



Adaptation and/or Mitigation in Africa's Livestock Systems?

10 November 2022, COP 27

Livestock transitions: Global options and
local realities for adaptation and mitigation

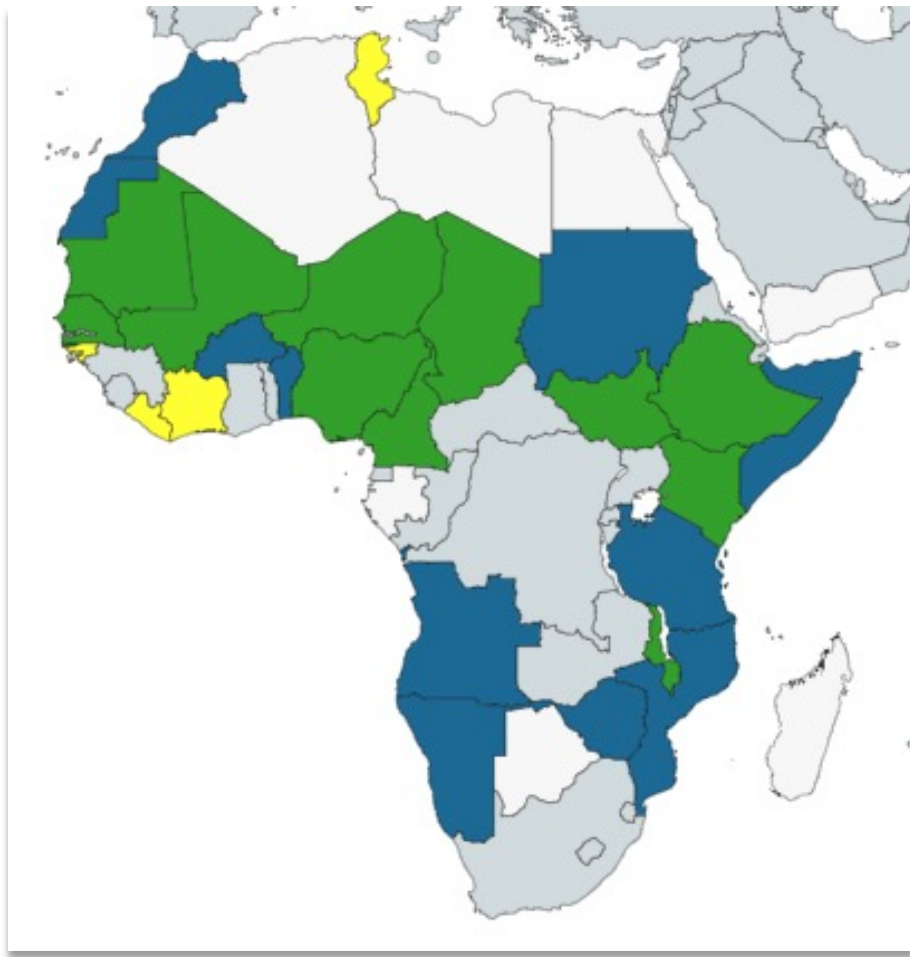
Todd Crane, PhD

Principle Scientist

Sustainable Livestock Systems

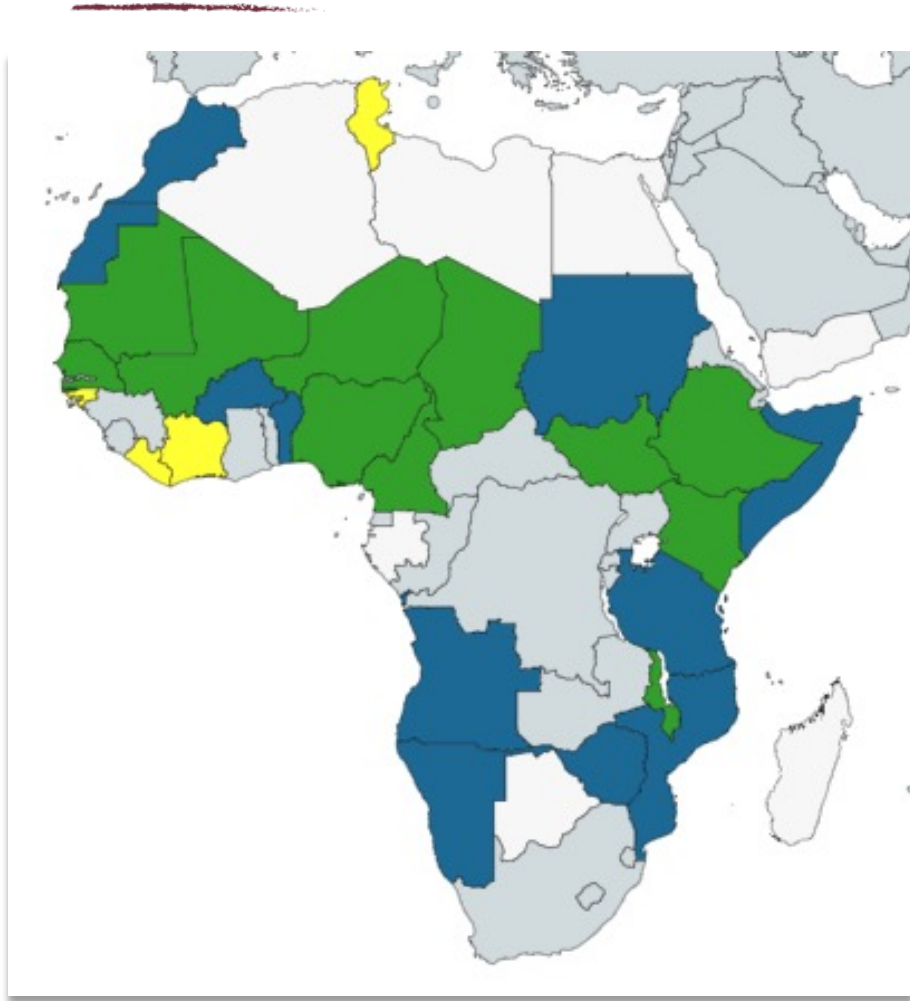
