Pathways for Implementing Livestock NDC Commitment in Africa

28 May 2026
Virtual Webinar

UNOPS

Global Climate Action Partnership
regional leadership, global change

African Climate Action Partnership
Partnering on climate action in Africa

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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Agenda

Agenda Item
Welcome & Introductions – AfCAP Secretariat
Opening Remarks – Katrin Lichtenberg , UNOPS
Overview: The status of livestock measures in African NDCs - Roy Bouwer, AfCAP Lead
How national policy frameworks can support effective NDC implementation - Aimable Uwizeye, FAO
Q&A Session - AfCAP Secretariat
Closing – AfCAP Secretariat

Welcome Remarks

Katrin Lichtenberg, UNOPS

Climate-Smart Livestock in Africa: Current State of Ambition

Roy Bouwer, AfCAP Lead

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Climate-Smart Livestock in Africa

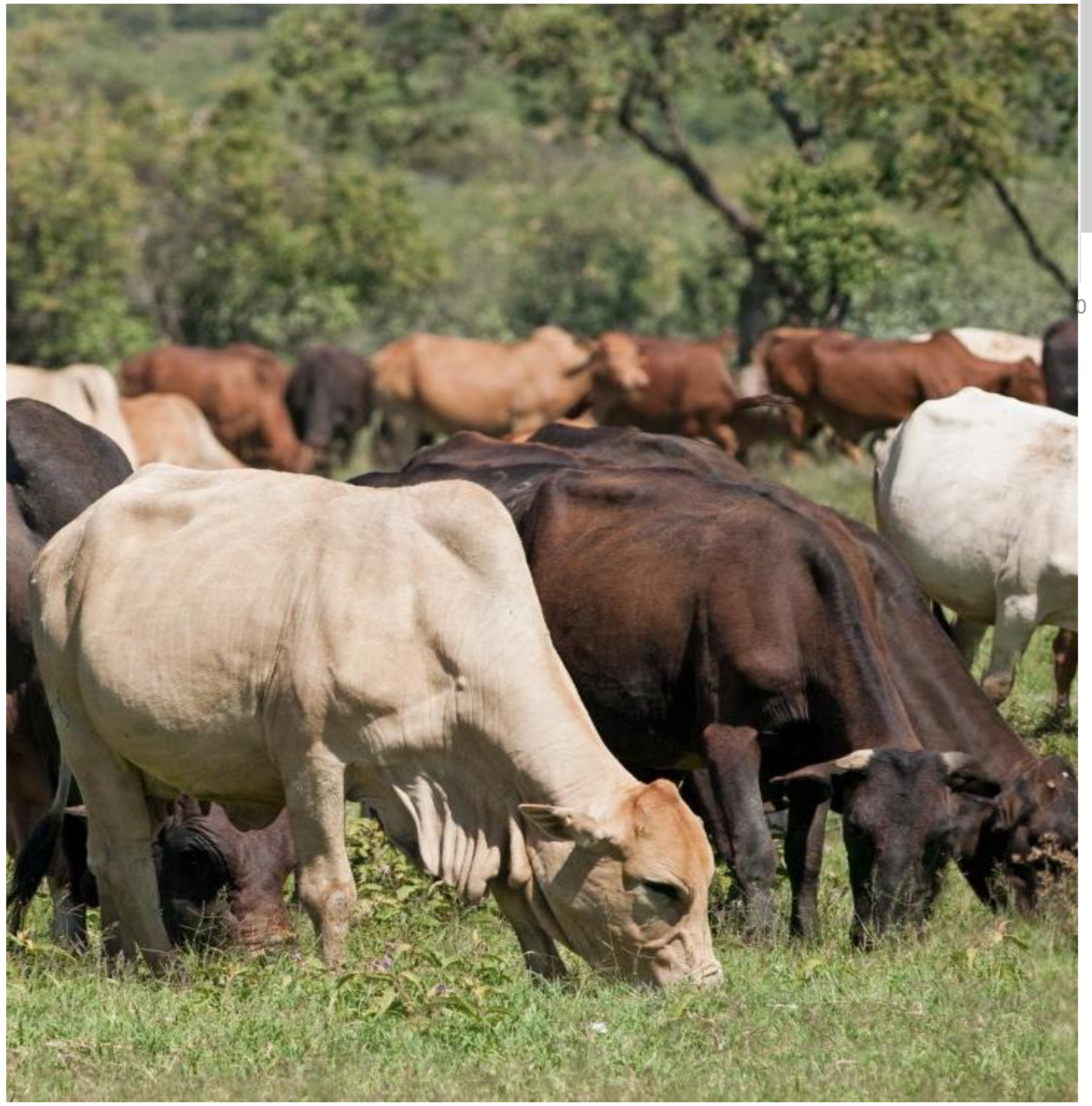
Livestock and Food Security
Livestock supports millions in Africa, providing food security, income, and social safety net in pastoral communities.

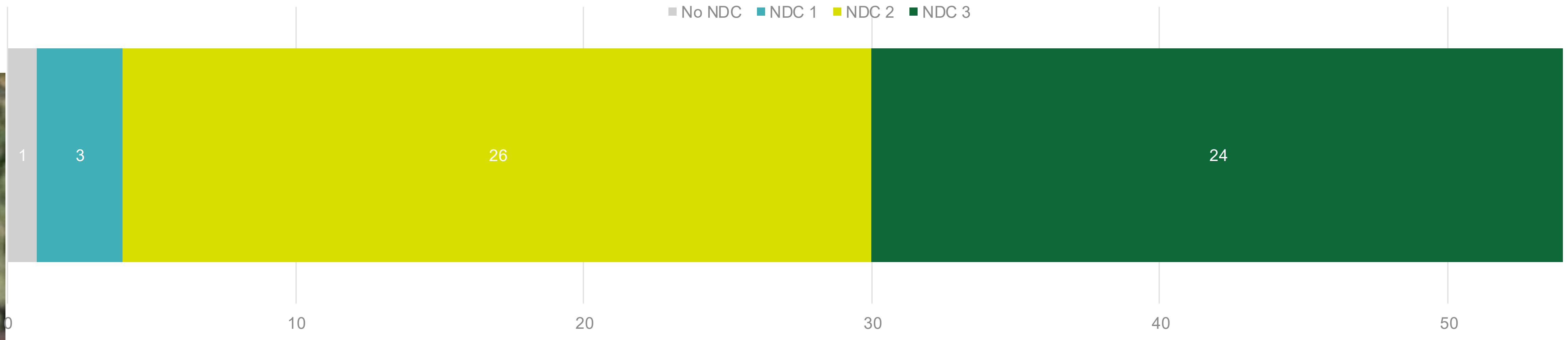
Climate Vulnerability of Livestock
Rising temperatures and land degradation reduce livestock productivity and increase animal health risks.

Livestock Emissions Challenge
Livestock contributes methane emissions, mainly from enteric fermentation and manure management.

Climate-Smart Livestock Approaches
Focus on improving efficiency and resilience to reduce emissions intensity and strengthen adaptive capacity.

