Social Dimensions in Environmental Science: Methodologies and Practices

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Social Perspectives

- Ethnics;
- Religion;
- Culture;
- Customary organizations;
- Norms and traditions;
- Policies and Institution;
 NGO (INGO)



Subjects in social dimensions

- Effects of ethnic culture and customary traditions on eco-environment;
- Effects of community institutions on ecoenvironment;
- Effects of production and livelihood patterns on eco-environment;
- Effects of policies and regulations on ecoenvironment





Major methodologies in social study Information inquiry : Information collected from publications and reports

Professional conference and Seminars: Information collected from professional conferences and seminars

Questionnaire survey: Open, semi-open and closed Questionnaire

PRA:

Participatory rural appraisal

Key-person interview:

Interview on key professionals, stakeholders etc.

Case study: sustainable management on rangeland resources in Northern Nepal



Sustainable management of rangeland resources will not be possible without the involvement of all stakeholders and institutions Social aspects of rangeland resource and rangeland ecosystem management in Nepal can be emphasized on implication of indigenous knowledge and adjustment of policies

Overall Objective

to search the effective managerial measures at nation, district and community levels to resolve the problems in sustainable rangeland resource and ecosystem management in Nepal



Specific Objectives

to document and incorporate the indigenous knowledge of local residents into sustainable rangeland management;

to better understand the linkages of social, economic and ecological variables in sustainable rangeland management;

to assess the effectiveness of present and past management strategies at national, district and community levels in sustainable rangeland development;

to explore beyond the conventional wisdom of rangeland management concepts to manage rangeland resources and ecosystems more effectively.

Research Contents

1. Indigenous knowledge :

- Traditional strategies, farmers' knowledge and experiences in rangeland management;
- Incorporation of indigenous knowledge and experiences into rangeland management practice





- 2. Past management strategies:
- Past management strategies at nation, district, community levels;
- Changes and progress of these management strategies;
- Driving forces for these changes and progress



3. Present management strategies:

 current managerial measures, management plans and policies;

• practical problems existing in their applications;

 possible approaches to improve the strategies



4. Assessments and comparison:

 assessing the contribution of managerial measures;

• recommending applicable strategies for Nepali rangeland resource and ecosystem management



Research Methodologies and Activities

nformation inquiry : basic information on Nepal's reangeland resources are collected from publications and reports

Distribution of rangelands in Nepal (km ⁻)								
Physiographic Region	Total Lan	Total Land Area		Rangeland				
	ha (,000,000)	%	ha (,000)	% of Total Land	% of Rangeland			
larai	2.1	14.4	49.7	0.3	2.9			
Siwaliks	1.9	12.7	20.6	0.1	1.2			
Middle Mountains	4.4	29.5	292.8	2.0	17.2			
High Mountains	2.9	19.7	507.1	3.4	29.8			
ligh Himal	3.5	23.7	831.5	5.6	48.9			
FOTAL	14.8	100.0	1701.7	11.4	100			

Source: Land Resource Mapping Project (1986)

Workshops and Seminars:

Three workshops and six seminars related to indigenous natural resources management and policy-making in Nepal and HKH countries, which is held at ICIMOD, host institution.



Information from presentation and posters

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Campaign ;

Alternate

advotacing a

recommendations

The Regional Rangeland Programme (BRP)

Project Mission -

Provide a subsection of the subsect of provide for each constraint with regional and regional particular resonance action and charge for overcoming rangeland dependent mountain commonware economics action and physical subsection.



Key KINGS,

PLACE OF MANDAR

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Wentyesses

REGIONAL CULMINATION WORKSHOP FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE DECADE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ASIA, 1995-2004 27-29, NOVEMBER 2006 KATHMANDU, NEPAL

LIFAD

study site selection: hree VDCs from Rasuwa district, "grazing land for heep and cattle" were slelcted as representative of pastoral areas in Nepal in light of indigenous oroduction system and ecoclimatic location NEPAL Map 42: Percentage of Grassland Area Grassland area as a per cent of the total surface area Case sit



General information about case study sites

Items	Dhunche VDCs	Gatlang VDCs	Langtang VDCs		
Geographic location (elevation)	Lowland (1900 m) Midland (2200 m		High Mountain (3300 m		
Climatic zone	Subtropical-temperature transition zone	Temperature zone	Subalpine zone		
Farming systems	Multiple farming of livestock, crop, fodder and vegetable	Crop-livestock mixture farming	Livestock farming (tourism)		
Total households	164	223	61		
Livestock composition in individual household	1-2 cattle, 2-3 buffalo, 4- 5 sheep and goats, 10-15 yak and chauri (only 10% of households keep yak farming)	1-2 cattle, 10-20 sheep and goats, 10- 15 yak and chauri (half of hoseholds keep yak farming)	20-30 sheep, 2-3 horses, 10-15 yak and chauri (80% of households keep yak farming)		

