

IMPACT REPORT

2025 – 2026



Advancing Resilience.
Restoring Nature.
Sustaining Peace.



10
WARDS
REACHED



2,000
PEOPLE
EMPOWERED



500
ENGAGED IN
PEACEBUILDING



23
INSTITUTIONAL
POLICIES
RATIFIED



60%
WOMEN AND
YOUTH

Building resilient communities
across **Kenya's ASALs**

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CLIMATE RESILIENCE &
NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS



PEACEBUILDING &
SOCIAL COHESION



GOVERNANCE &
POLICY



LIVELIHOODS &
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT



RESEARCH &
KNOWLEDGE
MANAGEMENT



PARTNERSHIPS &
STAKEHOLDER
COLLABORATION

PROFILE SUMMARY

IMPACT REPORT

ASREP IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026: A COMBINED PROFILE SUMMARY & IMPACT DOCUMENT

Exploring the organization's milestones over the June 2025 - May 2026 period, with a starter section for organizational profile summary and deep ASAL narratives around resilience pathways, across key thematic focus areas.

Executive Background

Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), which cover approximately 84% of the national territory, are facing accelerating climate-induced fragility with severe implications for livelihoods, ecosystems, and national resilience. Isiolo County provides a representative case study of systemic rangeland degradation with 25% of tree cover lost in the last 10 years¹, climate shocks, and escalating vulnerability traps affecting pastoral systems across Northern Kenya. This report paints the picture of compounding climate risks and highlights the urgent need for scaled climate adaptation finance, strengthened local resilience systems, and improved alignment between global climate frameworks and subnational implementation, while showcasing our own bold baby strides. Despite contributing less than 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions, ASAL communities are among the most affected populations globally, underscoring a clear case for climate injustice and targeted adaptation investment. It further juxtaposes this grim situation, with the coincidental opportunity offered by the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists 2026, as to elevating pastoralist voices and providing a pedestal of climate justice and sustained resilience, soon after the IYRP was declared² by the United Nations. This report, later, elaborates the strategic pathways for resilience building, deployed by ASREP over the prevailing reporting period, with a keen eye on the impacts realized, lessons learnt and untapped opportunities. It also voices the bold wins, of an indigenous organization of this stature, operating at an unprecedented time of severely shrunk global aid funding, international geopolitical tensions and resultant economic crises³, Africa's struggles with disease outbreaks and sky-rocketing cost of living, as tremors from the Middle East touch our ASAL landscapes, as Kenya's political ecosystem gets warmer by the day, in readiness for 2027 elections.

¹ Global Forest Watch Statistics, Isiolo Deforestation:

<https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/KEN/9/#:~:text=Isiolo%2C%20Kenya%20Deforestation%20Rates>

² Based on Cambridge Prisms: Drylands, Downloaded from <https://doi.org/10.1017/dry.2025.10016>

³ Geopolitical Tensions Impact Global Economy: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167551>

KEY MESSAGES

- A. ASREP's Profile Summary, featuring institution's governance (Board of Directors & Expert roles), Theory of Change, Ratified policies and core values.
- B. Impact Report featuring: -
 - Research & Knowledge Co-production (Indigenous or Contemporary) & Dissemination – Webinar milestones, Flagship ASAL Indigenous Knowledge Vault Series, IYRP2026 Collaborative knowledge strides - GLF2026, Prof. Ian Scoones etc.
 - Peacebuilding: Research-guided, Government Policy-anchored and Locally-led, rooted and owned dialogue approaches.
 - Climate Justice, Biodiversity Restoration & Renewable Energy – Strategy oriented, Waso Eco-champs Project, Collective Climate Action Impact & NbS.
 - Civic Governance, Strategic Partnerships, Youth Power & Indigenous Land Rights: Citizen Engagement & Action, ASREP/IUA MOU, Isiolo Youth Summit & Land Acknowledgement Pledge.
 - ASREP's Global feature story on the Biographic Magazine, California Academy of Sciences & The Guardian Newspaper, London UK.
 - Media highlights links & Partners' Recognition Page.

PROFILE SUMMARY

Leadership and Management

ASAL Research and Resilience Programme (ASREP) was founded in 2023 and headquartered in Isiolo, Kenya. It's driven by a high-calibre governance and leadership framework composed of globally exposed experts across climate resilience, governance, peacebuilding, biodiversity conservation, research, policy, livelihoods, and institutional development. The organization brings together seasoned professionals with extensive experience engaging governments, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society, and international development partners across complex ASAL and fragile contexts.

The Organization leadership architecture reflects strong institutional governance, fiduciary accountability, strategic oversight, and evidence-based programming aligned with international development and donor compliance standards.

The institution applies adaptive management, results-based implementation, conflict-sensitive programming, and inclusive decision-making to deliver scalable, locally grounded, and policy-responsive interventions. Its multidisciplinary technical ecosystem integrates indigenous knowledge, scientific research, systems thinking, and innovation to advance climate adaptation, community resilience, social cohesion, and sustainable development pathways in dryland ecosystems.

The leadership team's depth of expertise positions ASREP as a credible regional platform for high-impact partnerships, policy influence, and transformational resilience investments across Kenya's ASALs and the Horn of Africa.



Board of Directors and their Expert Roles



Prof Nura Mohamed: *Non-Executive Chairman ASREP*

Prof. Nura Mohamed is the Director General of the Kenya School of Government (KSG), privileged to lead transformative initiatives that shape public service excellence in Kenya and beyond. With over 26 years of experience, he has dedicated his career to driving capacity building, policy advisory, curriculum development, and institutional transformation. Passionate about improving public service, he has driven initiatives fostering accountability, inclusivity, and innovation. His leadership experience encompasses strategic policy, evidence-based research, and impactful program implementation to empower public servants and advance national development. Prior to his appointment as Director General, he served as Director Finance and Administration for eight years, overseeing the School's financial, technological, human resources, and administrative operations. He also served as Director of KSG Lower Kabete Campus and Director of Finance and Administration at Zanzibar University in Tanzania. He has spearheaded capacity-building programs that improve public service delivery, developed policy briefs enhancing decision-making, and implemented initiatives to modernize operations, developed curricula for public sector transformation, including the National Leadership Development Program, Climate Change Planning, and Public Sector Financial Management.

As Deputy Chairman, he contributed to the transformation of AMDIN, which is a capacity building arm of the African Union Secretariat. He successfully led the State of Public Service in Africa research project, a UNDP funded initiative which aimed at understanding the state of affairs in Education, Water and Health in Kenya's communities. Further, he coordinated KSG Youth Innovation Centre in Isiolo, working with strategic partners to foster talent development, mentorship, and innovation.

Due to his impactful contributions, he has received two prestigious international awards from the Commonwealth Secretariat, as well as the distinguished Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) award, recognizing his transformative efforts in advancing Kenya's public service.

Thrice, he has been appointed by the President to be a member of the selection panel for nominees for appointment of Chairperson and members of the Public Service Commission, Kenya. He is also a member of Council of the Foreign Service Academy.

Holder of Ph.D. in Economics from Central University of Finance and Economics, China, Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Finance and a Bachelor of Commerce in Finance, both from The University of Nairobi. As the Non-Executive Chairman of the ASAL Research & Resilience Programme (ASREP), he provides strategic leadership, oversight and expert visioning to the Board of Directors and the organizational goal.



