

Highland communal grassland management — a participatory approach for communal grazing lands in the Ethiopian Highlands

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SmaRT Ethiopia Project Virtual Stakeholder Meeting, Addis Ababa, 1 November 2021



Highland communal grasslands



- Communal grazing lands in the Ethiopian highlands
 - Large areas in some places, provide 10-50% of livestock feed
 - Low land potential, cropping often unsustainable
 - Conversion to crops or plantation is common
 - Degradation varies in severity
 - User groups registered with government
 - Limited certification of user rights, but ongoing in Amhara
 - Need for an integrated management approach

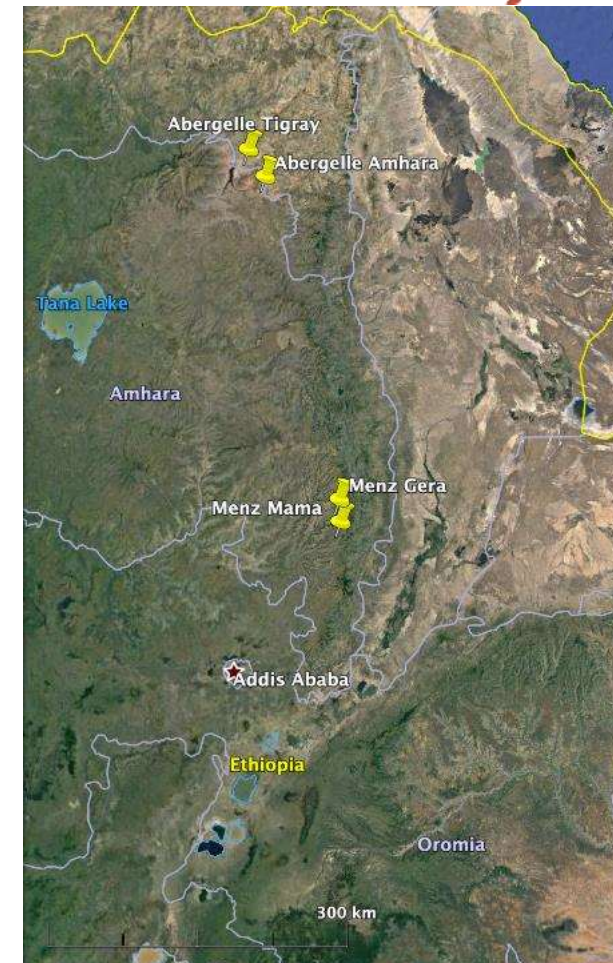
Sites (& species, breeds, value chains, ecosystems)



- Abergelle goats



- Menz sheep



Setting the stage



- Characterization of management systems
 - Local management practice and constraints (e.g., feed availability, scarcity, markets)
 - Grassland resources and mapping
 - Institutions and governance
- Prioritization of management objectives
 - Livelihoods focus
 - Priority uses of grasslands (usually multiple), livestock types
 - Main problems—feed scarcity causing livestock mortality, land degradation
 - Scan feasible management options and new ideas

Facilitating grassland management planning



- Plan grazing management
- Fit intensive restoration
- Formulate by-laws
- Check constraints; challenge feasibility
- Prepare, translate, and deposit management plan with government
- Action research trials and monitoring



Management planning — March 2021



Grazing management options adopted (i.e., planned)

Grassland area (ha)	Households in user group	Number of villages using	Certified (yes/no)	Main livelihood focus	Priority livestock species	Short-resting	Basic seasonal grazing	Rotational grazing	Grazing management options planned
2	18	1	No	Crops	Sheep	✓	✓	—	2
2.5	17	1	Yes	Mixed	Sheep	✓	✓	—	2
3	15	1	No	Crops	Cattle	✓	✓	—	2
4	41	1	No	Crops	Sheep	✓	✓	—	2
4	21	1	No	Crops	Sheep	✓	✓	—	2
4	10	1	No	Mixed	Cattle	✓	✓	—	2
6	42	2	Yes	Mixed	Cattle	✓	✓	—	2
25	100	Many	No	Livestock	Cattle	—	—	—	0
75	400	Many	No	Livestock	Sheep	✓	✓	—	2
200	600	Many	No	Livestock	Sheep	✓	✓	—	2
Total:						9	9	0	

