

About the Programme!

E-SLIP is a jointly funded programme of the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL) is the lead implementing agency of the programme.

The developmental goal of the programme is to sustainably improve incomes and food security of rural poor households with the objective of improving livestock production and productivity of key livestock systems in Zambia.

The programme has two technical components:

- i). Animal Disease Control component.
- ii). Livestock Production & Productivity Component.



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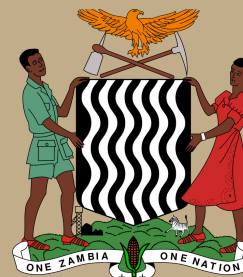
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E-SLIP

ENHANCED SMALLHOLDER LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT



1.What are Rangelands

Rangelands are areas of land occupied by vegetation and shrubs which are grazed by Livestock.

2. Why are Rangelands important?

Rangelands in Zambia support rich indigenous vegetation that are either grazed or have the potential to be grazed by livestock. Rangelands are an essential and renewable natural resource hosting a biodiversity of natural and artificial features vital to ecosystems and human life.

As a major storehouse for carbon, rangelands also help regulate emissions by absorbing carbon dioxide and other green house gases, which is fundamental for regulating climate. Rangelands are an integral part of sustainable land management,as well as a basis for addressing poverty eradication, agricultural and rural development, promoting food security and improving nutrition. Furthermore, rangelands strongly contribute to collective efforts towards climate change adaptation and mitigation, combating desertification and promoting biodiversity.

Livestock is a key component of the rural economy in Zambia. Livestock not only provides meat and milk, but also hides and skins,traction-power, manure and also has culture value. Livestock is a key contributor to Zambia’s Gross Domestic Product. Livestock ranks second within the agricultural sector in terms of contribution to GDP.

The majority of this livestock comes from traditional farmers and communal areas. Rangelands are the key resource in the production of this livestock.



3. What is Rangeland Management?

Rangeland management is based on the ecological principles of sustainably using grazing lands to ensure consistent livestock production, while protecting and improving basic rangeland resources including; soils, water, trees, vegetation cover and animal life.

4. What are the causes of rangeland degradation?

Rangelands in most parts of Zambia have experienced severe degradation that leads to irreversible reduction in capability of important grazing lands to produce vegetation. In some parts of Zambia, grasslands and forests have turned into bare lands.

The changes are causing stress and food insecurity for the people and animals. If natural grazing and browse continues to get scarcer, livestock will not have sufficient forage and will become unproductive.

Making sure that the Rangelands of Zambia do not become deserts is one of the most important challenges in reducing poverty in the rural areas. The major threats to forest and grass genetic resource conservation is the current level of deforestation and uncontrolled bush burning in Zambia.

The driving factors of deforestation and bush burning include:
a. Increased logging activities both licensed and unlicensed.
b. Expansion of agricultural activities due to the increase in population at a rate of 3.1 percent per annum.
c. Increased levels of charcoal production for commercial purposes.
d. Establishment of illegal settlements in forest reserves.
e. Industrialization and construction.

5. How can rangelands be improved?

- Allowing plants to recover long enough or even rest for a whole season after they have been grazed.
- Managing for good use of grasses, shrubs and trees.
- Improving the soil condition so that it can take up and holdwater and nutrients.
- Addressing bush encroachment.
- Climate change and its effects on rangelands.
- Planning ahead for droughts.
- Observing and keep records of the rangeland and livestock to see what, when and where changes take place.

- Planning the movement and grazing of animals and plan the development of infrastructure.
- Understanding the soil, grass, trees, plants and water sources.

6. What is E-SLIP doing to address these challenges?

- Mapping approximately 900, 000ha of communal grazing lands to be improved (rangelands).
- Establishment of rangeland committees to be custodians of the rangeland management interventions in each of the 35 sites where the rangeland has been established.
- Sensitizing communities on good rangeland practices
- Ensuring that the natural resources in the rangelands are protected from encroachment and indiscriminate cutting down of trees.
- Training the rangeland committees in natural resource management in the rangelands.
- Planting or over-sowing approximately 99,000ha with adapted legumes and grasses to improve the nutritive value of the rangelands.
- Plan to plant approximately 5, 000 trees across the country.
- Collaborations with stakeholders on restoration of rangelands.