Jennifer Maurer: Board Strategy Advisor (Probono) & Food Systems Expert, ASREP

Jennifer Maurer is a visionary leader with over 28 years of experience designing and delivering inclusive agricultural and market systems programs across East Africa and beyond. She brings deep expertise in managing complex, multimillion-dollar portfolios; strengthening food, water, and livestock systems; scaling blended finance; and advancing climate resilience through regenerative, private sector-led agricultural transformation. Throughout her career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service—most recently embedded within the USAID Kenya and East Africa Mission, she has built and led high-performing, cross-cultural teams, forged transformational partnerships, and shaped national and regional policies to unlock economic opportunity.

Her work is grounded in equity: empowering women and youth, enabling locally led development, and leveraging data for adaptive, evidence-informed decision-making in emerging markets. Selected Results: Designed and led the \$600M Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG)—a cross-sector platform aligning 50+ partners to deliver integrated food security, nutrition, water, education, conservation, and governance programs in Kenya. An independent evaluation (2018–2023) found a 10.4-point drop in food insecurity and a 16-point reduction in child stunting—contributing to a 40% decline in humanitarian assistance needs.

Designed and managed a \$158M regional market systems program across Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, and the broader East Africa region. A 2024 sustainability study found 67% of MSMEs (70% women-owned) achieved 10–20% profit growth, with 32% exceeding 20%—averaging 40% revenue growth among target actors. She launched the \$38M Impact for Northern Kenya Fund, leveraging \$180M in public–private capital to finance 25,700 MSMEs and create 39,000 jobs in frontier markets. Provided technical oversight of a \$100M+ annual resilience and economic growth portfolio, embedding MEL systems, risk mitigation, and adaptive management to drive measurable results.

She mentored 45+ professionals across multi-country teams, fostering a culture of inclusion, innovation, and continuous learning. She is passionate about advancing sustainable food systems, strengthening rural economies, and enabling farming and pastoralist communities to thrive in the face of climate, economic, and political shocks. She currently supports strategic advisory, food systems expertise, partnership, and board engagements at ASREP, that advance resilience, regenerative agriculture, and inclusive market systems across Africa and beyond.



Boaz Ogada: Board Climate Adaptation & NbS Expert, ASREP

Boaz is a prolific sustainability thought-leader and climate adaptation expert. He specializes in climate change research, sustainable livelihoods, resilient infrastructure modelling, and governance. He has a proven track record of supporting strategic research and policy content, and facilitating interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration across Africa and beyond.

He's been part of the team mandated to deliver the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP)- which is the continent's implementation vehicle to deliver the SDGs, among other roles. As a trained systems thinker, his current focus area is transformations, leveraging transdisciplinary research to design and operationalize people-centred Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (EWS)- which is the global transformations strategy to realize the SDGs. Notably, he serves as a policy fellow at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy (University of Cambridge), having undertaken multiple executive leadership programs.

He also serves as an adaptation specialist for the Oxford Infrastructure Analytics (OIA) based in the UK, providing data, tools, and insights to accelerate the transition to sustainable and resilient infrastructure across the globe.

He is currently a Climate Governance Expert at World Bank in South Sudan and also a Climate Research Scientist at the Institute of Climate Change Adaptation (ICCA), within the Department of Earth and Climate Sciences, in the University of Nairobi. At ASREP, he is the Board of Directors expert member, providing strategic advisory on Climate Adaptation & Resilience.



Issa Gedi: *Board ASAL Policy, Programs, Citizen Advocacy & Grants Expert, ASREP*

fisheries co-management, conservation livelihoods, and nature-based solutions, while addressing human-wildlife conflict and the conservation-peace nexus.

Issa Gedi's life started from very humble beginnings in rural North-Eastern Kenya, Garissa. He is a passionate biodiversity conservationist with over 17 years' experience working in the field. In 2012, he first joined the Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy as a founding community manager and later joined the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT). Issa has been instrumental in the development of NRT member conservancies, playing a leadership role in governance and the devolution of NRT programmes to various satellite regional offices of NRT from coastal to northern Kenya, rising to be the Chief Programs Officer and Chief of Party – USAID SSRCC & P2P Projects, spearheading program design, policy formulation, administration, grants alignment, & implementation at an annual operating budget exceeding \$24Million. He is currently based in Kigali Rwanda, leading Community Conservation, at Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), building community conservation institutions across marine and terrestrial systems in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean (ESAWIO) regions—integrating CBNRM,

He holds a BSc in Natural Resource Management from Kenyatta University, MPhil in Conservation Leadership from Cambridge University in UK, and a Master's in Public Policy and Administration from Kenyatta University. At ASREP, he advises the Board of Directors on Biodiversity Governance, ASAL Policy, Programs, Grants and Citizen Engagement



Ven. Canon. Dr. Scholar Kiilu: *Board Peacebuilding, Gender and Research, ASREP*

with a PhD in Theology. Her academic work focuses on interreligious engagement, servant leadership, peacebuilding, Gender Equality, African theology, and worship.

Ven. Canon Dr. Scholar Wayua Kiilu, PhD, is a senior clergy, a Canon of the Church, and a Kenyan theologian, educator, and global peace ambassador with extensive experience in Christian-Muslim relations, interfaith dialogue, and contextual theology. She is a Senior lecturer at St. Paul's University, Limuru, where she has served since 2013, and currently coordinates the Institute for Christian-Muslim Relations (ICMR) and Interfaith Programs. She is also the Country Coordinator (2024–2030) for the Circle for Concerned African Women Theologians, contributing to the advancement of African women's theological scholarship and praxis. She is the Director of the Commission on Peace and Reconciliation, Pan-African Institute for Interreligious Dialogue. Ven. Canon Dr. Wayua holds a Bachelor of Divinity (First Class Honours) and a Master of Arts in Christian-Muslim Relations from St. Paul's University, and graduated in 2025

She has published book chapters with Wipf & Stock and Sun Media Publishers, co-edited an academic volume, and contributed to international theological resources, including Tearfund's African Pastors' Toolkit: Beyond the Pulpit. Scholar co-edited Handbook Studies and Developments in Dialogue: KAICIID Fellows and Practitioners' Approach to Promoting Interreligious and Intercultural Relations in Africa in 2025. KAICIID is King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue. She has authored journal articles. An internationally recognized peace advocate and global peace ambassador, Ven. Canon Dr. Wayua is a recipient of multiple awards, including the World Religion Champion Award (2024) by the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, DIAR Awards for Peace and Cohesion

and the Gold Warrior Award for Peacebuilding. She is a graduate of the KAICIID International Fellows Programme and has represented her institution in global interfaith forums across Africa, Europe, and Asia, including attending the African Union Interfaith side Events in Addis Ababa in 2026. Scholar has had the historical opportunity of meeting and greeting the late Pope Francis at the Vatican in 2024. She is deeply contextual, inclusive, and transformative in her approach to theology, worship, and community engagement. At ASREP, she guides the Board on Peacebuilding, Research and Gender matters.



FCPA Abudo Dambala: Board Finance, Audit, Risk & Compliance Expert, ASREP

FCPA Abudo Dambala is a seasoned finance, audit, risk, compliance and governance professional with over 15 years of distinguished experience across the humanitarian, banking, data protection and public sectors. He holds an MBA in Finance and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), and Certified Data Protection Officer, with advanced expertise in financial governance, institutional compliance, enterprise risk management, internal controls, and strategic accountability systems.

