



## Tool 3-I

### Appreciating the Third Leg of PRM: Using a landscape approach

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### Objective

To prepare members of the rangeland management institution and other stakeholders to plan and implement interventions that strengthen the Third Leg of participatory rangeland management

### Anticipated output

The rangeland management institution collaborates with other communities and stakeholders to implement activities that go beyond the rangeland unit, adopting a landscape approach

### Participants in this activity

- Members of the rangeland management institution
- Other county, sub-county and community stakeholders: e.g. ward administrators, influential elders and traditional leaders, chiefs, etc.

### Introduction

The Third Leg of rangeland management is about using a landscape approach. This involves looking beyond the borders of the rangeland unit, engaging with neighbours and planning for the larger landscape together with neighbours and a wide variety of other stakeholders.

Two of the defining characteristics of Kenyan rangelands are that (a) key resources are spread heterogeneously across large landscapes, and (b) rainfall and the availability of forage vary greatly over time and space. In fact, it is these characteristics that make mobile livestock keeping a well-suited livelihood for these areas. But unevenly distributed resources, variability and the need for mobility have important implications for the planning and practice of rangeland management. At times, the resources that a livestock owner needs will lie beyond the borders of his/her own community. A herder may need to pass through another community's territory to access markets, water or other resources.

Even with the most effective management practices, there are few, if any, pastoralist or agropastoralist communities who will never need to move their livestock beyond their own territory. If herders from your community sometimes need to move their livestock to other places, it stands to reason that herders from other places will sometimes want to access your territory. Therefore, a rangeland unit cannot be treated as an island.

## Three ingredients for strengthening the Third Leg

There are three main ingredients in a strategy for strengthening the Third Leg of rangeland management. The first is maintaining good relations with adjacent neighbours and with communities from the wider landscape. At the most basic level, this means ensuring that herders, livestock owners and other members of neighbouring communities, including leaders of those communities, are aware of the rangeland management activities. These neighbours should be aware that a rangeland management institution exists, that it represents the people of this rangeland unit, and that it is taking steps to coordinate grazing patterns and manage resources.

However, this engagement with neighbours should go beyond minimal awareness raising. Some of the decisions and activities implemented by a community will affect these neighbours and they (neighbours) should be part of the planning process for some aspects of planning. If herders and livestock owners from neighbouring communities and the wider landscape do not understand a community's efforts or feel they have not been included in the planning process for grazing land that has traditionally been shared, then they may disregard grazing plans or other rules, or even try to actively undermine the efforts. The need for maintaining good relations also involves mutual understanding between pastoralist and agricultural communities regarding borders and sharing of resources.

### Three ingredients for strengthening the Third Leg:

- Maintaining good relations with neighbours
- Planning for mobility
- Management at the landscape scale

The second ingredient is planning for mobility. Ensuring that stock routes are well-planned and are protected, is a task that goes beyond any one rangeland unit. Ideally, mapping of stock routes and mobility planning is a process that will happen at multiple levels from the inter-community level for minor routes, to a sub-county or large landscape level, county-wide mapping and planning, and at the largest scales, across county and even international borders. Some of this kind of mobility planning may take place within government-led processes such as county spatial planning. However, a community rangeland management institution can be proactive, especially at the community-to-community level, by negotiating with adjacent communities.

The third ingredient relates to management at the landscape scale. Ecosystems do not stop at the borders of a rangeland unit. Landscape scale management involves planning not only for grazing by livestock but also for wildlife conservation and management of water catchments. If the human beings living within an ecosystem wish to care for that ecosystem, then they need to look beyond any human-created boundaries. Different communities and various other stakeholder groups need to work together at a landscape scale.

## Examples of activities to strengthen the Third Leg

The following list is not exhaustive, but merely gives some examples of activities and interventions that can help strengthen the Third Leg. In the near future, some of these will be elaborated as additional tools to be added to this toolkit.

- Participatory border mapping: representatives from the rangeland unit and from communities adjacent to the rangeland unit agree on and map their mutual borders.

- Regular, informal meetings of neighbouring grazing committees: often, the rangeland management institution will have a sub-committee, a group of elders, or team of rangers managing the details of seasonal grazing plans including enforcing rules about where to graze at what times of year. It can be very helpful for the grazing sub-committee of the rangeland unit to regularly meet with its counterparts from neighbouring communities. These are small, informal, regular meetings of this grazing sub-committee with the equivalent sub-committee or group from adjacent communities.
- Inter-community/landscape forums: from time to time, large forums can be held involving the entire rangeland management institution from several neighbouring communities/rangeland units as well as other community members and stakeholders to review the plans and activities of each rangeland unit, discuss challenges related to inter-community relations, observe each other's grazing plans and rules and coordinate activities.
- Livestock route mapping: livestock route mapping involves bringing together local experts to map past, current and possible future stock routes, as well as other features such as conflict hotspots, shared pasture areas, etc., and then validating the mapping with a wider group of local experts and community members. This information can feed into a rangeland unit's planning as well as into larger planning processes such as a county spatial plan. One of the contributions of this kind of livestock route mapping, aside from the maps themselves, is that it can help to create mutual understanding among the communities within a landscape.
- Interacting with incoming herders from other locations: it is inevitable, especially if a community is managing its resources well, that herders from beyond the community will bring their livestock to graze. Whether out of ignorance of a community's seasonal grazing rules or from a conscious decision to try to circumvent those rules, some will try to graze their livestock in attractive pastures out of season. It is important that the rangeland management institution and its representatives (rangers, grazing managers, etc.) know how to peacefully handle such situations.
- Reciprocal grazing agreements: one approach to managing mobility and inter-community relations is to negotiate reciprocal grazing agreements among different communities or rangeland units.
- Activities for analyzing and resolving conflicts: even with the best of multi-stakeholder, landscape-level planning and proactive engagement with neighbouring communities, disputes, disagreements and misunderstandings with neighbours and other stakeholders are likely. Rangeland management institutions, county government personnel and other actors should be ready to bring disagreeing parties together to address such conflicts.

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