International Livestock Research Institute

35 African Countries Include Livestock in NDCs



- 5: **Mitigation** measures only
- 14: **Adaptation** measures only
- 16: **Adaptation & mitigation** measures

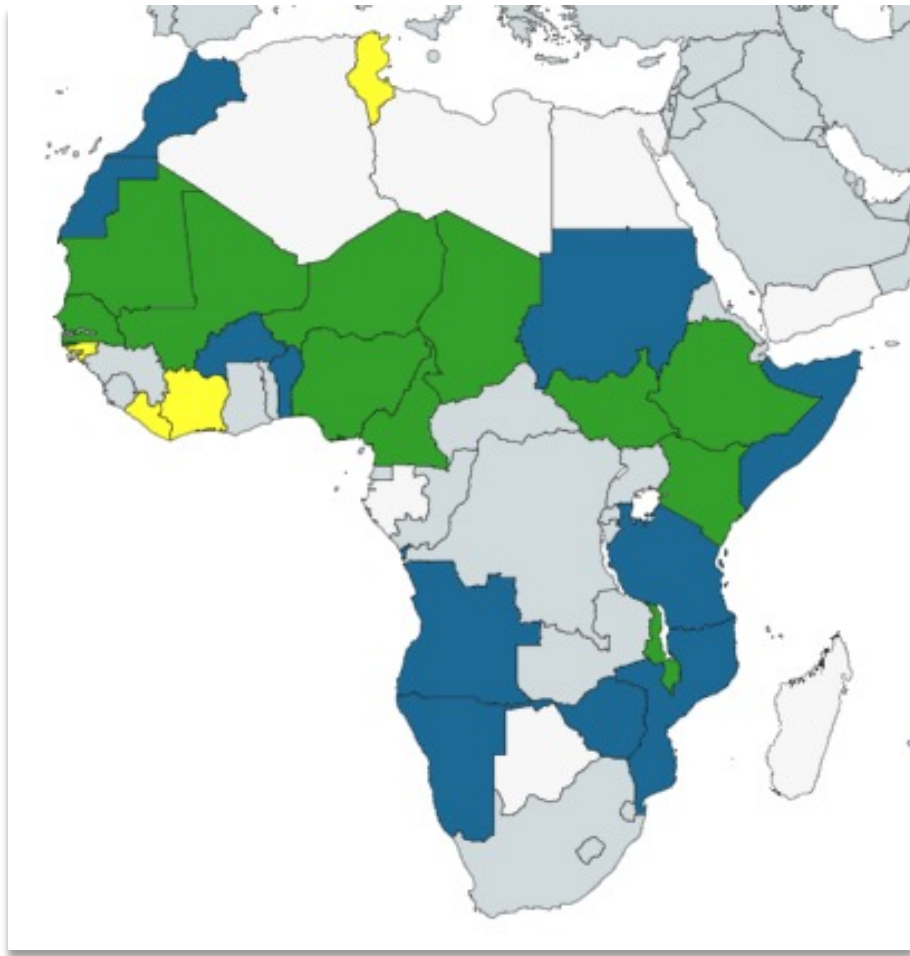
35 African Countries Include Livestock in NDCs



