



Food and Agriculture
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Ecosystem-based governance in dryland ecosystems:

a case study on integrating traditional and
conventional knowledge in pastoral systems in
Northern Kenya

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Participatory Rangeland Management and Planning (PRMP)

A practical guide that illustrates the steps to be followed when engaging communities in rangeland management and planning.



Principles of PRMP

- PRMP is a **continuous dialogue** in which relevant stakeholders express their desires and interest and reach consensus on the future rangeland use and management that respect the values of all rangeland users;
- PRMP is an **inclusive process** in which all relevant stakeholders are represented and engaged in the initial dialogues, preparation of maps, the attendant discussions and final agreement on the management actions;
- PRMP is centred on valuable **local knowledge** that should be mobilized to shape the planning processes;
- PRMP is a **visionary process** that builds on current state of rangeland resources to provide foundation on how to manage the rangeland in future;
- PRMP is **implementation oriented** – the approach is used to develop action plans that shape how strategic interventions, agreed upon by stakeholders, will be implemented.

Principles of EbA

- EbA promotes the resilience of both ecosystems and societies;
- EbA is participatory, transparent, accountable, culturally appropriate and actively embracing equity and gender issues.; EbA promotes multi-sectoral approaches;
- EbA operates at multiple geographical scales;
- EbA integrates flexible management structures that enable adaptive management;
- EbA is based on the best available science and local knowledge, and should foster knowledge generation and diffusion. For this to happen;
- EbA minimizes tradeoffs and maximizes benefits with development and conservation goals to avoid unintended negative social and environmental impacts.

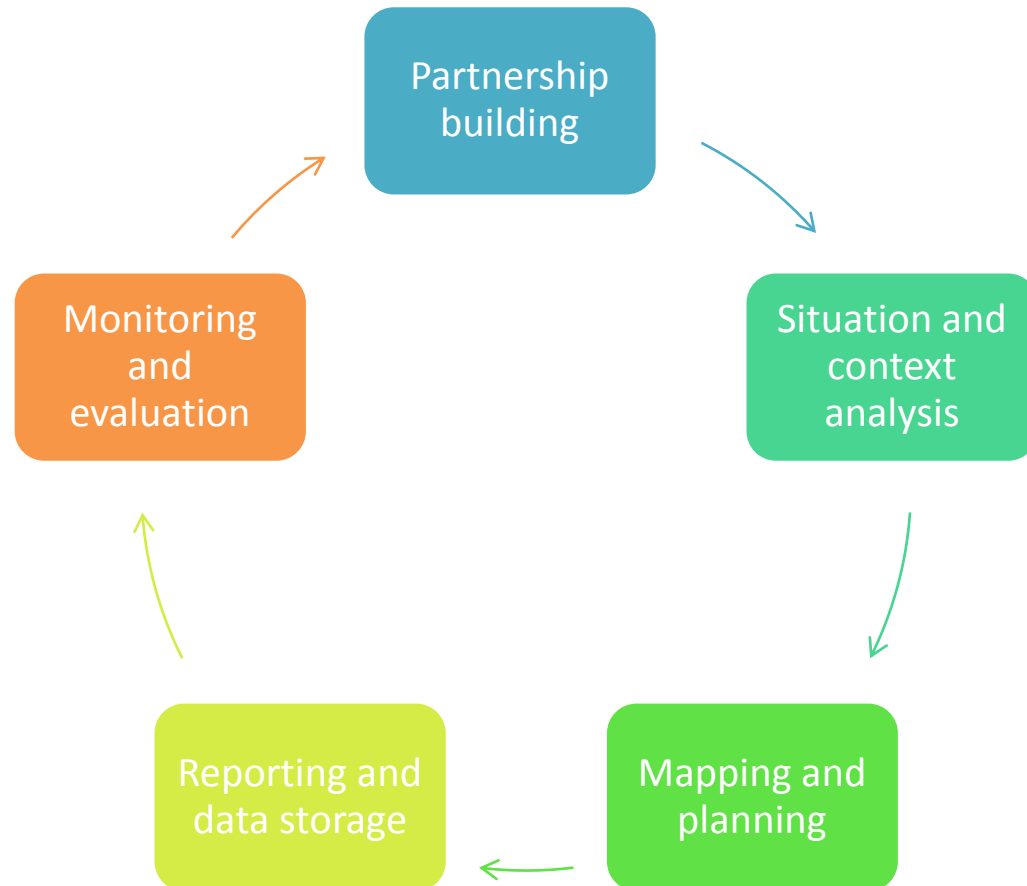


Key terminologies in PRMP

- **Rangelands:** a land on which the vegetation is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs or shrubs and is managed as a natural ecosystem.
- **Participatory:** means involving stakeholders, particularly those who has a stake in the project to have a voice, either in person or by representation.
- **Stakeholders:** those actors with stake and interest in rangeland management issues
- **Resource governance:** norms, institutions and processes that regulate how power and responsibilities are exercised, how decisions are made, and how resource users participate in rangeland management