Growing NDC Visibility of Livestock



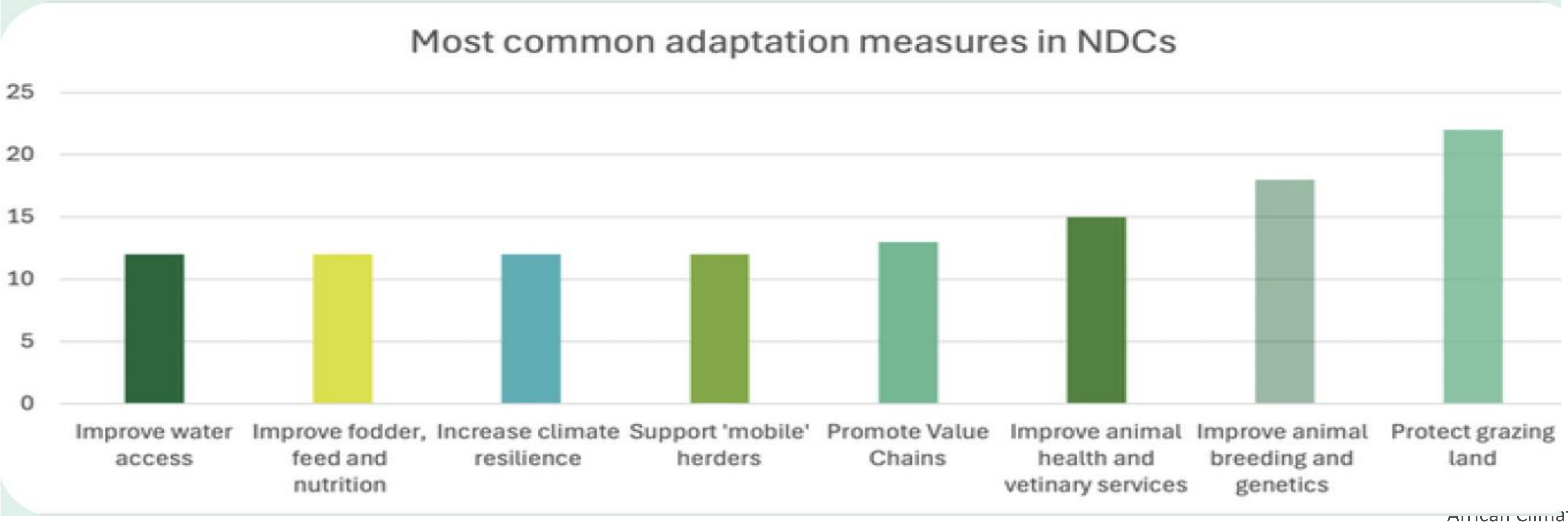


- Most NDCs include recognition of vulnerability and some level of livestock measures.
- Livestock has moved firmly onto Africa's climate agenda, setting a foundation for ambitious climate action.

Adaptation Ambition and Its Limitations

Adaptation Measures

- 44 countries include adaptation measures specific to livestock
- 177 distinct measures in total across all NDCs
- Adaptation measures range from interventions for productivity and management interventions to farmer livelihoods and broader services (e.g. climate service, extension services, veterinary services)



Strong Adaptation Focus, Weak Specificity

Broad and Generic Adaptation: Many African NDC adaptation measures are broad, lacking clear links to specific climate hazards.

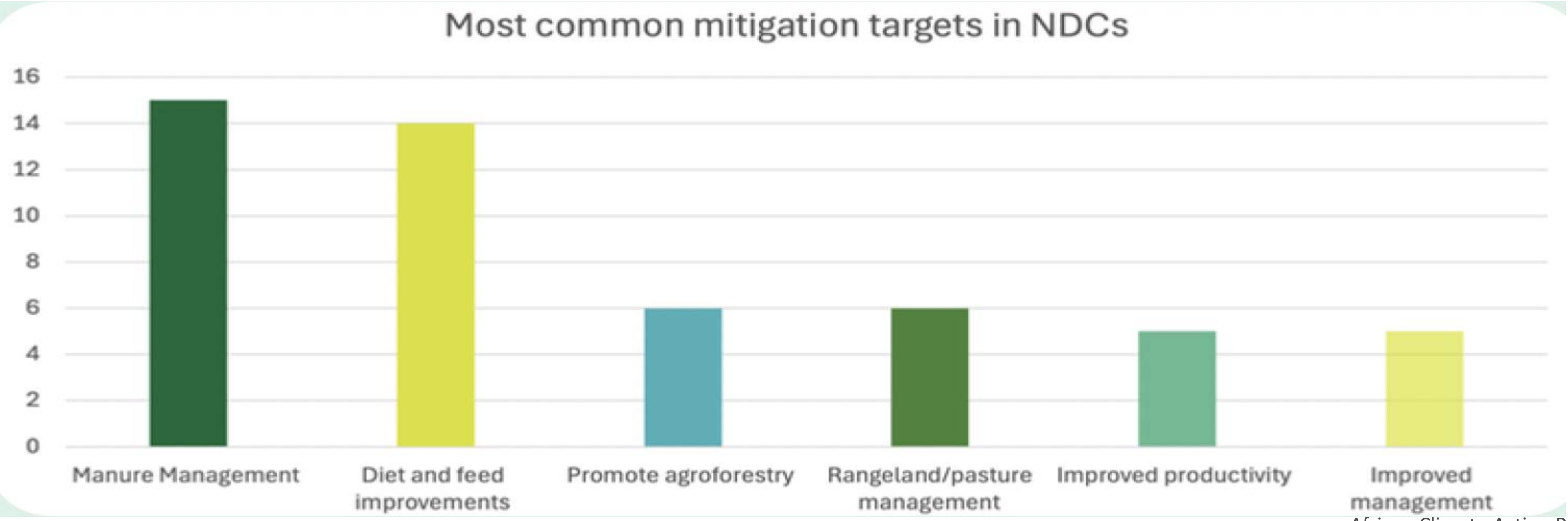
Lack of Measurable Indicators: Few adaptation actions include measurable indicators or timelines, hindering progress tracking.

Need for Targeted Planning: shift needed toward risk-informed, measurable adaptation to improve implementation and financing.

Mitigation Ambition and its limitations

Mitigation Measures

- 33 countries include mitigation measures for livestock in their NDCs
- 16 countries quantify their potential emission reductions for livestock measures
- Overlap of mitigation and adaptation measures highlight co-benefits



