

Sustainable Rangeland Management Project, Tanzania



Tanzania relies heavily on crop–livestock agriculture for its economic development and food security. Pastoralism, including agro-pastoralism, is the basis for the livelihoods of more than 10% of the country's population. Livestock has significant potential to grow in its contribution to local and national economies. Though Tanzania has the third largest livestock population on the African continent (the vast majority produced in its rangelands), its contribution to GDP is low—currently contributing 7.4% to national GDP. Investment in livestock is required in order to improve livelihoods and food security (MLFD 2015).

Ongoing land insecurity is a structural cause of food insecurity, particularly for pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and small-scale crop farmers. In recent years, there has been an increasing number of conflicts between these groups, many turning violent. In Kiteto district alone between 2013 and 2015, more than 34 people were killed as a result of such conflicts. With increasing competition for land—in the absence of steps to secure the rights of those with entitlements to land and resources—the situation is likely to deteriorate.

Land tenure security can be improved through village land use planning (VLUP) and land certification—namely the issuing of certificates of customary rights of occupancy (CCROs). In situations where villages share resources, such as grazing areas and water, joint village land use planning and the provision of group CCROs are more appropriate than individual ones. Due to a lack of resources and capacity, the implementation

of these to date has been limited, particularly in 'difficult' areas where land-use conflicts occur. Indeed, in 2013 only 1.28 million hectares or 2.1% of the 60 million hectares of rangelands were protected as grazing, with 479 villages in 69 districts (21 regions) having allocated land for grazing in VLUPs (Machira 2013).

The Sustainable Rangeland Management Project

Between 2010 and 2015, the Sustainable Rangeland Management Project (SRMP) assisted nine villages to carry out VLUP, and successfully piloted the implementation of joint village planning across three of these, leading to the protection through certification of a shared grazing area called OLENGAPA, found in Kiteto district, Manyara region.

SRMP has now entered its third phase (2016–2020) with the financial support of International Fund for Agricultural Development of the United Nations, Irish Aid, the International Land Coalition (ILC), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the government of Tanzania. This phase focuses on the scaling-up of the joint VLUP approach in several new clusters of villages, as well as expanding the original ones. This includes the securing of grazing areas through the provision of group CCROs and improving the management of the areas by the established Livestock Keepers Associations through action research on such as rangeland rehabilitation, and improvement and intensification of rangeland and livestock productivity.

Activities will be undertaken in three regions—Manyara, Morogoro and Pwani. The locations of the new clusters of villages appropriate for joint VLUP will be identified through a mapping of grazing areas, livestock routes, and VLUP

interventions across a pastoral-dominated landscape or corridor stretching from Kiteto district through to Kilindi district (Tanga region) and Mvomero district (Morogoro region) up to Bagamoyo district (Pwani region).

OLENGAPA—a pioneer of joint village land use plans

The joint land use planning process in Kiteto district began in November 2013, and included the villages of Lerug, Ngapapa, and Olkitikiti. The three villages share boundaries and grazing resources, and to illustrate a single shared identity across the village boundaries the name OLENGAPA was chosen, incorporating a part of each village's name.

The total area of the three villages is 59,007.5 hectares. The majority of inhabitants are Maasai pastoralists with some Ndorobo hunter-gatherers, and some farmers most of whom are seasonal migrants. Mobility is central to the survival of the pastoralists and takes place across the three villages, as well as beyond to places in Kilindi, Gairo, and Bagamoyo districts.

The average annual rainfall is between 800–1000mm per annum. There are no permanent rivers flowing through the OLENGAPA villages. The only permanent and dependable surface water source is Olkitikiti Dam, constructed in 1954.

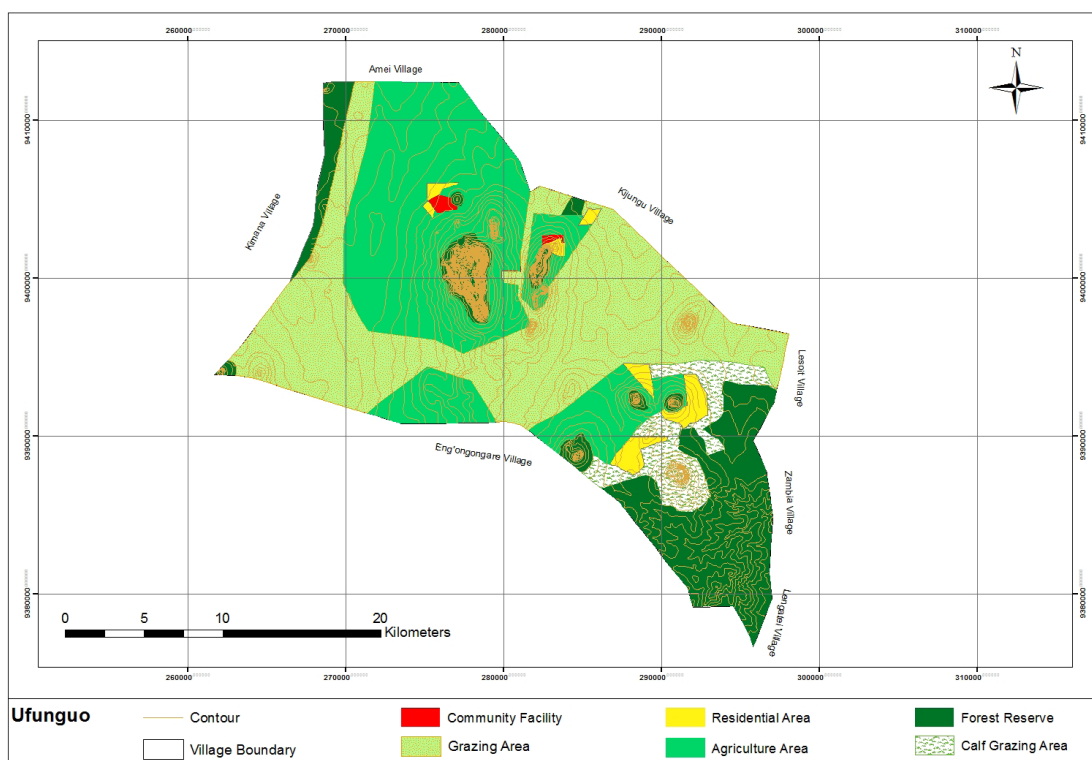
In order to understand the different resources in the villages and their distribution, SRMP supported the villagers to carry out a participatory mapping of these. This was used to develop a base map for the village land use planning process, including showing which resources are shared by the villages and where they are situated.

