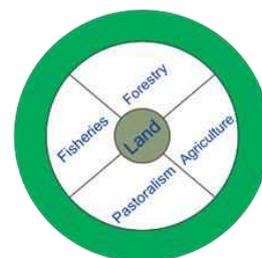




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RECONCILE

## PILOTING PARTICIPATORY RANGELANDS MANAGEMENT - PROJECT

(PRM) KENYA

ISSUE NO. 1 2020



Sukta spring in Irong Community Conservancy

### Dear reader,

Welcome to the first issue of our Piloting PRM Project in Kenya Newsletter 2020. We are excited to share with you our news as the year unwinds. The Piloting PRM Project is a cross-country project implemented in Kenya and [Tanzania](#): this newsletter presents the developments in the Kenyan component only.

Happy reading,

Piloting of PRM Project team, Kenya

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## European Union Monitoring Mission in Baringo County

European Union (EU) delegates routinely conduct monitoring missions for EU financed actions. This is done with the aim of assessing the status of implementation of the projects as well as understanding the project sites and beneficiaries. RECONCILE and Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) are implementing the Piloting of Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) Project in Baringo Kenya and Tanzania respectively. On the other hand the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is implementing the Land Governance Project in Baringo. These three actions are funded by the European Union. In order to undertake a joint mission the EU delegate, RECONCILE, FAO, TNRF, County Government of Baringo and pastoral and agro-pastoral Communities in Baringo participated in a joint field visit in Baringo on 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020.

The objective of the monitoring visit was to assess the status of implementation of the *Piloting of PRM* and *Land Governance* Projects in Baringo, and receive feedback from beneficiaries and County staff for informed decision making. Additionally, the visit provided an exchange and learning opportunity between implementing partners. The team visited two of the four project sites for the PRM project. The first site was the Irong community conservancy, which demonstrates how communally managed grazing lands can be strengthened for pastures and water management; which are critical resources for sustainability of pastoralists' livelihoods. The second site visited was Koitegan community forest, which demonstrates how strengthened community-led resource conservation efforts could result in sustainably managed resources and yield benefits not only for the forest users and livestock, but also the environment given that the area is rich in natural resources including herbs, grass (pasture) and spring creeks.

Through the visit, the strong partnership between the implementing organizations was evident; RECONCILE and FAO through their respective projects have identified areas of synergy including land and natural resource management activities, conflict management and collaboration at local and national level initiatives. This partnership has helped reduce the risk of duplication of efforts given that the two are addressing land and rangeland related issues. Some of the impacts created by the projects separately and collectively include: the development and launch of the County Spatial Tool Kits, which are now being used by Arid and Semi-Arid Counties including Isiolo, Samburu and Baringo County in reviewing of county spatial plans and development of rangeland policies. The projects have also contributed



Dr. Koima, CEC Lands, giving brief overview of the impacts of the projects In Baringo

to increased knowledge on community land laws; digitization of land registry; improved rangeland

management evident through establishment of private and community pasture enclosures, reseeded of degraded pasture and forestlands, conflict management, and county staff and community capacity building among others. It should be noted that RECONCILE and FAO share a common Project Implementation Committee comprised of technical officers from different departments at the county and national government including the National Land Commission, land and physical planning, health, agriculture, livestock and environment departments. These technical members are involved directly in the planning and implementation of the project activities in Baringo. This engagement has contributed to strong buy-in by the Baringo County government staff and national staff. Through the mission, it was notable that strong partnerships between implementing partners are very useful in identifying areas of synergy and avoiding duplication whilst community /conservancy leaders and members need to be encouraged to take more ownership of the projects to ensure long term sustainability. The project is exploring the possibility of creating or strengthening a county-based forum for the conservancies in order to promote, lobby and advocate PRM in the region. Further the projects could also harness the low hanging livelihood activities that can benefit women and youth in particular, such as cultural centers for tourism, beekeeping values chain and clean water conservation among others.

## Water Analysis in Irong Conservancy

Baringo County is characterized by water scarcity; a big threat to the lives and livelihood of the pastoral communities. Irong community conservancy is situated in Kapkuikui Location and it has a number of strategic resources which are crucial to their daily survival. The Sukta Spring presents one of the key resources to the communities living in Baringo South especially in the dry season. It is the only permanent water source that supplies water to the community in the wet and dry seasons. The spring serves up to 8,000 cows, 5,000 goats, 200 sheep and 3,000 people. Pastoralists from as far as 10 kilometers bring their livestock to this water source to quench their thirst and carry some back home for domestic purposes. The fact that it is a permanent water source makes it a unique and special resource that must be protected. Additionally, 'Sukta' in the local dialect means a sacred place where ancient believers used to worship and offer sacrifices and libations to their gods. Based on these reasons the community identified the spring as an important resource that needed immediate attention hence prioritized it as an area of protection under the PRM Project. Some of the activities that have been undertaken so far towards the protection of the spring include the water testing to determine the quality and quantity of the water. The analysis was done in collaboration with the Baringo County government representatives and Nakuru Water Service Board



Sample collection for analysis of water in Sukta spring in Irong Community conservancy

and the Baringo County Water Department. Protection of this water source is vital for the livelihoods that are dependent on it.

## Results Oriented Monitoring

Results-Oriented-Monitoring (ROM) is an independent review of the EU funded external interventions aimed at providing a brief snapshot on the implementation of an intervention at a given moment. It informs stakeholders of the overall performance of the intervention highlighting areas requiring strengthening. The period between 10<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February saw PRM project partners participate in a ROM exercise for Kenya. The exercise was undertaken by a



The consultant holding Focused Group Discussion with Paka hills community

consultant with support from project partners. In Kenya the sample for the exercise was drawn from primary beneficiary communities and the project implementation committee in Baringo. It looked at the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability aspects of the intervention among others. This captured and presented insightful pieces from the participants (summarized below).

