

Summary of Ministry of Livestock's
Rangeland Management Platform
Meeting on Prosopis, 16th April 2014

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Rangeland Management Platform

- Established as a platform for exchange of experiences and information on rangeland management issues – technical.
- Led by Pastoral Directorate, Ministry of Livestock. Supported by development actors.
- Anticipated outcomes include development, piloting and scaling-up of good practice; harmonisation of approaches; documentation and guidelines; input to policy development.

Meeting on Prosopis

- At the request of the State Minister of Livestock the first meeting was on Prosopis.
- A key output requested was a statement from participants for a meeting to be held by the Ministry of Livestock next month – the key objective of which is to put the case to government (national and regional) that there needs to be national, strategic, coordinated action to reduce the spread of Prosopis, and remove it where possible.

Key components of the statement from the participants of the RMP

- Though Prosopis when well-managed has some benefits, in Ethiopia it is a menace – with negative impacts on national and local economies and growth. Prosopis needs to be controlled and where possible, removed through large-scale and coordinated action.
- There have been some positive actions taken, regional policy/legislation and NGO activities, but scattered and lack urgency, not strategic and coordinated. As a result impacts have been limited.
- This requires coordinated action at all levels led by authorities (government and customary).
- National leadership is required, with resources. Different actors can have different roles – need to be defined.

- Also cross-border issue – role of e.g. IGAD.
- There is a linkage between investments in land including rangeland rehabilitation, and land security – if greater security, greater incentives for investment. No formal secure land tenure system currently in pastoral areas. Difficult to consider e.g. carbon seq.
- Prosopis (and other invasive sp) interventions can be best identified through an integrated land use planning process – at different levels – national land use plan to local participatory rangeland management.
- Decisions need to be made which are priority areas, and what interventions where – some may be suitable for large-scale removal and rehabilitation, some for temporary use, some of lower priority closed off – but ultimately a vision of eradication.

- There is lack of information on suitability, effectiveness, cost/benefits of large-scale interventions.
- There is lack of guidelines adapted to national and local contexts.
- As Prosopis removed, opportunities to utilise, but communities should not be dependent. Mainly Prosopis-invaded land was originally valuable dry season grazing areas – if cleared will it be returned to grazing or used for agriculture – re-invasion then needs to be prevented. Multi-stakeholder decision-making required about land use priorities.
- There needs to be mass awareness raising – including in areas where Prosopis is not present (yet).
- Preventive/pro-active measures in non-infested areas.

- Opportunities for private sector – particularly in using removed biomass.
- Strong experience in neighbouring countries – in particular Sudan, also Kenya.
- Pod-bearing (dropping) time is most dangerous – may require livestock exclusion zones.
- Prosopis (and other invasive sp) management is not mainstreamed in land/development programmes such as SLM, watershed management, PSNP, PCDP. PSNP public works labour use for clearing.
- Local knowledge on Prosopis management needs to be better incorporated in decision-making.

Recommendations from RMP to planned government meeting on Prosopis

- Nation-wide long-term strategic action needs to be taken to address the Prosopis problem. This should focus on control (based on a vision of eradication) – utilising biomass as it is removed. Led by MoL, PD.
- Control established at national and regional levels through policy and legislation. At the very very least prevent planting e.g. Kenya.
- Establish a sub-task force under PD on Prosopis (invasives) at federal level and dedicated group at regional levels – different actors, coordination, harmonisation, info sharing, national monitoring of spread

Recommendations from the RMP

- Prosopis is one of many rangeland issues that require incorporation into planning processes at different levels - mainstream Prosopis (invasives) into national, regional and local development and land use planning processes e.g. proposed National Land Use Plan and PRM. Different situations require different interventions – rational decision making and priority setting.
- Mainstream attention to Prosopis and good practice in development programmes incl. MoL projects, PSNP, SLM, PCDP. Job creation opportunities in removal.
- Promote and develop secure land tenure for rangelands users, to improve incentives for investing in management, rehabilitation etc.

Recommendations for RMP

- Clarification of institutional mandates and roles/responsibilities of different actors and sectors (water, biodiversity, agriculture...).
- Prevention and pro-action (early detection, rapid response) requires attention as well as control for eradication.
- Support development of clear guidelines incl. local
- Support research on large-scale clearance, control, and rehabilitation, and incorporation of indigenous knowledge.
- Coordinate mass awareness raising & community participation
- Mobilise funding for interventions – strategic partnerships with different actors.
- Take recommendations to others e.g. IGAD and AU