













Civil society statement on the

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024

As representatives of camelid herding communities, of NGOs and other stakeholder groups supporting them, and as entrepreneurs promoting cruelty-free camelid products, and their consumers,

-  **Concerned** about the **future direction** of camelid husbandry and of camelid welfare,
-  **Affirming** the **cultural meaning** of camelids in the world views of associated herding societies,
-  **Apprehensive** about **climate change, biodiversity loss** and the degradation of the environment, including desertification,
-  **Recognizing** the important role camelids are increasingly playing in enhancing pastoralists' **resilience** and adaptability to climate change,
-  **Concerned** about the continuous loss of camelid **grazing lands** that restricts the mobility of our camelids and the availability of adequate feed for them,
-  **Anxious** about limited **livelihood opportunities** for our youth, but aware that this situation could be turned around by means of supportive interventions and policies,
-  **Noting** that certain **remote grazing** areas are no longer utilized, due to the hardships associated with mobility,
-  **Convinced** of the enormous **potential** of camelids in producing food and fibre in extremely marginal and degraded environments, without external inputs and use of fossil fuels, and their comparatively low carbon footprint,
-  **Honouring** our indigenous ecological knowledge, countless generations of **experience** in managing camelids sustainably in harsh environments and our innovative capacities to respond to changes,
-  **Aware** of colonial **disruption** of traditional camelid management systems,
-  **Disturbed** by the low resource allocation by governments and development partners to develop the camelid value chains,

on the occasion of the **International Year of Camelids** in 2024, we call on governments, scientists, donor agencies, local and regional decision makers, experts and the private sector to support camelid development efforts that consider the special ecological and cultural aspects of camelids by

-  Enabling **mobility** and ensuring **secure access** to ancestral grazing and browsing areas for our camelid herds to thrive, for example by recognizing them as **ICCA¹s or Territories of LIFE**,

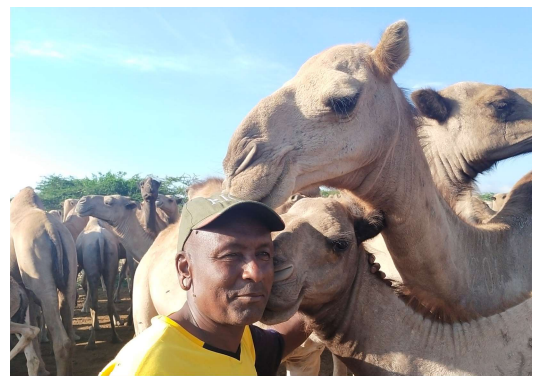


¹ ICCA= IndigenousCommunity Conserved Area



-  Investing in **decentralized infrastructure**, such as networks of mini-dairies and local processing facilities¹ to link camelid herders in remote areas to value chains, while also respecting and supporting our traditional ways of processing,
-  Fostering camelid-herding **community organizations** and their agency,
-  Respecting and building on our **traditional knowledge** and related local innovations,
-  Strengthening provision of **camelid healthcare**, including research into emerging diseases,
-  Supporting investment on people-centred and -controlled camelid **research and development**,
-  Recognizing camels as co-creatures and establishing **camelid welfare standards** into policy and practice worldwide,
-  Carving out an alternative, cruelty-free **development trajectory** for camelid herding that conforms to the worldview of traditional camelid communities and avoids industrialization.

¹In many areas, this would include local slaughtering facilities; however, some camelid-keeping ethnic groups object to these.




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