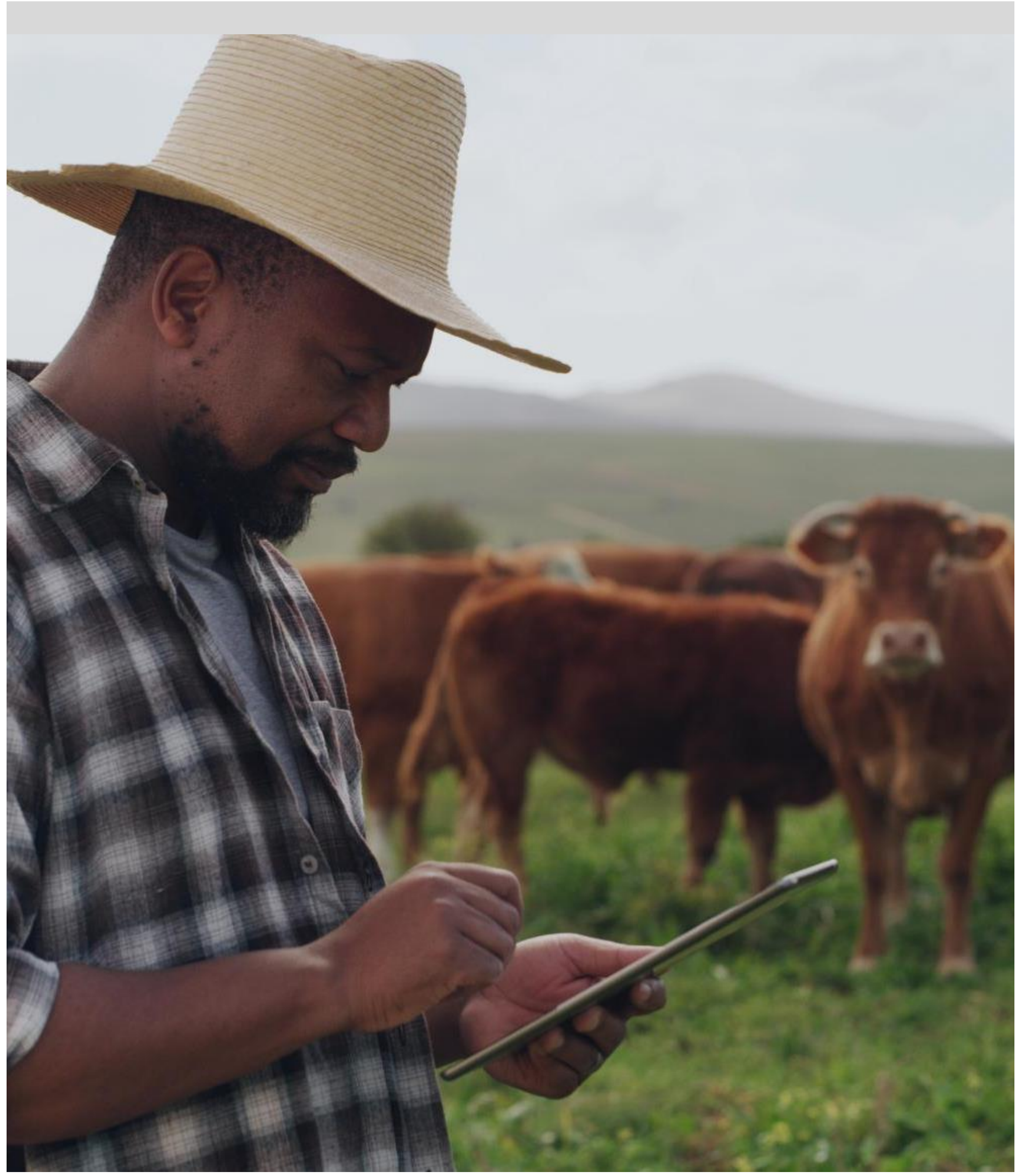
Why Data Systems Matter for Ambition

Limitations of Tier 1 Methods: Tier 1 inventory methods rely on generalized emission factors and fail to capture productivity improvements in livestock.

Benefits of Tier 2 Systems: Tier 2 inventory systems use detailed data to better reflect feed, animal health, and grazing impacts on emissions.

Role of MRV Frameworks: Stronger Measurement, Reporting, and Verification frameworks improve credibility and support climate finance for livestock mitigation.

Importance for Climate Investment: Enhanced data systems enable demonstration of results, encouraging scaled investments in sustainable livestock practices.



From Targets to Investable Actions

- Most livestock-related climate actions lack clarity on financing sources, limiting funder engagement.

- Climate finance favors energy mitigation, while agriculture and livestock remain underfunded in Africa.

- Bridging funding gaps requires clearer pathways, stronger evidence, and alignment between targets and finance.

From Recognition to Delivery

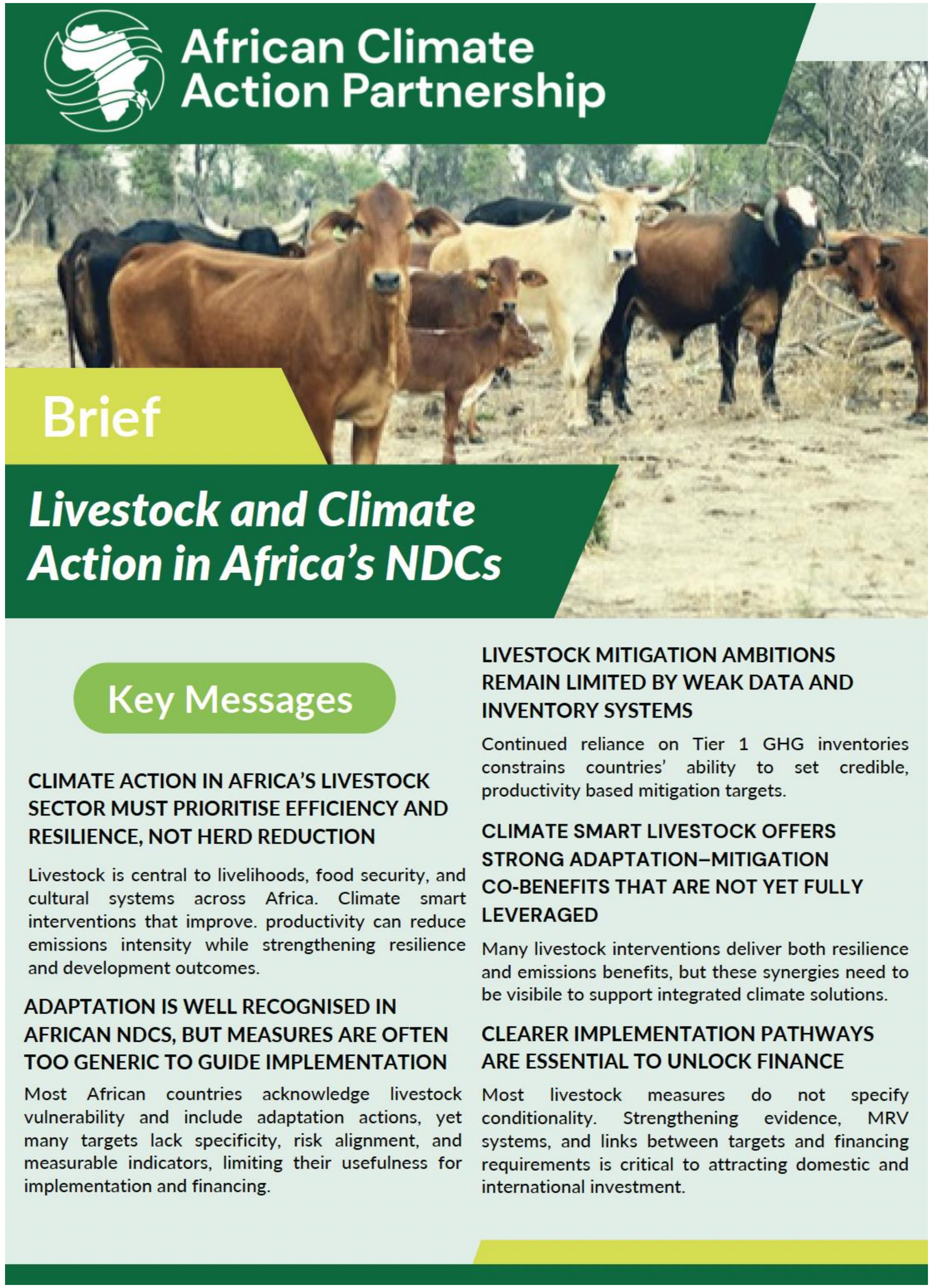
- African countries acknowledge livestock's key role in climate adaptation strategies and sustainable development goals.
- Current ambitions lack specific, measurable, and financed actions to effectively address climate-smart livestock systems.
- Strengthening data systems, recognizing co-benefits, and linking finance are essential for operationalizing livestock climate solutions.

recognition → implementation
broad ambition → investable actions

NEW RESOURCE AVAILABLE

SCAN ME

Download here


African Climate Action Partnership

Brief

Livestock and Climate Action in Africa's NDCs

Key Messages

CLIMATE ACTION IN AFRICA'S LIVESTOCK SECTOR MUST PRIORITISE EFFICIENCY AND RESILIENCE, NOT HERD REDUCTION

Livestock is central to livelihoods, food security, and cultural systems across Africa. Climate smart interventions that improve. productivity can reduce emissions intensity while strengthening resilience and development outcomes.

ADAPTATION IS WELL RECOGNISED IN AFRICAN NDCS, BUT MEASURES ARE OFTEN TOO GENERIC TO GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION

Most African countries acknowledge livestock vulnerability and include adaptation actions, yet many targets lack specificity, risk alignment, and measurable indicators, limiting their usefulness for implementation and financing.

LIVESTOCK MITIGATION AMBITIONS REMAIN LIMITED BY WEAK DATA AND INVENTORY SYSTEMS

Continued reliance on Tier 1 GHG inventories constrains countries' ability to set credible, productivity based mitigation targets.

CLIMATE SMART LIVESTOCK OFFERS STRONG ADAPTATION–MITIGATION CO-BENEFITS THAT ARE NOT YET FULLY LEVERAGED

Many livestock interventions deliver both resilience and emissions benefits, but these synergies need to be visibile to support integrated climate solutions.

CLEARER IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS ARE ESSENTIAL TO UNLOCK FINANCE

Most livestock measures do not specify conditionality. Strengthening evidence, MRV systems, and links between targets and financing requirements is critical to attracting domestic and international investment.