SRMP then facilitated village members to come to agreement over the individual village land use maps and plans, as well as the joint village land use map and plan, and the joint village land use agreement (JVLUA). These detailed and ultimately protected the shared grazing area, water points, livestock routes and other shared resources. Reaching agreement entailed a protracted negotiation process between the villages and within villages between different interest groups, involving many community meetings and a significant amount of resources. In the end each village assembly approved the JVLUA, which allocated 20,706.73 ha of land for shared grazing—i.e. around 40% of the total area of the villages. By-laws for the management of the resources were developed and adopted.

Following on from the approval of the JVLUA, the three OLENGAPA village councils established a Joint Grazing Land Committee comprising members from all three villages. This committee is responsible for the planning, management and enforcement of by-laws applicable to the OLENGAPA, and coordination of the implementation of the OLENGAPA land use agreements and joint land use plan. In addition, a Livestock Keepers Association was established including 53 founding members with most households from the three villages being associate members. A constitution was developed for the association, and the association was officially registered on 11 September 2015.

In January 2016, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements approved and registered the village land boundary maps and deed plans for the three villages. The district council has issued the village land certificates and the next step is for village councils to begin issuing CCROs. The shared grazing area will require three group CCROs to be issued to the Livestock Keepers Association—one from each village for the part of the grazing area falling under its jurisdiction. Signboards and beacons marking the boundary of the shared grazing area are also being put in place.

OLENGAPA PROPOSED LAND USE PLAN - KITETO DISTRICT



Improving the enabling environment for future interventions

The SRMP also aims to improve the enabling environment for current and future interventions. The SRMP contributes to the ILC's Tanzania National Engagement Strategy (NES) as part of a larger program on inclusive land governance. An NES is the framework through which ILC members collaborate, strategize and engage with government and other partners in order to effect positive change. In Tanzania, the NES has two main components—land-based investments and rangelands. The SRMP is a key mechanism for achieving the NES rangeland-focused objective of securing grazing areas.

Through working closely with national and local government, SRMP aims to influence policy and legislation to provide a more enabling environment for securing the rights of local rangeland users, including rights to key resources such as grazing areas and water, while maintaining the necessary mobility of livestock. The project also aims to improve the participation of such users—women and men, young and old—in decision-making processes pertaining to their lands. Through research, training and learning, SRMP will build the capacity of different actors to support the securing of rangelands, resolution of conflicts between land users and improvement of the management of rangelands. The ILC Rangelands Initiative will assist cross-country and cross-continental exchange with other ILC members and their partners working in similar contexts. This includes through the organization of learning visits, study tours and meetings, and the dissemination of findings in publications, on social media platforms and at conferences and other fora.

Finally, the SRMP aims to influence thinking in Tanzania to be more supportive of livestock production systems, including pastoralism, through advocacy and lobbying, not only for the land rights of pastoralists and other rangeland users, but also to raise awareness of the benefits of and opportunities for investment in pastoral production systems. A key vision of SRMP is to garner support for and move towards the establishment of a Southern-Livestock Green Growth Corridor, or SLIGGCOT, across the pastoral landscape where the Project is working.

Project management and implementation

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF), the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) and, the ILC member, ILRI, jointly implement the project. National CSOs support communities and district councils to plan and secure grazing areas in the village clusters. Regional government and technical experts from partners advise and guide the project through a National Technical Working Group coordinated by the MALF.

References

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Page 1: Community members in Kiteto district map out their rangeland resources, livestock routes and village boundaries, (ILRI/Fiona Flintan).

Page 3: The mapping of livestock routes at national level and related awareness-raising is contributing to a more enabling environment for protecting pastoralism as a way of life, (ILRI/Fiona Flintan).

Page 4: Opening up spaces for women to contribute to decision-making process in VLUP is an important responsibility of SRMP, (ILRI/Fiona Flintan).

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