



PASTORALISM TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Pastoralism is a **LIVELIHOOD SYSTEM** that supports more than **200 MILLION** people worldwide. It is based on free-grazing animals and is practiced on almost **HALF** of the world's land surface, mainly in rangelands, drylands, mountainous and other marginal areas.

PASTORALISM IS AN ADAPTED AND RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD

- Is centred around livestock
- Relies on herd mobility
- Depends on community-based land tenure and access rights
- Builds on traditional knowledge
- Involves strategies to effectively manage risks such as climatic variability



PASTORALISM HAS MANY BENEFITS



Provides labour and income for pastoralists and neighbouring communities, contributing to the national economy



Contributes to food and nutrition security



Presents the best agricultural system to keep marginal lands inhabited and productive



Sustainably manages natural resources such as land, water, soil and biodiversity



Provides important ecosystem services including maintaining soil fertility, managing fires and regulating pests and diseases



GIVING VOICE TO PASTORALISTS

IN 2016

VSF INTERNATIONAL consulted over **200 PASTORALIST** representatives from **38 COUNTRIES** in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

This is what they told us:



DID YOU KNOW:

- ➔ About **1 billion** animals, including sheep, goats, cattle, camels, yaks, horses and reindeer, are herded by pastoralists [source: FAO, 2001]
- ➔ **65%** of meat, and **70%** of milk sold on local markets in the Sahel region come from pastoral systems [source: CEDEAO and OCDE, 2008]
- ➔ Well-managed rangelands are an important carbon sink: they store about **34%** of the global terrestrial stock of CO₂ [source: World Bank, 2009]
- ➔ Milk consumption plays an important role in fighting malnutrition, especially for children, pregnant women and nursing mothers. Milk sales are often a women's business.

MORE INFORMATION:

www.vsf-international.org/pastoralism

