



Ministry of Devolution and ASALs
State Department for Development of
ASALs



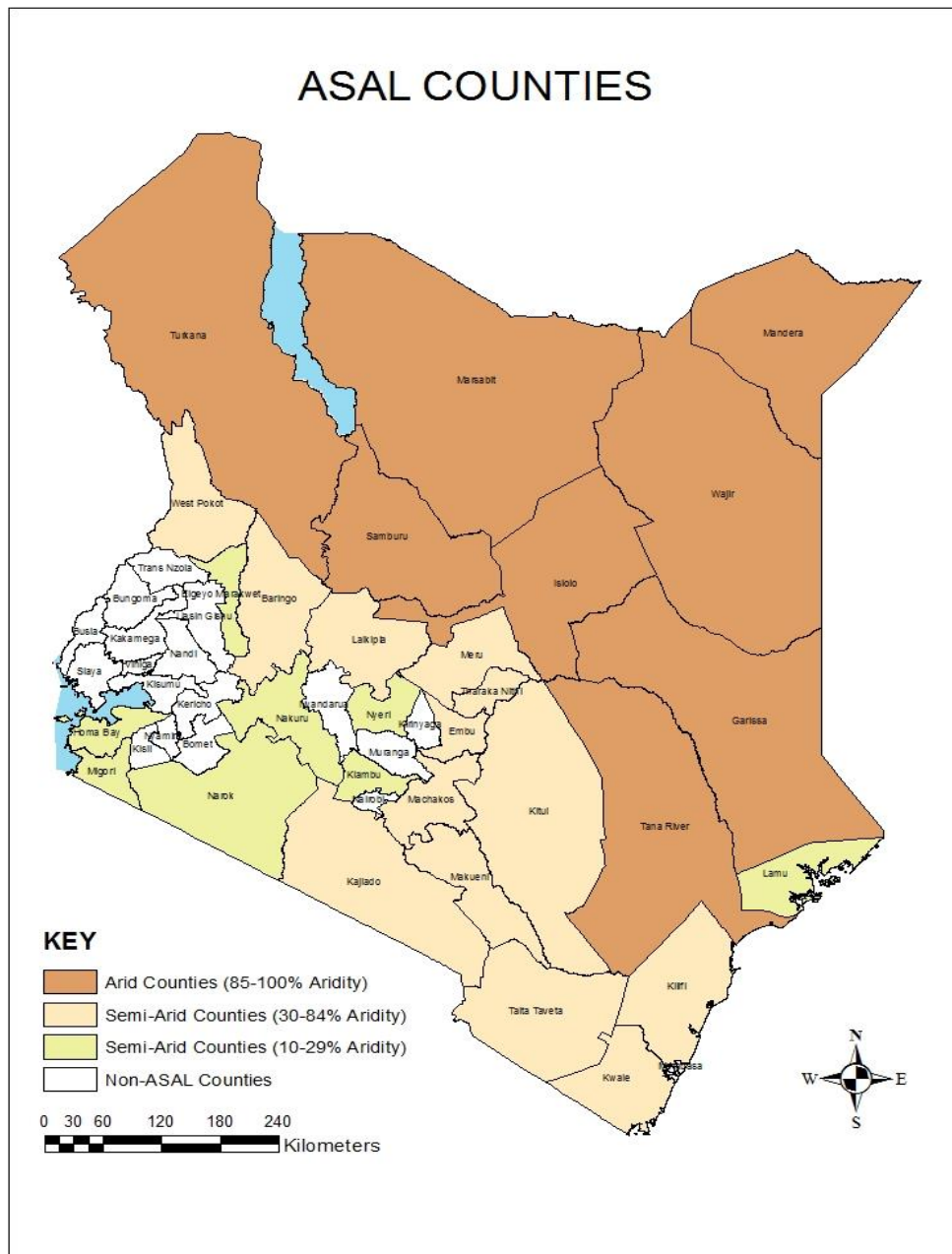
County Government of
Kajiado

CONFERENCE CONCEPT PAPER

**ASALs CONFERENCE 2019
AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK
KAJIADO COUNTY
10TH - 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019**

July 2019

Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) in Kenya



Arid & Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) Counties

ASALs Counties in Kenya refers to the following counties: *Kwale, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu, Taita Taveta, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, Marsabit, Isiolo, Kitui, Machakos, Makueni, Turkana, West Pokot, Samburu, Elgeyo Markwet, Baringo, Laikipia, Narok, Kajjado, Nyeri (kieni), Tharaka-Nithi, Embu, Meru, Migori, Homabay, Nakuru and Kiambu.*

