

PASSAGE PROJECT NEWSLETTER QUARTER 2 2026 April – June



Q2 2026 highlights

- CLARE Capacity Strengthening Hub Seasonal School in Cape Town
- Applied Earth Observation in Kenya's ASALs: RCMRD Delivers GEE and R Training in Turkana
- Stakeholder Workshop for the Turkana County Prosopis Management Plan
- Applied Key Informants' Consultations and Community Engagements
- Global Landscape Forum
- Building Community Capacity to Pilot Risk Narratives for IGAD Cluster 3

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Item 1: CLARE Capacity Strengthening Hub Seasonal School in Cape Town

On 20-24 April 2026, Ms. Maureen Nderitu (IFRC) and Ms. Angela Too (RCMRD) participated in the CLARE capacity strengthening hub seasonal school in Cape Town.

The discussions emphasized moving beyond evidence generation towards intentional impact pathways focusing on uptake, influence, and systems-level change through co-production and strategic partnerships. These insights are directly relevant to PASSAGE, particularly in strengthening how anticipatory action evidence is framed, positioned, and used across regional, national, and community levels.

From a GEI perspective, the school reinforced the need to deliberately address power, participation, and ownership within adaptation processes. For PASSAGE, this presents clear opportunities to deepen GEI integration by ensuring pastoralist women, youth, and marginalized groups meaningfully shape anticipatory action design, decision-making, and learning. Embedding these principles within stakeholder engagement, facilitation, and learning loops can help ensure PASSAGE outcomes are not only technically strong, but also equitable and transformative.



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Item 2: Applied Earth Observation in Kenya's ASALs: RCMRD Delivers GEE and R Training in Turkana



Group photo and a hands-on session demonstrating the application of Google Earth Engine (GEE) and R for environmental mapping

RCMRD, under the PASSAGE Project, conducted a five-day training on Google Earth Engine and R in Lodwar, Turkana County from 13–17 April 2026. Participants from the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), and the Turkana County Government came together for an intensive, hands-on programme designed to strengthen data-driven environmental governance in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands.

The training was built around a single applied challenge: equipping GIS officers, field ecologists, and data scientists with the tools to monitor and map environmental change on the ground. Every workflow taught from land use and land cover classification to surface water dynamics and Species Distribution Modelling was directly oriented toward monitoring *Prosopis juliflora*, the invasive species continuing to advance across the Turkana–Karamoja pastoral interface at the expense of grazing land and biodiversity. Participants left with hands-on experience in satellite image analysis, vegetation index computation, Random Forest classification, and the ability to export analysis-ready outputs for integration into operational management platforms.

What made the training significant was not only the curriculum but the institutional mix in the room. These are agencies with overlapping mandates that rarely share a technical workspace. Over five days, they shared a code editor and by the end, were already discussing joint data-sharing protocols and coordinated early warning systems. That kind of cross-institutional alignment is difficult to manufacture and valuable when it emerges organically.

There will be a follow-up training, building directly on the foundations laid in Lodwar, will deepen participants' technical capacity and push toward an operational, collaborative monitoring framework for Kenya's ASAL regions, one that is agency-owned, data-driven, and built to last.

Item 3: Stakeholder Workshop for the Turkana County Prosopis Management Plan

RCMRD participated in a stakeholder workshop, in Lodwar-Kenya, organised by the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) under the PASSAGE Project to support the development of the Turkana County Prosopis Management Plan. The workshop, held on 10 June 2026, brought together representatives from the Turkana County Government, county assembly members, sub-county administrators, chiefs, community leaders, and KEFRI and RCMRD technical teams.

The central purpose of the workshop was to validate Prosopis spatial distribution maps developed jointly by KEFRI and RCMRD using Earth Observation data and geospatial analysis. RCMRD presented the draft maps and provided technical guidance throughout the validation process. Stakeholders reviewed the outputs, confirmed the general accuracy of the mapping, and identified additional infestation hotspots and priority intervention areas. Participants also shared firsthand accounts of the impacts of Prosopis invasion on grazing lands, water access, and biodiversity, enriching the spatial analysis with local knowledge.

