



FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report

2021 – Revised Template



Period covered: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

1. Basic Project Data

General Information

Region:	Global
Country (ies):	Kenya, Niger, Burkina Faso, Uruguay and Kyrgyzstan
Project Title:	Participatory assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management in grassland and pastoral areas systems
FAO Project Symbol:	GCP /GLO/530/GFF
GEF ID:	5724
GEF Focal Area(s):	Land Degradation
Project Executing Partners:	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Project Duration:	3.5 years
Project coordinates: (Ctrl+Click here)	N/A

Milestone Dates:

GEF CEO Endorsement Date:	26 July 2016
Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :	01 February 2017
Proposed Project Implementation End Date/NTE¹:	30 June 2019
Revised project implementation end date (if applicable) ²	19 th November 2021
Actual Implementation End Date³:	N/A

Funding

GEF Grant Amount (USD):	USD 2,639,726
Total Co-financing amount as included in GEF CEO Endorsement Request/ProDoc⁴:	USD 5,762,270

¹ As per FPMIS

² In case of a project extension.

³ Actual date at which project implementation ends - only for projects that have ended.

⁴ This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO document/Project Document.

Total GEF grant disbursement as of June 30, 2021 (USD m):	USD 2,583.617
Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2021⁵	USD 6,350,230.28

Review and Evaluation

Date of Most Recent Project Steering Committee Meeting:	September 2019
Expected Mid-term Review date⁶:	May 2020
Actual Mid-term review date:	May to August 2020
Mid-term review or evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022)⁷:	Yes : Final evaluation
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	June 2021
Terminal evaluation due in coming fiscal year (July 2021 – June 2022):	Yes
Tracking tools/ Core indicators required⁸	Yes

Ratings

Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):	HS
Overall implementation progress rating:	S
Overall risk rating:	M

Status

⁵ Please see last section of this report where you are asked to provide updated co-financing estimates. Use the total from this Section and insert here.

⁶ The MTR should take place about halfpoint between EOD and NTE – this is the expected date

⁷ Please note that the FAO GEF Coordination Unit should be contacted six months prior to the expected MTR date

⁸ Please note that the Tracking Tools are required at mid-term and closure for all GEF-4 and GEF-5 projects. Tracking tools are not mandatory for Medium Sized projects = < 2M USD at mid-term, but only at project completion. The new GEF-7 results indicators (core and sub-indicators) will be applied to all projects and programs approved on or after July 1, 2018. Also projects and programs approved from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018 (GEF-6) must apply core indicators and sub-indicators at mid-term and/or completion

Implementation Status (1 st PIR, 2 nd PIR, etc. Final PIR):	Final PIR
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Project Contacts

Contact	Name, Title, Division/Institution	E-mail
Project Manager / Coordinator	Vivian Onyango, Agricultural Officer, AGP	Vivian.Onyango@fao.org
Lead Technical Officer	Moctar Sacande, Project Coordinator, FOA	Moctar.Sacande@fao.org
Budget Holder	Abram Bicksler, Agricultural Officer, AGP	Abram.Bicksler@fao.org
GEF Funding Liaison Officer	Fritjof Boerstler, Technical Officer, CBC	Fritjof.Boerstler@fao.org

2. Progress Towards Achieving Project Objectives and Outcome (DO)

(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)

Project objective and Outcomes (as indicated at CEO Endorsement)	Description of indicator(s) ⁹	Baseline level	Mid-term target ¹⁰	End-of-project target	Level at 30 June 2021	Progress rating ¹¹
Objective(s):						
Outcome 1: A participatory assessment and monitoring system for pastoral areas comprising of grasslands and rangelands, is developed and tested	<u>Outcome Indicator 1.1:</u> Standardized procedural and operational manual available	In spite of several tools existing to monitor and assess LD and SLM, none provides a coherent participatory process for assessing LD and SLM in rangelands and grasslands. There are also difficulties with replicability of existing tools.	An operational and procedural manual to monitor and assess LD and SLM based on framework of indicator domains is developed	The procedural and operational manual is developed and tested.	The Participatory Rangelands and Grasslands (PRAGA) methodology has been developed and tested in all the five countries. The lessons learnt have been incorporated into the final methodology. The methodology is currently under review in preparation for publication.	HS

⁹ This is taken from the approved results framework of the project. Please add cells when required in order to use one cell for each indicator and one rating for each indicator.

¹⁰ Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

¹¹ Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory (HS)**, **Satisfactory (S)**, **Marginally Satisfactory (MS)**, **Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU)**, **Unsatisfactory (U)**, and **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)**.

	<p>Outcome Indicator 1.2. Number of international and national consultations organized to discuss, test and revise the assessment and monitoring procedures</p>	<p>There is little common understanding and views on the global indicators by domain of assessment to be defined for monitoring and assessing LD in grasslands and rangelands</p>	<p>An international technical consortium of experts meets to identify, define and review a minimum number of global indicators by domain of assessment</p> <p>5 national level workshops organized to (I) Introduce the project objective and framework of global indicators by domain of assessment (II) identify key national and local resource people to support the assessment and (iii) assess</p>	<p>A second international consultation is organized with key relevant scientists, technicians, decision makers and key representatives from pastoral communities to present and discuss the final framework of global indicators and the finalized assessment and monitoring method.</p>	<p>The 1st International consultation with the technical experts group took place in 2018.</p> <p>The 2nd International consultation with the group of experts took place in September 2019. The meeting reviewed the initial results from piloting sites, lessons from these areas and contributed to refining the final methodology.</p> <p>Initial national level workshops were realized in all the five countries.</p> <p>Assessment of relevant policy entry points was completed in all the five countries. Policy briefs have been produced for Niger and Burkina Faso and show national policy areas impacted by the project.</p> <p>Final policy brief for Kenya was finalized.</p> <p>Policy action plan for Uruguay is ongoing with some delays. Initially, Ministry of Agriculture was the anchor organization, however, with changes in government, concrete work will be done with Ministry of Environment on biodiversity and land degradation neutrality.</p>	S
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			relevant policy entry points		In Kyrgyzstan, final policy brief will be prepared after completion of the phase 2 pasture use planning and take on board lessons learnt.	
	Outcome Indicator 1.3: Level of involvement of local pastoral communities in defining and testing the domains of indicators, specific indicators and the assessment and monitoring of operational and procedural framework	The design of assessment and monitoring systems has been crafted by scientists, academics and extension workers with little to no space for input from local land users.	Participatory testing of the relevance and feasibility of the selected global indicators of conducted at field level in the 5 targeted pilot sites	The final version of the assessment and monitoring operational and procedural framework is done taking into account feedbacks received from local communities.	The activity is complete. The PRAGA manual has benefitted from feedback from local communities and lessons learnt have been included in the Annex of the methodology.	HS

