



Practices: Comparative Mapping of Governance and Land Tenure Good Practices in the WANA Region

Goal: Elaboration of ownership and accountability measures in supporting sustainability and livelihoods protection of rangelands in the WANA region

Duration: July 2015 - December 2016

Situation Analysis: The past two decades has seen the West Asia and North Africa region come under increasing environmental stress. Such stresses are escalating and now threaten human security in the region. Worsening water scarcity and land degradation are among the most dangerous of these challenges. The actual renewable water supply per capita is about 1100 cubic meters per capita according to the World Bank in 2007, which is far below the water security threshold of 1700 cubic meters and an expected drop by 50 percent by 2050. Drivers include unsustainable agriculture activities and pasture practices, as well as insecure land tenure and limited community participation in environmental activities resulting in land degradation. The most

tangible examples of land degradation include soil erosion, deforestation, desertification and decrease of land productivity.

Agriculture and pastoralism have supported community livelihoods in the West Asia and North Africa region since its early civilisation. At this time, communities were highly aware of the importance of protecting and sustaining their lands. They defined the relationship with their land by establishing rules, distributing responsibilities and restraints as well as determining land access rights, mainly on customary bases and traditional knowledge. Even though these rangeland management practices are still in place in several communities in the WANA region, nowadays they have been abandoned by a significant number of communities and governmental systems, in favour of modern techniques. It is worth noting that, where present, such traditional practices have a positive impact on land sustainability, by improving biodiversity and ecosystem stability, as well as the livelihood of communities.



Project Outline

Elaboration of ownership and accountability measures in supporting sustainability and livelihoods protection of rangelands in the WANA region

Reviving these traditional knowledge and practices is essential for securing livelihoods of local communities but a challenging process in terms of local community engagement. Recently a number of organisations have started promoting several 'knowledge-revival' initiatives in different areas of the WANA region. Examples include the revival of traditional rangeland practices such as Al-Hima in Jordan and Lebanon and Agdal in Morocco. Few efforts, however, have been made to compare and contrast such initiatives, nor to gauge their impact or the possibility for adaptation in other areas.

In response, this project aims to map best land tenure practices in the WANA region. The research will specifically focus on accountability and ownership of drylands, at the local level, as a pre-condition for governance.

The study will map different community-based land management models, with a focus on traditional systems such as al-Hima in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt and Agdal in Morocco. The study argues that by addressing specific accountability factors within local communities, the complexity of the available land tenure system would be significantly reduced, resulting in a better governance of land resources at the local level.

Activities	Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene multi-stakeholders for an expert level (as appropriate) to validate approach, and project theory • Country-traditional rangeland management literature review and field research. • Defining pre-conditions for local level accountability in rangeland resources management • Identifying Criteria/Indicators for assessing pre-conditions. • Analysis of findings and agreement on conclusions and recommendations • Publication of results and map of best practices for land tenure and traditional rangeland governance in WANA region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability and ownership of drylands resources assessed at the local level through multi-stakeholder consultations and application of participatory governance assessment tools. • Traditional rangeland governance models mapped for four different countries in the WANA region to understand how land tenure systems effectively improve healthy rangelands