

Call for expression of interest on writing and presenting a policy-brief on: “Climate change, pastoralism and agro-pastoral conflicts in Africa”

1. Timeline

Posted date	13 June 2025
Application deadline	30 June 2025
Notification of results	30 July 2025
Event start date	5 October 2025
Event end date	12 October 2025

2. Location: Western Cape, South Africa

3. Background

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development dedicated to shaping a future worth living around the world. As a public-benefit federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government – in particular the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – and many public and private sector clients in achieving their objectives in international cooperation in around 120 countries. Since 2004, GIZ has been a reliable and trusted partner of the African Union (AU) to enhance inclusive growth and sustainable development on the African continent in line with the AU’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. With more than 200 staff, GIZ African Union cooperates with the AU Commission, as well as the AU’s specialised institutions and agencies, such as the Development Agency AUDA-NEPAD, at continental, regional and national level in more than 35 member states. Key areas of engagement include Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, Governance and Migration, Sustainable Economic Growth and Employment, as well as Health and Social Development.

Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) is a GIZ-AU program that aims to enhance land expertise in Africa through the establishment and coordination of the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA) together with the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC). NELGA is a network of 70+ universities from 40 African countries working on land governance issues to promote sustainable and equitable land governance through training and education programs, research, and policy advocacy. For better network coordination in the different regions, a lead university has been selected for each AU region (called “regional nodes”) to implement and coordinate NELGA activities. Furthermore, a technical Node was created at the University of the Western Cape’s Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS). PLAAS is an independent policy research institute within the Faculty for Economic and Management Sciences at the University of the Western Cape. PLAAS does research, policy engagement, teaching and training about the dynamics of chronic poverty and structural inequality in Southern Africa, with a particular emphasis on the key role of restructuring and contesting land holding and agro-food systems in the subcontinent and beyond.

From 7-9 October 2025, PLAAS is organizing an international conference on “Land, Life and Society”. As part of this conference a masterclass will be organized on “Climate change, pastoralism and agro-pastoral conflicts in Africa”.

This call invites actors from academia, governments, CSOs, private sectors and media to develop policy briefs in their zone of interventions addressing specific needs stemming from

topic addressing the linkages between climate change, pastoralism and agro-pastoral conflicts in Africa in their contexts.

4. Thematic area of focus

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges threatening our society. A fundamental concern is that more frequent extreme weather events quite often lead to violent conflict and political instability in fragile parts of the world. Many African countries are believed to be especially vulnerable to this threat, due in part to low economic development, weak state capacity, and a high reliance on crop agriculture. Many households in Africa obtain the majority of their income from animal husbandry and most of the continent's land mass is used to support pastoral activities. Furthermore, many of Africa's pastoral ethnic groups engage in the practice of transhumance. This transhumance creates interdependent relationships that are potentially sensitive to the increased frequency of droughts brought on by climate change in Africa. In recent years, neighboring transhumant pastoral and sedentary agricultural groups coexist in a symbiotic relationship that is characterized by seasonal migration. Climate change may cause shortage of grazeland forcing pastoralists to migrate to agricultural farmlands. Tensions can arise due to damaged crops and competition for resources, which often results in violent conflict.

In the frame of the aforementioned Master Class organized on "Climate change, pastoralism and agro-pastoral conflicts in Africa", it's important to gain empirical knowledge from various African context. Topics such as resource scarcity, livestock mobility, vulnerability, marginalization, farmer-herder conflicts. This call for abstracts focuses on the following thematical areas to be explored:

- (1) Marginalisation, vulnerability and violence in pastoralist areas: extremist-religious violence in Africa and transhumant pastoral groups;
- (2) Communal conflict and climate change including ethnicity and transhumant pastoralism;
- (3) Resource scarcity, livestock mobility and farmer-herder conflicts: analysing rainfall, water scarcity, transhumant pastoralists and conflict over agricultural lands.

5. Expected Results

The above thematical areas are expected to address specific climate change impacts on agriculture and transhumant activities and their relations to vulnerabilities and provide concrete interventions to communities in need, while contributing to a more coordinated and effective actions in their relative countries and contexts in a form of policy-brief. This policy-brief will be presented and discussed as part of the Master Class during the PLAAS Conference. These policy-briefs will be associated to tools used to improve knowledge and building capacities of diverse stakeholders including decision-makers, CSOs and academia. It could also be used for effective emergency response with regard to the addressed topics.

6. How to apply

An abstract must be submitted in line with the three thematical areas outlined above. It must be written and submitted in English or French using the template attached to this call. This abstract will serve as a succinct summary of the content of the policy-brief, emphasizing on the clarity of the topics, field of interventions as well as expected results and feasible recommendations to enable the reviewers to assess whether the paper is suitable for the

conference. Participants should also share their CV (max. 4 pages) highlighting their global experience with NELGA.

Application should be submitted to SLGA@giz.de with the following subject line: "Expression of interest on Policy Brief"

7. Eligibility Criteria

To be considered able to submit an abstract document, participants must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:

- Each applicant can submit a maximum of one abstract.
- Working in an African country and been active in a land-related institution, project or association. Established geographical presence or local partnership in location of potential intervention with consideration of marginalized populations. Established sectoral competence, experience, and evidence of excellent performance in the land sector or similar programs and initiatives at local, national, or regional level.
- Having a minimum of two years of proving collaboration with NELGA institutions and partners. Able to design a paper that is based on an assessment of the main topics, linked to other ongoing initiatives, produce outputs in terms of learning and knowledge, and implement innovative approaches
- Be able to support other activities related to the success of the initiative such as facilitating and reporting

8. Selection criteria

Selection Measure	Description	Weight
Clarity of activities and expected results	Detailing main important points proposed to show Interaction between the main topics leading to expected deliverables.	25
Local experience and presence	Pre-existing experience, related to the proposed topics and working experience in location where interventions are proposed.	20
Policy-brief design and relevance of the proposal to achieving expected results	Detailing how the policy-brief will be completed, the main titles and subtitles and how the identified challenges will/might be overcome with clear, realistic, measurable goals and outcomes.	30
Sector expertise and complementarity	Level of understanding of needs and topics and well as proposed field of interventions.	10
Global experience with NELGA	Level of participation and implication into NELGA related activities at the national, regional and continental level	15

9. Other Information

Eligible documents will be presented during the PLAAS conference, 7-9 October 2025 in Western Cape/South Africa. Selected papers/participants will have the opportunity to benefit from a free training on policy brief writing, which will take place virtually on August 27th, 2025. Female candidates as well as French speaking candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.