Thank you

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How national policy frameworks can support effective NDC implementation

Aimable Uwizeye, DVM, MSc, PhD
Livestock Policy Officer
Lead Livestock, Environment and Climate Cluster
Animal Production and Health Division

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Outline

1 Pathways to integrate livestock-related interventions into NDCs

2 Identified challenges for integrating livestock and agrifood systems in NDCs

3 FAO’s work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments

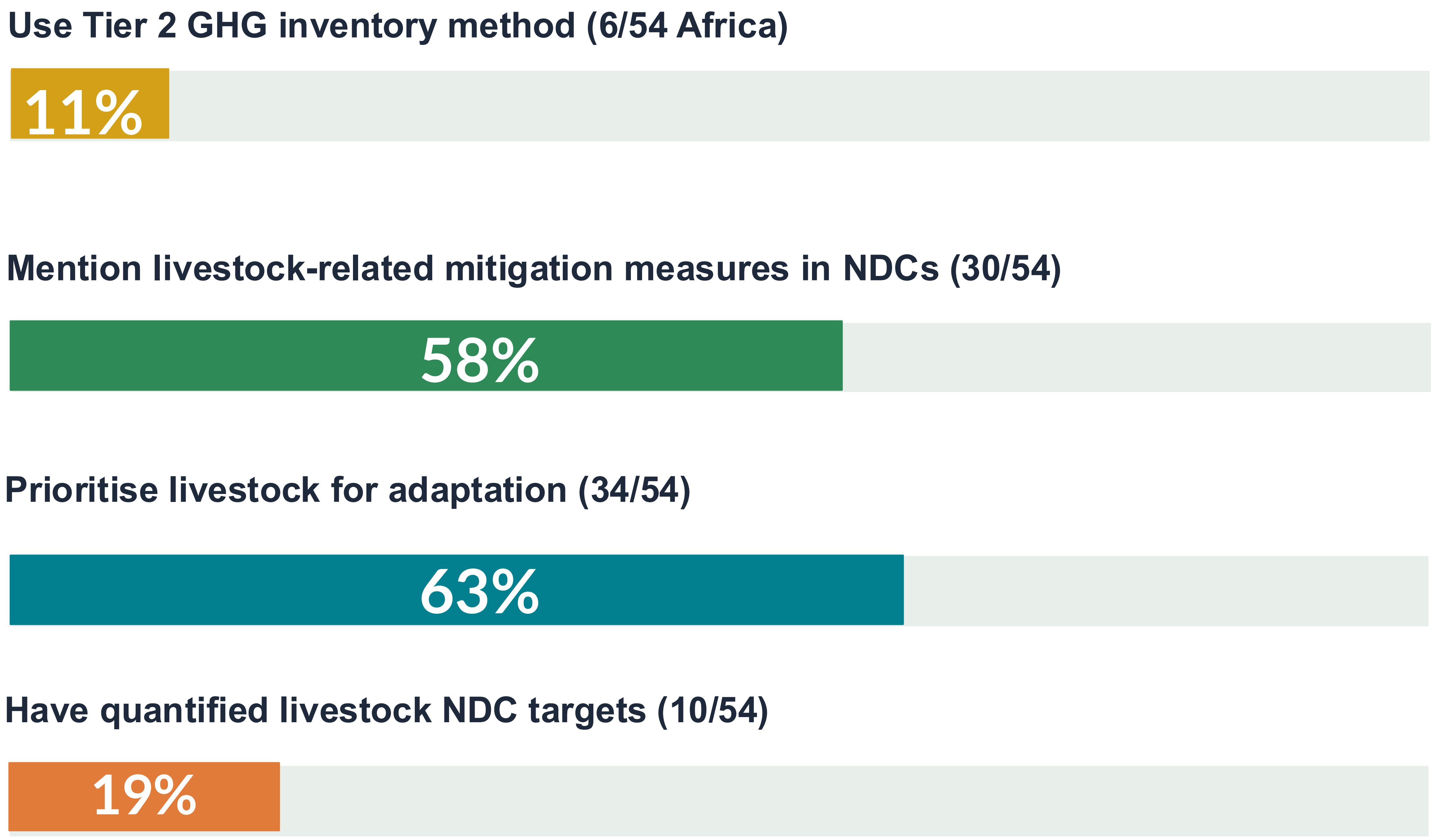
Five pathways to integrate livestock-related interventions into NDCs

01	02	03	04	05
Bridging the GHG emissions inventory and intervention gap	Designing credible NDC implementatio n plans	Prioritizing livestock-related Mitigation measures	Prioritizing livestock-related adaptation measures	Unlocking climate finance

01

Bridging the GHG emissions inventory and intervention gap

What is the status of livestock-related NDC intervention in Africa?



63% of African countries mention livestock in NDCs, but only 19% have quantified targets and just 11% use Tier 2 methods.

Sources: Dittmer et al. 2024 (CCAFS/CGIAR NDC database), FAO (NDC data base)

02

Designing credible NDC implementation plans

What is the status of livestock-related NDC intervention in Africa?

Institutional arrangement and policy alignment

Inter-ministerial coordination & dedicated NDC focal points. Most

African countries are still building this foundation.

Lack of robust MRV Systems

Need for reliable activity data, use of Tier 2 approach of IPCC guidelines, and robust monitoring, reporting & verification are essential to the credibility of NDCs.

Conditional Finance Trap

80% of African NDC targets are conditional on external support (AfDB, 2025). Stronger policy frameworks can unlock the required support.

Sources: CGIAR, 2021; AfDB Flagship Climate Initiatives 2025; NDC Partnership 2024

03

Prioritizing livestock-related Mitigation measures

✓ Feed management (33%) & Manure (26%) lead globally: high uptake, already embedded in agricultural extension systems

✓ Silvopastoralism (24%): growing as mitigation + adaptation co-benefit

✓ Livestock in Africa produce 18% of global livestock CH4 (mainly enteric): priorities should be for measures which reduces enteric CH4

! Breed management (15%) and herd composition management: policy design gap

Sources: FAO, 2026 (data base), Dittmer et al. 2024 / CCAFS NDC database (2020-2024); UNEP 2025 (livestock CH4); Frontiers Soil Science 2022 (Africa GHG share); Frontiers Animal Sci. 2026

04

Prioritizing livestock-related adaptation measures

✓ Animal health (33%) & breed management (31%) lead globally: high uptake, the risks of livestock diseases, needs for climate-resilient breeds

✓ Feed management (29%) & Silvopastoralism (23%): drought-resilient fodder systems, growing as mitigation + adaptation co-benefit