Management planning — March 2021



Intensive restoration options adopted

Grassland area (ha)	Households in user group	Number of villages using	Certified livelihood (yes/no)	Main focus	Priority livestock species	Removal					Intensive restoration options planned
						Reseeding	Gully rehab.	of weeds, invasives	Trenches	Enriched enclosure	
2	18	1	No	Crops	Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	0
2.5	17	1	Yes	Mixed	Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	0
3	15	1	No	Crops	Cattle	—	—	—	—	—	0
4	41	1	No	Crops	Sheep	—	—	—	✓	—	1
4	21	1	No	Crops	Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	0
4	10	1	No	Mixed	Cattle	—	—	—	—	—	0
6	42	2	Yes	Mixed	Cattle	—	—	—	✓	—	1
25	100	Many	No	Livestock	Cattle	✓	—	✓	—	—	2
75	400	Many	No	Livestock	Sheep	—	—	—	—	—	0
200	600	Many	No	Livestock	Sheep	—	—	—	—	✓	1
Total:						1	0	1	2	1	

Communal grassland management plan and by-laws

Introduction

It has specified that the communal grassland declining in terms of size and productivity. This is because of there has not been any plan of grazing management like private grazing land. As a result, there have been discussion with users of communal grassland in different time to agree on the grazing plan management. Accordingly, the users of communal grasslands placed grazing management plan that context their own specific areas like as follows..

Grazing plan and resting seasons and areas

Table 1. Grazing plan

Seasons	Months	Grazing areas	Number of days	Resting of grazing areas
Rainy	June-August	Upland	90	Bottomland
Tuesday	September-November	Bottomland	90	Upland
Dry	December-February	Upland and Bottomland	90	None
Belg	1 Mar - 15 April	Upland	45	Bottomland
Belg	16 April - 31 May	Bottomland	45	Upland

By-laws for enforcement of the plan

For the above (Table 1) grazing plan and resting times, the following by laws were created. To follow up and implement these by-laws, five committee members were selected from the user group.

Right of users

- All users have the right to access and use the grassland when grazing is allowed.
- All members of user households have access to the grassland when grazing is allowed.
- All users have the right of participating in user group meetings, to be selected as committee members, and to select the committee.
- All users have the right of transfer the right of grassland access to their children.

Obligation of users

- All users have the obligation of protecting resting areas at times of resting.
- All users have the obligation of participating in meeting, and work or activities to be done.
- All users should be governed by the management plan and action plan.
- All users should be cooperative have a responsibility to follow decisions of the committee.
- All users have the obligation of using the grazing area as planned.

Table 2. Penalties for the violation of by-laws

Penalties for grazing in resting areas	Birr/animal/day	Birr/animal/night
1 sheep or 1 goat grazing inappropriately	1	1
Cattle grazing inappropriately	5	5
Equines grazing inappropriately	5	5
If user does not protect the grazing area during resting by his/her turn	50	50
If user penalize two times, referred to kebele social court for judgment on further penalties	Referred to kebele social courts judgment for further penalties according to their by-laws at kebele level	

- For missing meetings or work activities, penalized 5 Birr per day.
- For arriving late to meetings or work activities, penalized 5 Birr per day.

NB. This plan is for 3 years, but the community/users' group have right to amend/change the plan/by-law through discussion for better improvement of the communal grasslands.

This document copied and placed at kebele and users' group.

የጋራ ግጥሽ መሬት አያያዥ ዕቅድና እንክብካቤ ሙተዳደሪያ ደንብ

መግቢያ

በተለያዩ ሁኔታ የጋራ የግጥሽ መሬት ስፋትና ምርታማነት እየቀነሰ ነው። ለዚህም በዋናነት ምክንያቱ እስካሁን ድረስ እንደ ግል ግጥሽ መሬት አያያዥ አቅድና እንክብካቤ ባለመኖሩ ነው። በዚህ ምክንያት ከተጠቃሚዎች ጋር በተለያዩ ጊዜ ወይም በማድረግ የጋራ ግጥሽ መሬት አያያዥ አቅድና እንክብካቤ እንደሚያስፈልግ ስምምነት ላይ ተደርጏል። በዚህም መሰረት የአካባቢውን ሁኔታ ባንናዘበ መለኩ ከተለያዩ አማራጭ የአያያዥና እንክብካቤ ዘዴዎች መካከል በመጀመሪያ ደረጃ የአጋጋጥ ዘዴን በመምረጥ ተግባራዊ ለማድረግ እንደሚከተለው በዝርዝር ተቀምጧል።



