



## Tool G-2

# Steps in participatory rangeland management

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### Objective

Develop an understanding of the stages and steps in participatory rangeland management (PRM).

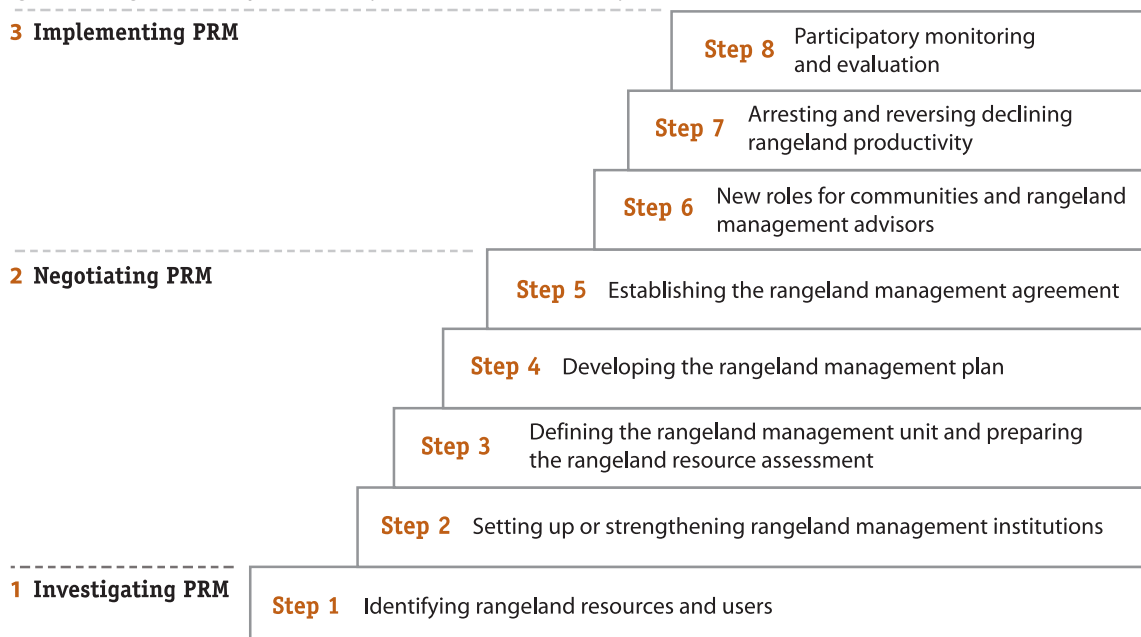
### Anticipated output

Members of the rangeland management institution and personnel of government and nongovernment organizations develop an understanding of the three main stages and eight steps involved in promoting PRM.

### Introduction

PRM is made up of three key stages—investigating, negotiating and implementing. These three stages can be further broken down into eight steps. The process begins (stage one) with the identification or confirmation of the appropriate unit for rangeland management: a traditional grazing area, for example. The stakeholders involved need to understand the rangeland resources of the area as well as both local and distant users of those resources.

Figure 1: Stages and steps of PRM (Flintan and Cullis 2010)



Then a governing community association or institution is strengthened or created if one does not already exist (stage two). A rangeland management plan (RMP) is developed based on an in-depth rangeland inventory and community action planning. Stage three is implementation of rangeland management. This stage includes agreeing on roles for the community rangeland management institution and community members at large, as well as roles of government and other external stakeholders. As the community and its rangeland management institution move forward, they go beyond the rangeland management plan they have developed and implement a variety of measures for restoring and maintaining the rangelands. The implementation stage also includes participatory monitoring and evaluation.

### The Four Legs and the steps of PRM

The Four Legs are the foundation on which participatory rangeland management is built. The stages and the steps of PRM and the Four Legs are complimentary. The Four Legs highlight some particular tools that can be incorporated into the PRM process at different phases and steps.

Table 1: How the PRM steps relate to the Four Legs

PRM steps	Relation to the Four Legs
Step 1: Identifying rangeland resources and users	The task of understanding who the users of rangeland resources are relates both to people who live within the rangeland unit but also to others who live elsewhere and may bring their livestock to the area from time to time. It is important for ensuring that the community's different interests, needs and values are reflected in the rangeland management institutions (First Leg), as well as building constructive relationships with neighbours and people from the wider landscape (Third Leg). It is also important to understand the rangeland resources that are to be managed (Second Leg).
Step 2: Setting up or strengthening rangeland management institutions	This relates primarily to the First Leg and is concerned with issues such as community buy-in and support, clear understanding of how decisions are to be made and accountability to the community at large. However, recognition by government and, where applicable, by traditional institutions (Fourth Leg) is also important.
Step 3: Defining the rangeland management unit and preparing the rangeland resource assessment	This step relates primarily to the Second Leg—grazing land management. However, social and cultural considerations are also important here since the rangeland unit is not only a physical space but also a social one in which people will need to work together (First Leg). The outer boundaries of the rangeland unit also need to be accepted by neighbouring communities (Third Leg).
Step 4: Developing the rangeland management plan	This step relates primarily to the Second Leg.
Step 5: Establishing the rangeland management agreement	This step adds weight to the community's rangeland management plan (Second Leg) by securing support from government (Fourth Leg).
Step 6: New roles for communities and rangeland management advisors	PRM usually implies a shift in roles for communities, their leaders and government. By clarifying and enacting these new roles, this step strengthens community governance of the rangelands (First Leg) and channels support from government and other external stakeholders (Fourth Leg).
Step 7: Arresting and reversing declining rangeland productivity	With this step, the community develops and implements a variety of measures for restoring and maintaining the rangelands (Second Leg).
Step 8: Participatory monitoring and evaluation	A system of monitoring and evaluation helps the community to continually learn and improve its efforts. It should include elements of monitoring all aspects of the PRM process such as internal decision making and governance, relationship between the rangeland management institution and the community as a whole, grazing land management, rangeland condition, relations with neighbours and other stakeholders in the wider landscape and relations with government and traditional institutions (all Four Legs).

## References

Flintan, F. and Cullis, A. 2010. *Introductory guidelines to participatory rangeland management in pastoral areas*. Addis Ababa: Save the Children USA. Available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10568/99430>

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Photo credit: ILRI/Lance W Robinson

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