Farmers' Surveys: Questionnarie surveys on 25 farmer households, Interviewing 20 key persons, PRA and Open discssion with 3 users' group (of 47 pepole)



General information about farmer interviewees

Items	Dhunche VDCs	Gatlang VDCs	Langtang VDCs
Interviewees' numbers	10		
Questionnaire survey	10	14	11
Keyperson interview	6	6	8 2
PRA	21	14	12
Average age	<u> </u>		
Questionnaire survey	41.5	36.5	33.2
Keyperson interview	54.5	55.4	57.2
PRA	34.7	37.1	38.4
Average education level			
Questionnaire survey	Primary school	Primary school	Primary school
Keyperson interview	Illiteracy	Illiteracy	Illiteracy
PRA	Primary school	Primary school	Primary school
Proportion of female interviewee			
Questionnaire survey	60%	21.4%	27.2%
Keyperson interview	33.3%	16.7%	37.5%
PRA	61.9%	28.6%	33.3%

Information collected: Indigenous practices and strategies in grazing/feeding management, rangeland improvement and production, rangeland conservation and development, problems and barriers in pastoral economy and livelihoods land tenure and ownership, rangeland institution and governance were gathered through general reconnaissance, informal survey and interview of key persons. Supplemental information on the problems, constraints, challenges, opportunities and changes in indigenous rangeland management systems, external public supports and partnerships were and recorded through group discussion and communication (PRA). I Grazing management (please use "√" to tick the answer)
Which kind of grazing systems are you using?
a) Traditional transhumance from highland pasture in summer in to lowland community forestry in winter
b) Migratory grazing within different areas of rangeland
c) Forestry grazing whole year round
d) Stall feeding
a) Others (specified)

e) Others (specified)

II Rangeland improvemnt (please use " $\sqrt{}$ " to tick the answer) 16. How do you maintain soil fertility of your rangeland?

- a) Chemical Fertilizer
- b) Livestock manure
- c) No attention
- d) Others (specified)

III Resource Protection and Development (please use "√" to tick the answer)
 33. Are part or all of your rangelands situated in national or regional conservation areas (for example, National Park)?

- a) Yes
- b) No

IV Pastoral Economy and Marketing (please use "√" to tick the answer)
52. What are the major factors limiting the pastoral production in your case?
a) Poor herd and pasture management
b) Malnutrition due to feed deficiency in winter season
c) High loss of animal production due to poor housing in winter season
d) High mortality due to poor health care

e) Others (specified)

V Land Tenure and Ownership (please use " $\sqrt{}$ " to tick the answer) 66. What is the ownership of your rangeland resources?

- a) Public/government
- **b)** Community
- c) Private
- d) Religious authority

VI Rangeland Policy and Institution (please use " $\sqrt{}$ " to tick the answer) 95. Which kind of public service do you mostly expect or like to get from government or institutions?

- a) Technology
- b) Subsides
- c) Trainings
- d) Others (specified)

Professionals' Surveys: Questionnarie surveys on 13 and 16 district and state professionals from uiniversities, research institutes and NGOs etc.



General information about professional interviewees

Items	District Level	State level
Numbers (persons)	13	16
Working organizations		
Government offices (%)	38.5	43.7
Universities and Institutions (%)	38.5	18.8
NGO(%)	23.0	37.5
Positions		
Division head/chief (%)	38.5	43.7
Ordinary staff (%)	61.5	56.3
Ages		
<20 yrs (%)		0
21-30 yrs (%)	15.4	0
31-40 yrs (%)	53.8	31.3
41-50 yrs (%)	23.1	43.7
>51 yrs (%)	7.7	25.0
Education level		
High School (%)	38.5	0 _
College (%)	38.5	31.3
Graduate (%)	23.0	68.7

Face-to-face interviews and mail-surveys were made for resources persons from district and state governments, NGO, INGO, universities and researched institutes involved in rangeland interventions in Nepal to get their experiences, opinions, and suggestions on sustainable rangeland resources and ecosystem management. A couple of group discussions on topics of sustainable rangeland resource and ecosystem management facilitated by host institute in Nepal, ICIMOD at several workshops to supplement the information which we missed in the questionnaires and interviews.