<p>Outcome 2: National and international agro-sylvo-pastoral decision-making processes benefit from the assessment and monitoring procedural and operational manual and the participatory national grassland and rangeland assessments.</p>	<p>Outcome Indicator 2.1: Number of action plans for mainstreaming SLM best practices</p>	<p>No action plans for mainstreaming SLM best practices available</p>	<p>Key policy mainstreaming entry points are identified during local assessment steps SLM best practices identified during field survey are compiled and discussed and an action plan to insert the assessment findings into the current strategies, policies and plans is developed for each pilot site.</p>	<p>A national workshop is organized in each country to present and discuss the action plan and identify SLM best practices and measures that are best fit to influence policy making regarding pastoral areas</p>	<p>National policy discussions have been realized in all the five countries. Results are outlined below:</p> <p>Kenya: following the challenges of the COVID pandemic, the policy discussions were localized in Isiolo and Garissa counties. A training on the methodology was carried out between 8th to 13th November 2020 in Garissa and Isiolo Counties targeting county technical officers. The aim of this training was to: (i) train technical officers on the PRAGA methodology; and (ii) develop a roadmap on how the methodology can be integrated in the county rangeland planning processes. Both counties elaborated respective action plans to align rangeland assessment using PRAGA into county normative work.</p> <p>Niger: Stakeholders' engagement workshops on PRAGA Methodology in Niger were organized to widely disseminate the methodology. Thirty-three (33) participants (7 women) from the Gorouol and Bankilare communes, twenty (3 women) at the regional level and</p>	<p>S</p>
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					<p>twenty (2 women) at the central level were reached with the PRAGA methodology and results. Niger also participated in a multi-country workshop organized through FAO co-financing and targeted for Sahelian countries aimed at promoting participatory monitoring in the region.</p> <p>Burkina Faso: Burkina FASO also took part in the multi-country workshop organized through FAO co-financing and targeted for Sahelian countries aimed at promoting participatory monitoring in the region. A training also took place on the PRAGA methodology as complementary to the current government monitoring of the pastoral biomass (co financed through the FAO co-finance). About 30 participants (2 women), including the scientific committee for monitoring pastoral resources, were trained in August 2020 to update their knowledge on rangeland and grassland assessment as complementary to the monitoring of the pastoral biomass. The participants agreed to mainstream the participatory rangeland/grassland assessment</p>	
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					<p>method into the current national forage biomass monitoring system.</p> <p>Policy briefs from the assessment experience have been elaborated for both Niger and Burkina Faso and are currently going through clearances. These briefs will be used to communicate results of the assessment report and for lobbying for inclusion of the methodology into national, regional and local rangeland planning processes</p> <p>Uruguay: a national report was produced on the State of the Grasslands and on this basis, policy recommendations are being made. (Perez Rocha, J. 2020. El estado del campo natural en el Uruguay. Montevideo. FAO, MVOTMA y MGAP. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb0989es). Indeed, several options were analyzed and compiled in those publications addressing national, local and farm scale recommendations.</p> <p>Also there is the Final Consultancy Report by service provider Cooperativas Agrarias Federas (CAF) that highlights several</p>
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					<p>recommendations regarding PRAGA and Best Practices.</p> <p>A feedback conference was held via Zoom for local and national level that that was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Director of Natural Resources, Director of Environment of the Ministry of Environment, President of CAF, the project’s technical team, producers, journalists and other interested parties.</p> <p>Discussions have been ongoing with the Ministry of Agriculture on the next steps based on the outcomes of the PRAGA assessment in Uruguay; however, with the change in government, this has not been going well. Therefore, the project is shifting focus to working with the other national partner Ministry of Environment on concrete policy action plans.</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: In Kyrgyzstan, following extensive validation and proposals by pasture committees on how the PRAGA methodology can improve the current assessment, a phase 2 validation is currently ongoing. This is meant to</p>	
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					validate all seasonal pastures and use it as a basis for the current cycle of pasture use planning that is underway. Short term planning (next two years) and long term planning (next five years).	
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	<p>Outcome indicator 2.2: Recognition of the assessment and monitoring method in at least 2 relevant international fora</p>	<p>There is no standardized procedures for monitoring and assessing LD in grasslands and rangelands</p>		<p>The new standardized assessment and monitoring method for LD and SLM in grasslands and rangelands is recognized at least 2 international fora</p>	<p>One international side event was already held at the UNCCD COP 14.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed additional side events that were targeted e.g. the International Rangelands Congress and the World Conservations Congress. However, PRAGA manual and a series of publications (LDN and PRAGA, SLM Best practices from pilot sites) will be launched at the World Conservation Congress in October. PRAGA methodology will also be shared at the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF 2021) in June 2021, a digital conference on Africa’s drylands.</p> <p>Additionally, the PRAGA in Kyrgyzstan is one of the contributing case studies on the new, first-of-its-kind Rangelands Atlas on land degradation neutrality. The atlas is meant to fill data gaps and provide a basis for interventions in world rangelands.</p>	<p>S</p>
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<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>Project's outcome and output targets are monitored and evaluated, and lessons learned and best practices are captured and disseminated to facilitate future operations.</p>	<p>Outcome indicator 3.1: Fulfilment of planned M&E activities including establishing baseline values for all project indicators, yearly updating of indicators, a mid-term evaluation/review and a final project evaluation.</p> <p>Collection of best practices and lessons learned throughout the implementation of the project</p>	<p>No baseline</p>	<p>65% progress in achieving project outcomes</p>	<p>Project outcomes achieved and showing sustainability</p>	<p>Project monitoring system is in place and project staff have been compiling information and results throughout the process.</p> <p>Mid-term evaluation was completed in June 2020 to help improve project activities going forward.</p>	<p>S</p>
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					<p>Final evaluation is set to commence in June 2021.</p> <p>The lessons learnt during PRAGA implementation have been compiled and are to be published as an Annex of the PRAGA methodology.</p> <p>FAO led the authorship of a best practices and policy document aimed at LDN. <i>“Land Degradation Neutrality: Rationale for Participatory Approaches for Monitoring and Assessment of Rangeland Health,”</i> makes case for use of participatory approaches such as PRAGA in support of robust LDN. The document is in press.</p> <p>FAO is leading the production of a global policy document on “Best practices in support of SLM in rangelands,” that is based on the PRAGA experience.</p> <p>These documents are scheduled to be launched at the IUCN’s World Conservation Congress.</p>	
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Action plan to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?

3. Progress in Generating Project Outputs (Implementation Progress, IP)

(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as planned in the Annual Work Plan)

Outputs ¹²	Expected completion date ¹³	Achievements at each PIR ¹⁴					Implement. status (cumulative)	Comments Describe any variance ¹⁵ or any challenge in delivering outputs
		1 st PIR	2 nd PIR	3 rd PIR	4 th PIR	5 th PIR		
Output 1.1 A monitoring and assessment procedural and operational manual is developed	Q3, Y4	<i>Experts meeting held</i> <i>Draft procedural manual was developed and presented to the technical experts for reviews before field testing.</i>	<i>Draft procedural manual has now been tested in Kenya. Lessons learnt have been used to review the methodology and implementation in other countries.</i>	Draft methodology has been tested in all the five countries. Validation of assessment has also taken place. Lessons learnt are being compiled and together with final feedback on results by the local communities, the finalized manual will be elaborated.	A 3 rd meeting of the experts group was held virtually in October 2020 to review the PRAGA methodology and the LDN and PRAGA publication. This also included participation by the government focal points from all the five countries and it was done virtually. Elaboration of the methodology was completed. Methodology now under peer review in FAO as part of the	N/A	90%	

					publishing process.			
Output 1.2: The monitoring and assessment procedural and operational manual is tested at local level and the global indicators are further adapted while assessing policies.	Q4, Y3	<i>National inception workshops have been held in Kenya and Uruguay to agree on pilot sites for testing the procedural and operational manual.</i>	<i>National inception workshops have been held in all the countries. Kenya completed its field testing and followed by a national validation workshop. Uruguay has completed local</i>	Field testing has been completed in all the five countries and reports validated by stakeholder s. Policy assessment is complete in Kenya and Uruguay. Policy assessment is ongoing in Niger and Burkina	Field assessments have been completed in all the five countries. The global indicators have been finalised. Policy briefs have been prepared for Kenya, Niger, Burkina Faso. Policy discussions ongoing in Uruguay and in Kyrgyzstan, and final validations are going to help with community planning and		80%	In Uruguay, the change in government has impacted the policy aspects of the project, as both focal points in Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment have been replaced. Policy discussions were advanced within Ministry of Agriculture which was aimed at providing monitoring inputs to the program of work of the Grasslands Unit. This activity is now been side-lined by the current administration. That said, other avenues are being sought within Ministry of Environment for policy alignment.

