

The tensions between farmers and herders in Kaduna and Katsina states, north-west Nigeria, have been compounded by multiple factors, including desertification, climate change, and insufficient rainfall, among others. The situation has been exacerbated by rapid and exponential population growth, leading to an attendant increase in the demand for natural resources, including suitable land for both farming and transhumance activities. Consequently, these factors intensify the competition for already scarce natural resources, often resulting in conflicts, which can escalate into violent confrontations, between farming and herding communities.

IOM, through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) developed and implemented the Transhumance Tracking Tool (TTT) which employs four major components, one of which is Transhumance Flow Monitoring. Transhumance Flow Monitoring tool collects data on migration flows and trends, countries of origin and destinations of herders, offering a comprehensive overview of the livestock movements.

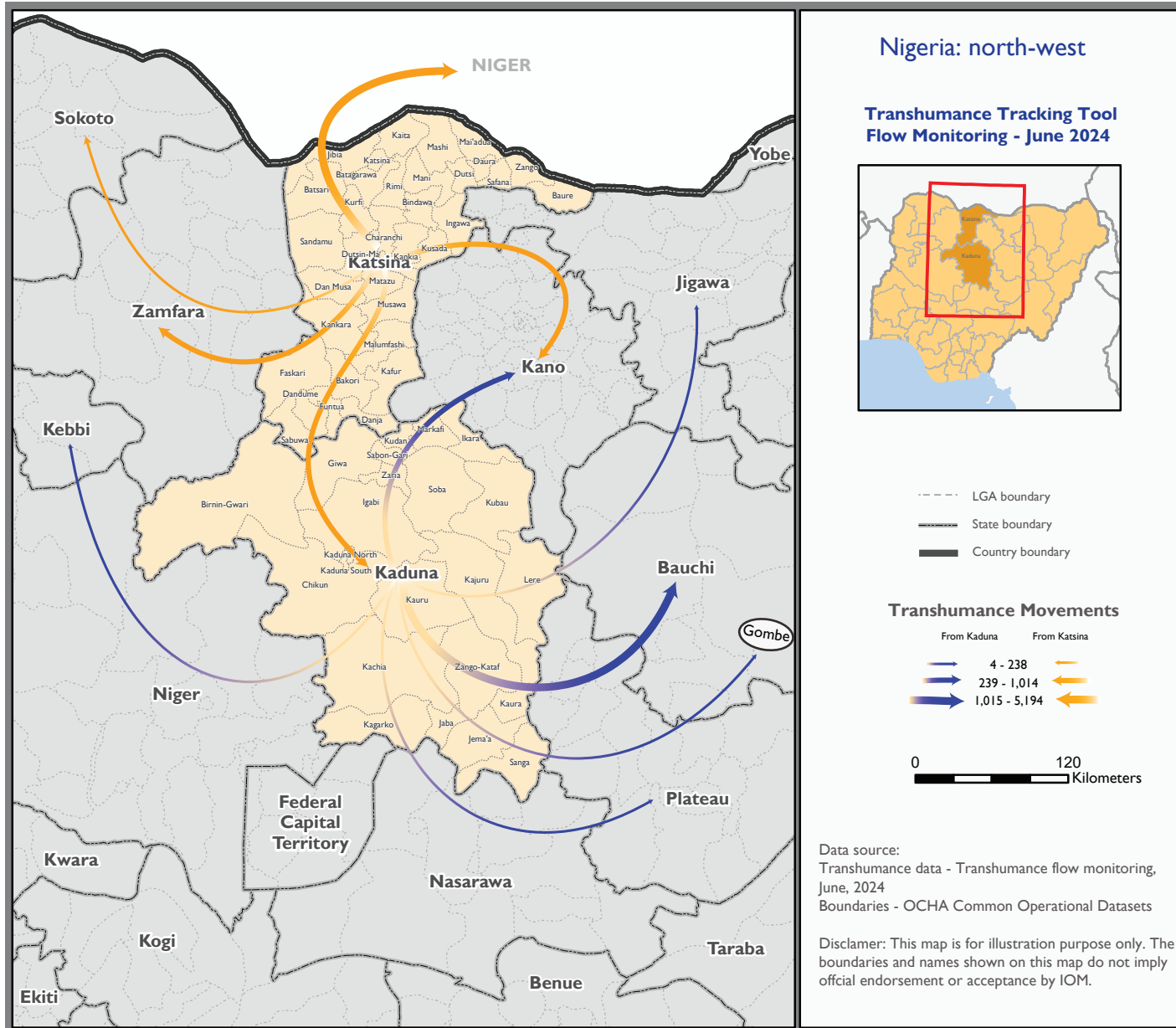
As transhumance remains integral to the way of life for many communities, understanding and managing these movements are vital for sustainable coexistence. Transhumance Flow Monitoring tool serves as a valuable resource in navigating the complexities of transhumance, offering data-driven insights to support the development of effective interventions and transhumance policies in Kaduna and Katsina states of the north-west region.