I General Information (please use " $\sqrt{}$ " to tick the answer)

How do you think grazing management system can be improved? (you can choose multiple answers and give the order of importance at the end of each answer in numbers: 1, the most important; 2, the secondary important; 3, third important....)

- a) Increase policy support for grazing management
- b) Strengthen institutional cooperation/technical transfer
- c) Integrate indigenous knowledge with advanced technology
- d) Mitigate illiteracy and improve infrastructure
- e) Others (specified)

II Public Service and Institutional Support (please use "√" to tick the answer)
21 Which kind of public service related to rangeland management, conservation and development do your organization provide to herders?
a) Technical transfer and extension
b) Technology consultation and demonstration
c) Financial subside and income generation
d) Support and services of policy and planning
e) Training and education

f) Others (specified)

III Rangeland Policy and Land Tenure (please use " $\sqrt{}$ " to tick the answer) 39. Do you know these policies are effective in rangeland resources management and conservation?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Research findings

. Farmers' perspectives

1. Indigenous grazing practices:

Upland meadow – lowland forestry
Transhumance
Rotational grazing
Carrying capacity
estimation
grazing intensity
control



P. Rangeland improvement and production strategies

Interventions	Dhunche VDCs	Gatlang VDCs	Langtang VDCs
Fertilization	No	Sometimes animal Manure	No
Irrigation	No	No	No
Weeds control	No	No	No
Pest control	No	No	No
Animal and plant disease control	No	No	No
Campsite destroy control	No	Sometimes reseeding	Frequent movement
Rangeland degradation		Sometimes	
mitigation	No	reseeding	No
Winter feed Cultivation	Mostly yes	No	Mostly yes
Problems in forage improvement	Lack of information and budget	Lack of information and budget	Lack of information and budget

Indigenous rangeland improvement and production practices

Realized Representation and development strategies

r armers murger	nous rangeland conserva	tion and development	practices
ems	Dhunche VDCs	Gatlang VDCs	Langtang VDCs
onflicts between conservation nd development	Mostly yes	Half yes, half no	Yes
leasures to mitigate these onflicts	Mostly no, sometimes regulations	Mostly regulations	regulations
enefit got from conservation roject	More feed resources	More feed resources, more eco-tourism	more eco-tourism
armer's attitude to conservation lans	Support	Support	Half support, half reject
ny wildlife-livestock Conflicts	Yes	Half yes, half no	Mostly no
/ildlife and habitat protection	Committee-based	Household-based	Committee-based
angeland eco-tourism	No	At beginning	yes
ifluence of eco-tourism	Improve livelihood	No influence or improve livelihood	Improve livelihood
on-timber collection	Mostly no	Half yes, half no	No
ofluence of non-timber collection	No	Reducing forage resources	No
leasures to control eco-tourism nd plant collection	Community regulations	Tax, Community regulations	Community regulations

Farmers' indigenous rangeland conservation and development practices

4. Pastoral economy and marketing

Local herder's view on pastoral economy and marketing systems								
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multi- nent								
ourism								
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I goal harder's view on posteral according and marketing systems

5. Rangeland tenure and ownership

Local herders' views on land tenure and ownership

ems	Dhunche VDCs	Gatlang VDCs	Langtang VDCs
wnership of rangeland	Public/government	Public/government	Public/government
ajor rangeland decision- aker	Government officials, community committee	Sometimes community committee	Community committee
'ay of sharing public pastures ithin community	Self negotiating	Self negotiating, guided by community committee	Guided by community committee
onflicts at sharing pastures ithin community	Sometimes	Sometimes	Never
itigation of community nflict at sharing pastures	Self negotiation	Self negotiation	Self negotiation
ttitude to other community aring public pastures	Accepted with agreement	Accepted with agreement	Accepted with agreeme
greements of rangeland aring with outside mmunity	Free use as friendship	Oral/documented statement, free use as friendship	Mostly Oral/documente statement
ommunal forestry grazing	Yes	Yes	Mostly no
wnership of communal restry	Other community	Own community	Other community
ommunal forestry anagement and livestock	No	No	No