His professional portfolio spans senior leadership assignments within GOAL, PACIDA, Co-operative Bank of Kenya (Snr Finance Officer), the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (Director, Internal Audit), and the County Government of Marsabit (Principal Auditor), where he has provided high-level leadership in financial oversight, audit assurance, operational risk management, and regulatory compliance.

Abudo is widely recognized for strengthening fiduciary systems, enhancing institutional integrity frameworks, and advancing transparent, accountable, and performance-driven governance structures. His multidisciplinary expertise positions him as a trusted leader in driving organizational resilience, financial prudence, and sustainable institutional transformation within complex operating environments.



Dida E. Fayo: Executive Director, Lead Researcher & Board Secretary, ASREP

Dida Fayo is a highly accomplished development and resilience executive with 15+ years of leadership experience driving transformative programs across Kenya’s ASALs, Uganda and the Horn of Africa.

A PhD Candidate in Development Studies, he is the Founder & Executive Director of the ASAL Research & Resilience Programme (ASREP), leading strategic interventions in nature-based solutions, climate resilience, governance, peacebuilding, biodiversity conservation, green livelihoods, and inclusive economic development.

He previously served as Director, Program Planning & Implementation and Senior Management Team member at Northern Rangelands Trust, overseeing high-impact partnerships with global development actors including USAID, European Union, Agence Française de Développement, DANIDA and The Nature Conservancy.

Dida combines deep expertise in program management, resilience financing, climate-smart development, FPIC-driven community governance, wildlife conservation, investment analysis, and Islamic finance. He also held senior leadership roles at National Bank of Kenya and First Community Bank, and successfully led a multi-million-dollar resilience partnership with the Kenya Red Cross Society and the County Government of Kitui.

Organogram



ASREP maintains a highly professional multidisciplinary team grounded in excellence, integrity, accountability, respect, and results-driven performance. Its staff combine strong technical expertise with deep understanding of ASAL contexts, enabling delivery of evidence-based, community-centered, and high-impact interventions.

ASREP promotes ethical leadership, innovation, teamwork, and professionalism to ensure quality programming and sustainable development outcomes across fragile and climate-vulnerable regions.

OUR CORE VALUES

GUIDING OUR MISSION. SHAPING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES. BUILDING A PEACEFUL FUTURE.



1. INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

We uphold the highest standards of transparency, ethics and responsibility in all we do.



2. EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION

We pursue excellence through research, learning and innovative solutions for lasting change.



6. PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

We believe in the power of partnerships and collective action to achieve greater impact together.



3. COMMUNITY-CENTRED IMPACT

We listen, engage and empower communities to lead solutions that resonate and endure.



5. RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

We strengthen adaptive capacity and champion sustainable livelihoods for present and future generations.

Core Values



4. PEACE, COHESION & EQUITY

We promote peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and equity for inclusive and just development.

“ Rooted in the ASALs. Driven by Evidence. United for Peace and Resilience. ”



Core Institutional Policies

The following core institutional policies are essential at elevating ASREP's capacity and institutional credibility, to meet international governance, donor & legal compliance, safeguarding, fiduciary, and operational standards:

Human Resources & Safeguarding policies

Operational & Digital Policies

Governance & Institutional Policies

- Governance & Board Charter Policy
- Strategic Planning & Performance Management Policy
- Risk Management Framework
- Code of Conduct & Ethics Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Anti-Fraud, Anti-Corruption & Whistle-blower Policy

Financial & Compliance Policies

- Finance & Accounting Policy Manual
- Procurement & Asset Management Policy
- Internal Controls & Audit Policy
- Donor Compliance & Grants Management Policy
- Data Protection & Confidentiality Policy

Programmatic & Technical Policies

- Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) Policy
- Research Ethics & Knowledge Management Policy
- Environmental & Social Safeguards Policy

Why ASREP ?

ASREP combines strong technical expertise, community trust, indigenous knowledge systems, and evidence-based programming to deliver scalable and sustainable resilience solutions in Kenya's drylands and fragile environments. The institution is strategically positioned to support governments, development partners, donors, and communities in advancing integrated climate resilience, peacebuilding and inclusive development agendas, across Kenya and the Horn of Africa.

- Climate Resilience & Sustainability Policy
- Community Engagement & Feedback Mechanism Policy
- Peacebuilding & Conflict Sensitivity Framework

Human Resources & Safeguarding policies

- Human Resource & Administration Manual
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment (PSEAH) Policy
- Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Policy
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Policy
- Staff Health, Safety & Security Policy

Operational & Digital Policies

- ICT & Cybersecurity Policy
- Communication & Media Engagement Policy
- Partnership & Consortium Management Policy
- Emergency Response & Business Continuity Plan



THEORY OF CHANGE



NB: ASREP's Theory of Change, is anchored on the belief that locally-led, evidence-driven and climate responsive interventions can sustainably transform vulnerable ASAL communities into resilient, peaceful and economically empowered societies – *modelling with Isiolo County.*





IMPACT REPORT – May 2025 – June 2026 Highlights

Research, Knowledge Co-Production (Indigenous & Contemporary) and Dissemination

ASREP is strategically positioning itself as a leading ASAL-focused institution advancing applied research, knowledge co-production, and evidence-driven development programming. By integrating community indigenous knowledge systems with scientific inquiry and policy analysis, ASREP generates locally grounded solutions that inform resilience building, peacebuilding, climate adaptation, and inclusive governance.

Locally-led evidence generation, University Engagement and webinars

In Isiolo, ASREP has taken keen interest in undertaking studies at the intersection between Resource-based conflicts, Climate change and its effects on pastoralist livelihoods – a case of Isiolo County. In a joint initiative with MID-P and RPPL, ASREP is rolling a research to quantify the Economic Impacts of Inter-communal violence, particularly as banditry-related conflicts, so as to compel government affirmative action, via a peer-review policy brief, by the County Government, ILRI, CGIAR, Jameel Observatory, Mercy Corps, NCIC & FCDC, for National Assembly appropriation for victims’ compensation. Further, ASREP hosted one learning webinar in partnership with the Global Entrepreneurship Network, geared at sharing insights about green livelihoods pathways for eco-entrepreneurship in the Northern drylands of Kenya. In-depth value chains such as gums and resins, honey production, herbs and spices as well as the horizon of optimal production and value addition. The highly informative webinar was moderated by former USAID Kenya Resilience Director Jennifer Maurer, with panelists from Kenya, Ethiopia and Italy, and attended by over 40 participants.

Through strategic partnerships, policy dialogues, and knowledge dissemination platforms, the organization strengthens evidence uptake, amplifies marginalized voices, and contributes to transformative policy and development discourse across dryland regions.



1. Webinar Poster showing all polished panelists ready for the Eco-entrepreneurship webinar session.



2. ASREP Executive Director Dida Fayot, seated among some of Kenya’s most distinguished university professors and global researchers from University of Birmingham UK, in a panel interview at St. Paul’s University, Nairobi, discussing the value of research and academia in development & society.

In this engagement with the University of Birmingham, Educators Without Borders, and St. Paul's University, ASREP was invited as an emerging research practitioner and leader in ASAL research, and to give a practical case scenario on the research role of Kenyan Universities, in development.

The question was posed, "Where do Kenyan universities miss the mark in addressing real community challenges, particularly in the ASALs? ".

"ASREP's reflection was centered on one concern: the persistence of the "Ivory Tower" paradigm, which often limits meaningful integration between academia and the realities facing communities; yet multiple evolving human development indicators in the ASALs, remain profoundly under-researched. While universities continue to play a critical role in advancing knowledge, there remains an overemphasis on theoretical scholarship, with comparatively less investment in knowledge co-creation, applied research, innovation ecosystems, and community-responsive solutions.

