



HOLISTIC PLANNED GRAZING PROGRESS REPORT- OCT 2012 TO APRIL 2013

Peter Leshakwet, Senior Grazing Management Officer

Project Goal: : to improve the condition of rangelands and other natural resources through development and implementation of lands use plans and practices that ensure the sustainable management of natural resources



Holistic planned grazing is a program of action designed by Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) to secure the best use of rangelands, build resilience and reduce vulnerability to droughts and its adverse effects to both pastoralist communities and wildlife. The target of the program is to support a total of 9 NRT conservancies in 2012/2013 to achieve the above goal.

PROGRAM TARGETS

The list of the program targets for 2012/2013 is as follows:

1. Land-use plans developed for 8 Conservancies and endorsed by the constituent communities
2. Grazing plans developed for 8 NRT Conservancies with an estimated 300,000 ha of land under planned grazing
3. 10,000 cattle in planned grazing program across 8 conservancies (including bunched herding, bomas and grazing blocks)

4. 2,180 Households participating in planned grazing programme across 8 conservancies
5. Grazing bylaws harmonized and draft bylaws presented to all NRT Conservancies
6. Increased grass cover and diversity and reduced bare ground recorded in special management/rangeland rehabilitation areas in 5 Conservancies (covering 2,250 ha)
7. Vegetation monitoring (Vegetation-CoMMS) established and locally-run in 8 Conservancies
8. Socio-economic monitoring (Social-CoMMS) tools developed and tested in 8 Conservancies
9. Remote sensing land-cover and soil carbon baseline established for 15 NRC Conservancies
10. Increase capacity for holistic plans grazing in NRT and 8 conservancies through recruitment staff, trainings and exposure tours
11. Draft Project Description Document (PDD) for forest and soil carbon VCS developed and circulated

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Comprehensive land use plans aimed at designating different current and potential future lands uses for each conservancy are due to start in May 2013. However community decisions with regards to planning of human settlements have already been effected in 6 conservancies (Kalama, Meibae, West Gate, Mpus Kutuk, Lekkuruki and Sera) for better implementation of grazing plans and in order to secure sufficient grazing lands in future.

GRAZING PLANS DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITY CONSERVANCIES

Dry season grazing plans aimed at better utilization of forage were developed and implemented in 7 conservancies (West gate, Kalama Lekuruki, Il Ngwesi, Naibunga, Sera, mpuskutuk and Meibae) (Jan to March 2013). In addition livestock bunching was undertaken in Kalama, West Gate and Lekkuruki buffer zones, aimed at creating high animal impact to heal bare ground, enhance the water cycle, and increase vegetation cover and biodiversity, as summarized in the table below.

Conservancy name	Total no. of families/ households	Length of the grazing plan	No. of cattle in the grazing plan	No. households involved in the grazing plan	No. of bomas established	Average size of boma	Size of bare ground healed
West gate	1,125	45 days	681	65	12	0.5 acre	6 acres
Kalama	310	4months	701	81	15	0.5 acre	7.5 acres
Lekurruki	105	4 months	267	72	19	0.5 acre	9.5 acres
Total			1,649	218	46		23 acres



Cattle bunching and grazing monitoring by coordinators

AREA UNDER PLANNED GRAZING IN HECTARES

CONSERVANCY NAME	Area under planned grazing (ha)	notes
Lekkuruki	7885	Entire group ranch less core area
illgwesi	7726-	Buffer zone
kalama	49,500	Entire group ranch put under planned grazing
westgate	35,000	Entire group ranch put under planned grazing
Sera	52,118	Buffer-18,618 and core 33500
mpuskutuk		Core 485, buffers-kipsing 3131, nashapa 1058 kawalash, Lemorijo
meibae	150,000	Estimated area covering 5 zones of Ikalakaloi, lekiji, lekupe, mabati and lpus (area not yet mapped)
Naibunga	5,252	Two group ranches-ilmotiok-3,320 Ilpollei-1932
TOTAL AREA	307,481	Many more areas though not covered here in meibae, naibunga and biliqo-bulesa have also started control grazing

BUILDING CAPACITY

An **NRT Assistant Grazing coordinator** was employed in February 2013 and equipped with laptop, camera and GPS. The role of the Assistant GC is to support the Senior Grazing Management Officer and work closely with Conservancy Grazing Coordinators to develop and implement grazing plans, monitoring grazing plans, conduct training and provide mentorship.