1.0 BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The solution to unlocking untapped potential for Kenya's economic growth is reliant on consolidation and exploitation of development opportunities available in its vast Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), which constitutes 89% of the Country's land mass, have abundant natural resources, and are strategically located for regional trade among other *geo-social* advantages of the ASALs in Kenya. Thus, the Government of Kenya has continuously reviewed its development planning policy to focusing on unlocking the economic potential of these areas that were previously not considered important in the overall economic planning for development in Kenya. Evidently, this paradigm shift led to deliberate efforts towards investment in the ASALs by the Government and its partners. Further, the 2010 constitutional change that entrenched devolution has led to increased allocation of resources for development of the ASALs.

Contrary to the above-mentioned, the ASALs are still characterized by drought emergencies, poverty, insecurity and underdevelopment. While it is evident that progress has been made towards overturning the aforementioned characteristics, there is increasing need to showcase progress in the ASALs to attract the impetus required towards sustainability of the progress made so far.

The inaugural ASALs conference 2018 held in Kilifi County, therefore, brought together development agencies, partners and stakeholders who provided the path for assessment and review of the status for development of ASALs. In order to sustain the momentum of the work undertaken to improve the status of ASALs, there was a consensus that: a progress review on status for development be undertaken periodically; resource allocations to the ASALs be effectively utilized; Private sector investment be encouraged to spur further industrial growth; and the ASALs conference be institutionalized as a platform for periodic assessment of development undertakings in the ASALs.

Based on the foregoing, the State Department for Development of the ASALs in conjunction with the County Government of Kajiado have organized the ASALs Conference 2019 at the ***Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County from 10th to 12th, September 2019***. The theme of the conference this year is **'Consolidating ASALs development for posterity'**

2.0 PURPOSE

The conference is aimed at; reviewing progress made towards meeting the targets set by the stakeholders at the ASALs conference 2018 and the various development plans, validating partnership governance for development and, showcasing development and investment opportunities in the ASALs Counties.

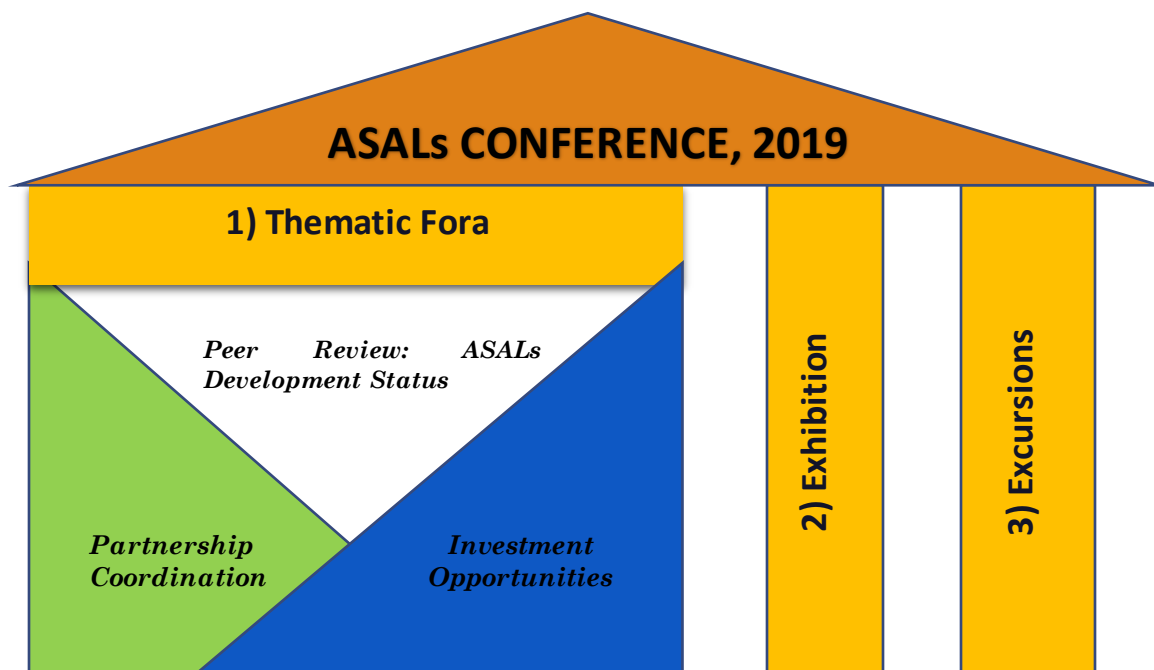
3.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the conference are to:

1. Undertake peer review with National Government, County Governments and development partners in order to ascertain the status of development in the ASALs.
2. Build consensus among partners on management and governance of partnerships for effective utilization of resources for ASALs' development.
3. Create a platform for showcasing and identifying private investments opportunities in the ASALs.
4. Display cultural heritage, diversity and natural resources conservation by ASALs communities.

