THE PASTORALISTS INDIGENOUS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FORUM (PINGOS FORUM)

PASTORALISM SECURITY THREE YEARS AFTER MASS EVICTIONS AND LAND ANNEXATION

(A Case Study of Ololosokwan and Kirtalo)



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1. INTRODUCTION

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

The Pololeti Game Controlled Area was established in 2022 through the forceful annexation of village lands by the Government of Tanzania. Eight villages were directly annexed, resulting in the mass eviction of Maasai pastoralists under the justification of conservation. In total, the creation of the Game Controlled Area has affected 16 villages.

In the dismissed Misc. Civil Cause No. 18 of 2023, advocates representing affected communities documented that more than 96,000 people have been impacted. These communities depend entirely on access to land for grazing and watering livestock. Since the annexation, pastoralists have faced heavy fines, livestock detention, high fees imposed on livestock in the area, and in some cases the killing of animals by wildlife authorities. There are also reported instances where rangers take detained livestock outside the reserve. These practices continue despite the well-documented role of pastoralism in sustaining and protecting ecosystems. More than a dozen villages are now considered illegal within the Game Controlled Area, yet villagers were neither consulted nor compensated for the loss of their lands, as required under Tanzanian law.

Maasai communities continue to experience severe eviction and post-eviction impacts. Land that once supported climate resilience has been lost, and pastoralism, the primary livelihood system, faces serious and ongoing threats. As a result, many households are falling into extreme poverty, with limited or no alternative livelihood options. Communities are struggling to survive under growing economic and social pressure.

In early January 2026, PINGO's Forum conducted a field assessment in Ololosokwan and Kirtalo villages, which are among the most affected by land annexation. The assessment involved interviews with affected individuals, community leaders, and other residents to examine the current state of pastoralism in areas surrounding Pololeti. The findings indicate that excessive fine fees, repeated livestock detention, and auctioning practices are significantly contributing to poverty, with some community members already living in highly vulnerable conditions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

Many respondents acknowledged that land grabs have reduced climate resilience by limiting mobility, which is a key factor in pastoralists' ability to adapt to climate change. While conservation efforts are often presented as a solution, the reality on the ground is different. Livestock detention, excessive fine fees, and enforcement practices have intensified, undermining livelihoods, and communities increasingly see no viable future for pastoralism in the area.

The United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism, highlighting the global importance of protecting pastoral systems and rangeland ecosystems.

This report examines in detail the impacts of land annexation, livestock detention, and related enforcement practices, and presents key recommendations. It also responds to the lack of sustained advocacy following the land grabs and calls for accountability from the Government of Tanzania, alongside increased pressure and support from the international community.



2.CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

The establishment of the Pololeti Game Controlled Area marked a major shift in land use in Ololosokwan and Kirtalo villages. Land that had long been recognized and used as community grazing areas was reclassified into a conservation-controlled zone without the free, prior, and informed consent of the affected communities. This process involved the forceful demarcation of boundaries, restriction of access to traditional grazing lands, and the criminalization of long-standing pastoral practices. Areas that once supported seasonal mobility, drought coping, and shared resource management were suddenly placed under strict conservation enforcement.

This shift in land use has had serious consequences for pastoralist livelihoods. Restricted access to grazing areas has reduced mobility, which is central to pastoralism and climate resilience. As herders are forced to move livestock through smaller and less suitable areas, they are increasingly exposed to enforcement actions. Livestock are frequently detained when herders are accused of grazing inside restricted zones, often under disputed or unclear boundaries. To recover their animals, pastoralists are required to pay excessive fines and fees, placing heavy financial pressure on households.

In many cases, repeated livestock detention has forced families to sell part of their herds to raise money, weakening their economic base and pushing them into poverty. Children are withdrawn from school due to lack of school fees, food security has declined, and stress-related health problems are becoming more common. Women and children are particularly affected, as reduced livestock ownership limits household nutrition and income, while enforcement actions expose families to fear, violence, and trauma.