This report presents the data for June 2024, collected through direct interviews and observations by DTM enumerators which were triangulated via a network of key informants. It highlights the number of herders and their herds, identified at 16 counting points in the six Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Kaduna and Katsina states. Notably, this enumeration included areas within the Kachia, Kaura and Kaita LGAs of Kaduna and Katsina states, under the auspices of the Peacebuilding Fund. Additionally, it was extended to Faskari, Jibia and Kankara LGAs of Katsina State, with the support of the European Union Fund. Batsari and Dan Musa LGAs did not experience any movement during this period.

The practice of transhumance involves a systematic movement where herders migrate with their households and families. This movement is often strategic and well-coordinated, typically occurring seasonally. During the dry season, herders move southwards to regions where water and pasture are more readily available. Conversely, during the rainy season, they migrate northwards to take advantage of the lush pastures that develop with the rains. Sometimes, families move ahead very early in the morning, leaving the older male herders and the herds behind for a few days to check the security situation in the area and ensure it is safe. Given the complex socio-political landscape in Nigeria, this step is crucial to avoid conflicts with local communities and other herders. They then rendezvous at a predetermined resting point, such as a water point or a grazing area, to allow the herds to feed and rest. This method fosters a more secure and organized migration, ensuring the safety and well-being of both the herders and their livestock.

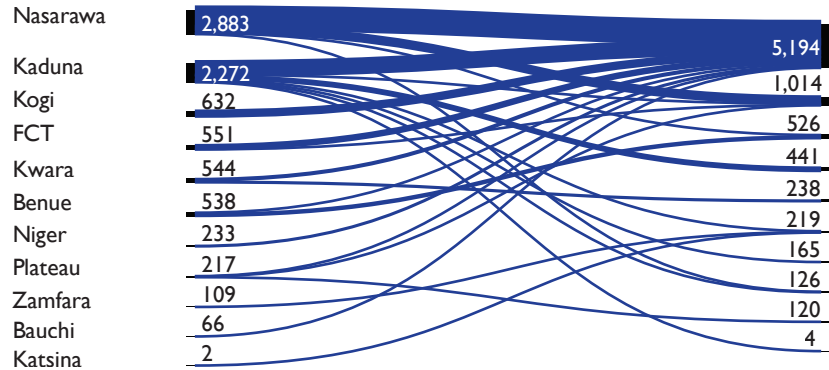
In June 2024, Transhumance Flow Monitoring tool identified 1,161 herders in Kaduna State and 649 herders in Katsina State. The herd count was estimated at 7,383 for Kaduna State and 6,624 for Katsina State. Notably, 94 per cent of the total number of herders departed from states within Nigeria, while the remaining 6 per cent departed from Niger.