4.0 ORGANISATION OF THE CONFERENCE

The ASALs Conference 2019 is organized into 3 events namely; **Thematic Fora, Exhibition and Excursions**, as illustrated in the diagram below:



4.1 THEMATIC FORA

The Conference has been organized into three (3) thematic fora to meet the expectations of development targets highlighted during the ASALs conference 2018, the Vision 2030, the Big 4 Agenda, CIDPs and other Development policies. These fora are:

- i. *Peer review; ASALs development status*
- ii. *Partnership Coordination*
- iii. *Investment opportunities*

i) Thematic Forum 1:

Theme: Peer review: ASALs Development Status

Expected outcome: The plenary outcome will lead to *Development status Report for ASALs*

Objective

- *To undertake peer review with National Government, County Governments and Development Partners in order to ascertain the status of development in ASALs.*

This is intended to be the forum for institutions responsible for development to undertake self-assessment on status and progress made so far towards achievement of the National and County development goals (the Vision 2030, big 4 agenda, CIDPs and other policies and global targets such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)...) and steps taken since the inaugural ASALs Conference 2018.

Organization of this Forum

Using guidance from the *Resolutions of the ASALs Conference 2018* and the highlight of recommendations from the conference, strategic action areas will be the basis for progress reviews on development status of the ASALs during the 2019 Conference.

Discussions in this panel are targeted to focus on development status under the following areas:

- 1) Food Security and Nutrition.
- 2) Water, and Infrastructure Development.
- 3) Value Chain development for Livestock and crop production
- 4) Health, Education & Social inclusion.
- 5) Climate change and Conflict Management.

Panelists

This forum has a high level panelist's representation that is responsible for administration of; County Governments (Governors); Ministries and State Departments (Cabinet Secretaries and Principal Secretaries); Directors of AGAs and SAGAs; CEO of NGOs; Development Partner implementation agencies.

Moderators

Moderators will be selected from eminent personalities from the media and development agencies.

Plenary discussion:

During the plenary sessions, delegates will have interactive questions with the selected panelist.

Plenary Participants

The plenary session for this forum is expected to attract a wide range of participants in decision making from the following categories of organizations:

- 1) State Departments
- 2) Autonomous Government Agencies (AGAs) and Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies(SAGAs)
- 3) County government Governors and executives
- 4) Members of the County Assemblies/Minorities and Majorities
- 5) Speakers of County Assemblies
- 6) Members of Parliament
- 7) Non-Governmental Organizations
- 8) ASALs Community Organizations
- 9) Academia and research institutions
- 10) Youth & Women organization representatives
- 11) Persons With Disabilities Organizations representatives
- 12) Opinion leaders from ASALs Counties
- 13) Pastoralist groups and Farmers in the ASALs representatives

ii) Thematic Forum 2:

Theme: *Partnership coordination*

Expected Outcome: *Draft Partnership Coordination Framework for the ASALs development developed.*

Objective

- *To build consensus among partners on management and governance of partnerships for effective utilization of resources for ASALs development*

The State Department for Development of the ASALs is responsible for Coordination of development of the ASALs. Coordinating development in ASALs requires that partners working towards development of the ASALs are brought together to consolidate development plans in order to avoid duplication, and to increase effectiveness of resources invested in these areas.

Accordingly, there is need for partners to come up with modalities for development of a Coordination mechanism. During the *ASALs Conference 2018*, stakeholders took cognizant of the need for a mechanism for coordinating development in the ASALs. Hence, this ASALs conference being a confluence of partners in development, offers the forum for consolidating the existing frameworks and validation of recommendations.

The thematic panel and plenary will therefore be focused on proposals for coordinating Partners for effective utilization of resources.

Organization of this forum

The forum will have lead expert panelist who will act as a moderator to guide discussions during the plenary session. There will be other panel presentations on coordination levels by at least 3 experts.

Panelists

The panelists will be invited experts from National Governments, County Governments Development Partners, and academia with prior developed proposal presentations on coordination.

Plenary discussion

Plenary participation will be guided by the lead expert using a method that will enable full participation of all participants in this forum.