¹² Outputs as described in the project logframe or in any updated project revision. In case of project revision resulted from a mid-term review please modify the output accordingly or leave the cells in blank and add the new outputs in the table explaining the variance in the comments section.

¹³ As per latest work plan (latest project revision); for example: Quarter 1, Year 3 (Q1 y3)

¹⁴ Please use the same unity of measures of the project indicators, as much as possible. Please be extremely synthetic (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

¹⁵ Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

			<p><i>inception workshops in all the two pilot sites and is preparing for field assessments.</i></p> <p><i>Field testing will begin in June 2019 in Kyrgyzstan.</i></p> <p><i>Local inception meetings were held in Burkina Faso (March 2019) and in Niger (May 2019). Field-testing is yet to start in these countries.</i></p>	Faso and will commence in Kyrgyzstan in 3 rd Quarter of 2020.	elaboration of final policy brief.			
Output 1.3: The assessment and monitoring			This activity is completed in Kenya and lessons	The revised assessment and monitoring manual will	The revised assessment manual (PRAGA methodology) has been		90%	

<p>method is refined and finalized based on lessons learned from the district/site tests</p>			<p>learnt have been included in the methodology.</p> <p>Similar exercise will be done when pilot testing is completed in the other four countries.</p> <p>An integral policy document is currently being prepared, with special focus on Uruguay on how lessons learnt in the country can be communicated to influence global processes.</p>	<p>be completed as soon as all the lessons learnt are collected and all the country reports are finalized. At the moment, Uruguay, Niger, Burkina Faso and Kyrgyzstan reports are being finalized.</p>	<p>completed, lessons learnt have been captured as an Annex of the methodology and it is currently going through peer review in FAO as part of the publishing procedure.</p> <p>The lessons learned by each country were also shared among the countries and with the members of the experts group during the Experts meeting organized virtually in October 2020.</p>			
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Output 2.1: Participatory national grassland and rangeland assessment results are linked to national and local decision-making processes	Q1 Y4	<i>Framework for documenting SLM best practices has been developed</i>	Validation process ongoing in Kenya following completion of PRAGA national validation workshop. Best practices are being collected from Kyrgyzstan and Uruguay in their ongoing field assessments.	In depth policy analysis to link PRAGA to local decision-making has been completed in Kenya. A policy action plan on the same is being elaborated. Policy analysis is ongoing in Uruguay, Niger, Burkina Faso and Kyrgyzstan aimed at linking assessment results with decision making.	Activity completed in Kenya, Burkina Faso and Niger; however, it is ongoing in Kyrgyzstan and Uruguay. In Kyrgyzstan, discussions based on the PRAGA methodology are ongoing on how PRAGA can help with the short-term and long-term pasture management. In Uruguay, changes have meant that the approach to policy has to be tweaked as changes in government have hampered initial policy action plans meant at engraining monitoring in the Grasslands Unit.		In Uruguay, the change in government has impacted the policy aspects of the project, as both focal points in the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment have been replaced. Policy discussions were advanced within Ministry of Agriculture which was aimed at providing monitoring inputs to the program of work of the Grasslands Unit. This activity is now been sidelined by the current administration. That said, other avenues are being sought within Ministry of Environment for policy alignment.
Output 2.2. Assessment and	Q3 Y4	<i>Literature review on international policy</i>	In Uruguay, with co-financing by FAO	A successful side event to share the contributions	A regional workshop was held in West Africa to share	80%	This activity was hampered by COVID-19 that has had an impact on organization of information sharing events.

<p>monitoring method shared with relevant international mechanisms in order to integrate/align with existing frameworks.</p>		<p><i>alignment started</i></p>	<p>technical and financial support was provided to the XII meeting of Natural Grassland Cattle Keepers of South America during their annual meeting. A presentation on the project methodology, potential contribution to the sustainable management of the Pampa biome and how to engage more during the project and sharing of information</p>	<p>n of PRAGA to LDN in rangelands and grasslands was held on the margins of UNCCD COP 14 in India (see press release). Based on the results of the discussions from the side event, a publication on LDN: Rationale for Participatory Approaches in Grasslands and Rangelands is currently ongoing. The project countries had also been awarded</p>	<p>information on the PRAGA approach and results between Burkina Faso and Niger, to facilitate update of the composition of the national committees. Togo and Benin were included in the workshop to raise country awareness on the need to link grassland/rangeland assessment to livestock mobility across countries. A key recommendation was to present the PRAGA at the ECOWAS High Level Workshop as a methodology for monitoring and evaluating pastoral resources in Sahelian and coastal countries and helping management decisions on transhumance.</p>			
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		<p>were discussed.</p> <p>A side-event to share the methodology with a wider audience is scheduled to take place at UNCCD COP 14 in September 2019. The event is meant to showcase importance of and how participatory approaches through PRAGA can help improve LDN framework in rangelands and grasslands.</p> <p>The International</p>	<p>presentation slots to share experiences and results at the International Rangelands and Grasslands Congress, 2020. However, the conference has been postponed to October 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>A publication on LDN and PRAGA has been elaborated and is in press and is aimed at providing guidance on rangelands assessment to LDN and other relevant international mechanisms.</p> <p>PRAGA will also be shared at the Global Landscapes Forum. The World Conservation congress will be used as a platform to launch the PRAGA methodology and two other publications.</p> <p>PRAGA experience with a focus on assessment approaches to LDNs has also</p>			
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			<p>al Rangelands Congress, 2020 is earmarked as one of the key events for project outcomes to be shared. As the event will be held in Kenya, the project partner, IUCN, has been actively participating in the preparatory meetings for the event including preparation of agenda and speaker notes with aim of ensuring project ideas/achievements to be shared</p>		<p>been captured in the recently released 1st Global Rangelands Atlas that is meant to provide useful data on rangelands targeted at informed management and restoration. The atlas was launched on 26th May 2021.</p> <p>In Uruguay, the project co-developed an International Symposium: "Sustainable management of the natural countryside" and a training program for professionals.</p> <p>A postgraduate course named "Update in grasslands assessment and conservation" was carried out with the aim of</p>			
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			<p>are well placed within specific sub-themes.</p> <p>Study to inform international policy alignment ongoing with over 20 qualitative interviews already carried out.</p>		<p>providing scientific knowledge and technological tools that allow the diagnosis, interpretation and construction of intervention proposals for grasslands sustainability</p>			
<p>Output 3.1: A project monitoring system providing systematic information on progress towards the project outcome and output targets is set up and implemented</p>	Q2 Y4	<p><i>Work plan has been developed for Year 1 that guides performance</i></p>	<p><i>National workplans were developed for all participant countries and incorporated into global project implementation calendars.</i></p> <p><i>There are also</i></p>	<p>The project work plan has been revised to allow for an extension, based on the MTR suggestions, as some activities were lagging behind.</p> <p>The quarterly financial</p>	<p>Project extension was granted to recover from delays due to the COVID 19 pandemic.</p> <p>The quarterly financial and technical reporting by IUCN is well executed. FAO reports annually to the donor while the project reports twice annually to the FAO GEF Unit.</p>		70%	