Overall, the conversion of communal grazing land into conservation-controlled areas has disrupted traditional land-use systems that sustained both livelihoods and ecosystems. Instead of supporting coexistence between conservation and pastoralism, current enforcement practices have increased vulnerability, undermined climate resilience, and deepened social and economic hardship for pastoralist communities in Ololosokwan and Kirtalo.

3. CASE STUDIES

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

The following three cases illustrate the lived experiences of pastoralist families affected by land annexation and restrictive enforcement practices around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area. While these cases highlight individual stories, they are not isolated incidents. They reflect a broader pattern of livestock detention, excessive fees, repeated financial losses, and growing insecurity faced by many households across the community. Men, women, and children are experiencing similar hardships, including loss of livelihoods, declining health, disrupted education, and deepening poverty. Together, these cases demonstrate a systemic problem affecting pastoralist communities living around Pololeti, rather than exceptional or individual circumstances.

Case 1: The Story of Ngaate Reiya, Kirtalo Village



Ngaate Reiya is a 60-year-old resident of Kirtalo (Oloilolel area), located along the border of the Pololeti Game Controlled Area. He is married to five wives and has a large family, with each wife having at least ten children. In his community, Ngaate is known as a peaceful, respected elder who lived in harmony with his neighbors and was widely regarded as an honest and responsible man.

Ngaate Reiya's Livestock Before 2022

400

CATTLE

1000

SHEEP AND GOATS

Before the establishment of the Pololeti Game Controlled Area in 2022, Ngaate was a successful pastoralist. He owned approximately 400 cattle and more than 1,000 sheep and goats. His livelihood was stable, his health was good, and his family lived without constant fear or stress. He was able to meet all household needs, including food, medical care, and school fees for his children. Life was dignified and predictable.

3. CASE STUDIES

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

Everything changed after the forced evictions and land grabs began in 2022. Since then, Ngaate's livestock has been detained on 11 separate occasions. Each incident involved excessive fines and penalties, forcing him to repeatedly sell part of his herd in order to recover other animals from detention or prevent them from being auctioned. In total, he has paid approximately TZS 123 million in fines and related costs.

Today, Ngaate owns only about 30 cattle and 150 sheep and goats. The drastic loss of livestock has pushed his family into severe financial hardship. Meeting daily household needs has become a constant struggle, and paying school fees is no longer guaranteed. As of this January, at least two of his children are uncertain whether they will be able to return to school due to financial constraints.

The impact has gone beyond economic loss. The stress of repeated livestock detention, financial pressure, and the burden of supporting a large family with very limited resources has severely affected Ngaate's health. He now suffers from high blood pressure and other stress-related conditions. His physical well-being has declined, and his overall quality of life has significantly deteriorated.

Ngaate's livestock has been detained on separate occasions.

11

He has paid approximately in fines and related costs.

123
TZS MILLION

Today, Ngaate owns only about

30
CATTLE

150
SHEEP AND GOATS

3. CASE STUDIES

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

Ngaate's story reflects the broader reality facing many pastoralist families living around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area. Once self-reliant and resilient, they are now being pushed into poverty, ill health, and uncertainty, not because of climate change alone, but due to land grabs, restrictive conservation practices, and aggressive enforcement measures that undermine pastoral livelihoods.

Case 2: The Story of Letwati Leshura, Kirtalo Village

Letwati Leshura is a 42-year-old Maasai man born and raised in Misigiyo, Kirtalo Village, on the western outskirts of the Greater Serengeti ecosystem. He comes from a humble background and started life with very little. Through hard work, determination, and years of commitment to pastoralism, he gradually built a dignified life for his family. In Maasai culture, livestock represents pride, stability, and success, and Letwati achieved this through his own effort.



Before the expansion of the Pololeti Game Controlled Area, Letwati owned approximately 200 cattle and more than 270 sheep and goats. His livelihood was secure, and he was able to support his family. However, following the establishment of the reserve, his livestock was repeatedly detained under disputed circumstances.