The workshop resulted in the successful validation of the draft maps, the collection of targeted feedback to improve their accuracy, and stronger collaboration between RCMRD, KEFRI, the Turkana County Government, and local communities. Stakeholders recommended scaling up geospatial monitoring of Prosopis spread, promoting community-based management, and

deepening coordination among county governments, research institutions, and development partners.

As next steps, RCMRD will incorporate the feedback into the spatial datasets, update the maps, and share the revised products with KEFRI for integration into the Turkana County Prosopis Management Plan. Targeted field verification activities are also planned, with KEFRI committing to provide logistical support. Given that Prosopis is already present in 22 counties across Kenya, the team will also explore opportunities to establish a long-term, multi-county monitoring framework to track the species' spread and evaluate management effectiveness.



Group photo with stakeholders and partners.



RCMRD staff demonstrating the maps



RCMRD and KEFRI teams reviewing stakeholder feedback

Item 4: Applied Key Informants' Consultations and Community Engagements

Building on earlier community engagements which focused on co-learning, dialogue and co-production of risk knowledge, ICPALD under the PASSAGE Project convened a community engagement, in Moyale cluster, to deepen the evidence base supporting locally led anticipatory action.

The exercise involved key informants' consultations on 28th April and enumerators training on 29th in Moyale town. Thereafter community engagement took place on 1-2 May in Somare and Anona at the Kenya-Ethiopia border, and on 4-5 May in Golole Kenya-Ethiopia border in Moyale.

📍 : Key informant consultations with stakeholders from Moyale cluster, to better understand various indicators used by the communities to monitor & predict climate patterns and lead times (time lapse between when the indicator is observed and the climatic event occurs).



Item 5: Global Landscape Forum



In early May, the CLARE programme co-hosted a session at Global Landscape Forum Africa 2026. Convened by the CLARE Programme with the Jambeel Observatory, the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the session explored what investments in the Horn of Africa's drylands can achieve when the starting point is an 'abundance narrative' grounded in the capacities, innovation, adaptability and entrepreneurship of pastoralists and supported by progressive policies. Thereafter, participants engaged in intensive small group discussions with seven speakers, including ICPALD, who shared and discussed their work in relation to this 'abundance' narrative.

Item 6: Building Community Capacity to Pilot Risk Narratives for IGAD Cluster 3 (Mandera, Wajir & Garissa)



The participatory piloting of community risk narratives for the Mandera Cluster was conducted under the PASSAGE Project implemented by the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), in collaboration with the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) from 8-10 April 2026.

The forum opened with remarks made on behalf of the NDMA CEO. ICPALD remarks were delivered on behalf of Dr. Dereje Wakjira, ICPALD Director, emphasizing the importance of bringing together communities, technical experts, and local authorities to co-produce impact-based advisories by integrating scientific forecasts with local knowledge to support timely anticipatory action.

The engagement brought together stakeholders from Mandera, Wajir and Garissa counties to co-produce drought risk narratives for the March–May (MAM) 2026 season. The process integrated scientific forecasts from the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) with indigenous knowledge systems to enhance the usability and uptake of early warning information at community level.

Participants comprised representatives from national and county government institutions, development partners, and community actors. Key institutions included NDMA, County Government departments, Kenya Meteorological Department, ICPALD, and community leaders, elders, women, and youth representatives.

This meeting strengthened community capacity to interpret early warning information, refine locally relevant advisories and enhance coordination for early action, which supports scaling of locally led anticipatory action (AA) and strengthens resilience across pastoral communities.

The outcomes at the conclusion of the forum were:

- Co-produced drought risk narratives for the Mandera (Somali) cluster
- Development of community-level advisories and anticipatory action plans
- Strengthened integration of scientific and indigenous knowledge systems
- Enhanced stakeholder understanding of impact-based forecasting and anticipatory action
- Improved coordination among NDMA, county governments, and community actors
- Strengthened translation of early warning information into actionable community responses.