This has contributed to a widening gap between academia, policy, and development practice. In an era defined by climate change, inequality, fragility, unemployment, and rapid socio-economic transformation, higher education institutions must evolve beyond their traditional mandates. Universities should increasingly position themselves as strategic partners in sustainable development, strengthening evidence-informed policymaking, advancing locally led innovation, and supporting scalable solutions to complex societal challenges. ASREP also fronted the bold need to create institutional environments that encourage critical inquiry, intellectual diversity, and constructive engagement on difficult development questions. Transformational societies are built not only through technical expertise, but through courageous and forward-looking thought leadership. The future relevance of African universities will largely depend on their ability to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, bridge the research-to-policy

The ASAL Indigenous Knowledge Vault Series

In Kenya's ASALs, Indigenous Knowledge systems constitute a critical early warning and early response (EVER) architecture, where pastoral mobility patterns, ecological indicators, livestock behavior, weather interpretation, and community intelligence have long informed anticipatory action to climate variability and conflict risks. This locally embedded knowledge remains highly adaptive, context-specific, and time-sensitive, making it indispensable for strengthening formal EVER systems that often lack granular, real-time community insight. ASREP advances this integration by co-producing knowledge with communities and technical actors, systematically documenting and validating Indigenous indicators, and embedding them within structured peacebuilding, climate resilience, and governance frameworks. Through this approach, ASREP bridges the interface between traditional foresight systems and modern analytical tools, enhancing predictive accuracy, response timeliness, and institutional responsiveness across ASAL landscapes.



3. Borana Abba Gadha (Supreme Spiritual leader) Guyo Boru – a custodian of indigenous knowledge insights of over 600 years.

The 'ASAL Indigenous Knowledge Vault Series', is ASREP's flagship repository project, geared at showcasing the wealth of traditional knowledge and heritage of ASAL indigenous communities, as has been instrumental for their climate resilience for thousands of years, and relevant lessons that can be drawn today, in the IYRP2026.

Below is the **Debut release:**

'Cows, Women & Land: The Indigenous Pivot of Power & Ecological Coexistence among the Borana Community'

'In the Borana Oromo Indigenous culture, three things stand above all else: Cows, Women and Land. Let me repeat that again: Cows. Women. Land. Nothing in the universe rivals their value. The cow, especially, transcends economics, it is identity, dignity, survival, spirituality and continuity of life itself. Land is revered as a Mother whose breast never runs dry. This is why, during severe prolonged droughts, when entire herds perish, deep grief consumes communities. Among these pastoralists, life without cattle is often perceived as life stripped of meaning, purpose and belonging. Yet beyond livestock, the Borana worldview carries profound lessons on gender, ecology and conservation ethics that modern systems are only beginning to rediscover.

While Borana society is historically patriarchal, the reverence accorded to women is immense. Centuries ago, strong women such as Akko Haamanoyye rose to lead the Borana nation with extraordinary wisdom & authority, commanding such influence that men trembled at her directives. Her reign amplified women's voices and rights over 500 years ago, and to this day, she remains deeply embedded in Borana feminist thought & cultural consciousness. Our Indigenous ecological governance systems were equally sophisticated. If a male and female gazelle stood side by side, killing the male was considered a grave offense. Why? Because the male symbolized generational continuity, and eliminating the last surviving male amounted to species genocide.

If a male and female gazelle stood side by side, killing the male was considered a grave offense. Why? Because the male symbolized generational continuity, and eliminating the last surviving male amounted to species genocide.

Cutting down a large mature acacia tree was similarly punishable. Certain landscapes were designated as "holy lands," where even pruning a twig was forbidden. These sacred spaces were not merely spiritual sites, they were highly strategic ecological protection zones safeguarding biodiversity, water systems and critical habitats.

At traditional wells and dams, strict protocols governed water access. The final person leaving the well each evening was required to fill the water troughs so wildlife could drink safely at night without falling into the wells in search of water. Failure to do so was considered a serious communal offense.

Long before modern conservation frameworks, carbon markets, biodiversity credits, ESG metrics or Nature-based Solutions, Indigenous pastoral communities had already institutionalized ecological stewardship, coexistence and sustainability through culture, spirituality and customary law. As the world marks the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists in 2026, perhaps the real question is this: What if the future of conservation, climate resilience and biodiversity restoration lies not only in modern science, but also in listening deeply to Indigenous knowledge systems that have safeguarded ecosystems for centuries?



International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 – Collaborative Strides

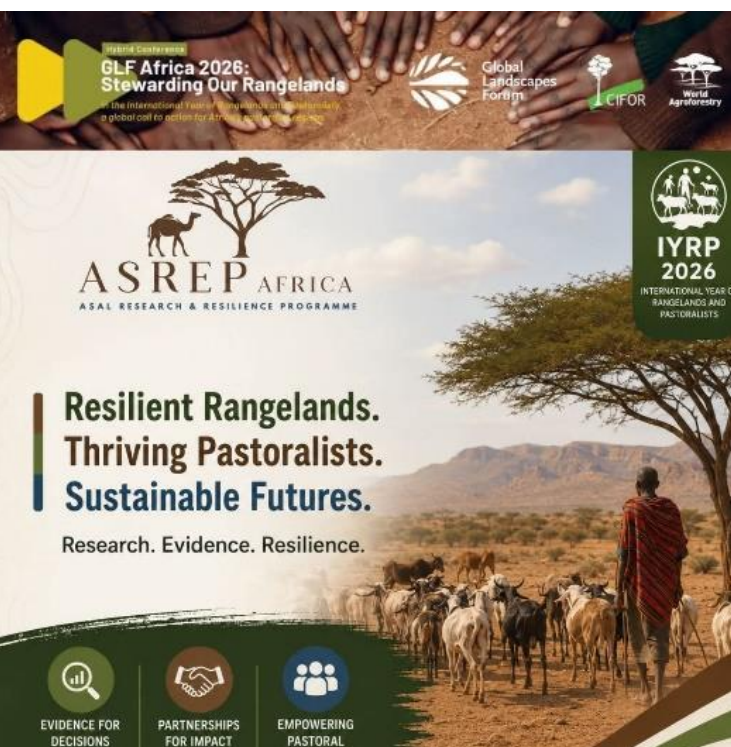
The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 presents a transformative global platform for elevating the ecological, economic, and cultural significance of dryland ecosystems and pastoralist communities in sustainable development discourse. In Kenya's ASALs, where rangelands underpin livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and peacebuilding, the IYRP 2026 agenda offers a strategic opportunity to advance locally-led ecosystem governance, indigenous knowledge systems, and sustainable pastoral economies. ASREP is uniquely positioned to play a catalytic role through applied research, policy influence, community resilience programming, and knowledge co-production that bridges science, indigenous practices, and development policy. By convening stakeholders across governance, conservation, and pastoral systems, ASREP can significantly contribute to shaping inclusive rangeland restoration models, strengthening climate adaptation pathways, and amplifying the voice of pastoral communities within national, regional, and global resilience frameworks.

Over this period, ASREP was privileged to participate in the Keynote Address by Prof. Ian Scoones at ILRI Campus Nairobi, as was scheduled by the Jameel Observatory. Prof. Scoones unearthed deep colonially-rooted narrative issues, that for decades, have labeled pastoralism as a backward and unviable mode of production. He further challenged all participants, that the IYRP2026, has a cardinal duty, to undo this narrative damage, and ensure all policy bottlenecks are unlocked, to unleash the full economic potential of pastoralism in Kenya and the Horn of Africa.