A vehicle dedicated to the Grazing Programme has been procured.

Recruitment of Conservancy Grazing Coordinators

Positions for 4 additional Conservancy Grazing Coordinators were advertised through their respective conservancies: Naibunga, Il Ngwesi, Biliqo-Bulesa and Sera. Interviews for shortlisted candidates were conducted by the conservancies' boards with NRT, Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) and LWF personnel. The names of individuals employed as Grazing Coordinators for the four conservancies are as follows:

1. Benedict Lenaipa -Sera conservancy
2. Mokku Mohamed - Biliqo-Bulesa
3. Francis Ntaiya - Naibunga
4. Sammy Tema – Il Ngwesi

Each grazing coordinator has been equipped with a motorbike (Yamaha DT175), laptop and modem, GPS unit, and camera for effective implementation of grazing plans at their respective conservancies.

There are now 9 conservancies with Grazing Coordinators employed and 2 NRT officers working for and supported by the programme.

Training of Trainers (TOTs) Workshop

An intensive Training of Trainers workshop on holistic planned grazing led by GZT and LWF was successfully conducted in Sera conservancy from 27th march to 2nd of April 2013; a total 20 people were trained. The participants were each provided with materials for training and reference;

- Calculators, pencils and note books
- Holistic planning training manual
- Holistic management handbook

Those who participated in the TOTs workshop included Managers, Grazing Coordinators and Grazing committee chairmen of 4 conservancies (Naibunga, Sera, Biliqo-bulesa and Illgwesi) as well as the Grazing Coordinators employed in 2012 for the purposes of sharing experiences and enhancing collaboration between the different conservancies. The workshop was facilitated by Craig Legget from Grevy's Zebra Trust and Richard Hatfield from LWF/Natural Capital East Africa.



TOTS TRAINING EXERCISE ABOVE

CONSERVANCY / ORGANISATION	PARTICIPANTS	DESIGNATION
Buliqo Bulesa	Golompo Dokata Adan Mohamed Moku Mohamed	Conservancy Manager Grazing committee chairman Grazing coordinator
Sera	Reuben Lendiria Timothy Lenamunyi Benedict Lenaipa	Conservancy Manager Grazing committee chairman Grazing coordinator
Naibunga	Beatrice Lempaira Francis Ntaiya Paul Keshine	Conservancy Manager Grazing coordinator Grazing committee chairman
Il Ngwesi	Sami Tena Ngoima Kinyaga	Grazing coordinator Grazing committee chairman
Kalama	Benson Ielukai	Grazing coordinator
Lekuruki	Thomas Sakui	Grazing coordinator
Mpus Kutuk	Patron Iemantile	Grazing coordinator
Meibae	Samuel Lentaam	Grazing coordinator
Grevy Zebra Trust	Joseph Kadhiwa	Field director
Natural Capital E.A.	Wilfred Mejooli	Community facilitator
Northern Rangelands Trust	Peter Leshakwet Joseph Letoole Issa Ismail Gedi	Senior grazing management officer Assistant grazing coordinator Assistant regional coordinator

RANGELAND REHABILITATION THROUGH CLEARING OF INVASIVE BUSH AND RESEEDING

Bush encroachment associated with an increase of undesirable woody plants and a general decline in forage productivity is a major problem in our rangelands. Selective clearing of the most dominant invasive bush, *Acacia refficiens*, was done in four conservancies (Kalama, West Gate, Mpus Kutuk and Lekkuruki) during the period under review. Clearing was done during the dry season and the cleared areas reseeded with *Cenchrus ciliaris* seeds just before the rains for good chance of germination and survival. The details of the clearing project are as follows:



Clearing and reseeding work above

Conservancy name	Amount of money allocated for clearing (Ksh)	No. of community members employed	Size of the area cleared (acres)	Grass seeds used/status for reseeding	Type of invasive bush cleared
West gate	595,000	40	126	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	<i>Accacia refficiens</i>
kalama	551,000	40	100	<i>Cenhrus ciliaris</i>	<i>Accacia refficiens</i>
Lekururki	536,000	40	121	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	<i>Accacia refficiens</i>
Mpus kutuk	543,000	40	127	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	<i>Accacia refficiens</i>
Meibae	549,000 (gully healing)	40	150	<i>Cechrus ciliaris</i>	
			Total=624		

GRASS SEEDS HARVESTING

The grass seeds of formerly established grass plots were harvested in Kalama and West Gate conservancies for reseeding of more areas. West gate community conservancy managed to sell 30 bags of grass seeds to Meibae, Lekururuki and Mpus Kutuk at a price of Ksh. 4,500 per bag with a total income of Ksh. 135,000.