Letwati's Livestock Before

200 COWS

270 SHEEP AND GOATS

On the first occasion, 270 livestock were detained, and he was forced to pay TZS 8.75 million to secure their release, despite his insistence that the animals were grazing outside the reserve. Authorities claimed otherwise. The second incident required a payment of TZS 1 million to recover 10 cattle. The third incident involved TZS 3 million for 17 livestock. On subsequent occasions, he paid TZS 2 million, then TZS 3 million, and finally TZS 20 million. In several cases, payments were demanded before the livestock even reached the game gate where animals are normally held. Letwati described these payments as coercive and corrupt practices.

3. CASE STUDIES

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

After repeated detentions and excessive fees, Letwati now owns only 10 cattle and about 30 sheep and goats. He is married to two wives and has four children. The financial strain has been severe. Two of his children have stopped attending school due to lack of funds, and Letwati himself has suffered from a serious mouth-related illness for the past three years, worsened by stress and declining living conditions.

Reflecting on his experience, Letwati stated:
"The livestock I lost is small compared to what I lost because of the reserve authorities."

Letwati now owns only

10

CATTLE

30

SHEEP AND GOATS

His story reflects the broader reality for many families living around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area. Years of hard work and self-reliance have been undone, not by natural disasters or climate shocks, but by repeated livestock detention, excessive fees, and exclusionary conservation enforcement practices.

Women's Vulnerability and Gendered Impacts

Women are disproportionately affected by these enforcement practices, often facing violence, trauma, and long-term health consequences.

One of Letwati's wives, Nemuta, was harassed and beaten during the June 2022 mass eviction, when government authorities forcibly demarcated land to establish the reserve. At the time, she was three months pregnant. As a result of the harassment and physical abuse, she suffered a miscarriage.

Since that incident, Nemuta has been unable to carry a pregnancy to term and has experienced four miscarriages. The trauma, violence, and lack of medical and psychosocial support have had lasting effects on her physical and emotional health.

This case demonstrates how land grabs and aggressive conservation enforcement not only undermine pastoralist livelihoods but also expose women to violence, reproductive health risks, and long-term suffering, deepening gender inequality within already vulnerable communities.

3. CASE STUDIES

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

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Since that incident, Nemuta has never been able to carry a pregnancy to term. She has experienced four miscarriages following the eviction. The trauma, violence, and lack of medical and psychosocial support have had lasting effects on her physical and emotional health.

This case highlights how land grabs and forced conservation enforcement do not only destroy livelihoods but also expose women to violence, reproductive health risks, and long-term suffering, deepening gender inequality within already vulnerable pastoralist communities.

Case 3: The Story of Olesimanga Parmwati, Ololosokwan Village

Olesimanga Parmwati is a resident of Ololosokwan Village. Before the current land and enforcement challenges, his life was stable and dignified. He was a successful pastoralist, owning approximately 200 cattle, as well as around 400 sheep and goats. His livestock sustained his household, allowed him to educate his children, and provided food security for his family.



Olesimanga's Livestock Before

200 COWS

400 SHEEP AND GOATS

Following the establishment and enforcement of the Pololeti Game Controlled Area, Olisimanga's livestock was detained on seven separate occasions. Each time, he was required to pay fees to recover his animals from confiscation or auction. To raise this money, he was forced to sell part of his herd, which further weakened his livelihood.

3. CASE STUDIES

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

As a result of these repeated detentions and payments, Olesimanga now owns only about 30 cattle and 70 sheep and goats. In total, he has paid approximately TZS 70 million in fines and related costs. The cumulative impact has driven him into severe financial distress, leaving him effectively bankrupt.

Olesimanga is married to three wives and has 15 children. Due to financial hardship, only two of his children are currently attending school, while the rest face an uncertain future. Meeting basic household needs has become increasingly difficult.