Later, ASREP took part, in the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) 2026, as was organized by CIFOR-ICRAF in Nairobi, and other actors. For all, rangelands are the world's largest, most overlooked asset. They cover about 54% of global land, support over 2 billion people, and are largely in ASALs, where up to 70% face soil degradation.

Pastoralism, managing about 25% of land, feeds more than 500 million globally and supports approximately 8.8 million Kenyans (20–25%), yet remains constrained by resource-based conflict, policy barriers, and climate shocks. With the right investment, pastoralism could support over 15 billion people globally and near 25M in Kenya. 2026. The International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP), marks a pivotal moment for narrative change, pastoralist-focused global adaptation finance, and policy reform. ASREP is pleased to be at the centre of this global discourse, driving evidence through dedicated research, policy influence, and community-led solutions across Kenya's ASALs, positioning rangelands as engines of resilience and economic growth.

With IGAD pursuing the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance, the question of mobility carries significant weight, in the sustainable management of our pastoral livelihoods, across the ASAL Horn of Africa Region.





Peacebuilding

In Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), recurrent resource-based conflicts, climate-induced displacement, fragile governance systems, and youth exclusion continue to undermine social cohesion, economic productivity, and long-term resilience. ASREP positions peacebuilding as a strategic pillar for sustainable development, advancing evidence-driven approaches that strengthen community dialogue, inclusive governance, early warning systems, and locally anchored conflict resolution mechanisms. Through integrated programming that links peace, livelihoods, climate resilience, and indigenous knowledge systems, ASREP supports the development of cohesive, adaptive, and resilient communities capable of mitigating conflict risks while fostering stability, human security, and equitable development across Kenya's dryland ecosystems.

ASREP espouses a 4-pronged approach to peacebuilding: -

- ❖ Collaborative approach to peacebuilding

Research-guided pathway peacebuilding

- ❖ Government Policy-anchored framework to peacebuilding
- ❖ Locally-led community-owned and rooted dialogues

Collaborative Multi-stakeholder approach

ASREP advances a multi-stakeholder approach to peacebuilding that recognizes sustainable peace in Kenya's ASALs as a shared responsibility requiring coordinated action across communities, government institutions, civil society, academia, faith-based institutions, women and youth groups, and development partners.

By fostering inclusive dialogue platforms, evidence-informed policy engagement, cross-border collaboration, and locally led mediation processes, it strengthens collective ownership of peace interventions while enhancing trust, social cohesion, and resilience within fragile and conflict-prone dryland contexts. As a member of the Isiolo Peace Actors Forum, ASREP works closely with

Peacelink (RPPL), MID-P, Isiolo Gender Watch, Community Conservancies, National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), Corporation for Peace & Development (COPAD), State Department of ASALs, National Steering Committee on Peacebuilding & Conflict Management (NSC), Interreligious Council of Kenya (IRCK) among others. Globally, ASREP is forging working frameworks with Horn of Africa Institute for Peace & Security (HOAIPS), Global South Peace & Conflict Studies Network (GSPCS) and the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AfP) – reiterating the fact that peacebuilding is a shared societal function at all levels (locally, regionally & internationally), leaving no one behind.



4. A Peace Actors forum planning meeting in Isiolo, graced by ASREP, FCDC, COPAD, IMPACT, NDMA, RPPL, County Government of Isiolo, NCIC, Peace-corps among others

Research-guided pathway to peacebuilding

The conflict landscape remains increasingly fluid and multidimensional, shaped by rapidly evolving push-and-pull factors that continually redefine local security dynamics. Climate change has emerged as a significant driver of resource-based tensions and communal violence, while unresolved land tenure systems, political contestation, external criminal networks, and persistent retrogressive cultural practices continue to exacerbate fragility across dryland communities

the National Government Administration Office (NGAO), NCIC, Interpeace, Regional Pastoralists

Against this backdrop, ASREP has strategically embedded research at the core of its peacebuilding architecture, recognizing that sustainable coexistence requires adaptive, evidence-driven, and context-responsive interventions. Through continuous knowledge generation, conflict analysis, indigenous knowledge integration, and policy-oriented learning, ASREP strengthens the capacity of communities and institutions to anticipate emerging risks, inform responsive programming, and advance resilient pathways for long-term peace, stability, and social cohesion in Kenya's ASAL ecosystems.

Government Policy-anchored framework to Peacebuilding

Locally-led Community-rooted structured dialogues



5. Isiolo Deputy County Secretary Hon Mohamed Boru leads a Cohesion Policy draft review meeting with County Peace Actors, assisted by Mr. Barnabas Esunyen (onlooking), the County Chief Officer Cohesion



In the Constitution of Kenya (2010), Peace and Cohesion-building are featured as a collaborative governance responsibility between the national and county governments. Articles 174 & 186 and the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution, openly stipulate the shared role of devolution, as to foster national unity by recognizing diversity.

ASREP recognizes that sustainable peace in Kenya's ASALs cannot be achieved through reactive interventions alone, as many conflicts are rooted in structural governance, resource, climate, and social exclusion challenges. Advancing policy frameworks therefore remains critical for institutionalizing preventive peacebuilding, strengthening inclusive governance, and embedding conflict sensitivity within development and climate resilience planning.

Through evidence-based research and policy engagement, ASREP spearheads context-responsive solutions that address underlying drivers of conflict while fostering long-term stability, social cohesion, and resilient coexistence. ASREP, is at the forefront of the Isiolo County Cohesion Bill and Policy, currently at Peace Actors & County Directorate draft stage, for development of a County Cohesion Fund, which would foster the financial appropriation and facilitation towards peacebuilding, in the wake of shrinking global aid funding.

Locally led and community rooted structured dialogues is the most effective pathway to cohesion building. At ASREP, we subscribe to the school of thought that, since conflicts are community-centric in nature, solutions should be grassroots-driven and locally championed, supported by other actors. Indigenous ASAL community governance structures, faith-based institutions, have formidable established decades of trust capital and moral authority, which make it a winning, high impact and sustainable peacebuilding strategy. Allowing communities to own the processes is a proven pathway to long-term ASAL inter-ethnic coexistence.

6. ASREP officials in a 3-day peace capacity strengthening session in Nairobi, by PROCMURA for faith leaders and peace actors towards fostering faith-based dialogues in Africa. PROCMURA is Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa, led by Prof. Nathan Samwini of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology in Ghana.

Climate Justice, Biodiversity Restoration and Renewable Energy

The Crisis Injustice Case and Climate Action Mission

ASREP operates at the intersection of climate justice, ecosystem restoration, and community-led resilience programming in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), where the impacts of climate variability are disproportionately borne by indigenous pastoralist communities despite their negligible contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. Anchored in the principles of the Paris Agreement (2015), particularly the Loss and Damage framework, ASREP advances a rights-based climate action agenda that amplifies indigenous knowledge systems while addressing structural climate injustice affecting regions that contribute less than 3% of global emissions compared to the G20's estimated 76% contribution.

Through its flagship Waso Eco-Champs Initiative, ASREP is implementing a landscape-scale nature-based solutions (NbS) intervention focused on rangeland restoration, dryland afforestation, and biodiversity recovery within Isiolo County. In the past three months alone, the programme has mobilized community ecological stewardship networks resulting in the planting of 10,000 indigenous trees, as an initial phase of a larger restoration ambition targeting 200,000 trees and the ecological rehabilitation of approximately 1,500 acres of degraded dryland forest and critical wildlife habitat corridors, in 12 months.

