

A young boy with a shaved head, wearing a yellow t-shirt and green pants, is holding a small brown and white cow calf. He is standing in a herd of cows of various colors (white, brown, black) in a rural, outdoor setting with trees in the background. The ground is dry and dusty.

PARTICIPATORY RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

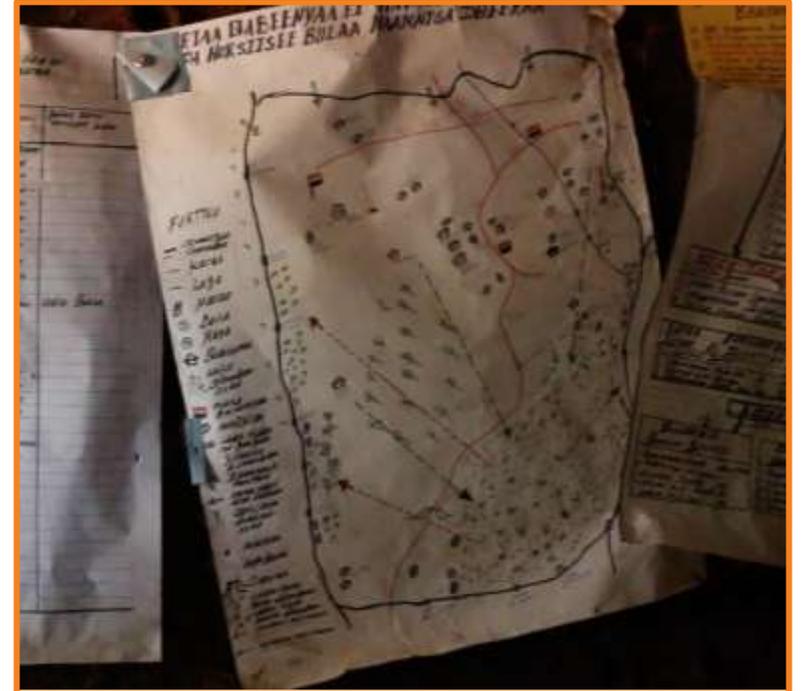
FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH



FARM AFRICA

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FARM AFRICA'S VISION FOR A PROSPEROUS RURAL AFRICA

Investing in smallholder farming is key to combating poverty in rural Africa. Prosperity depends on making agriculture work better, using natural resources well, creating strong markets for what farmers produce and facilitating access to finance to grow agri-businesses.

Almost half the world's extreme poor live in sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority work in agriculture in rural areas. But agricultural yields and profits are a fraction of their potential.

The region is full of opportunities for growth, including much fertile land and water, and millions of smallholder farmers who are eager for change.

Farm Africa works with smallholders to develop practical solutions that work locally and can be replicated elsewhere. Our approach papers set what we aim to deliver, and how, in support of our vision of a prosperous rural Africa.



PREFACE

Farm Africa's approach papers set out what we aim to deliver, and how, in relation to:

Agriculture



- technology
- climate-smart agriculture
- land, water and environment

Environment



- forests
- rangelands
- landscapes

Business



- business development
- trade
- finance



PREFACE

Eastern Africa is covered by extensive areas of rangelands where rainfall is either insufficient or too erratic to support farming. **Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists** have developed sophisticated approaches to guaranteeing a resilient livelihood from **livestock rearing or mixed livestock/crop farming**.

These systems are under **increasing pressure** from a number of demographic and economic factors. Farm Africa's approach paper on participatory rangelands management outlines how we assist local communities in responding to the new opportunities and threats they are facing.

The paper derives from Farm Africa's longstanding experience in **pasture and livestock development** in Kenya and Ethiopia. More details about ways to enhance livestock production and health can be found in our approach paper on technology.

Further details about the management of complex landscapes that involve multiple types of land use and conservation can be found in the approach paper on Integrated landscape management.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Rainfall in large parts of eastern Africa is **too erratic for reliable crop production**. In those areas, natural and/or managed landscapes covered by mixed grasses, shrubs and trees are occupied by **pastoralists and agro-pastoralists** who practise livestock and/or mixed livestock-crop farming for a living.
- Most rangelands are managed as **commons**, where herds are moved regularly according to where fodder and water can be found. Local communities have evolved rangelands management institutions to regulate the use of the land in ways that benefit all and minimise rangelands degradation.



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Africa's **rangelands are changing rapidly** in response to demographic pressures, evolving economic needs and weakening indigenous institutions. In many places, the changes have triggered a “**tragedy of the commons**”, where the interests of individual herders are not balanced any more by the over-arching needs of sustaining the commons. In many places, the influx of other land users has caused conflict.
- Perceptions of irreversible desertification caused by overgrazing have motivated policymakers to destock and introduce private cattle ranching. The **assumptions about irreversible desertification**, however, have in many places not been substantiated by facts, and the conversion of communal rangeland management systems into private cattle ranching have not brought about the desired benefits to local communities.



WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- There are **new animal breeds** and new ways to make a living from rangelands, such as eco-tourism.
- The growing density of water points worsens over-grazing and rangelands degradation. Remotely sensed information about the state of pastures and availability of water provides **new tools** for pastoralists to better manage their resources.
- **Resilience** to climatic, social and economic shocks and trends is a major concern in eastern Africa's rangelands. New financial products, weather-indexed livestock insurance and mobile banking will strengthen the ability of pastoralists to buffer themselves against some threats. Growing urbanisation provides new livelihood opportunities to pastoralists who wish to 'step out' of livestock production.



THEORY OF CHANGE

MISSION

To ensure that the management of rangelands is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable for pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities.

GOALS

Enhanced rangeland productivity, sustainability and resilience

Strengthened community and inter-community arrangements for rangelands utilisation

Improved pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods

STAKEHOLDERS

Agro-pastoralists

Pastoralist communities

Private sector

Government

OUTCOMES

Effective stakeholder cooperation for sustainable and resilient rangelands management

Rangeland based business enterprises developed

OUTPUTS

Innovative management techniques

Strengthened community institutions

Value chains developed

Business development capacity

Finance and livestock insurance

APPROACH

We work with pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities to develop **collaborative rangelands management agreements** that optimise resource use and link them more effectively with markets



FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH

We develop a shared understanding of the natural, socio-economic and political-ecological complexities of rangelands and the drivers of rangeland degradation

We build and strengthen the management capacity of rangeland institutions

We elaborate rangeland resource use and monitoring agreements, including on livestock grazing density, grazing and cropping management, siting of water points and rangelands degradation

We enhance the productivity and resilience of rangelands through improved herd selection and management, water points, seasonal range condition updates and alternative sources of livelihood

We identify opportunities for market engagement, access to finance, business capacity of key actors in the value-chain (producers, traders, input providers, etc) and identify and address weaknesses in the value chains

METHODOLOGY

Phase 1. Investigation and mobilisation	A(1). Identifying rangeland resources and stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Define rangeland area and identify main resourcesII. Identify rangeland users, their stakes and affiliations (community and local government)
	A(2). Identify rangeland products and market conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Identify livestock and non-livestock productsII. Assess the value chain(s) and market access potential
	B(1). Participatory rangeland resource assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Agree and set up community-based organisationsII. Conduct participatory resource assessment and land use planIII. Agree key problems and opportunities
	B(2). Selection and establishment of enterprise structure <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Identify essential links in the value chain(s)II. Agree key problems and opportunitiesIII. Choose, agree and set up enterprise

METHODOLOGY

Phase 2. Planning and negotiations	<p>A(1). Rangeland management plan preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Agree the local land use planII. Agree actions to optimise rangelands productivity, sustainability and resilienceIII. Assess organisational capacity and agree capacity building planIV. Agree arrangements for rangelands monitoring <p>A(2). Business planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Carry out detailed value chain analyses and agree value chain development plansII. Carry out a business capacity assessment and develop a business capacity development plan for the key actors in the value chainIII. Consider finance needs of key actors in the value chain and agree actions to enhance access to finance <p>B. Consolidating the rangeland management agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Organise multi-stakeholder meetings to agree (multi-layer) institutional arrangements, main elements of the rangeland management, business plans and stakeholder roles and responsibilitiesII. Set up or strengthen multi-stakeholder forums in line with local custom and government guidelinesIII. Formalise agreements

METHODOLOGY

Phase 3. Implementation	A(1). Rangeland management capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Improve management capacity of local community organisationsII. Improve the management capacity of the multi-stakeholder rangeland management forum
	A(2). Enterprise development capacity building <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Strengthen capacity in business management, trade and access to finance
	B. Testing and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Develop and test new approaches to rangeland managementII. Develop and test innovative financial products and enterprise development approaches

METHODOLOGY

Phase 4. Learning and adapting	A. Agree indicators of successful adoption and progress review process
	B. Collect and analyse data
	C. Collate feedback to and from local community and adjust technologies as required
	D. Consolidate learning and share with public and private sector



HOW TO USE FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH PAPERS



What the approach papers are for:

- Provide clarity to the communities we work with and those who support us about what we do, and how
- Build coherence across our operations
- Ensure each project is based on our experiences, lessons learnt and consolidated knowledge

HOW TO USE FARM AFRICA'S APPROACH PAPERS

A typical natural resource management project



How to use the approach papers in project design:

- The structure of our approach does not mirror the organisation of our individual interventions. The latter are constructed by combining elements from the approach papers – as illustrated in the diagram to the left.
- While the approach papers give detailed guidance about how to do things, this will not always be followed to the letter in all projects. Local context and needs will continue to guide Farm Africa's project design and implementation.

We continuously learn and adjust our approach. The approach papers are regularly updated to reflect the dynamic nature of our experience.