



Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
State Department for Crop Development
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Emergency Locust Response Program
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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya Training Manual

2.5.2 SUB-MODULE 2: GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Grazing management

Grazing management is organizing livestock to make the best use of the pastures grown or managing the frequency and intensity that livestock graze natural or established pastures. This is an important factor in management of soils, water and nutrients to minimize incidences of rangeland degradation. It involves the following key issues:

- Understanding grazing animals and their management
- Stocking rates and carrying capacity
- Regulation of grazing - designating wet and dry season grazing areas
- Intensity and frequency of grazing - short duration grazing alternated with long rest periods
- Controlled grazing, rotational grazing
- Pastures and fodder conservation

Grazing ban near water points in wet seasons. Enclosures (or sometimes referred to as exclosures) are areas in rangelands, closed-off from any interference from both humans and animals with the aim of promoting the natural regeneration of plants and reducing land degradation on formerly degraded grazing land. It is one of the most effective techniques for restoring degraded rangelands by modifying the composition, abundance, and diversity of species.

The protection period or rest time allows vegetation to regenerate and produce seed for harvesting or self-seeding. This allows for natural regeneration hence improving plant species composition, abundance and diversity among other benefits. It can be done together with reseedling and other rehabilitation structures to enhance the outcome of the rehabilitation. Scientific and indigenous knowledge should be included into rangeland enclosure management. Enclosure may involve physically fencing off land parcels for private or commercial use using live fences or modern fences.



Traditional enclosures using indigenous tree branches



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Preparation of enclosures

Involves identifying and enclosing a designated grazing area that one needs to protect. The size is dependent on the capacity of the farmer/livestock keepers or community. Normally, partitioning is commonly done using natural dead plant twigs/thorns and branches in the pastoral areas. A permanent fence by use of electric fences, barbed wire or poles can be erected where resources allow.

Benefits of having enclosures

With the exclusion of animals, several benefits are accrued from enclosures and enclosures. These include: -

- Increased quantity and quality of pastures
- Reduced livestock migration
- Easier livestock management
- Allows for proper land management e.g. controlled grazing
- Allows for preservation of pastures for dry season grazing hence reduced animal losses
- Improved livestock health and productivity
- Increased plant diversity
- Increased ecosystem/environmental services