Today, Olisimanga survives largely through the support of friends he once helped when he was more secure. Despite these hardships, he remains firm in his attachment to his land and way of life. He emphasizes that the Maasai are conservationists by tradition, living in harmony with nature and wildlife, and do not engage in hunting. As he states, there is nowhere else for his family to go, and the land they occupy is their ancestral home.

Olesimanga now owns only about

30
COWS
70
SHEEP AND GOAT

Olesimanga's story reflects the broader reality facing pastoralist communities around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area: repeated livestock confiscations, excessive financial penalties, loss of livelihoods, and growing uncertainty about the future, driven not by natural disasters, but by exclusionary conservation enforcement practices.



4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

4.1 Socio-Economic Impacts on Pastoralist Communities

Land annexation and conservation enforcement around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area have resulted in severe and widespread socio-economic impacts on pastoralist communities in Kirtalo and Ololosokwan villages. Financial records and household case studies show a consistent pattern of repeated livestock detention and excessive fine payments that are rapidly eroding pastoral livelihoods

In Kirtalo Village alone, 35 livestock owners paid a total of TZS 464,100,000 in fine fees in 2025, equivalent to approximately USD 178,500. Many individuals were required to pay fines multiple times within the same year, with some households paying up to four times. These payments were directly linked to repeated livestock detention and constant exposure to enforcement actions. For households that depend entirely on livestock, the loss of this level of financial resources has been catastrophic.



TZS 464,100,000

Equivalent to

USD 178,500

Paid as fine fees in 2025 in Kirtalo village

4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

No.	Payer Name	Clan	Times Paid (×)	Amount (TZS)
1	Namne	Kejia	×4	37,500,000
2	Sarkuni	Kandapa	×4	24,600,000
3	Letiwati	Shiran	×3	33,600,000
4	Naberu	Koipa	×1	8,400,000
5	Nesho	Sainoiru	×1	4,700,000
6	Nongoren	Yale	×2	6,500,000
7	Solio	Targes	×1	7,500,000
8	Lesalon	Kimero	×1	3,400,000
9	Krikoyo	Sabarish	×1	7,500,000
10	Sandai	Lakene	×1	5,400,000
11	Musupei	Kuyo	×3	36,500,000
12	Tootio	Naoitiko	×1	11,000,000
13	Lengariko	Ikuyo	×1	15,300,000
14	Kumoi	Orkijape	×1	9,000,000
15	Kanyinge	Koipa	×1	7,600,000
16	Merumi	Nganyayo	×1	4,900,000
17	Nongoshi	Pere	×1	15,000,000
18	Olomelok	Rotiken	×1	8,000,000
19	Swakeli	Kipilosh	×1	10,000,000

4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

Pastoralism Security Three Years After Mass Evictions and Land Annexation

20	Ndine	Kipilosh	×1	12,000,000
21	Nairosi	Yale	×1	6,000,000
22	Isitaka	Sadera	×1	4,800,000
23	Pirato	Kangil	×1	5,100,000
24	Nemonji	Soti	×1	2,700,000
25	Luka	Soti	×1	18,000,000
26	Lerupa	Karung	×2	24,700,000
27	Olokeel	Soti	×3	32,500,000
28	Kenges	Soti	×1	3,200,000
29	Sinovia	Parminat	×1	8,000,000
30	Sambarwan	Lukeine	×1	14,000,000
31	Tajewo	Mbusia	×1	11,000,000
32	Matayo	Mbusia	×1	6,800,000
33	Simlindei	Koipa	×1	7,000,000
34	Kasoe	Maliko	×1	4,000,000
35	Letura	Timan	×4	47,900,000
Total				**TZS 464,100,000**

4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

A similar situation is evident in Ololosokwan Village. Between November 2025 and early January 2026, 1,423 cattle valued at TZS 117,000,000 and 879 sheep valued at TZS 33,000,000 were detained. The total estimated value of detained livestock during this two-month period alone amounts to TZS 150,000,000, or approximately USD 57,700. Combined, losses from Kirtalo and Ololosokwan exceed TZS 614,000,000 (USD 236,000) within a short timeframe.

