



Increasing Resilience through Cross-Border Natural Resource Management in Mandera Triangle

IMPACTS AND LESSONS



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INCREASING RESILIENCE
THROUGH CROSS-BORDER
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
IN MANDERA TRIANGLE

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Introduction

Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa -BORESHA- is a 3-year cross border project implemented by a consortium of the Danish Refugee Council, World Vision, Tetratech and CARE International with funding from European Union Trust Fund for Africa. The first phase was implemented between December 2017 and February 2021. BORESHA works with local communities and public authorities to establish transformative processes to enhance the cross border socio-economic integration and support resilience among vulnerable groups in the fragile and underdeveloped borderland areas between Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia sometimes referred to as the Mandera Triangle.

Cross -border Natural Resource Management

CARE international, working through its Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia country offices, has implemented the 3rd result outcome of the BORESHA project, which aimed at enhancing the sustainable and equitable management of in-country and cross-border natural resources and particularly the dry rangelands and grasslands typical of the area. The targeted rural communities are pastoralist and agro pastoralist who work to sustain their livelihoods from the rangelands. The key shared natural resources in Mandera triangle includes transboundary communal grazing lands and surface water resources such as the Dawa , Juba and Ganale rivers.

The dry rangeland environment presents many productivity and sustainable utilization challenges and the rangeland resources in the Mandera triangle are threatened by various change processes. These change processes include; changing management structures and resource use regimes, increasing land degradation, inadequate community participation in management decision making and action, and climate change leading to recurrent and shortened drought cycles. These challenges are compounded by a lack of appropriate frameworks for local level resource management and capacity gaps amongst the key stakeholders, on both the community side and the government extension services side.

Cross -border natural resource management linked relevant natural resource management practices into a coherent implementation and action framework to support sustainable management and equitable sharing of cross border rangelands and other shared natural resources in Mandera triangle covering Mandera county(Kenya), Dolow and Beled Hawa district(Somalia) and Dolow Ado-Dolow Bay Woredas(Ethiopia)

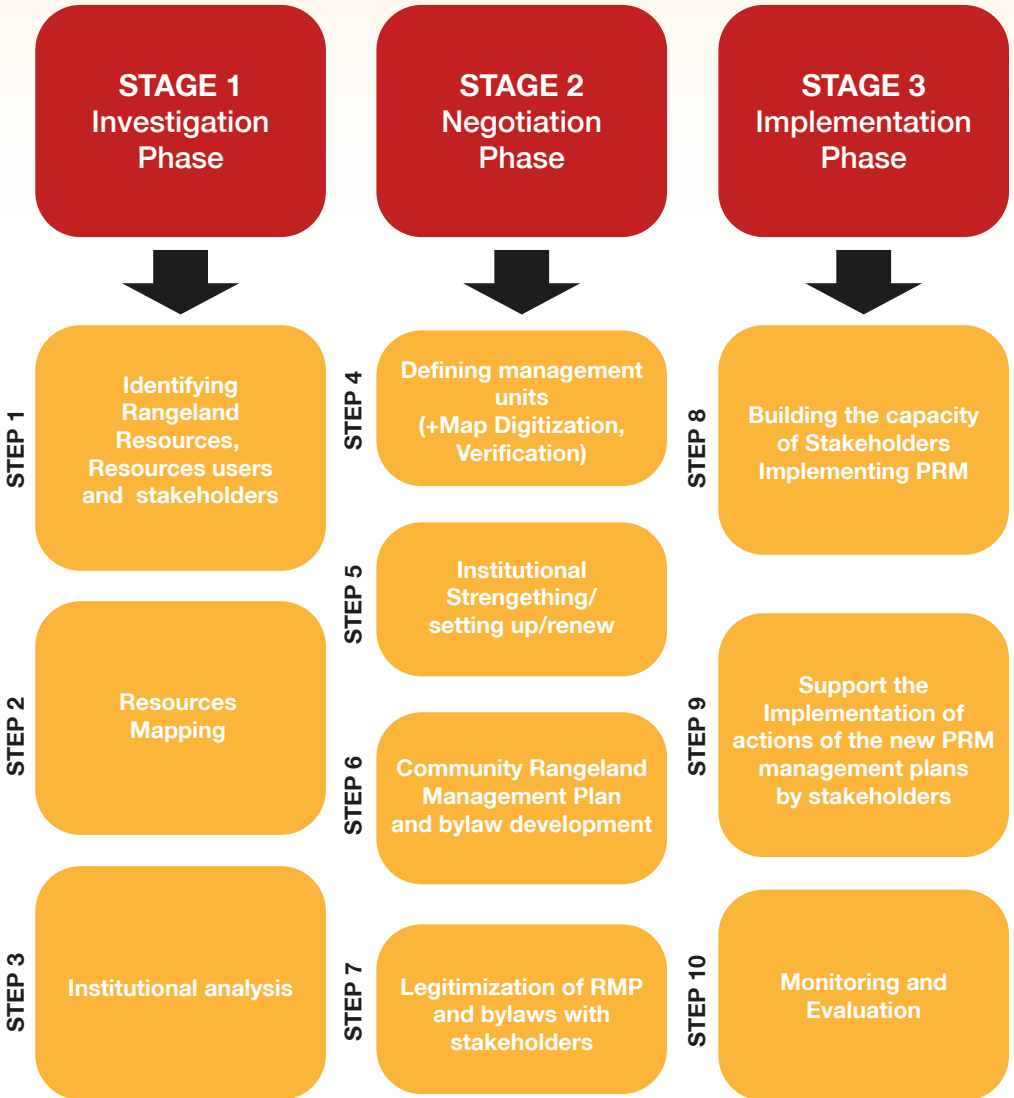


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“749 beneficiaries with diversified livelihoods and income opportunities from innovative technology for alternative uses of the invasive plants prosopis to make charcoal briquettes and fodder. The work on management by alternative utilization of Prosopis Juriflora has helped control regeneration of the prosopis juriflora, boosted preservation of indigenous tree species. increased access to fodder during dry seasons, availed long burning and less smoky charcoal, and improved household income streams among beneficiaries. 12 environmental awareness campaigns reaching 464,448 people.