Transhumance flows through Kaduna and Katsina states to intended regions of destination

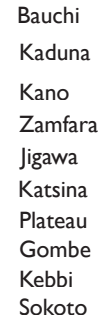


ORIGIN AND DESTINATION OF HERDS BY STATE

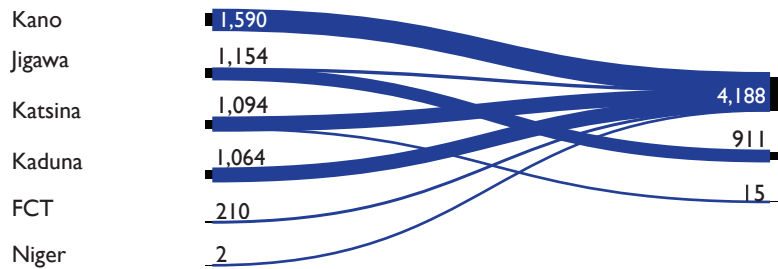
ORIGIN



DESTINATION



Animal flows within Nigeria



Animal flows from Nigeria to Niger



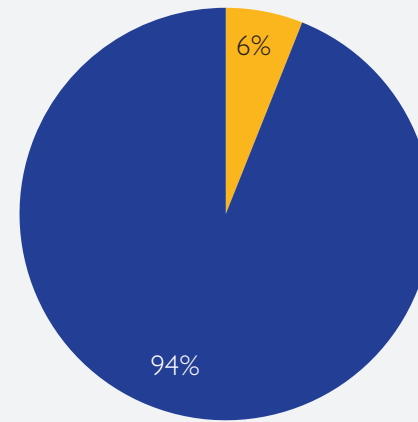
Animal flows from Niger to Nigeria

Majority of the herd movements originated within Nigeria, with 57 per cent of the observed movements destined for states within the country. Conversely, 37 per cent indicated movements from Nigeria to Niger, while six per cent indicated movements from Niger to Nigeria.

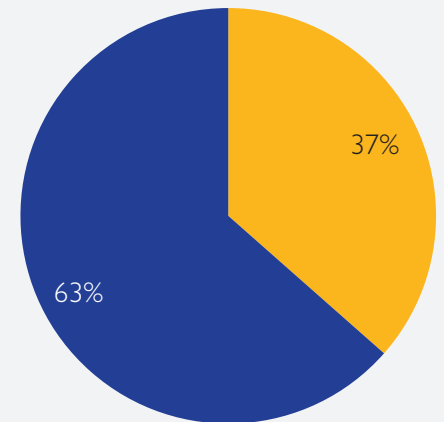
Bauchi State (5,194 animals) emerged as the primary destination for transhumance movements within Nigeria, followed by Kaduna State (1,014 animals) and Kano State (526 animals), which represented 48 per cent of the total animal movements.