The initiative directly engages 2,000 women and youth across ten administrative wards—Wabera, Ngaremara, Cherab, Chari, Kinna, Garbatulla, Oldonyiro, Burat, Bula Pesa, and Sericho—thereby embedding inclusive climate governance and participatory ecosystem management within local institutional structures.

In alignment with nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) frameworks, ASREP integrates rangeland restoration with community carbon sequestration strategies, enhancing soil organic carbon retention, improving vegetation cover indices, and strengthening landscape-level climate resilience in fragile dryland ecosystems. Complementing this, ASREP is operationalizing a clean cooking transition model aimed at reducing household reliance on biomass fuel, thereby mitigating indoor air pollution, lowering deforestation pressure, and contributing to measurable reductions in short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including black carbon emissions.

Collectively, these interventions position ASREP as an emerging strategic actor in ASAL climate programming, delivering integrated outcomes across climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity restoration, and social equity, while advancing scalable, community-driven pathways toward resilient dryland socio-ecological systems.



7. ASREP team joined the Ngaremara Ward Community youth & women of Nakuprat Gotu Community Conservancy, to launch the Waso Eco-Champs, with County Officials and Kenya Forest Service at the Conservancy HQs, next to the Shaba National Reserve



8. ASREP Director Dida, leads a mass tree planting drive with the Kenya Prisons, Kenya Forest Service, NEMA and the local Isiolo Wabera ward Community



10. Daaba Village women plant a legacy tree at the conservation area with ASREP team



9. Isiolo County Forest Ecosystem Conservator Simon Gioshe joins tree planting with ASREP and local green self-help groups



12. ASREP team undertaking climate education, for the Ngaremara ward community leaders, youth, women and conservancy teams



11. Conservancy rangers, in branded ASREP t-shirts ready keenly following the climate education and environmental training



13. ASREP Director speaking to media, flanked by the Eco-alliance Manager and Central Subcounty Commissioner in the public tree planting campaign



14. Inmates from the Kenya Prisons Service, at the forefront of the mass tree planting exercise

 **Standard Digital**  15h · 
Sabina Namoe, Nakuprat Conservancy board member, plants a tree during ASREP Africa's exercise... See more



How poor governance keeps Kenya's low-income families on the cusp

by Victor Mukabi
@PeopleDailyKe

In every financial year, the cost of living among Kenyans at the bottom of the economic pyramid continues to be more unbearable as the value for money paid in form of taxes to the government fails to deliver quality services.

This factor is largely driven by minimal development projects initiatives, underfunding of critical sectors such as healthcare, and mismanagement of funds in different public institutions.

As seen in the different budget cycles, development projects funding allocation which tends to have a direct link with Kenyans has over time continued to suffer mostly due to budget shortfalls and higher expenditures which continue to impact the debt burden, which in turn affects the national spending.

Civil society organisations (CSOs), to this end, point out that the problems largely emanate from corruption cases, which of course have been as a result of weak law enforcement measures, insufficient resources and political interference in independent institutions.

According to the Institute of Social Accountability (TISA), high level corruption cases in government largely occur at the procurement phase, a situation that informs the wide rejection of the E-Government procurement system which is set to streamline the process.

"Because procurement accounts for nearly one-third of the total government spending in Kenya, it represents the single largest risk area for mismanagement and loss of public money," TISA highlights in a report dubbed 'Monitoring public contracts through social

accountability in Kenya.

As per the report, corruption in procurement at the national and county government levels, often takes subtle forms, such as manipulation of tender specifications, use of non-competitive methods to favour specific suppliers, or fraudulent payments for incomplete works.

"This situation makes it essential for citizens and participants to be precise, understand how and where corruption happens, and who plays a role in enabling or fighting it," the report highlights.

To help combat this economic flaw, Transparency International (TI) Kenya recommends strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ethics And Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) to other enforcement agencies by increasing public funding and enhancing access to modern investigative tools, including comprehensive training programs for personnel.

It adds that, Parliament should also pass the Whistleblower Protection Bill 2024 and implement clearly defined, confidential reporting procedures supported by robust legal safeguards against retaliation, while at the same time Advocate for legal reforms to bar individuals facing active corruption charges from being candidates to elective positions or to holding public office until they are cleared.

However, the Consumer Federation of Kenya (COFEK) while speaking to People Daily highlights that, much as this is a very timely and ambitious move, the people managing it will determine the success of the system.

"We need to have the different players onboarded to these systems for it to be effective," Stephen Mutoro the executive director of COFEK recommends.



A woman selling vegetables in the market. Poor governance keeps low-income families on the edge. ARCHIVES



Dida Fayo of ASREP Africa (holding a tree seedling) with Waso Echo champions at Nakuprat community conservancy where they planted trees. He said they are targeting to plant at least 200,000 trees around institutions where there is water. KWACH WAKHISI

Vagaries of climate change push Isiolo locals to the edge

A new dryland forestry initiative, crucial for climate resilience in ASAL areas, aims to rejuvenate the environment and empower locals

by Kwach Wakhisi
@PeopleDailyKe

When the short rainy season began, Isiolo County locals were optimistic, expecting enough rainfall to sustain their crops and pasture and ultimately receive a bountiful harvest to safeguard their food security situation.

However, the situation has been dire and has left many residents worried of whether come next year, they will have enough food supplies to sustain them before the next season.

For residents in this area, the short rainy season is critical, as it directly guarantees their food security. The effects of climate change has changed the tables.

The county has witnessed irregular rainfall patterns, with Isiolo town itself receiving sporadic afternoon showers.

The irony is that a few kilometers outside the town, where rain is most needed for pasture growth, the land remains dry.

This situation has left many pastoralists who rely on grazing land for their livestock in a precarious situation.

Game reserves like Buffalo Springs and Shaba, once lush with grass and teeming with wildlife, are now parched

and arid. Lack of rains especially during this rainy season has prevented the germination of new grass, exacerbating the environmental crisis.

Sabina Namoe, a former herder from the Daaba area in the Shaba Game Reserve and the Nakuprat Community Conservancy ecosystem vividly recalls how the area has transformed over the past two decades.

"Twenty years ago, the land was lush, with abundant grass for our livestock and trees to provide shade. Today, there is no sight of the green vegetation. The land is parched and we are struggling to find pasture for our cattle," says Sabina.

She attributes the depletion of indigenous trees, shrubs, and grasses to overgrazing, compounded by the negative effects of climate change.

Policy gaps

Sabina, now a member of the newly launched Waso Eco-Champions, remains hopeful that planting and effectively nurturing trees could bring about positive change.

The Eco-Champions movement launched on 10th December 2025 aims to rejuvenate the environment and empower local communities.

"If we plant trees and take care of them, we believe the land can be restored," Sabina says optimistically. However, the situation is far more complex than simply planting trees.

Community members have pointed out a critical gap in policy, a blind spot that overlooks dryland forestry, which is crucial for building climate resilience in ASAL areas.

While grasslands and wildlife are often the focus of conservation efforts, dryland forestry, particularly the "acacia economy," is under-prioritised.

This neglect exacerbates the challenges faced by local communities who rely on acacia trees for a variety of purposes, including fuel, wood and building materials.

