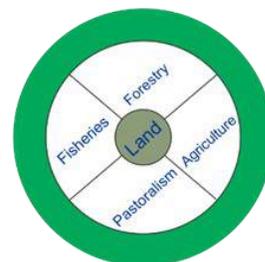




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RECONCILE

PILOTING PARTICIPATORY RANGELANDS MANAGEMENT - PROJECT (PRM)

ISSUE NO.1 2019



Dear reader,

Welcome to the first issue of the Participatory Rangelands Management (PRM) project Newsletter 2019. We are delighted to keep you updated on the progress made towards the piloting of PRM – Project in Baringo County, Kenya. We hope you will enjoy keeping in touch with our latest developments from different project activities and sites. We do value your partnership hence welcome your feedback and suggestions.

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Best wishes, PRM Project team

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Partners meeting in Arusha Tanzania

Proper coordination and joint planning is critical in the implementation of Participatory Rangeland Management project given that it is a multi-country action being implemented in Kenya and Tanzania. To this effect, a joint partners' planning and reflection meeting was held on the 29th and 30th of January, 2019 in Arusha Tanzania. It was attended by the five project partners; Resource Conflict Institute, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum, International Livestock and Research Institute, KINAPPA and Sustainable Rangeland Management Programme. The following were the action items from the meeting:

- ⇒ A context analysis of different stakeholders in the region to be carried out in order to inform the rangeland management plans and spatial planning process.
- ⇒ Need to revise PRM Steps based on the Tanzanian and Kenyan contexts while taking into account the lessons learnt from other initiatives
- ⇒ Peer learning among the implementing partners to be explored in order to take advantage of different expertise brought on board by each partner.

Stakeholder and context mapping and analysis

Clear understanding of the stakeholders and context in which any project is to be implemented is imperative for informed decisions on project activities, strategic partnerships and complementarity efforts. The period between 11th-22nd February marked a great step by RECONCILE in understanding the context in which the PRM project is being implemented as well as the stakeholders in the project sites (rangeland areas); Kabarion conservancy, Irong conservancy, Koitegan Community Forest and

Paka Hills. This exercise involved; the Baringo County government officials (Technical Working Group), consultant team, RECONCILE team and community opinion leaders and members.



Stakeholder and Context mapping and analysis exercise at Paka hills and Irong Conservancy respectively (Photo credit: RECONCILE)

The external teams facilitated elicitation of relevant information from the community through Focused Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews. Parameters under investigation included: administrative characteristics of the rangeland areas/conservancies (membership, size, population, date of establishment); key activities carried out in the rangeland; zoning of the rangeland; biodiversity endowment; stakeholders and their interests, rights, responsibilities and relationships; returns of the rangeland area, governance of the rangeland area; challenges facing the rangelands' resources and resource users and associated mitigation actions;

participatory rangeland management practices undertaken in the area; future plans/strategies for the rangeland; and current and desired infrastructural assets in the rangeland for optimal utilization of the rangeland resources.

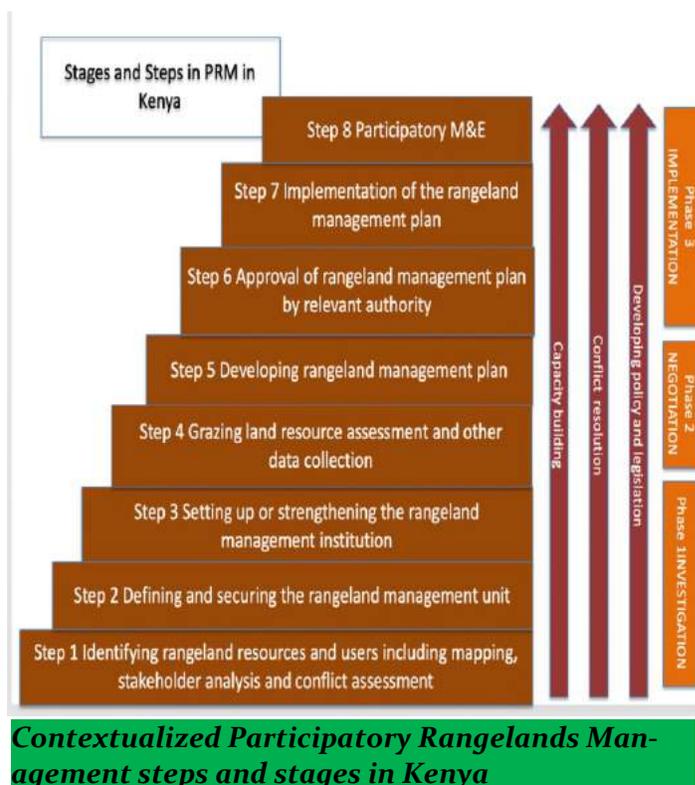
Key findings from the exercise were as follows:

- ◆ Conservancy members/residents are the primary stakeholders while cooperatives, NGOs, Private investors among others are the secondary stakeholders; with different rights, responsibilities, relationships and revenues.
- ◆ Some sort of management structure in every conservancy/ rangeland exist, with clear roles and powers, although in the structures do not have capacity and legal authority per se to exercise their powers in the management of rangeland.
- ◆ Poor women participation in rangeland related decision also come handy with weak rangeland management structure.
- ◆ Poor rangeland resource use and planning is a cross cutting issue in all project sites; there are no clear sub divisions of land in respect to various uses. Additionally, the four sites do not have rangeland management plans which should guide use and management of resources.
- ◆ Conflict also defines the context in all the sites. Report on this exercise was validated on 15th March 2019. [Click here for full report.](#)

