

Good Practices and Innovations from the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP)

TANA RIVER COUNTY



GMC members planning on resource use. Credit: RPLRP Tana River County, Kenya.



NRM by-laws enactment meeting at Chifiri. Credit: RPLRP Tana River County, Kenya.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

DESCRIPTION OF THE INNOVATION

Pastoralism is practiced in Tana River County, where rangeland resources are utilised to sustain the livelihoods of pastoral communities. Livestock movement is determined by weather patterns and during the dry seasons, livestock move in search of water, pasture and browse. Tana River County is a corridor for livestock movement from neighbouring counties of Garissa and other northern counties of Mandera and Wajir among others. The animals move during periods of drought to lower parts of Tana River County (Tana Delta) which acts as dry season grazing block. During these movements, a lot of conflicts arise over use of scarce resources available.

Traditional grazing management systems used to exist but have become less effective with time. In order to sustainably utilise the rangeland resources, the livestock production department is working with other stakeholders to revitalise grazing management systems in the county. The grazing management systems in the pilot areas of the county have empowered the communities to develop by-laws. The objective of these grazing by-laws is to offer guidelines on resource use and to define rights of access. The overall goal is to attain sustainable levels of grazing. This in effect has created platforms for peace building among communities.

Pastoral communities are sensitised and trained on sustainable grazing management through community based institutions, using commonly agreed governance structures and negotiated rules on resource access. They apply clear livestock movement regulations, as well as policies on rangeland resources management.

LEVEL OF ADOPTION AND USE

The pilot project targeted four locations (Wayu, Daaba, Dayate, Chifiri) as grazing blocks in Wayu ward of Tana river Sub-county out of which three locations in the same ward adopted the innovation (Haroresa, Titila and Hakoka). Tana

North Sub-county, Bangale, Konaramadha, Kuriti and Onduke Sub-locations initiated the innovation. In the formation of GMCs, gender was considered and women were fully involved during the process and were also elected to the committees. The community is represented by the village, location and ward GMCs.

The four locations have a total of 4,097 people who entirely depend on pastoralism, the other locations that are in the process of implementing the innovation will increase the number of household beneficiaries. All gender benefit directly or indirectly from the grazing management system: the men now migrate into



To get your livestock to the right place at the right time and for the right reasons. Credit: RPLRP Tana River County, Kenya.



Planned grazing gives forages time for recovery. Credit: RPLRP Tana River County, Kenya.

the grazing fallback areas, where there are risks of attack by wild life, diseases and pests for shorter periods of time; the women and youth have a lighter work load of fetching fodder and water during droughts, hence saving time for other work.

SCALING/REPLICATION STRATEGY

Capacity building and enhanced community involvement by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and RPLRP really helped to revive and strengthen the traditional GMCs at village, location and ward levels that had long been forgotten. The uptake of the strategy is promising with communities in many areas in the county being receptive. The county assembly boosted the innovation by assenting to the grazing bill, which is now law. This has placed more emphasis on its application in the county. The community leaders played a major role in mobilisation, drafting of by-laws and publicity.

The innovation has been applied in four locations of Wayu ward, which were pilot blocks under FAO funding. It has also spread to the neighbouring locations of Haroresa, Titila, Onduke, Konaramadha, Kuriti, Bangale and Gwano.

The innovation has been enhanced through the definition of clearly designated wet or dry season grazing areas or zones, covered with definite patterns, hence reducing migration periods and securing feed for the weak, young and lactating herds/flocks that remain in the village during droughts and after livestock migrations.

This innovation has empowered the community by encouraging negotiated access to resources. It has allowed increased involvement of women and youth in range management activities, reduced

loss of livelihoods and contributed to enhanced resilience of the pastoral communities to climate change effects.

CRITICAL GAPS AND NEXT STEPS

Having been a pilot innovation in the county, the following were challenges that affected adoption rates:

- Inadequate funding on capacity building, stakeholders meetings and infrastructural projects such as water pans, boreholes, cut lines.
- Lack of reference materials/records on past experiences, because they were not documented.
- Prolonged droughts that affected implementation at some stages.
- Cross-border interference by pastoralists from other non-implementing sub-counties.

WAY FORWARD

- Involve more stakeholders such as the National Drought Management Authority, county commissioners and police, county security department, veterinary, water department and NGOs.
- Scale up the innovation to cover all 15 wards in Tana River County as well as the neighbouring counties. Hold inter-county and cross-boundary meetings.
- Maximise on range resources utilisation and capacity building of the pastoral communities (exchange visits, trainings, workshops and baseline survey).

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