✓ Livestock insurance (15%), but not widely considered

05

Unlocking Climate Finance Through Policy Alignment

$2.8T

needed by Africa 2020-2030 for NDCs

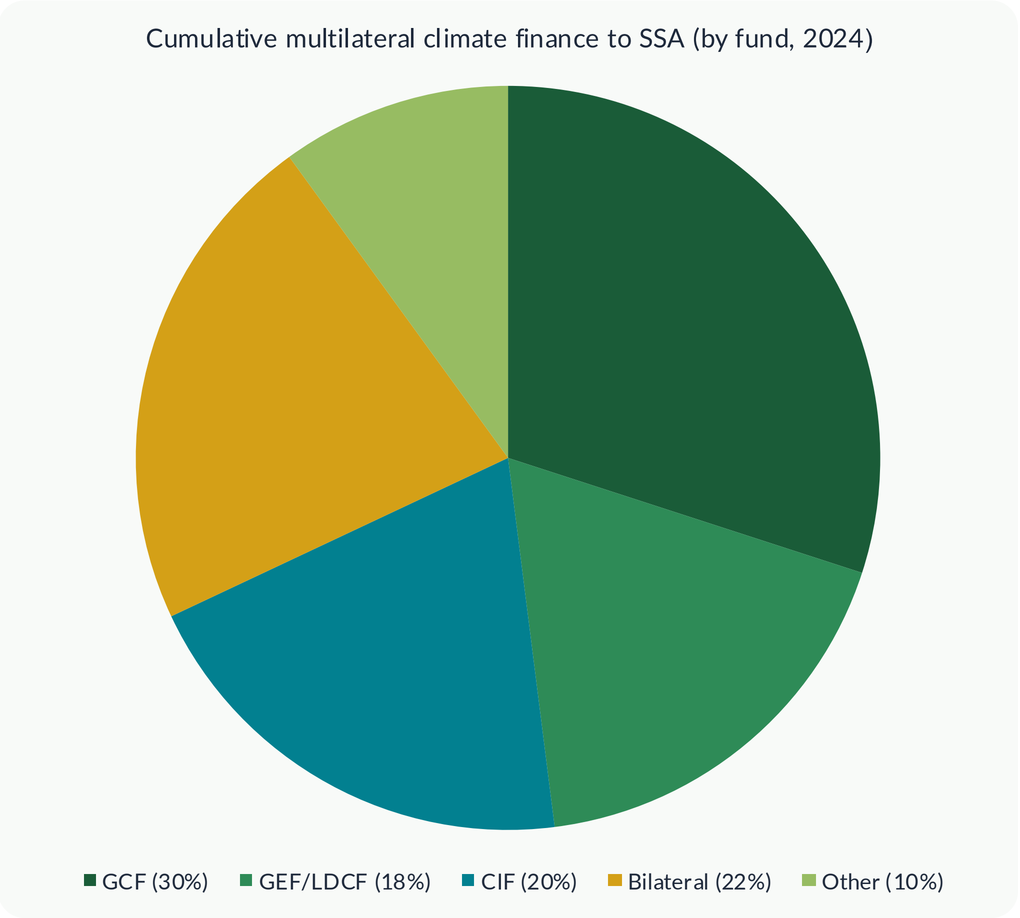
80%

of African conditional NDC targets

64%

climate finance for mitigation

Source of funding



Agriculture receives 19%

Sources: UNDP Africa Climate Finance 2024; CPI 2022; Climate Funds Update 2024 (SSA); AfDB 2025

05

Unlocking Climate Finance Through Policy Alignment

FAO’s work to mobilize climate finance

FAO-GCF portfolio

1

Robust Inventory

Country-specific EFs + Tier 2 = credible baseline. Only 6 African countries achieved this by 2026

2

Policy & MRV Framework

Aligned policies, MRV systems + inter-ministerial coordination = verifiable targets eligible for GCF/GEF accreditation

3

Climate Finance Access

FAO-GCF portfolio: USD 1.8bn across 29 projects. Credible NDC targets unlock co-financing at scale.

FAO GCF portfolio: USD 1.8bn | 29 transformative projects | 114 readiness projects

2022; Climate Funds Update 2024 (SSA); AfDB 2025; FAO Investment Centre / GCF portfolio 2024

Identified challenges for integrating livestock and agrifood systems in NDCs

Doci, Pexels.com

- **Insufficient or limited data** on livestock emissions and mitigation potential hinders the development of targeted actions
- **Lack of financial investment** to implement livestock climate action and competing low-risk sectors
- **Insufficient policy alignment** between livestock, climate and development objectives
- **Weak policy enforcement** of climate-smart agriculture approaches
- **Low farmer participation** and engagement in identifying implementable adaptation and mitigation practices
- **Limited technical and institutional capacities** impede the design and execution of effective livestock climate actions and access to climate finance
- **Insufficient Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems** to track livestock climate action

FAO’s work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments

1 Evidence-based decision

- FAO supports countries in **Africa**, Asia, and Latin America to integrate livestock-specific mitigation actions into national climate plans and NDCs.
  - Facilitates stakeholder collaboration among ministries, producers, and international organizations
  - Capacity building on livestock climate action
  - Alignment between NDC and national policies and action plans
  - Development of methane reduction roadmaps
- Impact (2022-2025): 48 countries worldwide

FAO's work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments

2

Strengthening MRV Systems

Data collection and analysis: Integrate livestock questions into national agricultural surveys and census using the FAO GLEAM model.

Institutional arrangements: Strengthen multi-stakeholder coordination across ministries, statistical offices, and farmers.

Capacity building: Train countries on Tier 2 methods of the IPCC guidelines including uncertainty analysis, QA/QC.

Tools & platforms: Support online MRV platforms for GHG emissions tracking and monitoring.

Mark Stebnicki, Pexels.com

FAO's work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments

3 Mobilizing climate finance

- Enables countries to track progress and attract climate finance
- Support countries in proposal development to access climate finance through GCF, GEF, and bilateral sources

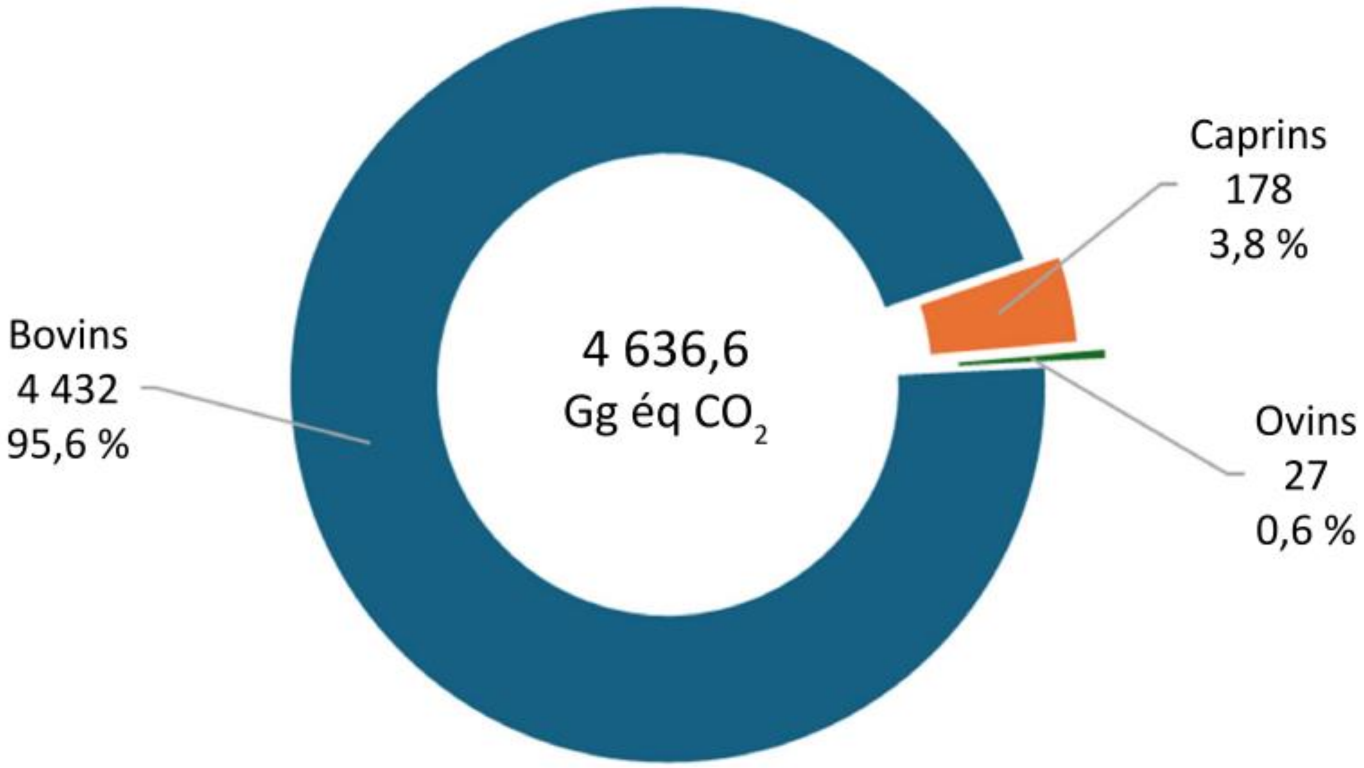
FAO's work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments

4 Carbon markets in the livestock sector

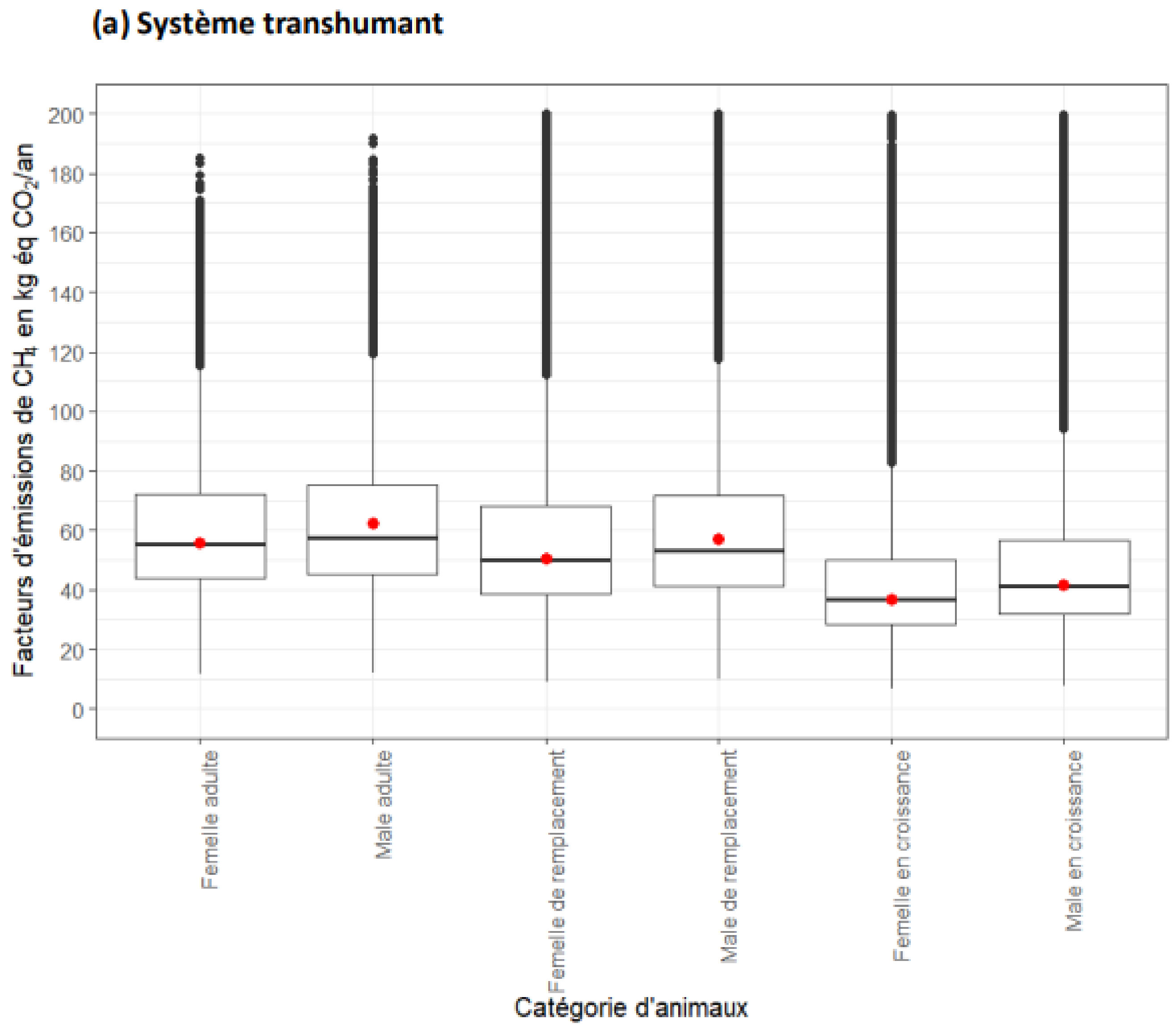
Brett Jordan, pexels.com

- **Identifying pathways** to generate and trade carbon credits through livestock-related mitigation activities, including both offsetting and insetting approaches.
- **Navigating regulatory and governance frameworks** under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, with emphasis on Articles 6.2 and 6.4 mechanisms.
- **Building institutional capacity** and legal readiness for carbon market participation, through collaboration with legal and policy experts.
- **Ensuring environmental integrity and social equity**, particularly for smallholder farmers, by addressing challenges such as MRV, market access, and benefit-sharing.
- **Leveraging carbon finance** to enhance climate-smart livestock practices, improve productivity, and create income opportunities across value chains.

FAO's work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments



Total GHG emissions from cattle systems in RCA



Emission factors of CH_4 emissions for cattle in pastoral systems in RCA

https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8827fr

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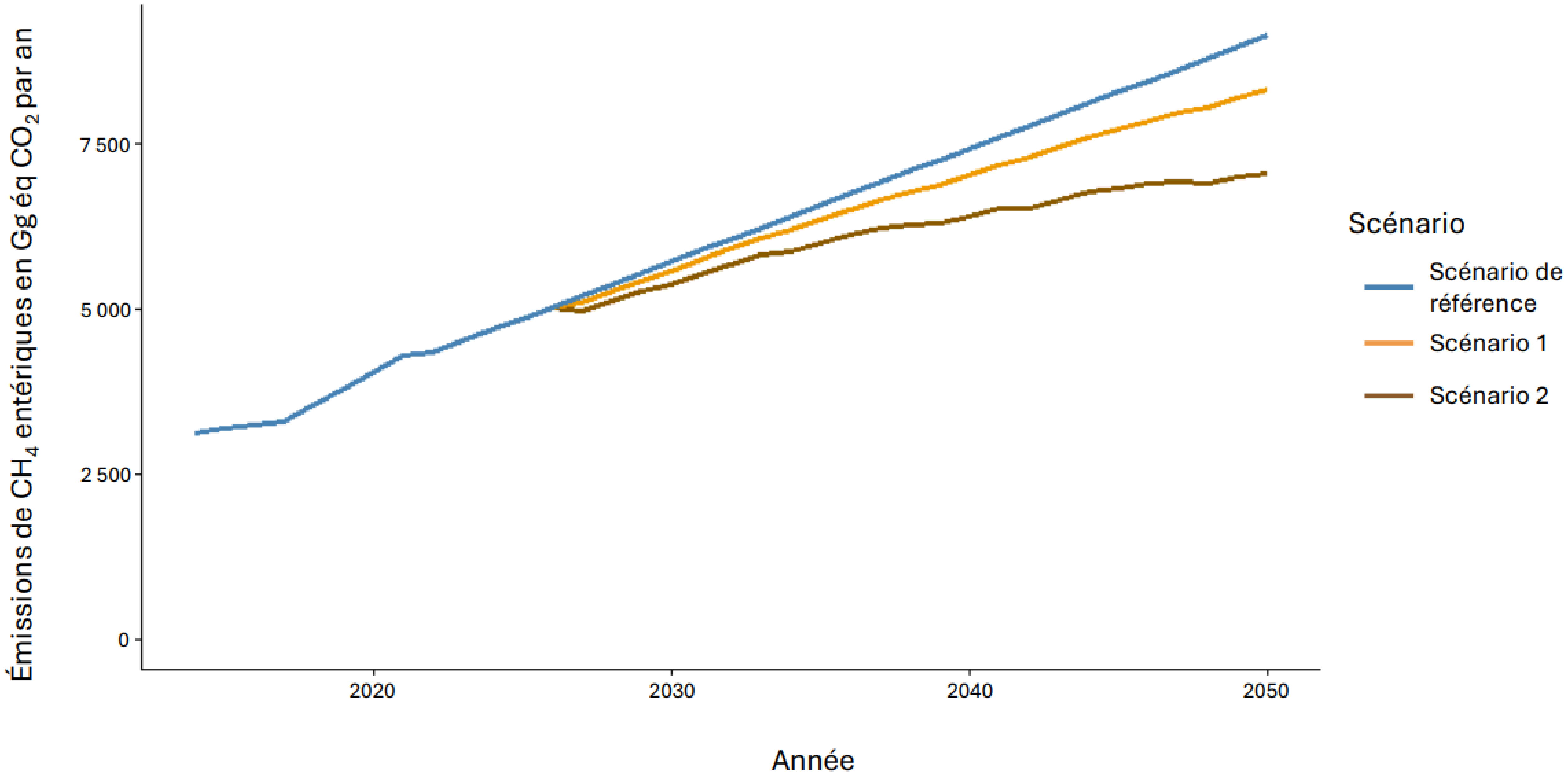
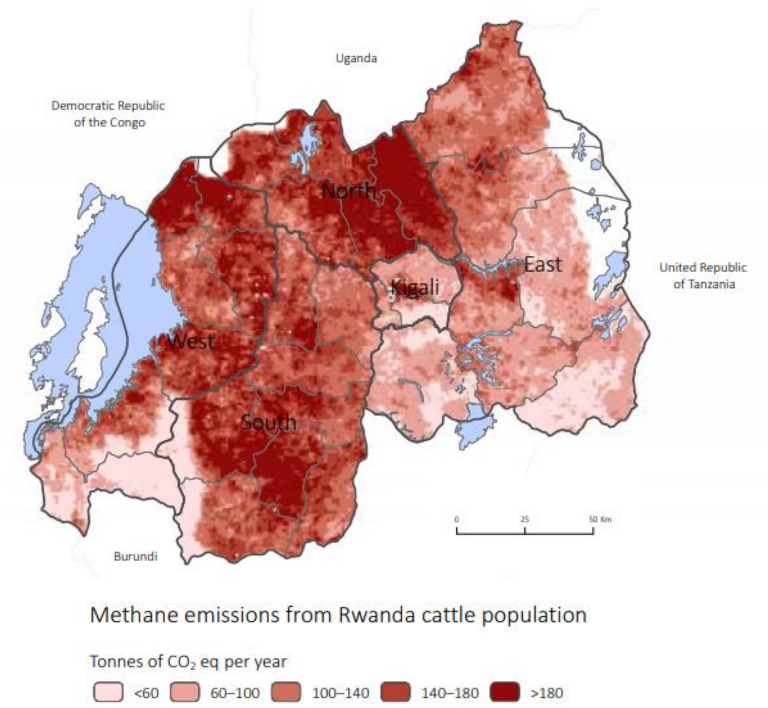


