

Rangeland Rehabilitation Initiatives

Background

- More than 50% land area of Pakistan under rangelands
- Dependence of Pastoral communities (> 2.5 million families)
- 90% sheep/goat grazing depends on rangelands (26 m sheep and 53 m goats)
- Source of fuel wood and medicinal plants
- Wildlife habitat grazing and shelterbelt
- Ecosystem services (watershed, environment, carbon sequestration etc.)

Why Rangeland Rehabilitation?

- Degraded rangeland producing biomass of 1.2 t/ha against the potential of 4 t/ha
- Low milk & meat production
- High incidence of poverty
- High vulnerability of pastoral communities
- Increase migration trend of Pastoral communities and unemployment
- Decreased biodiversity of rangeland flora & fauna
- Un-sustained rangeland ecosystem services
- Increased events of extreme climate



Issues/Challenges

- Low priority at provincial and National level
- Weak community participation
- Communal land issues
- Conflict, war and Terror
- Extreme climatic events
- Status of Rangeland ownership
- Non-availability of bulk seeds & planting material
- Train Range managers
- Free grazing systems
- Rehabilitation cost



Implementation Strategy

- Current status of rangelands at provincial level and priority areas (under progress with FAO)
- Participatory & Community based planning & implantation
- Introduction of site specific grazing systems
- Rangeland rehabilitation techniques (artificial reseeded, natural reseeded, grazing techniques, stock water etc) for various ecological zones tested and developed.
- Suitable grasses, shrubs and fodder tree species for various ecological zones identified.
- Bulk seed (> 5 tons) collected from six ecological zones for rangeland development Programmes
- Capacity building of Range Managers
- Exploring funding for range activities

Possible Impacts

- Improved rangeland and livestock productivity
- Maintain the flow of rangeland ecosystem services
- Improved pastoral communities livelihood
- Less soil erosion and more infiltration due to better vegetative cover