Livestock flows

Country of origin



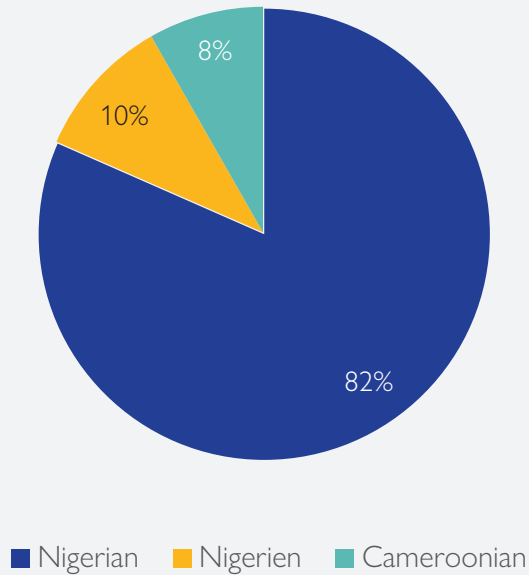
Destination country



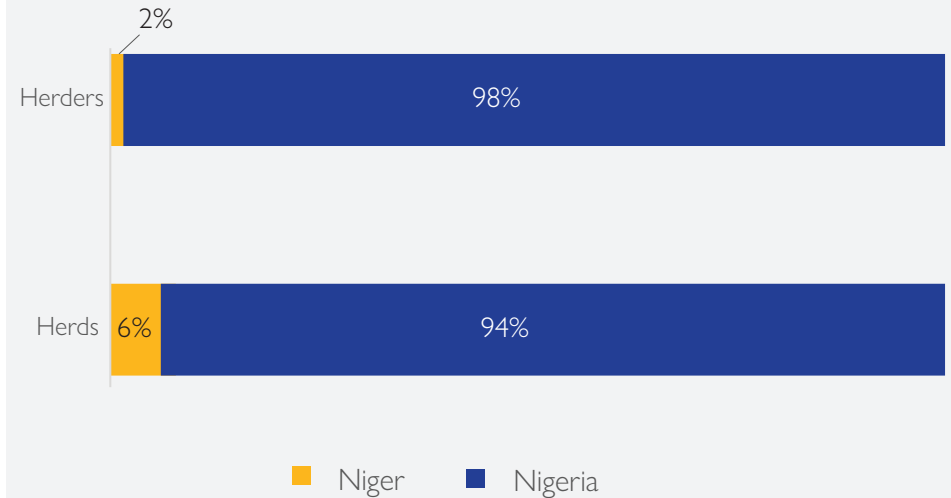
■ Niger ■ Nigeria

■ Niger ■ Nigeria

Nationality of herders



Transhumance breakdown by country of origin

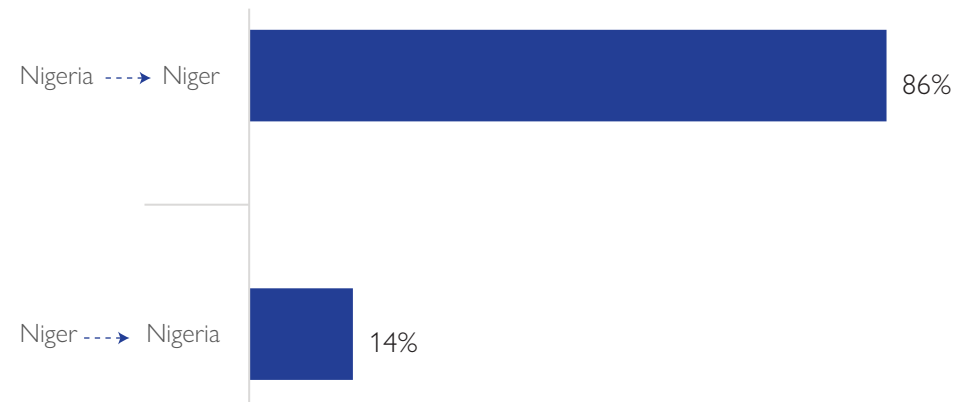


CHARACTERISTICS OF CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENTS

Cross-border transhumance stands out as a significant herding practice in West Africa and has been an integral part of Nigeria's agro-pastoral systems for centuries. In June 2024, 576 herders and 5,960 herds were observed in cross-border movements across Niger and Nigeria transhumance corridors.

Among the identified cross-border herd movements, the largest number occurred from Niger to Nigeria, totaling 548 herders and 5,114 herds, while the movement from Nigeria to Niger, involved 28 herders and 846 herds.

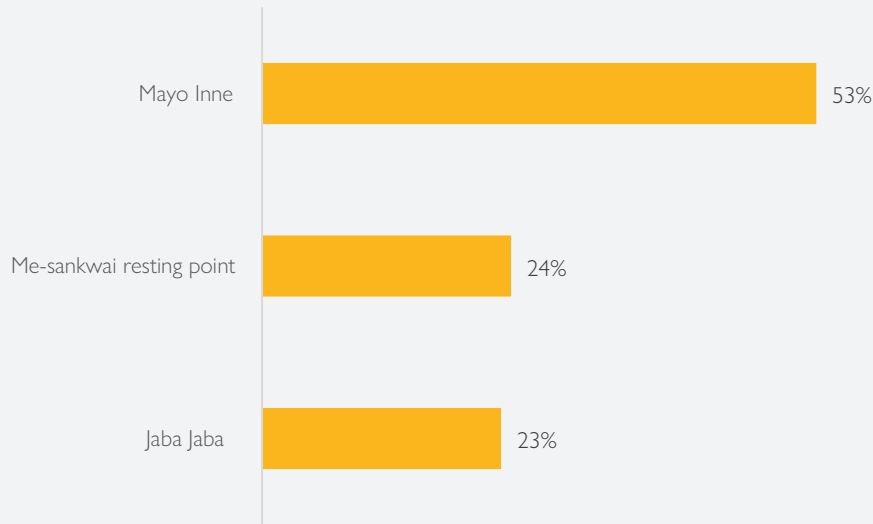
Cross-border herd movements in percentages