Source: Auteurs du présent document.

https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8827fr

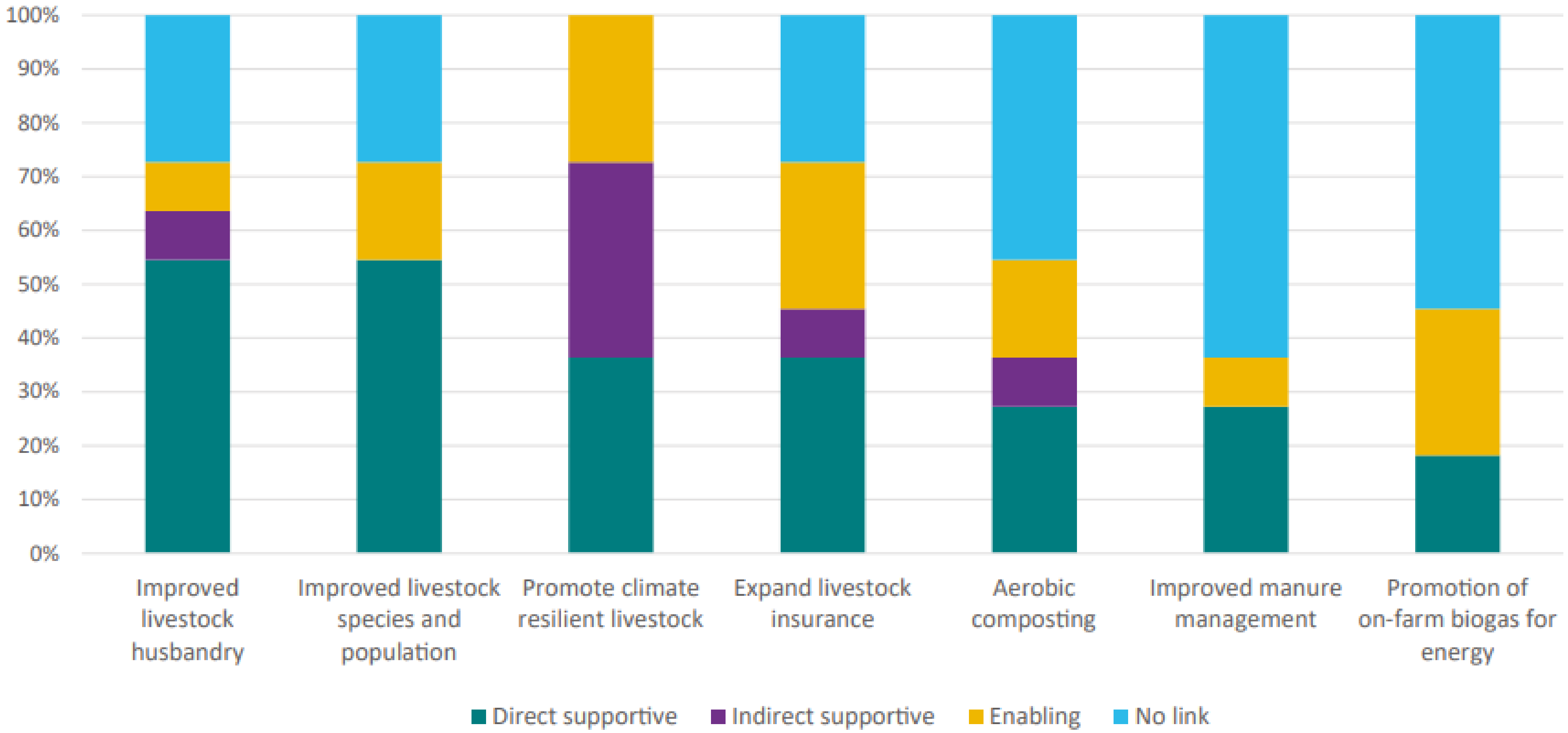
Livestock climate action in Rwanda

MAP 3
Regional distribution of total methane emissions from cattle in Rwanda



Note: Refer to the disclaimer on page ii for the names and boundaries used in this map.
Source: Authors' own elaboration based on GLEAM 3.

FIGURE 22
The level of policy support for each livestock nationally determined contribution commitment

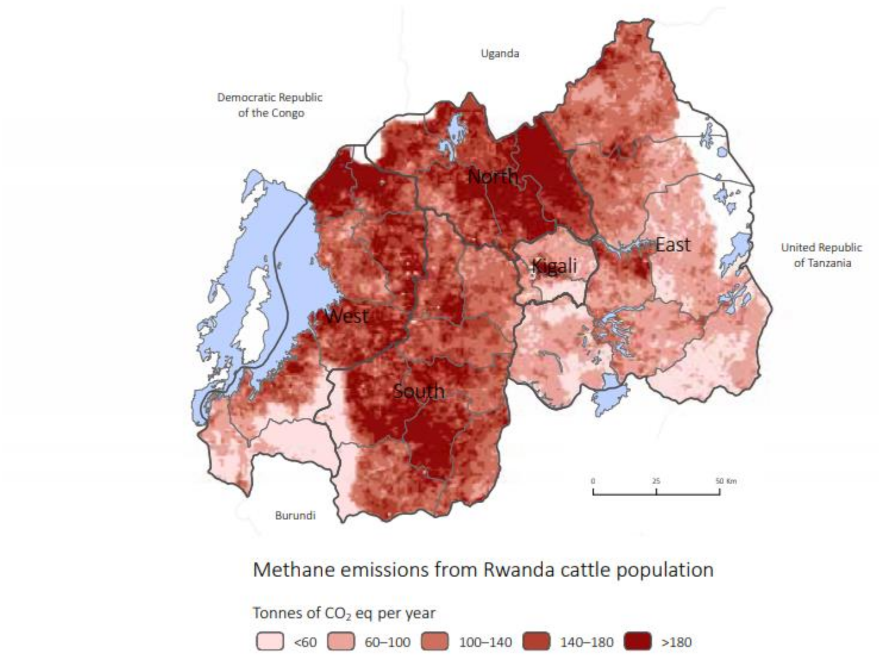


Note: Ranked from high (left) to low (right).
Source: Authors' own elaboration.