			<p><i>quarterly reporting by executing partner, IUCN, and 6 month reporting by FAO and annual donor reporting by FAO.</i></p>	<p>and technical reporting by IUCN is well executed. FAO reports annually to the donor while the project reports twice annually to the FAO GEF Unit.</p>				
<p>Output 3.2 Mid-term and final evaluation/review conducted</p>	<p>Q1 Y3</p>		<p><i>MTR was scheduled for June 2019. However, there has been delays from the FAO Office of Evaluation and processes will start in August 2019</i></p>	<p>MTR is concluded. It has provided beneficial in-depth analysis of the project activities and desired goals with recommendations on how to make improvements. MTR has also recommended a no-cost extension for the</p>	<p>Final evaluation will start in June 2021.</p>		<p>55%</p>	

				project to make up for the delays in activities.				
Output 3.3: Project related best practices and lessons learned are documented and published	Q4 Y3	<i>Guideline documents are being developed</i>	<i>Collection of information on best practices that will feed into a wider publication ongoing</i>	Two main publications are being developed to support this objective. One is the global LDN and PRAGA publication and the 2 nd will be linking lessons learnt with best practices in support of SLM. The LDN and PRAGA publication is ongoing while compilation of the best practices in support of SLM is yet to start. However, lessons learnt and	The LDN and PRAGA publication is completed and is in press. The SLM in Rangelands publication is still being elaborated. The lessons learnt from implementing PRAGA, as they were very technical and integral to the methodology, have been attached to the methodology as an Annex.		60%	Some delays are incurred due to initial delay in activities.

				policy initiatives that it will anchor on are already being collected.				
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4. Information on Progress, Outcomes and Challenges on Project Implementation

Please briefly summarize main progress achieving the outcomes (cumulative) and outputs (during this fiscal year):

1. The PRAGA methodology has been updated based on lessons learnt and is now in the publication process in FAO.
2. Finalised the data management portal for the PRAGA methodology
3. Field validation has been completed in all the five countries.
4. Policy discussions are completed in three countries and being finalized in Kyrgyzstan and Uruguay.
5. A good practice and policy advocacy publication, “Land Degradation Neutrality: Rationale for Participatory Approaches to Rangelands Health Assessment,” has been completed and is in the publication process in FAO. The document and the PRAGA methodology will be launched at the World Conservation Congress.
6. A good practice and policy document, “Best Practices in Support of Sustainable Land Management in Rangelands,” is under authorship by FAO and IUCN.
7. Regional meeting on rangelands health assessment and management for West Africa was held and brought together the two project countries of Niger and Burkina Faso to a dialogue on a regional approach and also had participation by non-project country, Togo. Benin was unable to attend due to travel restrictions but discussions are ongoing with them. As a result of the meeting, it was recommended that PRAGA be presented by IUCN at the next ECOWAS meeting.
8. PRAGA example for monitoring land degradation neutrality (LDN), was showcased in the 1st ever Global Rangelands Atlas.
9. International symposium on sustainable grasslands management in Uruguay was organized by FAO, Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), Ministry of the Environment (MA), Federal Agricultural Cooperatives (CAF) and the Faculty of Agronomy (Udelar) on Friday, October 2, 2020, and had the participation of national and international speakers (from academia, governments, and farmers).
10. The project, in collaboration with the Universidad de la Republica, Faculty of Agronomy, designed and delivered a post-graduate course on “Update in grasslands assessment and conservation” which aimed at providing scientific knowledge and technological tools that allow the diagnosis, interpretation and elaboration of interventions for grasslands sustainability. The students were 23 (11 women and 12 men).
11. 3rd and final meeting of the experts’ group (with participation of government focal points from all the five countries) was successfully held virtually in October 2020 to review the PRAGA knowledge products and to enable countries to share

12. lessons learned among each other.**What are the major challenges the project has experienced during this reporting period?**

- *Delays due to COVID-19 pandemic. Where possible, workshops and field exercises have been carried out respecting the host government's health protocols. However, there have been considerable delays which impacted activities under Component 2 and 3. As a result, an extension was requested to help recover the lost time.*
- *Participation and presentation of PRAGA in International events was also hampered by the COVID 19 pandemic; however, some online events have been used as they come up. Also, preparing policy focussed publications communicating PRAGA experience and results is a useful tool to reach wider coverage.*

Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR.

For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	FY2021 Development Objective rating¹⁶	FY2021 Implementation Progress rating¹⁷	Comments/reasons¹⁸ justifying the ratings for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period
Project Manager / Coordinator	HS	HS	The main objective of the project was to develop and pilot the PRAGA methodology and to promote the methodology for wider uptake. Both have been successfully achieved as the methodology, developed in a participatory and inclusive way is now available, and has been presented at various platforms at local, national, regional and international scales and has been positively received.
Budget Holder	HS	HS	The project has significantly and impressively delivered a new methodology for measuring land degradation and sustainable land management in grassland and pastoral systems in a participatory and inclusive manner. The methodology has been tested in all 5 countries and its validation is imminent, even in the face of the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the project and methodology has been widely disseminated among many stakeholders in many different settings. An excellent example of a high-functioning and delivering GEF project where research and development leads to laying a foundation of many positive environmental changes and improved livelihoods.

¹⁶ **Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating** – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet.

For more information on ratings, definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁷ **Implementation Progress Rating** – Assess the progress of project implementation. For more information on ratings definitions please refer to Annex 1.

¹⁸ Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

Lead Technical Officer¹⁹	HS	S	The main objectives of the project to develop, pilot and promote the PRAGA methodology for wider update have been successfully achieved and in a participatory and inclusive way. This, despite the difficulties and restrictions raised due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which have greatly delayed some of the activities. The extension will help to complete such essential activities in the 5 countries before the project concludes this year.
FAO-GEF Funding Liaison Officer	HS	S	<i>The project will achieve its overall objective with the granted extension which is a great success in view of all the challenges including COVID 19. In the remaining time, the project team should place emphasise on policy discussions with the new focal points of the Ministry of Environment to ensure that the project's (great) achievements in Uruguay will be carried forward from a policy point of view. For the benefit of current and future GEF projects and programmes that are focusing on the rehabilitation of rangelands, it is highly recommended that the GEFSec with STAP support issues a PRAGA guidance note for a harmonized application. The inclusion of PRAGA in the SFM DSL IP (Central Asia) will be explored with FAO's support as lead agency.</i>

¹⁹ The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

Under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESM plan, when appropriate. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please add recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESM plan, when needed.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
ESS 1: Natural Resource Management : No impact natural resources management				
ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats : No negative impact on biodiversity, ecosystems and natural habitats.				
ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture : No negative risks to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.				
ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture : No negative risks to animal genetic resources.				
ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management : Not applicable				
ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement : Not applicable.				
ESS 7: Decent Work : No negative impact on decent work				
ESS 8: Gender Equality				
	Purposed involvement of women	Always ensuring representation of women in meetings and workshops	None	
ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage				
	Working with community designated elders	This was ensured during field assessments in 3 rd PIR	None	

New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY: Covid 19 pandemic				
		Virtual meetings where possible and postponement of activities	Virtual meetings where possible and in case of face to face meetings adherence to respective national health protocols.	

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate if the initial Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid; if not, what is the new classification and explain.

Overall Project Risk classification (at project submission)	Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid ²⁰ . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Medium	The risk is situation remains classified as medium mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>
N/A

6. Risks

Risk ratings

RISK TABLE
<i>The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified in the course of project implementation. Please make sure that the table also includes the Environmental and Social Management Risks captured by the</i>

²⁰ **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is changing, the ESM Unit should be contacted and an updated Social and Environmental Management Plan addressing new risks should be prepared.