Contextualizing PRM to fit Kenyan Context

On the 14th of March 2019, RECONCILE under the PRM project organized a meeting for the adaptation of PRM to the Kenyan context. This exercise was facilitated by Fiona Flintan from International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). In attendance was; the PRM project team, members of PRM Baringo Technical Working Group

and Community representatives from the PRM project pilot areas; Irong, Kabarion, Koitegan and Paka Hills in Baringo County. The meeting provided a platform to increase understanding of PRM concept and its application in other countries with intention of helping project partners contextualize it into Baringo context in Kenya. The ideal PRM steps and stages are informed by Ethiopian experience, where PRM concept has successfully been implemented. These PRM stages and steps are to made context specific in order to respond to the needs and processes of Baringo County and Kenya at large. Unique characteristics of Baringo County and Kenyan context with regards to land tenure security; community rangeland management institutions; government authorities with mandate to approve variant rangeland management plans; community conflicts and capacities of local institutions, led to the development of the following PRM steps and stages:



Developing stronger linkages with communities

To strengthen project linkages at the community level and to contribute towards building capacities for sustainability and improving local ownership of the project, RECONCILE undertook the recruitment of four field officers from the four project sites. The recruitment process was quite competitive with 19 applications submitted by young graduates with relevant qualifications from the communities.

Successful applicants who were shortlisted took part in the much competitive interviews conducted on the 1st of March, 2019 in Baringo by a panel consisting of RECONCILE staff, two representatives of the county government and two representatives from each of the four project sites. The field officers recruited were officially introduced to the community by The Governor Baringo County, His Excellency Stanley Kiptis



From far right: His Excellency Governor Baringo County Stanley Kiptis with PRM Field officers, Zephania Kenei-Kabarion conservancy, Wilson Kimaru-Irong Conservancy, Amuchung Nelson-Paka hills rangeland and Dominic Kipkirui-Koitegan Community Forest during PRM project Launch (Photo credit: RECONCILE/ Jessicah Simoy)

during the launch of the PRM project in Baringo.

The field officers are part of PRM project team and will work together with the Baringo County TWG in executing day to day community-based activities and linking the communities to the county and project interventions.

Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) Project Launch

On 22nd March, 2019, RECONCILE in collaboration with the County Government of Baringo through the Department of Lands Housing & Urban development and the Communities from the four projects sites hosted Participatory Rangelands Management Project Launch at Irong Conservancy, Baringo South, Mochongoi Ward Kapkuikui Location. The launch brought together over 500 people including, Baringo County Governor, Baringo North and South North Members of Parliament, area Members of County Assembly, county and national government officers from various ministries, Kenya Wildlife Service, Northern Rangelands Trust, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Egerton University, International Land Coalition among others.

The event gave opportunity to partners and stakeholders to strengthen their partnerships and share more on what they are pursuing or even thinking as far as rangelands improvements are concerned. His Excellency, the governor Baringo County, Kiptis presided over the Launch and was really impressed by the Participatory Rangelands Management initiative

“...through this initiative we could have feedlots and establish grazing areas for fattening of our livestock, hence improved livelihoods which would translate to high literacy rates among our children”-Governor Baringo County.



First Row Right to Left: Mr Audace Kubwimana -Regional Coordinator ILC-Africa, Mr. Shadrack Omondi-Executive Director RECONCILE, Hon. Joseph Makilap-MP Baringo North, Hon. Kipruto Kimosop-MCA Mochongoi ward, H.E Stanley Kiptis- Governor Baringo County, during the Launch (Photocredit: RECONCILE/ Jessicah Siimoy)

“We partner with likeminded organizations like RECONCILE to unlock the potentials of the ASAL areas. Currently we are working to ensure rangelands have land use plans besides digitization of land registries in eight counties, Baringo County being one of them”
Mr. Sowek, FAO.

Capacity Development between partners

The nature of PRM project demands equal technical knowhow of project teams in both the implementing countries. This is useful in ensuring all involved programs and finance people are at par for smooth action implementation and reporting. On the 13th and 14th of March 2019, following a request by TNRF team, RECONCILE through the finance office undertook training for the TNRF finance staff on the donor require-

ments for financial reporting at TNRF offices. This included, training on the X tracker processes (organizing and uploading the files) to the system for ease of reporting as required by the donor. This is a good step towards capacity development among the PRM project partners to ensure a successful implementation of the project. The support was well acknowledged and encouraged by TNRF team towards building on the partnerships for organizational development.

Upcoming events

We are excited to share with you plans for our next quarter hoping you will keep abreast with the project developments. The quarter will focus on the following project activities:

- ⇒ Defining rangeland management units and institutions in the four project sites
- ⇒ Joint reflection and planning meeting between project partners
- ⇒ Communication and visibility training
- ⇒ Resource mapping

Secure rangelands,

secure

livelihoods!



Rangeland users showcasing some of the rangeland resources and products during PRM project

Project Partners