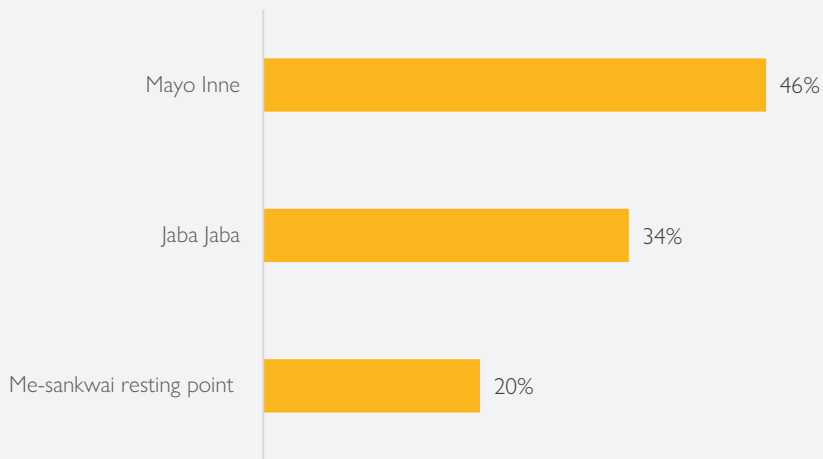
NUMBER OF HERDS AND HERDERS PER COUNTING POINT

Kaduna State

Percentage of herds counted

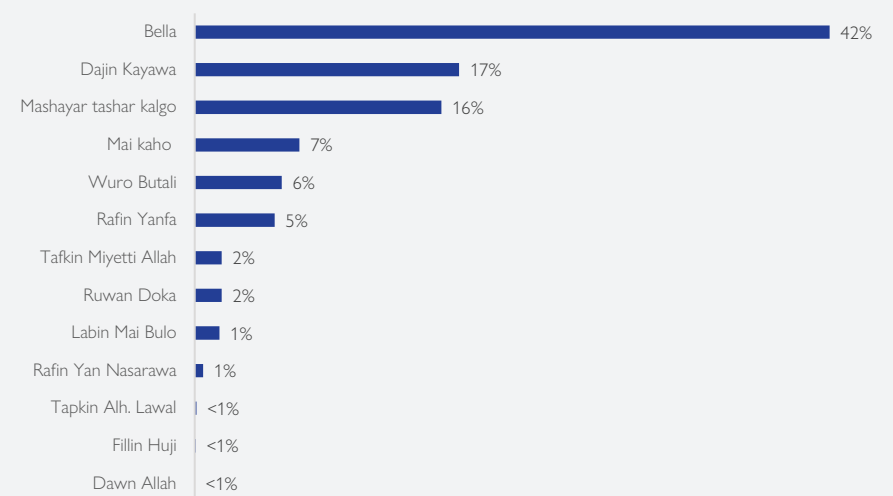


Percentage of herders counted

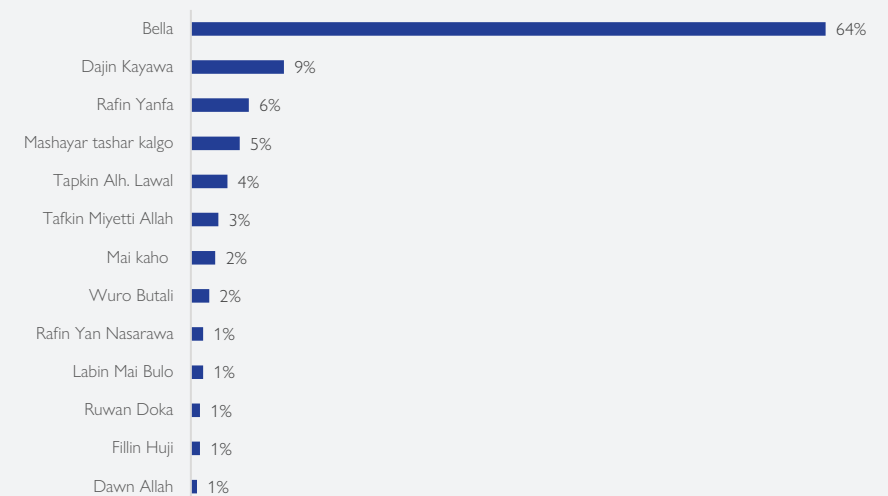


Katsina State

Percentage of herds counted



Percentage of herders counted



NUMBER OF HERDS AND HERDERS BY MONTH OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL

Country of departure	State of departure	Country of destination	State of destination	Month of departure	Month of arrival	Number of people	Number of animals	
Nigeria	Kaduna	Nigeria	Bauchi	May	Jun	8	3	
	Kogi					44	632	
	Kwara					46	306	
	Kaduna					Gombe	6	74
	Kwara					Jigawa	31	160
	Nasarawa					Kaduna	26	573
	Benue					Kano	19	337
	Zamfara					Katsina	8	109
	Nasarawa					Bauchi	29	106
	Niger					Jigawa	77	233
	Kwara		Jigawa	61	78			
	Kaduna		Bauchi	42	912			
	Nasarawa		Bauchi	26	101			
	FCT		Kaduna	5	63			
	Kaduna		Kaduna	10	100			
	Plateau		Kaduna	5	41			
	Nasarawa		Kano	10	132			
	Kaduna		Katsina	8	108			
	Katsina		Kaduna	13	2			
	Kaduna		Plateau	31	97			
	Bauchi		Bauchi	27	66			
	Benue		Bauchi	51	201			
	FCT		Bauchi	23	488			
	Kaduna		Bauchi	37	361			
	Nasarawa		Bauchi	264	1,729			
	Plateau		Bauchi	52	56			
	Kaduna		Gombe	43	4			
	Nasarawa		Gombe	58	48			
	Kaduna		Kaduna	12	100			
	Nasarawa		Kaduna	9	137			
	Plateau		Kano	48	57			
	Kaduna		Kebbi	54	120			
	Nasarawa		Plateau	7	68			
	Kaduna		Zamfara	18	441			
	Kaduna		Sokoto	26	4			
	FCT		Maradi	8	37			
	Jigawa		Tahoua	2	210			
	Kaduna		Tahoua	69	243			
	Kano		Maradi	16	911			
	Katsina		Maradi	128	521			
	Kaduna		Maradi	85	1,507			
	Kano		Maradi	54	105			
	Katsina		Agadez	25	506			
	Niger		Maradi	15	83			
	Niger		Maradi	47	15			
	Niger		Maradi	92	974			
	Niger		Maradi	7	2			
Niger	Kaduna	16	462					
Niger	Kano	12	384					
Total						1,810	14,007	

*The captured dates represent only one segment of the transhumance journey, not its start or end date.

METHODOLOGY

Source of information: Data was collected through direct interviews and direct observation by DTM enumerators and triangulated via a network of key informants, some of whom are members of the Community Response Networks (CRNs) and LGA-based team leads.

Steps: Following the transhumance baseline and infrastructure mapping, 16 counting points (16 in Katsina and 3 in Kaduna states) were identified, making it possible to capture the flow of transhumant herders and their animals.

Data was collected on transhumants herders on their country and region of departure, intended destination, date of departure, estimated date of arrival, count of herders, types and number of herds species, and the number of herds present at the various counting points.

The collected data was analyzed to quantify movements of transhumance and interpret the findings, identifying trends, patterns, and key insights regarding transhumance activities in the region.

Subsequently, the results were compiled into a comprehensive report, providing evidence-based insights into transhumance movements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✎ Establish and strengthen collaborative and inclusive platforms involving all stakeholders, including farmers, herders, and relevant authorities. These platforms should facilitate cross-border consultations, raise awareness, and mobilize support for peaceful transhumance.
- ✎ Extend the current data collection system to cover additional states in Nigeria, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of transhumance dynamics.
- ✎ Implement continuous capacity-building programs to keep stakeholders updated on the evolving nature of transhumance and counting methodologies. This will empower them to adapt and respond effectively to emerging challenges.