Simon Ekeno, a local youth leader who oversees a tree seedling nursery says they are determined to change the situation by increasing tree coverage in the area.

This will in the long run combat environmental degradation and provide an alternative source of income for the community.

"We want to make a real difference," Ekeno says.

"If we plant more trees, we can restore the ecosystem and create a better livelihood for our people."

Simon Gloche, Isiolo Forest Service Regional Conservator emphasised the importance of community engagement when it comes to matters of environmental conservation.

"We are training local communities to take better care of the environment, not only for ecological restoration but also for alternative livelihoods. Embracing renewable energy sources and sustainable practices is key to conserving the remaining acacia trees," explains Gloche.

In response to these challenges, ASREP Africa initiative, an organisation that focuses on building climate resilience in ASALs, has been working with local communities to address the impact of climate change.

On 10th December 2025, ASREP launched the first Ward-level chapter of the Waso Eco-Champions in Ngare-mara Ward, Isiolo County. The movement is spearheaded by indigenous women and youth who are at the frontline on the climate change crisis.



Strategic Planning Approach for Sustainable Biodiversity Restoration and Collective Action

Similar with all other human development indicators like peace and conflict handling, in Biodiversity restoration there is a compelling case for a more anticipatory strategic mid-term and long-term approach, as opposed to a reactionary pathway. As a thought leader in the ASAL flora and fauna conservation circles, ASREP was privileged to be represent Isiolo County in the Strategy Validation Engagement, for the new San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Kenya's 2026-2030 Institutional Biodiversity Strategy. Hosted in Laikipia County, the session was graced by leading biodiversity science and conservation entities across Kenya i.e. Natural State, Laikipia Conservancies Association, KWCA, Loisaba Conservancy, Kenya Wildlife Service, Wildlife Research & Training Institute, Grevy's Zebra Trust and County Governments of Laikipia, Isiolo, Baringo and Samburu. The discussions strongly underscored the urgency of building community-centric, evidence-driven and climate-smart conservation models that place local livelihoods, resilience and coexistence at the core of biodiversity protection. Investment in sustainable rangelands management & pastoralist livelihoods, inter-ethnic dialogues for effective peacebuilding, and inclusive governance emerged as critical pathways toward integrated natural resources management & strengthening human-wildlife coexistence across fragile ASAL ecosystems. Equally prominent was the role of technology, data systems, and Early Warning–Early Response (EWER) approaches in advancing climate resilience, adaptive ecosystem governance, and anticipatory conservation action. Strong reference was also made to the Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework, on the 30X30 biodiversity targets.

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17. A consortium of Kenya's leading conservation stakeholders at the SDZWA-K Biodiversity Strategy Validation meeting, held in Laikipia County

ASREP advances a climate justice-driven agenda rooted in Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR-RC) and the operationalization of Loss and Damage for climate-vulnerable ASAL systems. It positions local communities as central actors in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) implementation, particularly through ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and nature-based solutions (NbS).

This model reinforces that effective climate action requires multilevel governance & locally led adaptation (LLA), through landscape restoration in degraded dryland ecosystems. By integrating indigenous knowledge systems with resilience programming, ASREP advances a unified framework where mitigation, adaptation, and climate justice converge into collective local and global climate action; as featured in the President's 15billion tree plan in 10 years.



18. In both pictures - Civil Society Organizations jointly planting a tree with the KFS lead, and an all partners meeting later at the International Day of Forest 2026, in Oldonyiro Ward Isiolo. This is the true embodiment of collective climate action.



Civic Governance, Strategic Partnerships, Youth Power & Indigenous Lands Rights

ASREP champions a rights-based and justice-centered development architecture anchored on inclusive governance, institutional accountability, and transformational policy advocacy within Kenya's ASAL ecosystems. The organization advances citizen-driven development through strengthened civic agency, participatory governance, and community power-building, ensuring that historically marginalized pastoralist populations meaningfully influence decisions affecting land, climate, livelihoods, and public resource allocation. Through strategic partnerships with state institutions, community conservancies, development partners, academia, and grassroots movements, ASREP is building scalable coalitions for resilience, peacebuilding, and socio-economic transformation in fragile dryland contexts. The organization places strong emphasis on social inclusion, youth empowerment, and prevention-oriented interventions addressing

drugs and substance abuse, recognizing these as critical barriers to human capital development, community stability, and productive economic participation. ASREP further advocates for equitable and secure indigenous community land rights as foundational to climate justice, biodiversity stewardship, and sustainable pastoral systems. By promoting policy reform, tenure security, and locally led natural resource governance, ASREP seeks to address structural inequalities, deepen social cohesion, reduce multidimensional poverty, and unlock dignified pathways for resilient and self-determined development across ASAL communities.

KSG Under the Tree Series: Citizen Engagement and Action



20. Inception Project Implementation Planning Meeting with KSG team



NADIA WILLIE
Administration Officer
KSG, Nairobi



DIDA FAYO
Executive Director
ASREP KENYA

**UNDER THE TREE SERIES:
CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION**

23 APRIL, 2026
6:00AM - 10:00AM

This is flagship legacy programme, spearheaded by the Kenya School of Government (KSG), pioneered in Isiolo County. It represents a deliberate institutional shift toward deepening participatory governance, designed to operationalize structured civic engagement, amplify citizen voice, and strengthen state-society accountability mechanisms at the grassroots level. At its core, the Series is engineered to catalyze a paradigm transition: from a traditionally siloed “Whole-of-Government” approach to an integrated, multi-actor “Whole-of-Society” model, anchoring governance in inclusivity, co-creation, and localized ownership of development processes. ASREP was privileged to co-lead the pilot implementation in Isiolo County, in close collaboration with the County Government of Isiolo, the Office of the County Commissioner, and a consortium of local stakeholders. This pilot phase will serve as a proof-of-concept for adaptive learning, policy feedback loops, and scalable civic engagement frameworks ahead of national rollout across all 47 counties. This engagement reinforces ASREP's strategic positioning at the nexus of governance innovation, community resilience, and evidence-driven policy influence within Kenya's ASAL ecosystems.



23. ASREP logo featured alongside Isuzu, Isiolo County and other key partners, in the co-implementation of the Citizen Engagement & Action programme with KSG



22. ASREP Director Dida making his remarks at the official launch event of the Under the Tree Series in Oldonyiro, Isiolo County



25. KSG Director General Prof Nura Mohamed, addressing thousands of Oldonyiro residents at the Under the Trees Series launch



24. Isiolo County Commissioner, David Kiprop, making his speech on the power of citizen social accountability at the launch event.

Official Partnership with 'Inclusion Unfolding Africa' via Strategic MOU Signing.

For too long, the voices of persons with disabilities (PWDs), widows, women, and girls have remained unheard, despite their critical, frontline role in building climate resilience across pastoralist communities. In Kenya's ASALs, exclusion is not accidental, it is structural. Women and girls face restricted land ownership and decision-making barriers. PWDs remain largely invisible in governance, rangeland management, peacebuilding, and livelihoods systems. Deep-rooted stigma continues to marginalize "special needs" individuals and critically, biodiversity and climate interventions have often failed due to skewed ownership of the action engine. This is the gap we are closing. Despite a strong legislative foundation from the Persons with Disabilities Act 2025 to the National Gender Policy, implementation in ASAL regions remains the missing link.

