

# ACTION POINT / Unit 8: Sustainable Grazing Management



EMG Training of Trainers, July-September 2024  
Got questions? Reach out: OasisToT@outlook.com



**Background:** Proper grazing management ensures sufficient forage and protects of soil and vegetation. Overgrazing on the other hand can cause forage plants to be minimized and replaced by less suitable species. It also exposes rangelands to erosion, which leads to dust and worse air quality and enables water erosion, which increases sediments in watersheds, diminishing the water quality. Effective grazing management also enhances livestock productivity, which can lead to improved livelihoods for communities dependent on livestock farming. This involves addressing challenges such as feed seasonality and drought. Key practices include: rangeland closure, Participatory Rangeland Planning (PRM), grazing enclosures and exclosures, rotational grazing (*dega and dagua*). Livestock farming is the backbone of Somalia's economy and central to the livelihoods of our pastoral communities. Therefore, understanding local pastoral traditions and customary land management practices, as well as the regional policy instruments is key to integrating sustainable grazing strategies.

This year Somalia joined the Multi-stakeholder Platform of African Union members, trying to address challenges in feed and fodder sector. Read about it [here](#): perhaps you can reach out to this Platform for advice or case examples as well.

Check out also RAFFS Project: Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems, which includes Somalia. [Here](#) you can find updates and a presentation on Somali value chain.



## Your task:

Take the first steps to establish sustainable grazing management practices: hold an informative session first to raise awareness and secondly, conduct a practical session on assessing the existing grazing areas.



**Duration: 2h in the peer group, 2-5h with the EMG members**



**Purpose of the task:** This task should ensure that the community is on the same page regarding grazing practices by helping them find agreed rules and next steps for grazing management. Since forage areas are a common good, we need to manage them carefully to ensure their longevity and productivity. Secondly, this task should result in completing the first small-scale grazing practice as an example.



**Implementation steps: all the boxes should be checked by the end of the exercise!**

### 1) Peer Group

- ☐ What do **you know** about the current grazing practices of the community? Put down the key points. Identify what you **do not know** yet - frame the questions that you will ask the EMGs.
- ☐ What do you know about the needs for forage and sources of forage in this community? Put down the key points. Identify what you do not know yet - frame the questions that you will ask the EMGs.
- ☐ Do you know the farmers and any other people who use grazing areas either for pasture or for any other purpose? Map all the people you need to engage in this activity.
- ☐ Based on this discussion, make the main notes and key points and take them to the EMG members, where you can discuss and finalise them.

### 2) With your EMG members

- ☐ Add relevant information to the questions above: what are the current grazing practices of the community, how big are the capacity and the need for forage and who are the people relevant to the topic? These questions are crucial to answer before the next steps.
- ☐ What areas do they use at different times of the year? Are there specific areas they use during drought, flooding, etc? Map these areas with the EMGs.
- ☐ Compare the need for forage (count of farmers and livestock) with these areas you have mapped. Try to find ways of how these could be organised through different seasons: who can use the forage where and when.
- ☐ Take this map to the community and conduct a broader session, co-led by EMG members and including all the relevant parties: farmers and other users of the forage areas.

### 3) With the community

- ☐ Discuss the maps you have drawn and see if there is a possible agreement on grazing times and areas.
- ☐ To validate your assumptions about forage needs, make sure to measure the forage production, so that farmers' needs are met as much as possible. How to measure forage production? Here is a [video](#) and [here](#) is a PDF that helps you interpret the results.
- ☐ The community should establish rules that they commit to. Example: *Area B is going to be managed by Farmer 1 during XY period. During this time, no one should trespass. If they do, they must provide compensation to Farmer 1 in the form of forage. Area C is not going to be grazed by anyone during XY period.*
- ☐ Identify the possible enclosure and exclosure areas. The establishment of these areas should be a joint effort so that everyone feels responsible for adhering to the agreed-upon rules. If possible, Prosopis is suggested to build the physical barriers. Please consult the materials in the Unit for [case examples](#).
- ☐ Decide on monitoring and long-term assessment. Consult the unit's material for establishing those and assign people to be in charge of these monitoring activities.



**Materials needed** (these are suggestions; not all might be needed!):  
General recommendations for meetings can be found in [Unit 2](#).

- ☐ Papers and pens for drafting the replies
- ☐ Your phone for documenting the potential areas for enclosure or exclosure
- ☐ Grass clippers/scissors
- ☐ A piece of garden hose or another type of material you can make a circle with
- ☐ Paper bags
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