*Environmental and social Management Risk Mitigations plans. The Notes column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in your specific project, **as relevant**.*

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
1	Covid 19 pandemic	Moderate	Virtual meetings where possible, postponement of activities and in person activities with observing national health protocols in cases where in person meetings take place.	Observing national health protocols in cases where in person meetings take place e.g. in Kenya, Niger, Burkina Faso, Uruguay and Kyrgyzstan Virtual workshops in Uruguay.	Approval of the mid-term recommendation to extend the project duration.
2	Security challenges in pilot sites in Niger and Burkina Faso.	Moderately high	Changed pilot sites and meetings in capital cities	Even though pilot sites were changed, insecurity spread to new pilot sites. As a result, all policy related follow-ups were done from capital cities; Niamey and Ouagadougou for Niger and Burkina Faso respectively.	Recommendation to change project sites.

²¹ GEF Risk ratings: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High

²² If a risk mitigation plan had been presented as part of the Environmental and Social management Plan or in previous PIR please report here on progress or results of its implementation. For moderate and high risk projects, please Include a description of the ESMP monitoring activities undertaken in the relevant period".

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
3	Political-institutional risk: Divergent priorities of projects partners with regards to pastoral land resources assessments	Moderately high. The project involves several countries and partners, divergent priorities and political issues would severely affect the ability of the project to reach its objectives	Project partners undertook several consultations to reach consensus on key issues during project implementation. Main project partners will be meeting at least once a year through the project steering committee.	There were opportunities for project countries to engage and share their ideas including during the inception meeting when all partners agreed on the project objectives and the draft PRAGA manual that was to be piloted. The experts' group that provided technical guidance to the project were also drawn from diverse geographic representation but one that mirrored the project countries to help in brining on board the diverse country realities while grounding activities scientifically based on the PRAGA manual. The project steering committee also met twice to review progress and provide guidance.	

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
4	Low political will to put into practice new science, capacities and innovations	Moderately high. This would halt or delay the project's activities and will jeopardize the sustainability of the project's results	The project will establish a systematic feedback loop mechanism to ensure that the international and national agro-pastoral decision-making processes are informed and will benefit from the assessment and monitoring system. The system will be aligned as much as possible with tools and approaches that are already in place. The trainings, capacity development and multi-level consultation processes that will be implemented through the project will allow local stakeholders and decisions makers to build ownership and to understand the value of the project in view of LD reporting requirements.	The mitigation plan was implemented in totality. The PRAGA manual was informed by international indicators such as those from LDN but further incorporated local indicators based on management decisions of land users. National experts were involved in the project and national project committees were set up to advise on exiting tools and methodologies that the project would build up on as well as policy processes in the countries.	

	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
5	Climate contingency risk: Climate change impacts on land resources and pastoral management systems could mean that assessment results are quickly outdated	Moderately high. It would lower the impact of the assessment results in the long term	Strong linkages are being developed with baseline projects and other initiatives focusing on strengthening the resilience of communities and livelihoods to climate change impacts. This work will be closely considered while developing the participatory assessment tool and its content. This tool will be easy to use and readily available for local users that can repeat the analysis as appropriate at a low cost and therefore update the assessments on a regular basis informing the level of resilience of the land to climate change as well. Furthermore, this project will be associated to UNCCD follow-up work and UNCCD-COP12 outcomes among other, when parties agreed on the indicators they will use to measure progress, strengthen measures to make the land resilient to climate change and to halt the biodiversity loss that follows the destruction of ecosystems.	One of the main policy recommendations is on the continuous assessment of rangelands and grasslands health and therefore the creation of a monitoring system that is institutionalised at various levels. This will help communicate climate realities as they unfold. At international level, policy discourse by PRAGA project team has been on recognition of uniqueness of rangelands in UNCCD and under LDN monitoring frameworks to enable countries to have monitoring and reporting structures that are adapted to dynamism of rangelands.	

6	Social risks: Reluctance to participate in the project activities by pastoralists	High. As the whole assessment process will be participatory, the reluctance of pastoralists will jeopardize the implementation of project activities.	The participatory approach embedded in the project will allow local communities to get involved from the onset of the project in the selection of indicators. This will ensure that the indicators are fit to assess the local situation and that pastoralists understand them and are able to use them to conduct the assessment. The participatory approach should also show local institutions and communities the benefits of conducting the assessment to improve the management of pastoral areas and their natural resources. It will give local institutions and communities the opportunity to build ownership over the assessment and monitoring methodology.	This risk was very low as pastoralists in the project areas welcomed the project objectives and activities. Community buy-in was also because land health assessment was based on the pastoralists management objectives of the land which has not always been the case with other methodologies. Pastoralists also shared their local indicators that they use to monitor the land and these were incorporated in the PRAGA manual and informed policy discourses. Pastoralist's representatives also took part in field assessments. The interactions strengthened knowledge exchange between pastoralists (traditional knowledge) and the scientists resulting in harmonized and robust assessment results as well as reducing previous barriers between	
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	Risk	Risk rating ²¹	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions ²²	Notes from the Project Task Force
				pastoralists and scientists.	
7	Coordination challenges due to complex project design as it spans several countries, multiple levels and engages multiple partners/actors simultaneously	Moderately high. Coordination challenges could significantly delay project activities and negatively impact expected results.	The project has been designed to ensure that consistent communication processes are established horizontally across pilot countries and sites, and vertically from the local to the global level. An international meeting will be organized for the selection of global indicator domains and to reach a common understanding at the global level. The global operational and procedural manual will compile the data collected in the field in the five countries, it will therefore establish a common understanding between all partners to conduct the assessment and monitoring, which will facilitate the coordination at the global level. As a global institution, FAO will ensure the coordination and will make the link between all partners across the pilot countries.	The mitigation plan was implemented in it's entirety and there were no problems on the technical conceptualization, implementation and harmonization of the project activities and results at various scales. Initial coordination challenges were due to administrative issues in FAO, IUCN and the participating governments of the countries but these were ironed out early in the project implementation.	Recommendation to change implementation arrangements in Uruguay and Kyrgyzstan.

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2020 rating	FY2021 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2021 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period

Moderate	Moderate	While most of the risks identified during project development were largely mitigated, new risks emerged such as the security situation and the ongoing Covid pandemic which have impacted project activities. In spite of this, the project is on course to achieving all its objectives.
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7. Adjustments to Project Strategy – Only for projects that had the Mid-term review (or supervision mission)

If the project had a MTR review or a supervision mission, please report on how the MTR recommendations were implemented as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented
<p>Recommendation 1: Use DPSIR not only for data analysis after collection but also for framing a system of “criteria and indicators” for the participatory assessment of LD and SLM in grassland and pastoral areas.</p>	<p>DPSIR has not only been used for data analysis, it was also used to facilitate organized discussions on anthropogenic and natural influences on health of land in the consultations with stakeholders (including local communities) and in the compilation of the baseline. Additionally, DPSIR was used as a way to analyze these data systematically. The proposed approach was used entirely in Uruguay.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: To facilitate learning from project experiences and the final evaluation, develop an overall Project TOC and country level TOCs that better explain the causality chain to achieve the results and contribute to the Objective of SLM. The theory of change should identify intermediate states, impact drivers and assumptions that are not necessarily under the control of the project. It should also integrate an enhanced gender and youth inclusiveness approach, and engagement of the private sector.</p>	<p>Based on the project design and purpose, we still emphasize that the proposed development of a theory of change (TOC) did not fit the scope nor the objectives of this project, which was designed as a research pilot. While the evaluation team has pointed out the fact that TOC is necessary in linking Outcome 1 and Outcome 2, perhaps this needed to be captured in the project design phase to realistically inform what would have been achievable during the project period. The experience of the project is indeed that Outcome 2 is a starting point of important policy conversations on the need for participatory monitoring of rangeland and grasslands health and an integration of this within wider monitoring and reporting frameworks. This should also inform long-term resilience of populations that rely on them. This cannot be fully realized within the 3-year period of this project nor in its scope. The project is a contributor to this discourse while relying on future interventions that will build on this activity for the continuation of it.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: Take steps to enhance and complete the PRAGA methodology, by providing a framework with globally comparable indicators and</p>	<p>Development of the PRAGA methodology is now complete and the global framework of indicators has been elaborated.</p>