At ASREP, we believe in a Whole-of-Society / Whole-Of-Community Approach: True resilience is only possible when everyone is seen, heard, and empowered. This partnership brings formidable technical and operational synergy to drive inclusive climate resilience, Equitable rangeland governance, Dignified livelihoods for marginalized groups, Evidence-driven and stigma-breaking programming. Aligned with global frameworks including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 5, 10 & 16), and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, this collaboration is a decisive step toward leaving no one behind. ASREP is proud to announce the signing of a strategic MOU with Inclusion Unfolding - Africa; a Netherlands–Kenya based non-profit advancing inclusive development. Inclusive systems are not optional, they are the foundation of resilient futures.





ASREP - KFS Forge Strategic Path for Waso Eco-Champs Project

ASREP cemented strategic pathways with the KFS leadership on the co-creation and rollout of the Waso Eco-Champs Project, a youth-centered environmental stewardship initiative driving tree growing and ecosystem restoration across schools and institutions. The talks explored joint actions towards: Mass tree growing, Domestication of Kenya's National Prosopis Strategy (2023–2032) to tackle the 'Mathenge' crisis in Isiolo's sub-counties, Cherab, Merti, Central & Garbatulla subcounties,

Advancing bio-entrepreneurship and agroforestry as sustainable livelihood pathways and Promoting gum and resin value chains from *Acacia senegal* (Sabansa Dima) — a sector that earned KES 8 million for 100 indigenous households in Wajir (Horn Afrika Ltd, 2024). KFS commended ASREP's locally-led, research-driven model that strengthens collaboration between national and county governments, indigenous communities, development consortia, and donors for ecosystem-based adaptation in Kenya's ASALs.



26. (Both pictures) KFS Deputy Regional & County leads, Lenguro & Simon respectively, hand over the TIBS Framework book to ASREP, as ASREP's lead Dida, later inspects the KFS Isiolo Tree Nursery with Mr. Lenguro

ASREP / County Government of Isiolo Strengthen Collaboration for Community-led Climate Resilience.

In an official consultative meeting with the County Secretary & Head of Public Service, Hon. Dade Boru, accompanied by senior County officials including the CECM Water, Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources Hon Guracha, and the Director Partnerships, among others, ASREP held discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between ASREP and the County Government of Isiolo towards Community-led Climate Adaptation and Resilience, in alignment with the 3rd Generation County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).

During the meeting, Mr. Fayo outlined ASREP's mission and vision, emphasizing four key development pain points affecting ASAL regions: - The Environmental Crisis, The Justice Crisis, The Evidence Gap and The Indigenous Voices Gap. He noted that approximately 80% of ASAL challenges are rooted in climate injustice and related factors, in a county where over 78% of the land mass is certified degraded - hence an urgent call for SDG 13 & 17. The County leadership welcomed ASREP's vision and reaffirmed the County Government's commitment to collaborative partnerships that drive local-level climate action and resilience. In his closing remarks, Hon. Dade Boru, on behalf of H.E. the Governor, emphasized the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable impact, and expressed the County's unwavering support for ASREP's work in the ASALs.



27. ASREP's leadership formal partnership meeting, with Hon Dade Boru (Isiolo County Secretary & Head Public Service), CECM Climate, Water & Environment Hon. Guracha Kikuyu, Barnabas Esunyen - Chief Officer Cohesion & Bitacha- County Partnerships Director

Land Governance & ASAL Indigenous Community land ancestral rights

“

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ASREP respectfully acknowledges that our work is rooted in the ancestral rangelands stewarded for generations by Indigenous pastoralist communities across Kenya's ASALs; including the Borana, Samburu, Maasai, Rendille, Gabra, Somali, Turkana, Meru and many others.

We honor their deep cultural heritage, ecological knowledge, and enduring guardianship of landscapes, water sources, migratory routes, and biodiversity.

We recognize the historical challenges, and our responsibility to advance equity, meaningful participation, and land and livelihood justice.

ASREP commits to partnerships grounded in respect, consent, shared power, and the protection of community rights; today and for generations to come.

Homegrown and grounded in the resilient pastoralist spirit of N-Kenya, ASREP emerges among the first ASAL Kenya organizations, to acknowledge and pledge commitment to land and biocultural abundance; to foster the voice, evidence and shared sustainable prosperity of ASAL Indigenous communities, particularly amidst severe climatic variations. This is a deliberate affirmation of indigenous identity, historical justice, and community stewardships over ancestral drylands ecosystems. The acknowledgement further reflects ASREP's deep commitment to climate justice, equitable land governance and the protection of community land, amidst growing climate pressures, land fragmentation, resource-based conflicts and exclusionary development systems.

Youth Advocacy and Empowerment Mainstreaming

ASREP places youth at the center of its transformational development architecture, recognizing young people as critical actors in governance reform, climate resilience, peacebuilding, and socio-economic transition within ASAL regions. Through targeted youth mainstreaming, the organization advances advocacy-driven empowerment models that strengthen civic agency, leadership capacity, policy participation, and economic inclusion among marginalized dryland youth populations. By integrating youth voices into community governance structures, climate action platforms, and local development processes, ASREP is cultivating a new generation of informed, resilient, and solutions-oriented leaders capable of driving locally led transformation.

The organization further prioritizes youth-focused interventions on livelihoods, social justice, drugs and substance abuse prevention, and citizen engagement, positioning youth empowerment as both a demographic imperative and a strategic pathway toward inclusive and sustainable development outcomes. In a meeting graced by The Deputy Governor of Isiolo County, ASREP was privileged to be central in the deliberations to address youth challenges, and the implementation of The Isiolo County Youth Summit, targeting 1,000 people, in a scope of dialogue, innovation, collective imagination & Youth Declaration.



The Summit, fronted by Kenya School of Government (KSG), as an off-shoot creation of the Isiolo Youth Innovation Centre, aims to elevate indigenous youthful voices and ignite a youth-led, socially accountable future for Isiolo and Kenya. Discussions will spotlight priority areas aligned with ASREP's

Theory of Change: - The indispensable role of youth as stewards of climate action, tackling rising unemployment through Climate-Smart Pastoralism and vocational skills, food systems, navigating resource-based conflicts, and harnessing the transformative potential of artificial intelligence, while combatting the menace of drugs & substance abuse, poverty, advocacy voice and banditry.



28. (Both images – far left & far right) Former KSG Youth Programs Coordinator, and current KSG Head of Business Dev't & Youth Innovation, and the Isiolo County Youth Director, Abubakar Demo at the Isiolo Youth Summit Planning Meeting. In-between, an ASREP official following the deliberations.

Big News! ASREP Global Feature Stories on The Guardian



We are deeply honored to share that our Executive Director, Dida Fayo, has been featured in US's Biographic Magazine, a globally respected multimedia platform for biodiversity storytelling published by the California Academy of Sciences, based in San Francisco, USA. The same story, was also re-featured in The Guardian Newspaper – based in London UK. The powerful feature, authored by Award-winning American climate and science journalist & Renowned Author,

Michelle Nijhuis, examines the global implications of USAID's exit on biodiversity conservation efforts, Indigenous communities, and the adaptive strategies emerging in response. Full article links for both stories, are featured in the media section of this report. This recognition elevates not only our ED's voice, but also the lived realities of ASAL communities and the critical work being advanced by ASREP. Our sincere gratitude to Hadas Kushnir, Monica Bansal, Michelle Nijhuis and Amy, and to all the partners and friends who made this possible. This is a milestone for ASAL leadership on the global stage.

Congratulations are in order !

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THANK YOU - OUR PARTNERS



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Horn of Africa
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