GULLEY HEALING

Long term overgrazing of our rangelands has led to widespread bare ground and eventually waste lands of erosion gullies. Meibae conservancy is highly affected hence opted to undertake this project of range rehabilitation through gully healing. The project is ongoing and will be completed in two weeks time. Highly degraded land area with wide spread gullies was selected and treated using financially and ecologically viable techniques. Two techniques were employed;

1. Series of stabilizing structures were constructed designed in manner that the flow of water in a gully is reduced to a non scouring motion that allows sediment deposition between the structures hence filling the gully. The stabilizing structure were made from selected plants branches which can grow through vegetative propagation which eventually form permanent soil stabilizer.

- A series of terraces (earthen banks) were constructed that slow down and divert runoff from the gully head and enhanced water infiltration. The grass seeds of *cenhrus cilliaris* were sown along the terraces



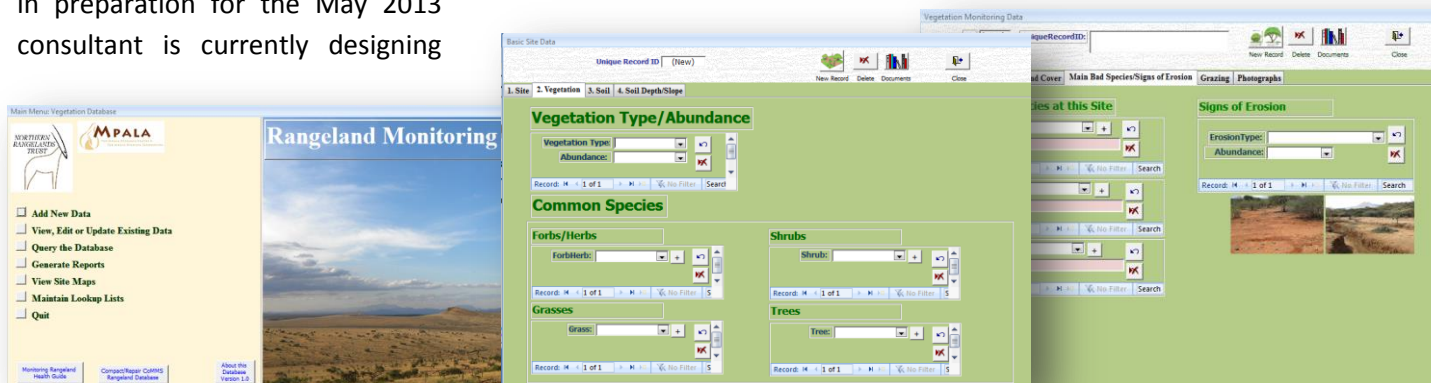
Gully healing and reseeded work, meibae

VEGETATION, SOIL CARBON AND BOMA MONITORING

The objective of vegetation monitoring is to assess the change in rangeland health over time in response to the grazing management programme. A system of devolved monitoring (Conservancy Management Monitoring System or Vegetation-CoMMS) is being established with monitoring methods refined and agreed upon and a database currently being designed. The Grazing Coordinators and one ranger each from West Gate, Kalama, Meibae, Lekurruki and Mpus Kutuk were trained in vegetation monitoring methods.

The data entry sections of the Vegetation-CoMMS database have been in preparation for the May 2013 consultant is currently designing

completed and installed at NRT vegetation surveys. The components for automated analysis and reports and boma monitoring for the database – these are expected to be completed by the end of 2013. The database will be installed in



all Conservancy Grazing Coordinators computers in order to ensure all elements of the monitoring are maintained at a local level (data collection, data entry, analysis and reporting). Additional sites for soil carbon and vegetation monitoring were established in Naibunga conservancy, and a wet-season vegetation survey was undertaken in West Gate Conservancy in January 2013. Wet season vegetation surveys and further training of all Grazing Coordinators in vegetation monitoring will be carried out in May 2013.