https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6699en

Livestock climate action in Rwanda

MAP 3
Regional distribution of total methane emissions from cattle in Rwanda



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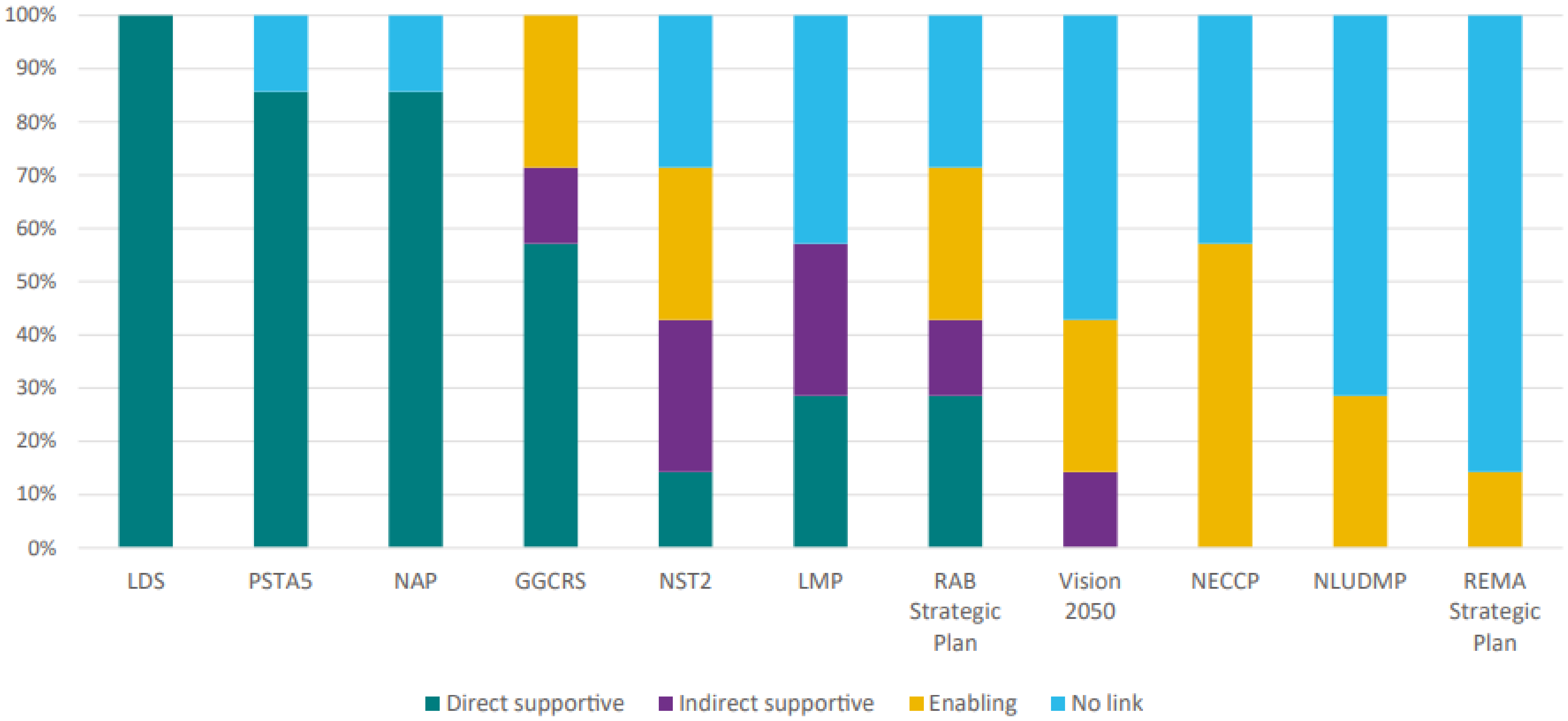
Source: Authors' own elaboration based on GLEAM 3.

FIGURE 23
Overall level of support provided by different policy documents towards livestock nationally determined contribution commitments



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https://doi.org/10.4060/cd6699en

FAO’s work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments

https://www.fao.org/in-action/enteric-methane/en

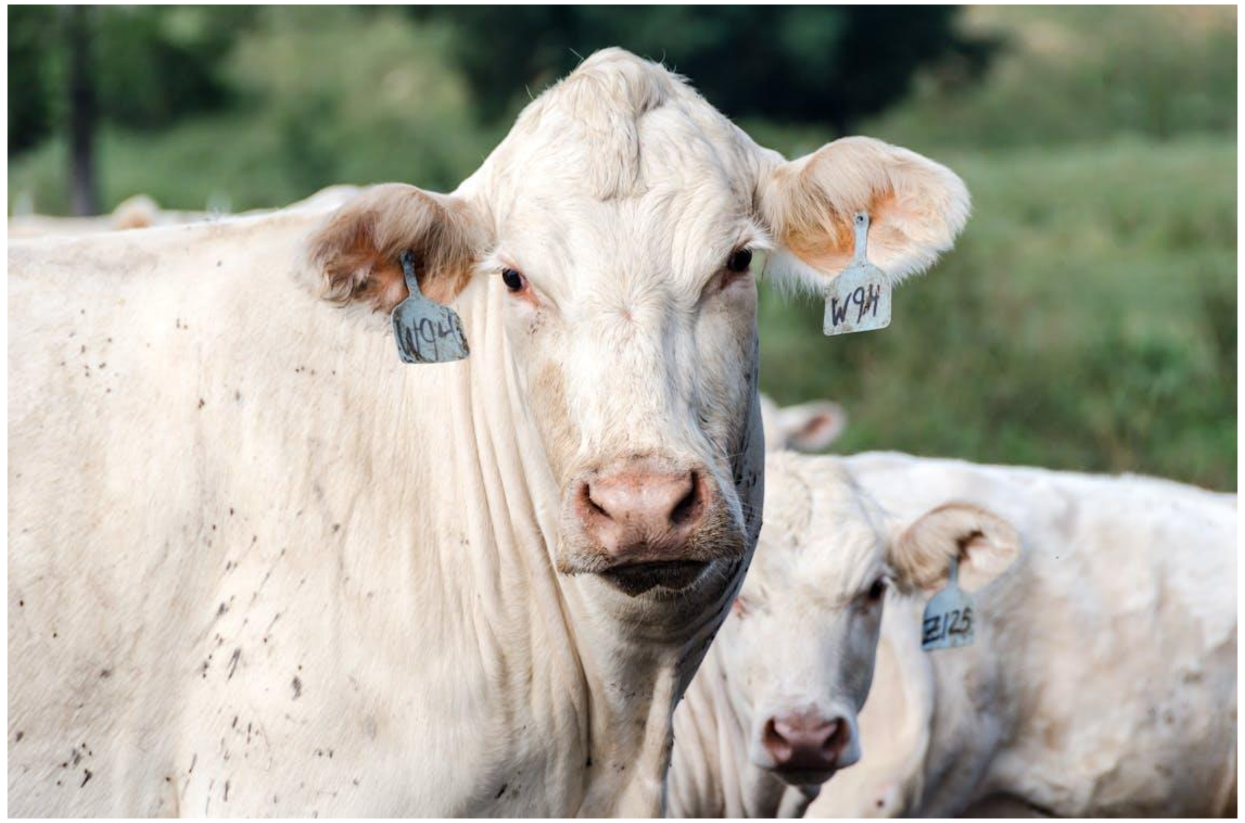
FAO's work on the implementation of livestock NDC commitments

Launch of livestock climate action report in Rwanda

Launch of livestock climate action report in Zimbabwe

Key messages

- Credible NDC targets require MRV systems, inter-ministerial coordination, and sectoral baselines. Most African countries are still building these foundations
- $2.8 trillion needed in Africa by 2030 for NDC implementation — 80% of targets are conditional.
- Credible NDC targets (backed by Tier 2 inventories and MRV systems) is a prerequisite to mobilize climate finance at scale.



Mark Stebnicki, pexels.com

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