Steps in PRMP





Partnership building

- Stakeholder identification and analysis.
- Initial community dialogues/meetings.
- Participatory identification of mapping area.





Situation and context analysis



- Review of baseline rangeland conditions, policies and challenges.
- Large-scale assessment of rangeland through remote sensing.



Mapping and planning

- Mapping of present rangeland situation
- Dialogue over situation and aspirations
- Mapping a future vision (e.g. 10 years)
- Development of action plan





Reporting



- Ownership of the maps and plans
- Connecting community plans to landscape management plans and investments



Monitoring and evaluation



- Annual participatory M&E of plans/implementation
- Monitoring of change in governance indicators
- Lessons feedback into institutionalisation



Strengthening natural resource governance in garba tula

- IUCN in close partnership with the Resource Advocacy Programme (RAP) and through funding from the UKAID and CORDAID implemented the project on improving natural resource governance in Garba Tula District of Isiolo County.
- The overall goal of this project was to improve governance to support better livelihood security and ecosystem management in the drylands of Africa.



Strengthening natural resource governance in Garba Tula *cont....*

- The project built on existing governance mechanisms in Garba Tula particularly, the customary common property governance system of land and natural resource access, ownership and management, which has been in place for many years and is widely understood and recognized by a large proportion of the community.
- The project worked extensively with local communities, their representative institutions and with local government partners to support the development of stronger regulatory systems, more robust and effective NRM institutions and improved planning processes to promote stronger governance of natural resources within Garba Tula district, and Isiolo County as a whole.



Project strategies

- Support the development of by-laws at the County level which recognize and build-on customary rules and regulations.
- Support Participatory Rangeland Planning processes with communities and government.
- Build the institutional capacity of local NRM institutions.
- Support multi-stakeholder dialogues on key issues around NRM.
- Support opportunities for local communities to benefit from the sustainable management of their natural resources through improved understanding of dryland values and the potential for biodiversity-based enterprises.



Lessons learnt and good practices

- People-centered approaches – are extremely important. Lasting solutions must be driven by the knowledge, experience, and action of local communities.
- Legitimacy – ensure work is done through a recognized, legitimate partner. In the case of this project the local partner was nominated by the community to work on their behalf and in close collaboration with their customary institutions.
- Lengthy engagement – governance processes are long term and require commitment from those engaging in them. This must be recognized by donors, implementers, governments and communities alike.
- Multi-stakeholder processes – inclusivity and dialogues at all levels are important to ensure that the views and priorities of competing interest groups are well captured.
- Understand the specific governance context – not all processes will be the same in every 'community' – in some areas Customary Governance is much weaker and must be integrated differently with the State.
- Work through on-going processes and policies to ensure institutionalization of results and impacts, and government buy-in.
- Ascertain local commitments and motivation – processes which have evolved from community interest will have more success.



Opportunities and challenges for scale up

The work in Garba Tula initiated legal, policy and institutional changes that serve to promote the recognition and respect for the rights of the local community. While much has been achieved within the project there was still much to be done. This includes:

- The by-law adoption process at the county level: This involves convening multiple dialogues and engagement of County government officials in a long political engagement for full adoption of the bylaws.
- Implementation of multiple rangeland plans: The rangeland plans contain many actions which need to be implemented to fully realize the value of the planning process and the plans.
- Supporting biodiversity enterprises: Supporting the development of community groups' skills in business development, entrepreneurship, proposal development and finances and accounting, as well as through exposure visits to other areas where biodiversity opportunities have been fully realized, is an important step in creating incentives for more sustainable resource management and operationalizing the activities in the plans.
- Scalability and replicability of the approaches across other landscapes and neighboring counties: The Garba Tula experience offers valuable lessons for scaling up and out and this ought to be assessed and adopted as contexts may allow.



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