NRT is working with ICRAF to develop a landscape wide status of rangeland health, using remote sensing and ground-based monitoring, as a baseline for the grazing programme and to look at changes in rangeland health over the past 3 decades. Details of this contract are currently being finalized.

NRT has signed an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to develop a soil carbon project that covers 15 conservancies in the greater Ewaso ecosystem and is based upon increased soil carbon sequestration in response to improved grazing management. TNC have appointed Dr Mark Richie of Syracuse University to coordinate developing the Project Design Document and establish the baselines and protocols for submission to the Voluntary Carbon Standard; TNC are also currently fundraising to complete the PDD, ecological and social baselines for this project. A carbon project briefing document has been finalized and circulated to all partners.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Programme targets for the year 2013	Achievements
1. Land use plans developed for 8 conservancies and endorsed by the constituents communities	Process started and ongoing. In addition relocation of villages in prime grazing areas has been achieved in 6 conservancies-kalama, Westgate, meibae, mpuskutuk, Lekkuruki and Sera
2. Grazing plans developed for 8 NRT conservancies with estimated 300,000ha of land under planned grazing	Grazing plans developed for 7 conservancies so far, 307 481 ha of land put under planned grazing much more expected to be achieved in the course of the year.
3. 10,000 cattle in planned grazing program across 8 conservancies(including bunching herding, bomas and grazing blocks establishment	1,649 cattle put under bunching program in special management areas in kalama, Westgate and Lekkuruki and estimated number of 10,047 put under planned grazing in the 7 conservancies above.
4. 2,180 households participating in planned grazing programme across 8 conservancies	A total 218 households contributed cattle for bunching in kalama, Westgate and Lekkuruki and a total of 1530 households participating in planned grazing the same conservancies alone. House hold survey not yet completed in other conservancies, however an estimated number of 2500 households are participating in plan grazing when others included.
5. Grazing bylaws harmonized and drafted bylaws presented to all NRT conservancies	Consultative meeting to kick start the process is planned to start in June.
6. Increased cover and diversity and reduced bare ground recorded in special management areas/rangeland rehabilitation areas in 5	624 acres of land rehabilitated through physical clearing of invasive acacia refficiens and gully healing in the 5 conservancies-kalama, meibae, Westgate,

conservancies covering 2 250 ha	Lekkuruki and mpuskut, 46 bomas established translating into 23 acres of land healed through night bomas. Vegetation and bomas monitoring is ongoing to establish the general impacts of plan grazing on vegetation cover.
7. Vegetation monitoring (vegetation-comms) established and locally run in 8 conservancies	The process is at advance stage and the database will soon be roll out to the conservancies. All grazing coordinators including the new trained on vegetation and bomas monitoring techniques and prepared for vegetation-comms.
8. Social-economic monitoring(social-comms) tools developed and tested in 8 conservancies	On planning stage
9. Remote sensing land cover and soil carbon baseline established for 15 NRC conservancies	Process ongoing
10. Increase capacity for holistic plan grazing in NRT and 8 conservancies through recruitment of staff, training and exposure tours.	done
11. Draft project description document (PDD) for forest and soil VCS developed and circulated	Process ongoing

Next plans for community conservancies

Community exposure tours (May 2013)	Kalama - community exposure tour within the buffer zone Meibae - grazing committee exposure tour to West Gate, Kalama, Il Ngwesi and Lekkuruki Lekkuruki - community exposure tour within the buffer zone
Community grazing planning workshops (May 2013)	Sera Biliqo-bulesa Il Ngwesi Naibunga
Forage assessment exercises to develop dry season grazing plans within the buffer zones	Kalama West Gate Lekurruki Il Ngwesi Mpus Kutuk Meibae Naibunga
Grass harvesting in the following conservancies (July 2013)	West gate Kalama

	Il Ngwesi
2nd phase Clearing and healing projects at the following conservancies (July 2013)	Kalama West gate Lekurruki Mpus kutuk Il Ngwesi Naibunga Meibae Biliqo-Bulesa Sera
Conservancies exposure tour to Zimbabwe (September 2013)	
Vegetation, soil carbon and boma monitoring (May 2013)	
Establishment of harmonized grazing bylaws (June 2013)	
Land use plans (start in June 2013)	