

**REVIEW OF THE IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development)
REGIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: RANGELAND MANAGEMENT IN ARID AND
SEMI-ARID LANDS OF THE IGAD REGION (2020)**

<p>1. What sector or subject is the policy designed for?</p>	<p>The strategic framework is focused on contributing to the sustainable management of rangelands in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) of the IGAD region. The framework has a broad objective of harmonising policies and practices among the Member States in order to address the challenges facing rangelands in the region.</p>
<p>2. Is the policy beneficial or inimical to achievement of the objectives of sustainable rangeland management and secure pastoral livelihoods?</p>	<p>The strategic framework directly aims to contribute to the sustainable management of the rangelands. The arguments for the framework are based on the socio-economic and ecological importance of rangelands in the region and responds to identified challenges affecting sustainable use and management of rangelands.</p> <p>To achieve this framework, developers conducted in-depth reviews of literature, key informant interviews and consultative meetings with rangeland experts and with pastoralist and agropastoralist communities, among other key stakeholders, and outlined ten strategic objectives to realise the overall objective of sustainable rangeland management in the ASALs of the region. The policy framework promotes an integrated landscape approach that brings together multiple stakeholders and seeks balance between competing needs and interests.</p> <p>The framework, in enhancement of pastoral land use, appreciates the use of livestock mobility as an adaptive strategy to track transient grazing resources across spatial temporal scales as an important adaptive strategy. Further, it acclaims the role of institutions, both customary and statutory, in regulation of resource use and maintenance of peaceful and equitable access to rangeland resources.</p>
<p>3. How does the policy advance (or frustrate) the ends of sustainable rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<p>The framework contributes to the achievement of sustainable rangeland management by addressing the problem of weak linkages and coordination of policies on rangeland development in the IGAD region. It advances sustainable rangeland management through harmonisation of policies and practices in the member countries in order to create synergy and particularly minimise overlaps and enhance efficiency of development programmes. Specifically, the framework offers a basis for IGAD Member States to formulate and operationalise sound rangeland management policies and actions. This effort is expected to complement other ongoing initiatives to strengthen resilience of ASAL ecosystems by supporting formulation and implementation of sound policies aimed at sustainable management of rangeland ecosystems.</p> <p>The framework notes that policies set on achieving sustainable rangeland development should focus on the intricate nexus among the socio-cultural, economic and ecological factors within the IGAD</p>

	<p>rangelands. This includes the participation of pastoralist communities and the recognition of customary mechanisms regulating rangelands use and conflict resolution as central to rangeland development. It promotes consensus for shared principles as the basis for securing land rights and access to rangeland resources by all users, and it suggests actions aimed at achieving healthy and productive rangelands.</p>
<p>4. What are the key principles in the policy that facilitate rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<p>The policy addresses issues pertinent to rangeland management in the region through ten strategic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To improve policy and legal framework for rangeland management ii. To strengthen organisational capacity for rangeland management through staffing, budgeting and equipping iii. To improve rangeland health and productivity through reseeding and management of invasive species and re-introduction of native species, and grazing management iv. To strengthen governance of rangeland resources through recognition and mainstreaming of customary institutions v. To secure land rights and tenure regimes in the rangelands through formulation of land policies and enactment of relevant land laws vi. To regulate rangeland use through land-use policies and planning; this will entail formulation of land-use policies and requisite laws vii. To establish and/or operationalise trans-border activities within countries, transhumance agreements and inter-community resource-sharing mechanisms for free, safe and peaceful sharing of rangeland resources viii. To improve research, extension, human resource capacity and knowledge management through support of research activities ix. To promote investment in sustainable rangeland management by creating various incentives x. To strengthen drought risk management and climate change adaptation and mitigation through appropriate drought risk management and interventions
<p>5. Are there any discernible gaps in the policy that should be addressed to strengthen support to rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<p>In this strategic framework, it is alluded that the “majority of the drylands in Africa suffer various forms of environmental degradation and at varying degrees...”. However, the NDVI (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) maps used to demonstrate this point does not clearly support the insinuation. Comparing two maps, one showing the extent of rangelands (Fig. 2) and the other demonstration degradation levels (Fig. 5), it is seen that areas with the highest levels of degradation are actually in the areas that are not classified as the rangelands but rather the highland agricultural areas of Ethiopia and also Kenya. Indeed, in the NDVI map (Fig. 5), most of the rangelands are in areas classified as having low to very low degradation levels. This can either be a shortfall of the NDVI framework or a misinterpretation</p>

of the NDVI indicators of degradation levels. Furthermore, the assertion that the majority of the drylands are degraded does not match the findings published by ILRI in the recent rangeland atlas. According to the data from land degradation neutrality published in the atlas, “between 2001–2015 the majority of rangelands have been stable or increased in productivity terms: 48% of rangelands were stable, 13% showed early signs of increase and 18% showed increasing productivity. An additional 6% of rangelands showed declining productivity and 9% early signs of decline”.

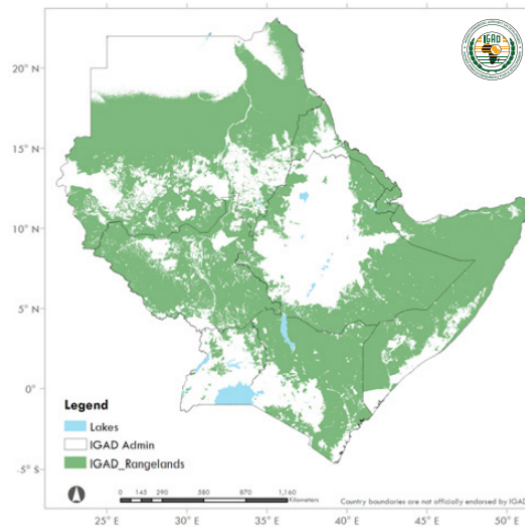


Figure 2: Rangelands of IGAD Region

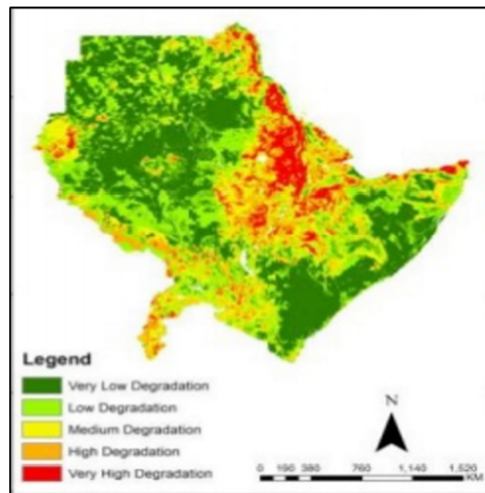


Figure 5: Land Degradation Index Map for IGAD (May–Sept, 2010)

Working with the assumption that the majority of rangeland areas are degraded might lead the policymakers to overlook what the communities are doing to maintain the rangelands in healthy states and might also suggest irrelevant policy recommendations.