- 5: **Mitigation** measures only
- 14: **Adaptation** measures only
- 16: **Adaptation & mitigation** measures

International investment
in African livestock sectors often
leads with mitigation.

35 African Countries Include Livestock in NDCs



- 5: **Mitigation** measures only
- 14: **Adaptation** measures only
- 16: **Adaptation & mitigation** measures

However, producers and policymakers across Africa typically prioritize adaptation, as well they should.

Climate Adaptation in African Livestock Systems

Climate adaptation innovators

- Adaptation must respond to many drivers, climate and non-climate
- Adaptations that are already embedded within livelihoods have greater probability of success
- Research can backstop local adaptation innovations to improve them and to help cover blind spots



Said Bahine Ali, Hida, Afar, Ethiopia



Field day of Robert Bii, Sotik, Bomet, Kenya

Adaptation Innovators

- “Positive deviance” approach adapted from from public health
- Participatory Adaptation Analysis
 - Listen to innovators
 - Collect data jointly or by innovators themselves
 - Give data back to them in reports
 - Organize F2F field days facilitated by innovators
 - Demand oriented trainings
 - Exchange adaptation knowledge through F2F networks



Phoebe Katongore, Dairy Farmer in Kirahura, Uganda

Adaptation Practices

- Intensive sheep fattening (ET highlands)
- Shift in herd composition towards more small ruminants (ET lowlands)
- Water harvesting and management methods (Southwest UG)
- Feed storage and preservation, diversified fodder crops (KE highlands)
- Breeding for resilience & productivity (KE lowlands)



Reagan Siamito, Field Assistant during field day in Kajiado, Kenya

Recommendations

Approach adaptation:

1. from producers' perspectives,
2. embedded within wider systemic transformations in rural livelihoods,
3. with producers as research partners with important roles in data collection & interpretation,
4. and producers as central agents of change in scaling through farmer-to-farmer extension.



Conclusions


- Climate investment in African livestock systems should focus adaptation and food security
 - Mitigation should be approached primarily as a co-benefit
- Producer-led climate change adaptation as
 - local innovation,
 - embedded in livelihoods and social fabric,
 - interacting with non-climate drivers,
 - improvable by research support



Thank you!

ILRI
INTERNATIONAL
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is a non-profit institution helping people in low- and middle-income countries to improve their lives, livelihoods and lands through the animals that remain the backbone of small-scale agriculture and enterprise across the developing world. ILRI belongs to CGIAR, a global research-for-development partnership working for a food-secure future. ILRI's funders, through the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#), and its many partners make ILRI's work possible and its mission a reality. Australian animal scientist and Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty serves as ILRI's patron. You are free to use and share this material under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence .

*better lives
through
livestock*

ilri.org