<p>criteria in the social, economic and governance dimensions in order to capture holistically the rangeland health dynamics and the link to various ecosystem services.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4: Establish a clear and systematic approach to: Enhance engagement with partner governments, the private sector, relevant SLM partners of other FAO interventions as well as pastoralists' organizations, movements and networks at country and regional level in order to facilitate and enhance the linking of LD assessment results to national decision-making processes; and Report on progress towards outcomes, disseminate the LD assessment methods, and to aggregate and disseminate best practices and lessons learned.</p>	<p>To this effect, specific policy action plans and recommendations have been developed so far in Kenya (county level), Niger, Burkina Faso (national levels) and are ongoing in Uruguay and Kyrgyzstan where activities are still ongoing.</p> <p>Progress reports cover all aspects and advancements in the project. Specific publications are also being developed as a way to aggregate and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land degradation neutrality: rationale for participatory approaches to monitoring and assessment of rangelands health. 2. Best practices in support of sustainable rangelands management: lessons from Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.
<p>Recommendation 5: Improve the targeting strategy for the engagement of women and youth. Gender sensitive indicators need to be captured in the Logframe and the PRAGA methodology and should be contextualized to the need of both men and women. The same should be done for climate change and the respective identification of indicators for the LD monitoring framework. At implementation level, the Project should capture specific local LD knowledge from women in</p>	<p>Women and youth were targeted during the local consultations. Some challenging activities (e.g. the non-ownership of livestock and disconnect by majority youth from the pastoral sector) were also observed in some countries.</p> <p>The indicators used for local level assessment were provided by men, youth and women and tapped into the community reservoir of knowledge on health of rangelands through community appointed leads on these. Based on the field assessment experience, these did not change based on gender (e.g. if the indicator for healthy rangeland was a particular plant species, it was the same for both gender).</p>

<p>pastoralist communities, and use derived indicators to inform policy and decision making processes regarding national and subnational SLM plans and strategies.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 6: More dialogue and interaction are required between the various project partners to coordinate project implementation, facilitate relationship building, and clarify the progress of the project and the expected roles and inputs of each project stakeholder.</p>	<p>This has been pursued, especially within the policy discussion frameworks and collaborations on producing knowledge products.</p> <p>In addition, the project went further through co-financing by FAO to pursue regional components such dialogue platforms and sharing of knowledge in West Africa (Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo and Benin) and through a regional symposium in Latin America.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: The two partners, FAO and IUCN, should duly follow the institutional and management arrangements for the implementation of the Project as described in the PRODOC. The role of the FAORs in Project implementation must be clarified and the responsibility strengthened to ensure effective and efficient results, like in the case of Uruguay, where FAO's convening power is considered as a comparative advantage by the Project's partners, which puts it in good position for policy dialogue on range management issues, partnership engagement, sustainability and the collection of lessons learned</p>	<p>This is an important lesson for future global projects. The involvement of FAORs and FAO-country offices was actively pursued during project implementation but there were challenges <i>inter alia</i> non-clarity on their functions and lack of allocated budget lines to FAO offices in cases where IUCN was doing direct execution and a lack of interest thereof. This has somewhat hindered the ability to tap into established FAO offices, programs and networks in Kenya, Niger and Burkina Faso.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: A one-year no cost extension is necessary, to allow the Project to complete all activities related to Outcomes 2 and 3, and in addition, to Outcome 1 for</p>	<p>This was implemented, including a period to cover for delays resulting from Covid-19 pandemic.</p>

<p>Kyrgyzstan, Niger and Burkina Faso.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 9: In Kenya and Kyrgyzstan, adopt and implement appropriate modalities to further involve the subnational governments in the implementation. Prepare and submit to key partners an exit strategy that will show how key results will be sustained after project completion. The plan should indicate a coordinated approach and clear responsibilities and outputs for each project partner. To support sustainability and scaling up of project results, collaboration with government agencies and FAOR/country programme needs to be enhanced and strategic linkages with other SLM interventions, sector fora and multi-stakeholder / knowledge platforms, as well as regional pastoral networks need to be further explored.</p>	<p>In Kenya, the county governments of Isiolo and Garissa were further involved in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through training of county officials on the PRAGA methodology 2. In elaboration of the policy action plans for the two counties 3. Participation in all project events and workshops including validation workshops. <p>In Kyrgyzstan, management of pasture at sub-national level is designated to the pasture committees and these are the group that the project is working closely with and who feed back to the national government.</p> <p>That said, all project activities are usually attended by government representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, however, the challenge to continuity has been the high turn over of staff.</p>

Adjustments to the project strategy.

Please note that changes to outputs, baselines, indicators or targets cannot be made without official approval from PSC and PTF members, including the FLO. These changes will follow the recommendations of the MTR or the supervision mission.

Change Made to	Yes/No	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project Outputs	No	
Project Indicators/Targets	No	

Adjustments to Project Time Frame

If the duration of the project, the project work schedule, or the timing of any key events such as project start up, mid-term review, final evaluation or closing date, have been adjusted since project approval, please explain the changes and the reasons for these changes. The Budget Holder may decide, in consultation with the PTF, to request the adjustment of the EOD-NTE in FPMIS to the actual start of operations providing a sound justification.

Change	Describe the Change and Reason for Change
Project extension	Original NTE: 30 June 2019 Revised NTE: 19 th November 2021 Justification: Extension was approved by the project task force to cover for delays resulting from commencement of project, insecurity issues in the Sahel and Covid-19 pandemic.

8. Stakeholders Engagement

Please report on progress, challenges, and outcomes on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan included at CEO Endorsement/Approval (when applicable))

If your project had a stakeholder engagement plan, specify whether any new stakeholders have been identified/engaged:

If a stakeholder engagement plan was not requested for your project at CEO endorsement stage, please list all stakeholders engaged in the project;

International: * FAO * IUCN * UNCCD * Mountain Partnership Secretariat * Pastoralist Knowledge Hub * WOCAT*

Burkina Faso: *FAO-Burkina Faso* IUCN-Burkina Faso*General Directorate of pastoral resources management *Ministry of Environment* Action against Desertification * local communities*

Kenya: *FAO-Kenya* Directorate of Livestock Production * County government of Isiolo* County government of Garissa* National Drought Management Authority * Kenya Forestry Service * Water Resources Authority * University of Nairobi * Department of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing * National Land Commission * Kenya Forestry Research Institute * Northern Rangeland Trust * Rangeland Association of Kenya * Joint Agriculture Sector intergovernmental Secretariat * Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization* local communities in Isiolo and Garissa*

Kyrgyzstan: *FAO-Kyrgyzstan* Department. of Pastures * State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) * GIPROZEM * National Association of Pasture Users * Scientific Research Institute of Livestock * Community Investment and Development Agency * CAMP Alatau Public Foundation* Pasture Committees* Local communities*

Niger: *FAO-Niger* Ministry of Livestock * Ministry of Environment* Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey* Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN)* local communities*

Uruguay: * Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries * Ministry of Housing, Land Arrangement and Environment (MVOTMA)* CAF, Cooperativas Agrarias Federadas* INIA, Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria * Board of Livestock Based on Natural Grasslands * RegenAg Uruguay/Savory Institute*local communities* Faculty of Agronomy of the Country*

Please indicate if the project works with Civil Society Organizations and/or NGOs

- IUCN and Camp Alatau Public Foundation

Briefly describe stakeholders' engagement events, specifying time, date stakeholders engaged, purpose (information, consultation, participation in decision making, etc.) and outcomes.

