

**IUCN**

Booklet 2: Participatory  
Rangeland Planning:  
*A Practitioners Guide*

ESARO Regional Drylands Programme



Garba Tula district in Isiolo County of Northern Kenya, is a region covering approximately 10,000km and home to around 40,000 predominantly Boran Pastoralists. The region is characterised by arid and semi-arid conditions and is rich in biodiversity and wildlife resources. Despite being surrounded by protected areas such as Meru National Park and Bisan Adi Game Reserve the full potential for conservation is not being met, and instead communities are often threatened and restricted by wildlife populations. The majority of land in Garba Tula district is held in trust by the country councils, who exercise strict control over the allocation of land. Decisions on the use and management of land are taken out of the hands of local communities and their traditional authorities, weakening them and leading to increased land fragmentation and degradation.

IUCN's dryland programme based at the IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) has been working in Garba Tula District, of Isiolo County since 2009 implementing the Improving Governance of Natural Resources for Rural Poverty Reduction project with funding from the Department for International Development Governance and Transparency Fund, (DFID-GTF), and complementary resources from Catholic Aid for Relief and Development (CORDAID). This project seeks to strengthen natural resource governance in Garba Tula, by supporting the underlying institutions and regulatory systems, enabling more participatory decision-making practices and positioning communities to benefit from more sustainable resource management. The project has 4 key result areas:

1. Decision makers and stakeholders have increased awareness and policy guidance for dryland management based on identified best practices.
2. More effective participatory decision-making in natural resource use and management, based on strengthened institutional arrangements
3. Local communities are better able to capture viable economic and biodiversity-related benefits from identified dryland ecosystem opportunities
4. Lessons and best practices are effectively captured and disseminated to promote learning and enable scaling up of project impacts

These handbooks are the products of this project and are a means to share the learning from the approaches used with a wider audience of practitioners and policy makers. There are 3 handbooks in this series: 1) Strengthening Natural Resource Governance, 2) Participatory Rangeland Planning - A Practitioners Guide and 3) Enabling Community Benefits from Sustainably Managed Drylands.

## **About IUCN**

IUCN, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges.

IUCN works on biodiversity, climate change, food security, governance and greening the world's economy by supporting scientific research, managing field projects and bringing governments, NGOs, the UN, communities and the private sector together to develop policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organisation, with more than 1,000 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries.

# Booklet 2: Participatory Rangeland Planning: *A Practitioners Guide*

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# Acronyms

IUCN International Union for the Conservation of Nature

NRM Natural Resource Management

PRP Participatory Rangeland Planning

RAP Resource Advocacy Programme

RUA Rangeland Users Association

SWOT Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunity and Threats

WUA Water Users Association

## About the handbook

This handbook is a product of IUCN's Garba Tula project ***“Improving Natural Resource Governance for Rural Poverty Reduction”***. It also borrows from other IUCN experiences in participatory environmental work in Eastern Africa. The handbook offers a quick and easy procedure to be used in realizing Participatory Rangeland Planning processes that will enable communities to derive multiple benefits from dryland natural resources in a sustainable manner through the engagement of various stakeholders.

## Background to Participatory Rangeland Planning

### What is Participatory Rangeland Planning (PRP)?

Participatory Rangeland Planning is a highly valuable approach that enables resource users to analyse and avert threats and maximize on the potential of rangeland resources to ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem goods and services. As the name suggests it is a participatory and community-driven process that lays the foundation for identifying priorities for rangeland resource management and use. The process is inclusive and involves multiple rangeland users and stakeholders, to generate common action plans and measures for optimal rangeland use.

### Rationale for Participatory Rangeland Planning

Rangeland resources in pastoral communities are often exploited collectively by local users and other neighbouring communities in a mutually agreed manner, based on a set of norms and rules. Although these norms and rules of resource exploitation have existed in many rangelands for centuries, in recent years they have diminished resulting in resource degradation and threats to rangeland productivity. Many options exist to improve the management of the rangelands, one such approach is Participatory Rangeland Planning.

