

	<b>SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) REGIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY (2006)</b>
1. What sector or subject is the policy designed for?	Biodiversity conservation. Also, the value addition and biotrade in biological resources for economic development.
2. Is the policy as a whole beneficial or inimical to achievement of the objectives of sustainable rangeland management and secure pastoral livelihoods?	<p>Inimical – The policy advocates for other livelihood opportunities beyond the primary sectors of production (incl. pastoralism) in favour of commodification and commercialisation of biodiversity for external markets.</p> <p>Also, the policy does not view communal land uses (and this may include pastoralism) having positive feedbacks on conservation. Yet we know pastoralism can have benefits for biodiversity and conservation.</p>
3. How does the policy advance (or frustrate) the ends of sustainable rangeland management and pastoralism?	<p><b>Advance:</b> The policy aims to improve the region’s capacity to manage GMOs and invasive alien species, which will benefit pastoralists since alien species could reduce the grazing capacity of rangelands.</p> <p><b>Frustrate:</b> The policy mentions that southern Africa’s vast forest resources, which are sinks for carbon dioxide, have a potential role in alleviating and balancing emissions from industrialised countries through carbon sequestration. This may result in pastoral lands becoming increasingly used for carbon sequestration (synonymous with wastelands) to the benefit of industrialised countries and not pastoralism that benefits local people.</p> <p><b>Frustrate</b> The policy argues that communal land tenure and community-based land-use management systems are malevolent to natural resources, a long-held perception which has been shown to be untrue in many studies incl. the work done on social-ecological systems.</p> <p><b>Frustrate</b> The policy sees biodiversity as a resource primarily for conservation and not the need for communities to benefit from the resources, especially in protected areas.</p> <p><b>Frustrate</b> The policy advocates for the technological advancement in crop agriculture and acceleration of commercialisation of smallholder agriculture. In South Africa, for example, this resulted in negative consequences for mobile pastoralists.</p> <p><b>Advance:</b> The policy advocates for transboundary natural resource management. When pastoralism is justly acknowledged as a means to conserve natural resources, this would allow for mobility over larger spatial and temporal scales in the SADC region.</p>

<p>4. What are the key principles in the policy that facilitate rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<p><i>The policy promotes decentralised access and management of biodiversity in order to enhance its protection and sustain its contribution to social and economic development with emphasis on poverty eradication. This means that pastoralists would be central to decision-making.</i></p> <p>The policy promotes Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) principles, which includes legislation that protects local knowledge and germplasm from biopiracy.</p>
<p>5. Are there any discernible gaps in the policy that should be addressed to strengthen support for rangeland management and pastoralism?</p>	<p>This document is to be revised every five years, so pastoral participation in policy development including using their knowledge to monitor biodiversity is recommended. It does not appear that local land users were consulted when this policy was developed.</p> <p>There is no explicit mentioning of pastoralism; it is lumped with crop agriculture. Thus, the values of pastoralism for conservation are not recognised, and the negative impacts of crop agricultural practices are also associated with pastoralism.</p> <p>The policy should allow for pastoralists to access resources inside the protected areas, as it has been shown that humans, livestock and wildlife could co-exist. However, the dangers of zoonotic diseases should be strongly considered.</p> <p>Pastoralists who are neighbouring protected areas should be key actors in any conservation initiatives in their region. Thus, as the policy acknowledges, <i>“Conservation strategies need to broaden their focus from strict policing of protected areas to the inclusion of local people in conservation management.”</i></p> <p>The policy should protect the Intellectual Property Rights and traditional knowledge of pastoralists from biopiracy, and they should benefit from its commercialisation.</p>