- Meeting of the technical experts group
- Training in Niger and Burkina Faso on the PRAGA methodology as complementary to the monitoring of the pastoral biomass (through an LoA co financed by FAO). About 30 participants (2 women), including

the scientific committee for monitoring pastoral resources were trained in August 2020 to update their knowledge on rangeland and grassland assessment as complementary to the monitoring of the pastoral biomass.

- Two write -shops were held in Niger and Burkina Faso on the policy brief from the assessment experience.
- A regional workshop was organized to share information on the PRAGA approach and results between Burkina Faso and Niger and facilitate update of the composition of the national committees. The workshop was organised between 1st and 3rd December to share information on the existing monitoring and assessment of pastoral resources in Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo. The inclusion of Togo to this workshop aimed at raising country awareness on the need to link grassland/rangeland assessment to livestock mobility across countries. Benin was also invited, but they were unable to attend. This workshop brought together representatives of the ministries of livestock from Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo as well as civil society organizations working on the welfare of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, and representatives of the Green Climate Fund in the three countries. The objective of the workshop was to promote participatory monitoring and evaluation of rangelands and pastures in West African countries.
- In Uruguay, a feedback conference was held via Zoom for the local and national levels that that was attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Director of Natural Resources, Director of Environment of the Ministry of Environment, President of CAF, project's technical team, producers, journalists and other interested parties.
- In Uruguay, the project co-developed an International Symposium: "Sustainable management of the natural countryside" and a training program for professionals. The Symposium was organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), Ministry of the Environment (MA), Federal Agricultural Cooperatives (CAF) and the Faculty of Agronomy (Udelar). It was held on Friday, October 2, 2020 and had the participation of national and international speakers (belonging to the Academy, the Government, and farmers).
- In Kyrgyzstan, the validation of field results led by Camp Alattoo took place in October 2020 with participation of pasture users from Naryn oblast and representatives from Ministry of Agriculture.
- In Kenya, a training on the PRAGA methodology was carried out between 8th to 13th November 2020 in Garissa and Isiolo Counties targeting county technical officers. The aim of this training was to (i) train technical officers on the PRAGA methodology; and (ii) develop a roadmap on how the methodology can be integrated in the county rangeland planning processes. The training brought together 40 technical officers from the county governments of Isiolo and Garissa.

Please also indicate if the private sector has been involved in your project and provide the nature of the private sector actors, their role in the project and the way they were involved

-No.

9. Gender Mainstreaming

Information on Progress on gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable)

Was a gender analysis undertaken or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages? Please briefly indicate the gender differences here.

-In-depth gender analysis was not undertaken during formulation; however, as the project works in pastoral communities, based on previous experiences, the project staff have been conscious of gender differences that exist in these communities and have been taking this into consideration in implementation of project activities.

Does the M&E system have gender-disaggregated data? How is the project tracking gender results and impacts?

- Yes, participation of men and women have been ensured at various stages of project activities e.g. in workshops, field events, trainings and at interviews. Reporting is usually gender aggregated.

Does the project staff have gender expertise?

- Yes the project staff have experience in gender issues and in particular in pastoral communities and have for example, provided safe spaces for women engagement.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

- improving women’s participation and decision making;

The project design is cognizant of two key things; that land degradation affects women and men differently. Secondly, pastoral women hold specific knowledge on natural resources (mainly on resources located closer to settlements) and these two fundamental areas have been taken into account in development of the PRAGA methodology and in policy discussions.

10. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval

- Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.

Partly yes, as a knowledge intensive research project, there are a series of publications under production that are supposed to communicate the project results as follows:

- a) “Land degradation neutrality: rationale for participatory approaches in assessments and monitoring of rangelands health.” This is mainly targeted at policy makers on improving LDN approach in rangelands by recognising that rangelands are sub-national landscapes and also showing how local knowledge can provide additional indicators to improve quality of the three LDN indicators. *This publication is in press.*
- b) “Best practices in support of sustainable land management in pastoral areas.” This is the publication that will share the good practices in support of SLM in rangelands and show that SLM approaches in rangelands encompass more and go beyond traditional definitions of SLM. *This publication is under elaboration.*
- c) “Procedural and Operational Manual for Rangelands and Grasslands Assessment.” This is the anchor publication for the project which is a manual detailing how to conduct a participatory assessment of rangelands and grasslands health. The lessons learnt in piloting the PRAGA methodology will form an Annex of this publication. *This publication is undergoing final review.*

- d) “Globally comparable indicators in assessment of rangelands.” This is a short study on the applicable indicators for rangelands and grasslands assessment and will also answer to the question on whether globally comparable indicators can also be locally relevant.
This publication is under final review.
- e) Policy briefs; one for each of the pilot countries. The policy briefs present a synopsis of the PRAGA experience in the project countries and recommendation and in some cases as agreeable to governments at various scales, an action plan. Completed in Kenya, Niger, Burkina Faso and under elaboration in Uruguay. Kyrgyzstan final policy brief will be informed by ongoing validation and planning activities.

Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.

Communication of project activities has mainly been through programmed activities such as the local, national and international workshops and accompanying publications and policy briefs.

This past year, events, especially international ones, have been hampered by the Covid 19 pandemic and as such, project results have not been adequately communicated at the initially planned events as these were either cancelled or postponed.

Some communication success include:

- Presentation of PRAGA at the regional meeting in West Africa
- The regional symposium held in Uruguay.

Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected global environmental benefits. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.

The project is improving the ways in which rangelands’ health can be assessed by practitioners and government at a local level but taking into consideration the local communities management objectives of their lands and their traditional knowledge. This can help inform investments, including in restoration and deliver ecosystem services benefits to local communities and global environmental benefits.

“I think for us, what will be important is to use the results of the assessment to plan our grazing rotations for the following year and for the next five years. We will also appreciate if FAO and the project can help us rehabilitate and repair some of the infrastructure so herders can access the summer pastures in the mountains and therefore reduce pressure on the winter pastures that are located near settlements and that are currently degraded.” – A member of the Pasture Committee in Nary, Kyrgyzstan.



Pasture Monitoring in Atbashy district, Kyrgyzstan (photo credit: PF Camp Alatau)

- Please provide links to publications, leaflets, video materials, related website, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.