The overall aim of Participatory Rangeland Planning is to improve the livelihood of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities through comprehensive and integrated rangeland resource management and development planning.

The specific aims of PRP are to:

- Foster productive use of rangelands at landscape levels by building on indigenous grazing systems and establishing improved management plans and resource use patterns;
- Enable communities to identify productive measures to improve rangeland health, and minimize land degradation;
- Engage multiple stakeholders to strengthen cooperation and negotiation on land and resource use among pastoral communities, agriculturalists, investors and government officials;
- Engage community and government in the development of plans to improve collaboration and foster cultures of participation within government decision making processes.

# **Natural Resource Management in the Waso Rangeland of Garba Tula**

The Waso rangeland is endowed with a range of natural resources that provide diverse products and



# **Key steps in Participatory Rangeland Planning**

Participatory Rangeland Planning is a process based on continuous engagement of stakeholders towards achieving sustainable rangeland productivity. The process itself follows a sequence of

# Inventory of the baseline environmental conditions

The initial stage of a PRP is to gather information about the different resources found in the rangelands, their uses and users, and systems of management. It is important to ensure the right mix of people who are knowledgeable on the rangelands, especially elders and women, engage in this process in order to obtain as much information on the status of the resources, micro and macro analysis of the landscape, as well as the historical use pattern. As pastoral communities are largely oral, a lot of details on resources, users, seasonal use patterns, etc. are generated at this stage using a range of participatory methods.

## Mapping present situation

Community members hold a significant amount of information on their environment. Drawing a map of an area and the resource endowments is an effective way of sharing what they feel their surroundings look like, pin pointing where important resources and features are located and highlighting associated problems and opportunities. In Garba Tula, pastoralists take a territorial approach when assessing range conditions and often have a very vivid and extensive picture of their environment. Participatory resource mapping is an important means of converting their mental map into a visual map. The exercise also facilitates discussion and consensus building within a group to ensure collective agreements on the status of resources.

Mapping is a highly inclusive and participatory exercise that involves every member of the community regardless of literacy level. To ensure you capture the views of a range of different stakeholders, participants can be divided into groups such as men, women, different resource user groups (pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, farmers etc.) to draw the present situation maps.

*Figure 1: Community members drawing present situation map*

*Figure 2: Present situation map of Waso rangelands*

## **I n c d a e e a a**

1. Allow 1 to 2 hours for this task.
2. Divide the participants into at least two groups (men and women; pastoralists and agro-pastoralists). Depending on numbers and the time more groups may be informed.
3. Ask participants to mark the borders of the rangelands under community jurisdiction or communally owned.
4. Mark in all natural resources: water points, farm land, grazing lands (wet and dry season areas), forests, livestock distribution etc.
5. Mark degraded areas, intact areas, environmental problems in each area.
6. Draw the infrastructure such as roads, houses, hospitals. Do not mark in all the houses, schools, etc. - as the emphasis of this work is on the environment. Just mark in a few houses to show where the villages are.
7. At the end share the maps with other groups in plenary.

The map in Figure 2 shows the current status of resources within the Waso rangelands, as identified by the local community. It clearly shows the locations of important resources, mobility patterns and routes during dry and wet seasons, drought reserve areas, settlement patterns, degraded areas, farm encroachment and bush encroachment. The map also indicates the routes used by neighbouring communities that depend on the Waso rangelands mainly during drought periods. The information in the present map forms the basis on which vision map is drawn. The map shows the current status of resources within the Waso rangelands. It clearly shows the locations of important resources, mobility patterns and routes during dry and wet seasons, drought reserve areas, settlement patterns, degraded areas, farm encroachment and bush encroachment. The map also indicates the routes used by neighbouring communities that depend on the Waso rangelands mainly during drought periods. The information in the present map forms the basis on which the vision map is drawn.

# Interpretation of the present situation maps

Based on the present situation map community members identify problems in the rangelands and the opportunities that exist. These are discussed and solutions are sought to form the basis of the action plan. The discussions can be done thematically to generate enough information for the plan. At this stage community members focus on significant problems that affect their livelihoods and unpack the root cause or factors that contribute to that problem. A natural resource matrix is then drawn up through ranking of threats to major resources and opportunities based on their perceived importance to the community. This exercise involves the listing of important habitats, and resources, and the identification of threats that they face.