28 schools supplied with water harvesting and storage schemes, reaching 13,706 beneficiaries. We have good tanks for storing water to use it for longer unlike before.” **Adan Mohamed**

PARTICIPATORY RANGELAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH CARE INTERNATIONAL





IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

BORESHA introduced and trained communities in Mandera triangle on Participatory Rangeland Management (PRM) approach that CARE has successfully applied at scale amongst pastoralists of Oromiya, Afar and Somali regions in Ethiopia.

PRM approach is an agri-system based approach to natural rangeland resource management and aims to strengthen and improve pastoralists' rangeland governance systems. The system is established on a foundation of customary resource management and supports community-based leadership in rangeland resource land use planning and practice. Working through a rangeland management council, the PRM system enables communities, supported and facilitated by government extension services, to take back the lead roles in the design and decision making in the management of their local natural resources. Building resources management agreements that will pre-empt potential conflicts over resources and contribute to re-establishing resource-based relationships and inter dependencies is key. Such conflict aware and sensitive approaches will be essential in building sustainable and peaceful futures for the pastoralist communities living in these areas.

Resident of Qatis village in Banisa sub-county fetching water from newly constructed underground water tank of 250,000ltr capacity with an elevated water tank and solar pumping system...

Within this framework, CARE implemented several interventions including:

- Training of local government officials on NRM
- Community consultations on NRM
- NRM committee's establishment and training
- Rehabilitation of rangelands through CFW
- Promotion and support for management by alternative utilization of *prosopis juriflora*
- Environmental education through schools
- Construction and rehabilitation of water points
- Training of water management committees.
- School water harvesting schemes
- Peace building meetings
- Resilience training for government and NGOs staff as well as community members.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND BENEFICIARIES

The key stakeholder and direct beneficiaries of the NRM interventions are pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households and communities participating in BORESCHA project in the cross-border areas of Mandera triangle. They benefit through better natural resource planning, management and innovative technology transfer that improved livelihood and ecosystem resilience; reduced resource conflicts and improved natural resource governance.

Local government units at woreda/districts and county level are critical stakeholders and directly benefitted from a strengthened capacity to manage local natural resources for their communities.



KEY RESULTS FROM THE ACTION

- Overall, the BORESCHA end of project evaluation found that NRM interventions have resulted in better and harmonious management of natural resources. Below is a highlight of key results:
- (PRM) approach for inclusive stewardship of shared transboundary range resources to enhance livelihoods and landscape resilience for the cross- border communities in Mandera triangle
- 133 rangeland sites rehabilitated through reseeding, check dams and other sustainable land management techniques. Key outcomes as a result are gradual recovery of vegetation. The range lands are now sources of dry season fodder. Demonstration sites for others to learn have been created through CFW. Improved movement through clearing of access roads.
- 12 water points rehabilitated, reaching 103,713 beneficiaries or 17,285 households. Below are beneficiaries' testimonies capturing the outcomes from this intervention:

LESSONS LEARNT

- Based on participants feedback from joint Kenya and Somalia resilience training workshop held on September 23rd to 30th 2020, there was greater appreciation on the adoption of landscape or transboundary approach in cross -border natural resource management, and participants linked it to increased sustainability, better resilience, and reduction in resource-based conflicts.
- Selected cash for work projects was designed to be work -intensive and to benefit the whole community, with communities making the final decision through their five-year PRM plans. The choice of desilting earth-pans and rehabilitation of degraded rangelands and feeder roads was based on participatory methods of problem identification and problem ranking by community representatives. The project benefited beneficiaries directly by improving their income to support their families and injecting cash into the rural economy. On the other hand, it improved conditions of communal grazing landscapes, public infrastructures like feeder roads and earth-pans.
- The use of virtual workshop technologies blended with face-to-face sessions in delivering six days resilience training while adhering to COVID-19 protocols proved effective and adoptable approach that can be replicated for other similar training activities.
- The action has shown that rehabilitation of degraded lands in communal grazing areas is feasible if the targeted communities are empowered through CFW and supplied with required inputs such as hand tools and seeds. Some of the rehabilitated lands performed well and provided dry season pasture for livestock owned by vulnerable households, hence protecting the households from severe drought affecting their livelihoods.

Rehabilitation of degraded rangelands through CfW for grass re-generation in Eymole village Banisa Sub-county



TESTIMONIALS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



“We have benefited. We used to walk long distances to collect water and the water was dirty. Now we have clean water courtesy of BORESHA. The water is being used by people and livestock.”

Daud Madey – Beneficiary Ethiopia



“Water was expensive and sometimes was unavailable. Now we have water for livestock and people.”

Mohamed Abdulahi - Senior Chief in Kenya.



“Water would only last for 2 weeks but now can last 3 months. Our water costs have gone down in Markamari. Water buzzers can now easily access water points.”

Muktar Abdirahman - Kenya.



“People no longer crowd at the borehole as there is more water. We have clean water enough for people and livestock.”

Adan Kassim - Assistant chief Kenya



10 Community Water Committees (CWCs) trained totaling to 166 members. As a result we have local water resource management capacity. 33 school-based environmental clubs championing better natural resource management practices. Awareness creation ongoing on good natural resource management practices



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