PRAGA portal with country results: <https://pragaproject.org/>

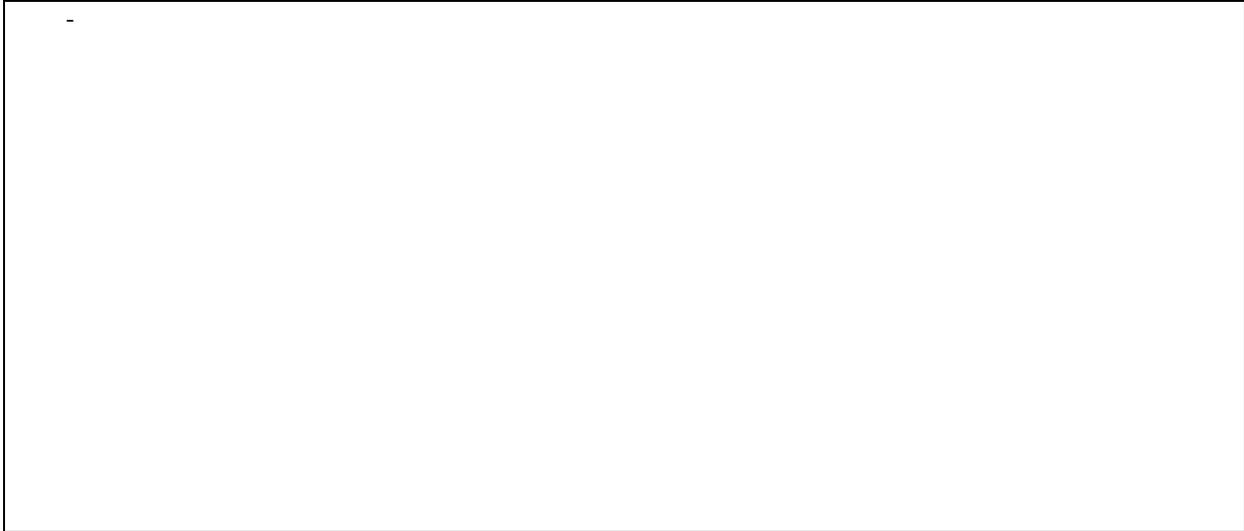
PRAGA case study contribution to the Global Rangelands atlas: <https://www.rangelandsdata.org/atlas/>

Atlas press releases: <http://www.fao.org/pastoralist-knowledge-hub/news/detail/en/c/1402225/>

<https://www.unccd.int/news-events/launch-1st-global-rangelands-atlas>

Does the project have a communication and/or knowledge management focal point? If yes, please provide their names and email addresses

Vivian Onyango: Vivian.Onyango@fao.org



11. Indigenous Peoples Involvement

Are Indigenous Peoples involved in the project? How? Please briefly explain.

If applies, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities

Do indigenous peoples have an active participation in the project activities? How?

Some pastoral communities e.g. the Borana in Kenya, identify as indigenous communities. The entire nature of the project was to bring legitimate pastoral (including indigenous communities) voices and knowledge to rangeland management discourse.

Although the project was formulated before FPIC was formally adopted in FAO, prior consultations on the communities' involvement in the project were granted through a previous IUCN initiative which as working with the Borana communities on participatory rangeland management. This project builds up on some aspects of this IUCN initiative.

The project ensured active participation of the communities and this is embedded in the PRAGA methodology that outlines all steps where participation of the community is absolutely necessary e.g. selection of assessment landscapes, selection of indicators, participation in field assessment (community elders/representatives) and validation of assessment results.

This project makes a case from strong participation of local communities in rangeland health assessment but also on decision making on management of rangelands. Some of the project's knowledge products are aimed at pushing and sharing this approach/information with policy makers at various scales.

12. Innovative Approaches

Please provide a brief description of an innovative²³ approach in the project / programme, describe the type (e.g. technological, financial, institutional, policy, business model) and explain why it stands out as an innovation.

PRAGA is an assessment system that combines scientific approaches, such as use of remotely sensed data, with participatory processes encompassing local knowledge in assessing land degradation and capturing best practices.

It is not only ground-breaking for combining these perspectives into a comprehensive methodology on rangeland health assessment, it is also cost-effective and ensures the buy-in of local communities as their views are taken into decision making. Previous assessment methodologies have failed to adequately harness local knowledge as in many cases, they are science driven. The result is scientists and practitioners conduct assessments separate from local communities who in parallel have their own assessments in place to support their day-to-day decision making.

In bringing science and local knowledge together, PRAGA, through participatory aspects, co-learning and co-production of knowledge is assured. Through participatory exercises such as definition of land degradation or degraded landscape, selecting indicators for assessment, selection of assessment landscape and period, it becomes apparent how local communities manage their land based on their respective objectives. All these contribute to better understanding of rangeland and grasslands health from a user perspective hence with opportunity to make better informed decisions on management and investment. It also improves capabilities of pastoral and vulnerable populations who depend on rangelands by having their perspectives and opinions heard and being recognized as valid stakeholders.

Large-scale scientific approaches such as remote sensing give a snapshot on the trends and state of the health of rangelands and grasslands while during field assessments “ground-truthing” of remote sensing data happens.

The PRAGA assessment methodology has been designed to allow practitioners to identify these elements and establish participatory, stakeholder Baseline indicators to guide different levels of management decisions. The results and analysis also serve as a vital component for guiding and evaluating investments in rangeland restoration and productivity. The project has been exploring ways for the uptake of such methodologies including in informing global frameworks such as land degradation neutrality in support of Sustainable Development Goal 15, life on land (including through the PRAGA and LDN publication mentioned above).

²³ Innovation is defined as *doing something new or different in a specific context that adds value*

13. Possible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the project

Please indicate any implication of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities and progress of the project. Highlight the adaptative measures taken to continue with the project implementation.

- Are the outcomes/outputs still achievable within the project period.
Yes, within the period of extension.
- Will the timing of the project MTR or TE be affected/delayed?
TE is planned under the current project period and is in the process of starting.
- What is the impact of COVID-19 on project beneficiaries, personnel, etc.
Impeded movements and limitation of number of people who can participate in events.
- Are there good practices and lessons learned to be shared?
Yes, these have been captured in the publications.

14. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing ²⁴	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2021	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
AGP (now NSP)	Multi-partner support mechanism (FMM)	In-cash	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
NSP through FAO Strategic Programme 3	FAO-AGP	In-cash	0	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
FAO Forestry team	FAO-Collect Earth	In-kind	0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
European Union	Action against Desertification (AAD)	In cash and in-kind	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Government of Uruguay	Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries	In-kind and in-cash	\$1,200,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

²⁴ Sources of Co-financing may include: Bilateral Aid Agency(ies), Foundation, GEF Agency, Local Government, National Government, Civil Society Organization, Other Multi-lateral Agency(ies), Private Sector, Beneficiaries, Other.

	(MGAP- Uruguay) & Ministry of Household, Territorial Ordering and Environment (MVOTMA- Uruguay)					
European Union	IUCN	In-kind	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,230.28	\$1,100,230.28	\$1,100,230.28
FAO	Mountain Partnership Secretariat	In-kind	\$500,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
FAO	Pastoralist Knowledge Hub	In-kind	\$562,270	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
CAMP Alatoo Public Foundation	CAMP Alatoo Public Foundation	In-kind and in- cash	0	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
		TOTAL	\$5,662,270	\$6,350,230.28	\$6,350,230.28	\$6,350,230.28

Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement

-The project has had new co-financing partners e.g. Camp Alatoo, Uruguay's Ministry of Environment and FAO's Strategic programme 3.

Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

Development/Global Environment Objectives Rating – Assess how well the project is meeting its development objective/s or the global environment objective/s it set out to meet. **DO Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS)** - Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”); **Satisfactory (S)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings); **Moderately Satisfactory (MS)** - Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits); **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)** - Project is expected to achieve of its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives); **Unsatisfactory (U)** - Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits); **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)** - The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.)

Implementation Progress Rating – Assess the progress of project implementation. **IP Ratings definitions:** **Highly Satisfactory (HS):** Implementation of all components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”. **Satisfactory (S):** Implementation of most components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action. **Moderately Satisfactory (MS):** Implementation of some components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with some components requiring remedial action. **Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU):** Implementation of some components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with most components requiring remedial action. **Unsatisfactory (U):** Implementation of most components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan. **Highly Unsatisfactory (HU):** Implementation of none of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.