### Highlights from the ROM exercise:

**Relevance:** The action is undertaken when government authority and decision-making and planning processes for rangelands has been decentralized to county government. The project fits well within the context and is well adapted to the institutional and human capacities of partner governments.

**Efficiency:** implementation mechanisms are proving to be appropriate to achieve planned outputs and contribute to outcomes. In all of project sites the first four steps of the PRM project have been done: a) identifying rangeland resources and users; b) defining rangeland management units; c) setting up and strengthening rangeland management institutions and d) rangelands resource assessments. Spending is also in line with the budget. However, some factors including violent conflicts and drought have delayed implementation of project activities.

**Effectiveness:** the ROM indicated that majority of outputs are being produced with the expected quality.

**Impact:** Project Purpose is to attain secure and better use of rangelands and expand the role of women in selected pastoral communities. There is some evidence of positive ecological and social impacts including: i) improved rangeland conditions, due to bush clearing and clearing of invasive species; ii) improved participation of women in governance and management of rangelands, although women tend to be involved in lower-level management responsibilities; iv) improved participation of community in governance and management of rangelands; v) increased sense that rangelands belong to community; vi) Improvements in livestock; vii) Reduced conflicts between farmers and pastoralists and with neighboring communities; viii) Rangeland management units have been identified and tenure security has been improved; and training in communities has led to increased awareness and appreciation of the PRM approach.

**Sustainability:** Key government stakeholders are attaining the necessary institutional and human capacities to ensure the continued flow of benefits and services of the project. However, there is need increase buy-in by local government and communities in terms of cash, time, labour and 'in-kind' contributions.

## Participatory Rangeland Resource Appraisal (PRRA)



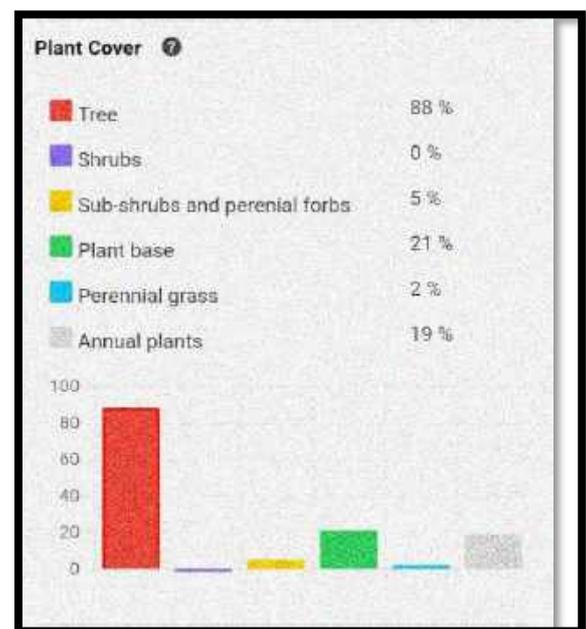
Paka hills community engaging in Soil testing exercise in Tuimuu monitoring site in Paka hills rangeland

Appraisal/Assessment. These communities had been trained on the use of the application earlier. RECONCILE and Baringo County PRM Technical Working Group provided technical support to the community members during the exercise. Mr. Reuben Chebon, secretary for Irong community conservancy and a taxonomist, was also incorporated in the technical team to help the community in identifying plant species and compilation of lists for the same. The data generated by the application serves as baseline that informs the development of a comprehensive rangeland management plan. The community rangeland management plan is a community-developed document to guide the management of various resources found in the rangeland based on their status. For instance, if the PRRA report indicates the area has low percentage of perennial grass, the community could include reseedling of their grazing lands as one of their rehabilitative actions they want to undertake.

### Project Implementation Committee Meeting

Project Implementation Committee (PIC) is a technical team that directly contributes to the planning, budget approvals and implementation of the PRM project in Baringo. This team consists of technical officers from different departments at the county and national government. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2020 the PIC held their quarterly meeting in Baringo. Being the first quarter into the year, the technical team needed to do a reflection on the progress made in 2019 in terms of the implementation

PRRA is a rangeland monitoring process involving observing or assessing the status or changes in the health of the rangeland resources over space and time. The assessment is done manually or using mobile phone installed application such as LandPKS. For PRM project sites in Kenya, the LandPKS application was used in the assessment and ILRI played a key role in development of guidelines for the undertaking of the biophysical baseline. As such, the first quarter of 2020, saw Kabarion community conservancy and Paka hills rangeland; two of the four PRM project sites undertake Participatory Rangeland Resource



Sample data generated by the LandPKS application

of the PRM project. The team also needed to ensure every technical member understands the project activities that will run through the current year as well as the nature of the technical support that will be required from each of them. Therefore, this meeting provided a platform for sharing of the 2019 annual project progress report as well as 2020 quarterly work-plans and budget estimates. Additionally, the team was able to share updates on the changes in the project context; noting changes in rain patterns and locust invasions as factors that may have an impact on the project work hence need to monitor the situation frequently and adjust where necessary. The team approved the work-plans and committed to continue supporting the implementation process.



Ongoing discussions among PRM project Implementation Committee members

#### Upcoming events and activities

- Community capacity development trainings
- Implementation of Community Rangeland Investment Fund (CRIF)

***Secure rangelands secure livelihoods!***



European Union delegate, Mr. Mwangi engaging the Koitegan Community during the EU monitoring visit in Baringo County



Kabarion community members undertaking PRRA exercise in Tumbolatanya monitoring site in the conservancy with technical support from Mr. Raphael Kimosop, Mr. Reuben Chebon and RECONCILE staff

**Partners**