TZS 150,000,000

Equivalent to

USD 57,700

Paid as fine fees from Nov-Dec 2025 in Ololosokwan village

The individual cases of Ngaate Reiya, Letwati Leshura, and Olisimanga Parmwati demonstrate how these figures translate into household-level collapse. Each case shows rapid herd depletion, forced livestock sales to recover detained animals, and eventual financial ruin. These experiences are not isolated but reflect a broader reality faced by many pastoralist families in the area.

4.2 Impacts on Health and Well-Being

The economic losses caused by repeated livestock detention have directly affected the physical and mental health of pastoralist households. Chronic stress, fear of enforcement, and the inability to meet basic needs have resulted in declining health outcomes across the community.

Ngaate Reiya, once healthy and stable, now suffers from high blood pressure and other stress-related conditions after repeated livestock detention and financial pressure. Letwati Leshura has experienced a serious mouth-related illness for more than three years, worsened by stress and limited access to healthcare due to declining income. Olisimanga Parmwati faces ongoing psychological and physical strain, relying on external support to survive.

As livestock numbers decline, households lose their capacity to access healthcare, maintain adequate nutrition, and live without constant anxiety. Stress-related illnesses, chronic conditions, and deteriorating physical well-being are increasingly common among men who bear responsibility for supporting large families with shrinking resources.

4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

4.3 Gendered Impacts and Women's Vulnerability

Women are disproportionately affected by land annexation and conservation enforcement practices. Economic decline within households increases women's caregiving burdens while reducing access to food, healthcare, and maternal services. In addition, women are exposed to direct violence and trauma during evictions and enforcement operations.

The experience of Nemuta, one of Letwati Leshura's wives, illustrates these gendered impacts. During the June 2022 mass eviction, she was harassed and beaten while three months pregnant, resulting in a miscarriage. Since that incident, she has suffered four additional miscarriages and has been unable to carry a pregnancy to term. The violence, trauma, and lack of medical and psychosocial support have caused long-term physical and emotional harm.

This case reflects a broader pattern in which women face heightened risks of violence, reproductive health complications, and psychological trauma, deepening gender inequality within already vulnerable pastoralist communities.

4.4 Impacts on Children and Education

The loss of livestock and household income has had immediate and lasting effects on children's education. In all three documented cases, children have been withdrawn from school due to inability to pay school fees. Ngaate Reiya faces uncertainty about whether some of his children can return to school. Letwati Leshura has already withdrawn two children from school, while Olesimanga Parmwati can afford to educate only two out of his fifteen children.

Disrupted education increases the risk of long-term poverty and social exclusion. Girls are particularly vulnerable, as economic hardship often leads to permanent school dropout. The loss of education undermines future opportunities and weakens the long-term resilience of the community.

4.5 Overall Community and Climate Resilience Impacts

Pastoralism relies on mobility as a key strategy for managing climate variability, drought, and ecosystem balance. Land annexation and restricted access to grazing areas have severely limited this mobility, while repeated livestock detention has rapidly reduced herd sizes. Instead of supporting conservation and climate resilience, current enforcement practices are increasing vulnerability, dependency, and long-term insecurity.

4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

Taken together, the financial data and household cases reveal a systemic pattern of harm rather than isolated enforcement actions. Excessive fines, repeated livestock detention, declining health, gender-based violence, and disrupted education are collectively dismantling pastoralist livelihoods. In a context where pastoralism is the only viable livelihood, these impacts represent an existential threat to the survival, dignity, and future of pastoralist communities around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area.