Plenary Participants

The participants in this forum will be **Technical level** individuals from the following categories:

- Ministries and State Corporations
- County Governments
- Development Partners
- Research and Academia
- Private Sector foundations
- NGOs and Community Based Organizations
- Faith Based Organizations
- ASALs special interest groups

Moderator

The moderator for this session will be a lead expert in charge of development of the *Coordination Framework*.

iii) Thematic Forum 3:

Theme: *Investment Opportunities*

Expected Outcome:

- 1) *Private sector business to business interaction platform initiated*
- 2) *An updated investment opportunity profile for ASALs*

Objective

- *To create a platform for showcasing and identifying private investments opportunities in the ASALs*

Whereas ASALs are endowed with Vast lands, abundant mineral resources and other natural resources, industrial growth in the ASALs Counties have been minimal compared to investment opportunities that these areas have the potential to attract. The National Government, County Governments and Development Partners have over the past years invested in creating an environment that is conducive to attracting private sector investments in the ASALs. However, private sector investments have not been forthcoming to these areas. Industrial development which is a major trigger for livelihood diversification, employment opportunities and peaceful coexistence has been slow-moving.

The forum therefore creates a platform for a candid discussion between; business corporations, Individual business entrepreneurs, financial organizations, the County Governments and the National Government Departments on investment opportunities, challenges and threats to increased private investments. It is envisaged that the forum will lead to an institutionalized business to business platform that will enable sharing of opportunities of investment in the ASALs.

Organization of this forum

Panelists

The panelists in this forum will be drawn from the National Government Ministry in-Charge of Trade and the Representative of the County Governments (COG), the Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Representation from Kenya Manufacturers Association, KEPSA, and Financing Institutions.

The lead panelist will be drawn from an expert from the Ministries in charge of Trade and Industry who will profile available investment opportunities in the ASALs. Presentations to elicit plenary discussions will be made by the other identified panelists.

Moderators

Two eminent person from the media, Private sector, Development partners will be identified to moderate during the forum deliberations.

Plenary discussions

Plenary discussions will be guided by the moderator after the panelist's presentation to meet the objective of this forum. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussions as guided by the program developed for this forum.

NB: Counties will be expected to showcase and profile investment opportunities available in their areas.

Plenary Participants

The participation will attract individuals from the following relevant categories

- Business Corporations
- The Chamber of Commerce-Kenya
- State Corporations
- Selected State Departments
- County Governments
- Development Partners
- Financial institutions (Local and International)
- Small and Medium Enterprise
- Individual Entrepreneurs (Women and Youths)
- Kenya Manufacturing Association
- Cooperative Societies

4.2 EXHIBITIONS

Development partners, County governments, National Government Departments and Corporations, private sector, NGOs, CBOs and individual entrepreneurs will be given an opportunity to exhibit their services and products to participants during the conference. Exhibitions will also attract local SMEs in the ASALs to exchange business ideas with other exhibitors. Participants will have an opportunity to appreciate diverse culture, goods and services offered by exhibitors.

The following categories of exhibitors will be invited:

1. National Governments Departments and Corporations
2. County Governments
3. Development partner organizations
4. Tourism Industry
5. Communication industry
6. Manufacturing industry

7. Non-Governmental Organizations
8. Community Based Organizations
9. Faith Based Organizations
10. Individual entrepreneurs
11. Small and Medium Enterprises
12. Foundations
13. Others

Criteria for selection of exhibitors

All exhibitors will be vetted for security and conformity with the relevance of the theme. Exhibition fees will be charged on the exhibitors to cater for the costs of standard exhibition booths and tents. Information material will be given to all participants on the requirements set for exhibitors.

4.3 EXCURSIONS:

Activity: *Free game-drive in the Amboseli National Park*

Expected Outcome: *Cultural heritage and Natural resources conservation in Amboseli appreciated.*

Objective

- *To display cultural heritage, diversity and natural resources conservation by ASALs communities*

Hosting of ASALs Conference 2019 in the Amboseli National Park, Kajiado County, is an important demonstration of the ASALs communities' heritage and natural resources conservation experiences. ASALs are home to over 90% of tourism products which include beaches, national parks, game reserves, UNESCO accredited world heritage sites, lakes and authentic cultural practices.

In order to show the cultural diversity, wealth and opportunities arising from conservation of environment and natural resources in the ASALs, Kajiado County in conjunction with the Kenya Wildlife Services will take the conference guests through Amboseli Park for an exciting game-drive at appointed periods during the conference. Further information is to be issued to invited delegates.

5.0 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The diagram below is an overview of the schedule of activities during the conference:

