

# **RESILIENCE GOOD PRACTICE**



# Pasture and land management

# Integration of local knowledge into modern rangeland management

# Introduction

Healthy rangelands are crucial to livestock production in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). In Karamoja, poor rangeland management practices have resulted in Acacia species dominating the woody component of the rangeland vegetation, lack of legumes in the pasture and an increase in woody grasses that are of low nutritive value. The low livestock productivity in Karamoja is partially attributed to poor pasture.<sup>1</sup> The key threats to rangelands in Karamoja include; rapid loss of natural vegetation cover and species, soil erosion, overgrazing, uncontrolled bush burning, poor agricultural practices, weak natural resource management institutions and structures, and high poverty levels among the community.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, there is need to stem the degradation of rangeland resources to improve livestock nutrition, production and productivity and reduce soil erosion and degradation.

# Methodological approach

- Participatory community training on the relevance of rangeland rehabilitation.
- Holding of community consultations to acquire local knowledge useful in rangeland management e.g. herbal and salty grasses to include in the rangelands.

#### Location

Karamoja and Teso sub-regions, Northeastern Uganda

#### Stakeholders

Pastoral communities

Local District Government

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Aleper Daniel K, Nyeko Martine and Mary Namaganda, 2017. Status and trends of rangelands in Central Karamoja, recommendations for enhancement of livestock production. IUCN <sup>2</sup> IUCN, 2014. A Rangelands Management Framework for Karamoja, 2014 – 2018: A Handbook for Local Governments and Partners. IUCN Uganda.

- Demarcation of demonstration plots that will be used to show communities how to apply the scientific and indigenous knowledge in rehabilitating rangelands.
- Community participation in digging, planting and management of demonstration pasture plots by applying the scientific and indigenous knowledge in rangeland rehabilitation and management.
- Introduction of more palatable and highly nutritious grasses and legumes to improve animal productivity.
- Planting of legumes e.g. Chloris gayana and Centrosema pubescens over the existing native pastures in the rangelands.
- Engaging communities to participate in the control of woody tree cover to ease animal movement through the rangelands.

#### Result

- 860 demonstration pasture plots established in 12 districts in Karamoja and Teso.
- Livestock have access to nutritious leguminous pasture such as centrosema pubescens and salty grasses.

#### Impact

Access to healthy rangelands is expected to result in improved livestock production and productivity which will ultimately enhance the resilience of pastoralists.

## Innovation and success factors

- Harnessing local knowledge on pasture management and integrating it with modern/scientific knowledge.
- Community participation in the process of rehabilitating rangelands.
- Participation of partners at all levels i.e. national, Local District Government and community level.

# Constraints

Currently improved pasture seeds are not available locally.

## Sustainability and replicability

- Community training and participation in rangeland rehabilitation coupled with integration of local knowledge in modern rangeland practices ensures sustainability of the rehabilitated rangelands.
- It is a low cost community activity that is easily replicated in other rangelands in the ASALs.

# Additional information

- MAAIF Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project
- http://rplrpuganda.org/

#### Contact:

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