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- 1.

NR Values	Major Threats

*Figure 3: Community vision map of Waso rangelands*

## Vision mapping (5-10 years time)

After the presentation and interpretation of the present day maps by different groups the next step is the drawing of vision maps. Vision maps depict the aspirations of the community with regards to the landscape and environment in the coming 5-10 year period. Vision mapping enables communities to identify how they would like their resources and land to be used and managed in the future. It provides a platform for the coming action planning stage, where participants will identify solutions to current problems, and opportunities to enhance their livelihoods.

### **I n t e r c o m m u n i t y d i s c u s s i o n a**

1. Allow between 1-2 hours for this work.
2. Use the same groups as for the present situation mapping.
3. Ask the participants to imagine what they would like the rangelands to look like in some agreed future (5-10 years) time.
4. Ask the participants to make a new map using the same boundary as the present situation map.
5. Have participants draw in their vision for the future based on all the natural resources - water, farm land, grazing lands, forests and rivers.
6. Do not mark in all the houses, school etc.-as the emphasis of this work is on the environment. Just mark in a few houses to show where the settlements are.
7. At the end share the maps with the larger group explaining the adjustments made to present situation map to achieve the vision of sustainable rangelands.

In Garba Tula community members suggested some interventions that will enable them to overcome the current challenges in the rangelands. Some of the immediate priorities identified include: decommissioning of dams and pans that are associated with degradation, and eradication of invasive species like *Prosopis juliflora*, as can be seen in Figure 3 above.



Table 2: Resource side of Resource Allocation

Resource	Stakeholder	Role	Responsibilities	Relationship	Reference
Water	Water Resource Users Association (WRUA),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To access and control</li> <li>To Protection</li> <li>To Own</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage</li> <li>To utilize</li> <li>To protect</li> </ul>	Mutual support With outsider/ upstream users – conflict With water boards/ Ministry of water - Supportive	Water Levies
	Rangeland Users Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To access and use</li> <li>To own</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage</li> <li>Advice on utilization and planning</li> </ul>	Cooperation with other users	-
	Community members,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To own</li> <li>Access and use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage</li> <li>To protect</li> </ul>	Mutual support with other users	-
	Ministry of Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use</li> <li>Allocation of water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning and management</li> <li>Collect revenue</li> <li>Impose fines and other punitive measures</li> </ul>	Good Working relationship with other users -Close cooperation with WRUAs	Water Levies
	NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice on water use and management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support development</li> </ul>	-Mutual help and cooperation with other users	-
Pasture	RUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access and control</li> <li>Ownership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage</li> <li>To utilize</li> <li>To Protect</li> </ul>	With Secondary user - mutual support With outsider - conflict	Insignificant levies
	Community members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage</li> </ul>	-Mutual cooperation -Conflict with outside users	-
	Ministry of Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning and management</li> <li>Advice users on sustainable management and utilisation</li> </ul>	-Mutual cooperation with other users -	Insignificant levies
	NGOs	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical advice on management</li> <li>Financial and material support</li> </ul>	-Good working relationships	





# Developing the Action Plan

The next step in a PRP process is the formulation of the action plan. The action details the activities to be implemented to ensure the achievement of the vision maps. It aims to identify ways of solving existing problems and capitalizing on opportunities, clarifying roles and responsibilities and highlighting resources.

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1. Allow 2 to 3 hours for this exercise.
2. Divide the participants into groups preferably using the same groups as for the mapping.
3. Ask each group to consider the information gathered during the mapping and stakeholder analysis and based on this:
  - a. Determine activities to be undertaken and prioritized. The focus should be on the natural resource management components and ensuring that the activities can be implemented by communities themselves without external assistance or with minimal assistance,
  - b. State why the activities are necessary,
  - c. Identify the resources required,
  - d. Identify who will implement the proposed activities,
  - e. Identify where the activities will be undertaken,
  - f. Decide on the time for the execution of each activity.
4. Allow each group to make presentation on the plans and to discuss amongst the participants.