4.6 Why These Impacts Persist: Strategic Grazing Areas and Disputed Enforcement

Despite the severe economic, health, and social impacts documented above, livestock detention and excessive fines continue to occur because the areas surrounding the Pololeti Game Controlled Area are strategically critical to Maasai pastoralism. Historically, these lands have served as essential dry-season and drought-reserve grazing zones. During periods of drought, pastoralists traditionally move livestock into these areas to access pasture and water when other grazing lands are depleted. This seasonal mobility is a core element of pastoralist land management and climate resilience.

The annexation and restriction of these grazing zones have placed pastoralists in an impossible position. When drought conditions intensify and alternative grazing options are limited or inaccessible, herders are forced to move livestock closer to or across disputed boundaries in order to keep animals alive. As a result, livestock detention becomes frequent, particularly during dry seasons when grazing pressure is highest. Rather than recognizing the ecological and livelihood importance of these movements, current enforcement practices treat them as violations.

Community members also report that livestock are sometimes detained while grazing outside the officially designated reserve boundaries. In such cases, rangers allegedly claim that the animals were inside the protected area, even when herders dispute these claims. The lack of clear boundary demarcation, limited transparency in enforcement, and absence of independent verification mechanisms contribute to repeated disputes and undermine trust between communities and authorities.

These dynamics help explain why detention and fines persist despite widespread harm. The strategic importance of the area for grazing, combined with restricted access to alternative lands, creates constant interaction between pastoralists and enforcement authorities. Without recognition of pastoral mobility, clear and jointly agreed boundaries, and fair enforcement practices, livestock detention becomes routine rather than exceptional.

4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

These dynamics help explain why detention and fines persist despite widespread harm. The strategic importance of the area for grazing, combined with restricted access to alternative lands, creates constant interaction between pastoralists and enforcement authorities. Without recognition of pastoral mobility, clear and jointly agreed boundaries, and fair enforcement practices, livestock detention becomes routine rather than exceptional.

In effect, the continued enforcement of restrictive conservation measures in a critical drought-grazing zone transforms a traditional climate adaptation strategy into a source of punishment and impoverishment. This reinforces a cycle in which pastoralists are forced into the same areas to survive, only to face repeated detention, fines, and livelihood losses. Until these structural issues are addressed, the impacts documented in this report are likely to continue.

4.7 Lack of Alternative Livelihoods and the Threat to Maasai Survival

The impacts described in this report are intensified by the fact that pastoralist communities around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area have no viable alternative livelihood options. Pastoralism is not one economic activity among many; it is the primary and, in most cases, the only means of survival. Livestock provide food, income, education, healthcare, and social security. When livestock are repeatedly detained or lost through excessive fines, households are left with no realistic pathway to recovery.

Unlike urban or mixed-economy communities, Maasai pastoralists cannot easily shift into farming, wage labor, or business activities. The forced loss of livestock therefore translates directly into hunger, school dropout, ill health, and long-term dependency. The cases documented in this report show that families who once lived with dignity and self-reliance are now relying on relatives or friends for survival.

Beyond economic hardship, the erosion of pastoralism represents a deeper threat to Maasai identity and social systems. Pastoralism is central to Maasai culture, knowledge systems, and environmental stewardship. The loss of livestock undermines traditional support networks, leadership structures, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. As herds disappear, so too does the community's ability to maintain its way of life.

4. ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS

Community members consistently express fear that current conservation practices are not only removing their livelihoods but slowly dismantling the social foundations of Maasai society. When pastoralism becomes impossible, families are forced into displacement, dependency, or marginal survival, with no clear alternatives. In this context, land annexation and aggressive enforcement are experienced not simply as economic pressure, but as an existential threat to the survival of the Maasai as a people in this landscape.

