost entrepreneurial skills, debt management, and financial literacy. • Opportunity to improve telecommunication connectivity in ASALS for enhanced utilization of digital finance. • Available local purchase order financing to support activities in ASALS, such as commercial livestock farming (e.g., Mifugo ni Mali Project by KCB). <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-risk traders through trainings and awareness creation programmes in ASALS. • Incentivize collaboration and partnerships in co-creation of financing models that are specific to ASALS. • Promote capacity building initiatives to foster entrepreneurship and financial literacy in ASALS. 	Financial institutions: KCB; Equity Bank; Women Enterprise Fund (WEF); World Bank; IMF

Theme	Policy area/Issue/Sub-theme	Opportunities/Policy Intervention	Responsibility/Actors
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sensitization and awareness among ASAL communities on need to change cultural practices that limit women participation in trade. • Encourage partnerships between financial institutions and county governments in ASALs to de-risk lending and promote access to finance. • Encourage use of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Global Population Index to justify trade financing from financial institutions such as the World Bank. 	
	<p>Cross-border trading in ASALs</p>	<p><i>Opportunities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large market potential within EAC, AfCFTA, and other trade blocs. • There are established Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in ASALs. • Opportunity for development of roads and border crossing points to enhance logistics and trade. <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote early certainty in phytosanitary standards and timely information sharing on sanitary and phytosanitary measures to traders from ASALs. • Address issues such as licensing, customs procedures, documentation, and compliance with international trade standards. 	<p>Ministry of Transport and Communication; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Diaspora; County governments</p>

Theme	Policy area/Issue/Sub-theme	Opportunities/Policy Intervention	Responsibility/Actors
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Cross-Border Management Committee to identify and address non-tariff barriers. • Invest in infrastructure development, particularly roads and border crossing points, to enhance connectivity and facilitate cross-border trade in ASALs. This includes improving transport networks and logistics to reduce trade barriers and ensure efficient movement of goods. • Establish a centralized information platform that provides up-to-date market information, including prices, demand, and supply trends for ASAL products. This platform should be easily accessible to traders, enabling them to make informed decisions and identify potential markets. • Implement strategic initiatives and projects such as LAPSSSET, Horn of Africa project, and Africa Continental Free Trade to unlock the economic potential of ASALs. • Enhance border security and customs enforcement to combat smuggling, counterfeit goods, and illicit trade practices. 	
INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN ASALs	Data, gender and persons with disability (PWDs)	<p><i>Opportunity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to collect and analyze data that specifically captures the unique challenges, vulnerabilities, and opportunities faced by different groups within ASAL communities, including women and PWDs. This data can help identify gaps, design targeted interventions, and track progress towards achieving inclusive development. • Enabling legislation is currently in place that is in favour of gender-focused affirmative action such as AGPO targeting 	Various ASAL counties; KNBS; UNICEF; World Bank; UNDP; private sector and non-State actors, KIPPRA.

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		<p>women, youth and PWDs. Data is needed to enforce the legislation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several government institutions collecting data on ASALs, which include Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Water Towers Agency, and Meteorological Department. Opportunity to utilize satellite data, which is freely available. <p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders in ASAL regions to jointly address gender and disability-related challenges including data availability. This can include government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, academia, and development partners. Collaborative efforts can enhance the effectiveness of interventions, optimize resource allocation, and ensure sustainability. • Facilitate data integration and sharing across government ministries, departments, and agencies operating in ASALs. This helps overcome data silos and enables a more comprehensive understanding of the development landscape. 	
	<p>Inclusivity of PWDs and gender dynamics in ASALs</p>	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirmative action interventions (such as gender rule, AGPO) are in place that support inclusivity of gender and PWDs. These include AGPO and constitutional requirement for at least one third of either gender to be included in government 	<p>County and National Governments; Civil Society; Development partners; Private sector</p>

Theme	Policy area/Issue/Sub-theme	Opportunities/Policy Intervention	Responsibility/Actors
		<p>appointments.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization of women, youth and PWDs on available affirmative action opportunities through mass media, social media and seminars. • Localization of affirmative action opportunities to address the specific needs and aspirations of marginalized communities, empower local individuals and organizations. This requires a holistic approach that involves community engagement, capacity building, infrastructure development, and inclusive governance structures. 	

Moving forward

The Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) commits to ensure that the issues raised, and resolutions are communicated with relevant agencies identified in this communique. The Institute also commits to follow up on the actions proposed during the 6th KIPPRA Annual Regional Conference 2023 and report progress made towards implementation of the resolutions.

Thank you all.

Communique presented on 23rd June 2023 at the 6th KARC at Pwani University, Kilifi County.

Signed:

Dr Rose Ngugi
Executive Director, KIPPRA.



Signed:

Dr Benson A. Atieng'
Chairperson, KIPPRA

