

Sustainable Rangeland Management project

Tanzania



Photo credit: ILRI/Fiona Flintan

Context

Tanzania relies heavily on agriculture (crop and livestock) for its economic development and food security. Pastoralism and agropastoralism are the basis for the livelihoods of more than 10% of the population in the country. Tanzania has the third largest population of livestock on the African continent, the vast majority produced in its rangelands. However, its contribution to GDP is low—currently contributing 7.9% to national GDP. [Tanzania's Livestock Modernisation Initiative](#) calls for investment in the sector in order to improve livelihoods and food security.

Land insecurity is a structural cause of food insecurity particularly for pastoralists, agropastoralists and small-scale crop farmers. In recent years, there have been an increasing number of violent conflicts between these groups. Between 2013–15, more than 34 people were killed in Kiteto district alone as a result of such conflicts. With expanding competition for land and without steps taken to secure the rights of those with entitlements to land and resources, such conflicts are likely to increase.

Security of land tenure can be improved through village land use planning (VLUP) and land certification, especially through issuing certificates of customary rights of occupancy (CCROs). Due to lack of resources and capacity, the implementation of these strategies has been limited, particularly in difficult areas where land use conflicts occur. Only 2% (1.28 million hectares) of the land deemed suitable for grazing was protected within land use plans, which had been implemented in less than 10% of villages in 81 out of 150 districts¹.

¹ Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. 2015. *Tanzania livestock modernization initiative*. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. Available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/67749>

Objectives

The Sustainable Rangeland Management project (SRMP) aims to improve local level land use planning and the governance of natural resources and land in pastoral areas of Tanzania. SRMP contributes to the International Land Coalition's (ILC) National Engagement Strategy (NES) for Tanzania. The 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 strategy has two main components—land-based investments and rangelands.

By working closely with national and local governments, SRMP aims to influence policy and legislation to create an improved environment for securing the rights of local rangeland users including rights to key resources such as grazing areas, access to water and maintaining necessary mobility. The project also aims to improve the participation of women, men, young and old in decision-making processes pertaining to their lands. SRMP builds the capacity of different actors to support the securing of rangelands, resolve conflicts between land users, and improve the management of rangelands through research, training and learning. The SRMP works with the [ILC Rangelands Initiative](#) to facilitate cross-country and cross-continental exchange with other ILC members and their partners working in similar contexts through learning visits or routes, study tours, meetings dissemination of results through publications, conferences, social media and other forums.

Finally, 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 awareness raising on the benefits of and opportunities for investment in pastoral production systems.

Outputs

SRMP is now in its third phase (2016–2020) with the financial support of IFAD, Irish Aid, the International Land Coalition, ILRI and the government of Tanzania. This phase focuses on scaling up the joint village land use planning approach that was previously piloted, in several new clusters of villages, as well as expanding the original ones. This includes securing of grazing areas through the provision of CCROs and improving the management of the areas by Livestock Keepers Associations. These activities are supported through action research on gender and land issues, as well as rangeland rehabilitation, improvement, intensification and livestock productivity through a complimentary project implementing participatory rangeland management (PRM).

Activities are being undertaken in two regions—Manyara in central Tanzania and Pwani coastal region. The locations of the new clusters of villages appropriate for joint village land use planning were identified through a landscape mapping of grazing areas, livestock routes and VLUP interventions across a pastoral-dominated corridor stretching from Kiteto district in Manyara region, through Kilindi district in Tanga region, Mvomero district in Morogoro, and up to Bagamoyo district in Pwani region.

Beneficiaries and impact

Between 2010–2015, SRMP assisted nine villages to carry out village land use planning and piloted the implementation of joint village planning (JVIUP) across two clusters of villages. This led to the protection of a grazing area called OLENGAPA covering 12,187 hectares shared by three villages found in Kiteto District in Manyara Region. This experience has been documented in [“Improving the implementation of land policy and legislation in pastoral areas of Tanzania: Experiences of joint village land use agreements and planning”](#)

In the current phase, OLENGAPA was expanded to include a fourth village increasing the grazing area to 30,000 hectares. The OLENGAPA Livestock Keepers Association, made up of 420 members and their families, was established. In September 2018, the first group CCRO was issued to them. A second cluster of villages in Kiteto called ALOLLE also successfully implemented joint village land use and secured a grazing area of 95,000 hectares. A third cluster called NAPALAI has protected 25,854 hectares. In April 2019, a cluster of villages called KIMBO protected 23,172 hectares of shared grazing land. In its final year, the Project will further scale up the process to a new district in Pwani region where it is anticipated JVLUP will be carried out in two clusters.

SRMP's [manual](#) on participatory rangeland resource mapping in pastoral areas (in English and Swahili) and manual on conflict resolution and village land use planning are being used by the government. Joint village land use planning is now included in the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) guidelines, the National Land Use Framework and the NLUPC's spatial planning [guidelines](#). Both the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the NLUPC are looking to adopt the approach in other areas.

Implementation

The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the National Land Use Planning Commission (NLUPC) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) jointly implement the project. Civil society organisations support communities and district councils to plan and secure grazing areas in the village clusters. Regional government and experts from partner organisations advise and guide the project through a national technical working group coordinated by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

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ILRI's research for development agenda

During the past decade or so, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) reoriented its research agenda with the overall goal of having more impact on internationally agreed targets and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ILRI uses theories of change and impact pathways to drive research agendas and engage with the relevant partners from the outset. This means ILRI's range of partners has widened from traditional research partners in national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES) and advanced research institutions around the world, to include actors from the development community—public, voluntary and private.

ILRI intends to accelerate efforts to improve its value proposition and product development research model and strengthen its ability to ensure research products result in impact and improve its overall efficiency and effectiveness. As part of these efforts, ILRI has created a dedicated “Impact at Scale” program responsible for ensuring technologies and solutions that ILRI (and others) have proven are taken to scale and incorporated into development projects.



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