የአጋጋጥ ዘዴ እና እረፍት የመስጠት ጊዜ

ወቅት	ወራት	የሚጋጠው ቦታ	ለስንት ቀን ይጋጣል	እረፍት የሚያገኘው ቦታ
ክረምት	በኔ ጸሀይ	ላይኛው	90	ታችኛው
ፀደይ	መስከረም-ህዳር	ታችኛው	90	ላይኛው
በጋ	ታህሳስ-የከተት	ሁሉም ቦታ	90	የሌም
በልግ	መጋቢት-ሚያዝያ 15	ላይኛው	45	ታችኛው
በልግ	ሚያዝያ 16-ግንቦት	ታችኛው	45	ላይኛው

ህገ-ደንብ

ከላይ የተቀመጠውን የአጋጋጥና እረፍት የመስጠት ጊዜን ስራ ላይ ለማዋል የሚከተለውን ህገ ደንብ አውጥተናል። ይህንን ህገ ደንብ ለመከታተል እምስት አበላት ያለዉ ኮሚቴም መርጠናል።

የተጠቃሚዎች መብት

- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች በሚጋጡ ጊዜ የመጠቀም መብት አላቸው
- የሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች በተሰጠ በሚጋጡ ጊዜ የመጠቀም መብት አላቸው
- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች በስበሰብ መሳተፍ፣ ኮሚቴ ሆኖ መመረጥና መምረጥ መብት አላቸው
- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች ለልጆቻቸው በሚጋጡ ጊዜ እንዲጠቀሙ የማስተላለፍ መብት አላቸው

የተጠቃሚዎች ግዴታ

- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች የግጥሽ መሬት እረፍት በሚሰጠበት ጊዜን የመጠበቅ ግዴታ አላቸው
- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች በስበሰብ የመሳተፍ፣ የጋራ የግጥሽ መሬት በተመለከተ ስራዎችን መሰረት ግዴታ አላቸው
- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች በወጣው ዕቅድ የመመራት ግዴታ አላቸው
- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች ከሚቀጡ ማንኛውንም መተባበር ግዴታ አላቸው
- ሁሉም ተጠቃሚዎች የግጥሽ መሬቱን በእቅዱ መሰረት የመጠበቅ ግዴታ አላቸው

ህገብ-ደንብ ለሚጠስ የተቀመጠ ቅጠት

የግጥሽ መሬት እረፍት ላይ ሊያል	ቦታ	ባለሌላ
በግ ወይም ፍየል ይስጋጠ	1 ብር	1 ብር
የቀንድና የጋራ ክብት ይስጋጠ	5 ብር	5 ብር
ተጠቃሚው በተራው ካልጠበቀ	50 ብር	50 ብር

- በስራና ስብሰባ ላይ ያለተገኘ 5ብር ይቀጣል
- ለስራና ስብሰባ ይረፈደ 1ብር ይቀጣል

ህገ-ደንብን የማይጠበቅ፣ ለሁለት ጊዜ የተቀጠና ተቀቶ አልከፍልም የሚል ተጠቃሚ ወይ ቀበሌ ማህበራዊ ፍርድ ቤት ይቀርብና ይቀጣል።

Action research & monitoring



- End-of-season resting trial:
 - LandPKS rangeland protocol
 - *Baseline*: November 2019
 - *Resting*: July - September 2021
 - *Outcome*: October 2021



Final outcomes



- Evidence generated:
 - Process for improving management piloted — start to finish
 - Resting effects quantified
 - Institutional and technical options most likely to scale documented
- Documentation and dissemination:
 - Reports (4) on characterization, prioritization, and monitoring
 - Manual (1), field tools (2), for characterization and prioritization
 - Manual (1) field tool (1), and a targeting tool (1) for management planning
 - Protocol for resting action research trial (results forthcoming)
 - Implementation guide
 - Policy brief
- Scaling potential:
 - Ethiopian highlands-wide
 - Communal grazing lands in mixed or agro-pastoral systems elsewhere (with minor modifications)

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