Table 4 below is an example of some of the action points that were developed during the PRP process in Garba Tula.

**Table 4: Ra e a d Ac Pa**

Problem cluster	Suggested solution	Why	What (Resource)	Time frame	Where (location)	Responsible body
<b>Governance failure</b>	Removal of <i>Prosopis</i> Species	Destruction of sand value and shallow wells in Garbatulla Lagga	Finance Power saws, Pangas	Oct- Dec 2011	Garbatulla Lagga	RAP, IUCN RUA, Min. of Agriculture Community
	Management of <i>prosopis</i> in the Malka/ Arba Korbessa and Malka/ Galla	Used for fodder, shade, rewood, timber and human food. Habitat	Training communities Linking to other users e.g. animal feed manufacturers Financial support	Oct 2011-2015	M/Arba Korbessa M/Galla	RAP, IUCN RUA, Min. of Agriculture Community
	Eradication of <i>Sarim</i>	It is an invasive species	Finance Equipment e.g. Jembe, Panga, Tractor e.t.c	Jan 2012-2015	Bulesa and Cherub area Iresaboru	RAP, RUA IUCN, Min. of Livestock
<b>Pasture degradation</b>	Closing of Dams	Degradation and depletion of pasture  For pasture regeneration, we need an agreement between users to let it recover	Finance for decommissioning	Jan-Dec 2012	(In order of priority) 1. Yamitcha 2. Rahole 3. Bwana Cook 4. Haral Hotuu 5. Abagarse 6. LMD 7. Hara Adhi 8. Taiboto	RAP IUCN RUA NWSB Min. of Water
<b>Bush Encroachment</b>	Strengthen institutions in managing rangelands	Improve Rangelands To enhance transparency and accountability To enhance participation and ownership To avoid conflict and improve quality of leadership Peace building	Finance, Expertise, Training, Exposure tour	Jan 2012-2015	1. Merti Zone 2. Garbatualla Zone 3. Kinna and Sericho Zones	Dheeda, RAP RUA, IUCN NRT, County Government

## Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation

Developing monitoring and review systems for PRP is important to ensure that this is not a one-off exercise and that systems of accountability are engrained in the process. Regular monitoring of plans enables understanding of what has been achieved, identification of deviations from the plan and areas that need further attention to achieve the desired outcomes. It is important to generate indicators at the development stage that will guide the monitoring during the course of implementation. As with the entire PRP process, the identification of indicators must be participatory so that those selected are meaningful to the community.

### Key evaluation questions:

- What did you plan to do?
- What did you actually achieve?
- What did you not achieve and why?
- What will you do differently next time?
- How will you know if you have been successful?

## Key lessons from PRP

The process of PRP in Garba Tula has formed a critical part of strengthening the governance of NR in the district. It has strengthened participation, and the engagement of communities in decision making. It has also highlighted the key role that indigenous institutions play in sustainably managing resources, and the threats to the continued effectiveness of these institutions. A number of key lessons have been learned as a result of this process:

- Engaging community members and government officials from the onset of the planning process facilitates formulation of action plans that are owned by everyone thereby ensuring effective implementation.
- The process has helped communities assess the multiple resource users and created avenues to improve collaboration and co-exist amongst competing user groups. PRP processes require time and patience to develop inclusive action plans that meet the needs of multiple stakeholders.
- Adequate resources must be allocated to the implementation of the action plans. If activities planned are too ambitious and costly few will be implemented due to limited resources.
- The environmental problems that threaten productivity and sustainability of the rangelands have been attributed largely to breakdown in traditional resources management systems. Fortifying customary resource management practices and planning processes is essential to achieving sustainability in rangelands.
- Mapping resources helps recognize the numerous untapped resources as well as how the tapped resources have been mismanaged. This is an important step towards restoring and conserving rangeland resources and identifying additional opportunities for community benefit.

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