Unless conservation approaches are restructured to recognise pastoralism as a legitimate and sustainable livelihood, the continued loss of livestock in a community with no alternatives will lead to irreversible social, cultural, and economic damage.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Strengthen Advocacy on Post-Eviction Impacts (PINGO's Forum)

PINGO's Forum should prioritize sustained advocacy that focuses on the post-eviction and post-annexation impacts experienced by pastoralist communities since 2022. While earlier advocacy largely addressed land grabs and mass evictions, there has been limited attention to the ongoing impacts communities have lived with for more than three years, including repeated livestock detention, excessive fines, declining health, school dropouts, and deepening poverty. Evidence from cases such as Ngaate Reiya, Letwati Leshura, and Olisimanga Parmwati shows that the situation has evolved into a long-term livelihood and humanitarian crisis. Advocacy efforts should explicitly raise concerns about the future of pastoralism in the area and the survival of pastoralist communities.

5.2 Provide Humanitarian and Emergency Livelihood Support

There is an urgent need for humanitarian support for households that have already lost most of their livestock and are facing extreme hardship. Individuals such as Ngaate Reiya and others in similar conditions require immediate assistance, including food support, access to healthcare, psychosocial support, and emergency education assistance for children at risk of dropping out of school. Humanitarian responses should be designed in a way that respects pastoralist dignity and supports recovery rather than dependency.

5.3 Expand Studies and Documentation to All Affected Villages

This assessment covered Ololosokwan and Kirtalo villages, yet the formation of the Pololeti Game Controlled Area has affected 16 villages in total. Further studies should be conducted in the remaining 14 affected villages to document the full scale of impacts, including livestock detention, financial losses, health outcomes, gender-based impacts, and education disruptions. Expanding this documentation would strengthen advocacy, provide a more comprehensive evidence base, and support coordinated action at district, national, and international levels.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.4 Policy Engagement and Government Accountability

There is a need for structured engagement with the Government of Tanzania and relevant authorities to review conservation policies and enforcement practices in and around the Pololeti Game Controlled Area. This should include calls for transparency in livestock detention procedures, fair and proportionate fine structures, clear boundary demarcation, and accountability for disputed or abusive enforcement actions.

5.5 Address Health, Gender, and Education Impacts

Targeted interventions are needed to address the health and social consequences of livestock loss. This includes support for stress-related illnesses, maternal and reproductive health services for women affected by violence and trauma, psychosocial support, and emergency education support for children who have dropped out of school due to financial hardship.

5.6 Leverage the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism (IYR 2026)

The declaration of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism presents a critical opportunity to elevate the situation of pastoralist communities affected by land annexation and restrictive conservation practices. PINGO's Forum and partners should use IYR 2026 as a platform to advocate for pastoralism as a sustainable livelihood, a climate-resilient land-use system, and a key contributor to conservation.

5.7 Role of Civil Society, Donors, and International Partners

Civil society organizations, donors, and international partners can support these communities by funding humanitarian assistance, supporting expanded research and documentation across all affected villages, strengthening advocacy initiatives, and promoting inclusive conservation approaches that recognize pastoralists as environmental stewards rather than threats.

6. CONCLUSION

This report has documented the profound and ongoing impacts of land annexation and conservation enforcement on pastoralist communities in Ololosokwan and Kirtalo. Through community data and household case studies, it shows how repeated livestock detention, excessive fines, restricted mobility, and aggressive enforcement practices have led to widespread poverty, declining health, gender-based harm, disrupted education, and weakened climate resilience.

These impacts are not historical; they are current and cumulative. Three years after the 2022 evictions, communities continue to live with the consequences, yet their experiences remain largely absent from policy and advocacy discussions. For communities with no alternative livelihoods beyond pastoralism, the continued erosion of livestock represents an existential threat to their survival, dignity, and cultural identity.

Addressing these challenges requires renewed advocacy, accountability, and inclusive approaches to conservation that recognize pastoralism as a legitimate and sustainable livelihood. As the world approaches the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism in 2026, there is an urgent opportunity to rethink conservation practices and ensure that pastoralist voices, rights, and realities are placed at the center of decision-making. Readers, policymakers, and partners are encouraged to consider concrete steps to support these communities and prevent further harm.