anagement and livestock

6. Rangeland policy and Institution

Local herders' views on rangeland institution and policy

	0	-	.
ms	Dhunche VDCs	Gatlang VDCs	Langtang VDCs
e national rangeland policies heard	No	No	Mostly no
fectiveness of policies in sustaining rangeland	Effective	Effective	Effective
cessity of policies in sustaining rangeland	Necessary	Necessary	Necessary
rders' involvement in rangeland policy-making	Never	Sometimes	Never //
licy makers' attitude at herders' suggestions	Ignoring	Sometimes accepting	Ignoring
our suggestion to better rangeland policymaking	Full involvement and Knowledge sharing of different stakeholders	Full involvement and Knowledge sharing of different stakeholders	Full involvement and Knowledge sharing of different stakeholders
rders' involvement in research and development	Sometimes	Sometimes	Never
tisfaction with these involvements	Half satisfied	Half satisfied	Unsatisfied
ggestion to improve rangeland institutions	More practical research and extension	More involvement of different stakeholders, More practical research and extension	More involvement of different stakeholders, Mor practical research and extension
rders' involvement in training programs	Sometimes	Rare	Seldom
aining programs needed	Animal feeding, grazing management, fodder production and conservation	Animal feeding, animal health care, fodder production and conservation	Grazing management, anin health care, fodder production and conservatio
ailability of public services	Sometimes available	Sometimes available	Mostly available
blic services from government or institutions	Technology transfer, financial subsides, trainings	Technology transfer, financial subsides, trainings	Technology transfer, financial subsides, trainings
volvement of NGOs in rangeland development	Sometimes	Never	Never

7. Changes in Rangeland Management

Local herd	ers' views on changes in ra	ngeland management in j	past 10 years	
ms	Dhunche VDCs	Gatlang VDCs	Langtang VDCs	
anges of rangeland conditions	Deteriorated	Deteriorated	Deteriorated or no cl	
anges in grazing practices	From grazing to stall feeding or no change	No change	No change	
iving forces for grazing actices change	Self decision	-	- &	
anges in rangeland provement and production	Half no, half yes	No	No	
iving forces for rangeland provement change	Changes in state planning and policy or self decision			
anges in rangeland nservation and development	Mostly increased pastoral production	Increased pastoral production or no change	Increased eco-tourisn	
iving forces for rangeland nservation and development anges	National/regional planning and policy change, national economic development	National/regional planning and policy change, national economic development	National/regional plan and policy change, national economic development	
anges in pastoral economy d marketing	Developed pastoral economy but deteriorated marketing system, or no change	Developed pastoral economy but deteriorated marketing system, or no change	Mostly deteriorated pastoral economy but improved marketing system	
ajor causes for pastoral momy and marketing changes	Changes in national/regional planning and policy or unknown	Changes in national/regional planning and policy	Changes in communit planning and manage strategies	
anges in land tenure and nership	No	No	No	
anges in rangeland	Mostly no	No	No	

Local herders' views on changes in rangeland management in past 10 years

II. Professionals' perspectives

1. Constraints and opportunities in rangeland management

	Percent of professionals' response at different importance order								
ems		Ι			II			III	
	D	С	0	D	С	0	D	С	Q
Limits for improving grazing management		1			-				M
Lack of public/government support	53.9	60	57.1	7.7	26.7	17.9	15.4	13.3	14.3
Inadequate institutional cooperation	7.7	13.3	🖌 10.7	53.9	26.7	39.3	23.1	53.3	/39.3
Ignoring indigenous knowledge	23.1	13.3	17.9	7.7	0	21.4	38.5	6.7	/ 21.4
Illiteracy and poor infrastructure	15.4	13.3	/\\14.3	30.8	26.7	10.7	15.4	6.7	/ 10.7
Others	0	6.7	3.6	0	13.3	0	0	0	0
Ways to improve grazing management		/							
Increasing policy support	53.9	26.7	39.3	7.7	20	14.3	15.4	20 /	17.9
Strengthening institutional cooperation	0	13.3	7.1	53.8	33.3	42.9	30.8	46.7	39.3
Integrating indigenous knowledge	23.1	46.7	35.7	7.7	13.3	10.7	46.2	6.7	25
Mitigating illiteracy and improving infrastructure	23.1	13.3	17.9	23.1	26.7	25	0	13.3	7.1
Others	0	6.7	3.6	0	6.7	7. 1	0	0/	0
Major limits in rangeland improvement									
Inadequate public/government support	15.4	46.7	32.1	38.5	33.3	35.7	15.4	6.7	10.7
Inadequate institutional cooperation	23.1	20	21.4	15.4	46.7	32.1	15.4	20	17.9
Ignoring indigenous knowledge	23.1	13.3	17.9	$\langle 0 \rangle$	13.3	7.1	23.1	33.3	28.9
Illiteracy and poor infrastructure	30.8	20	25	15.4	0	7.1	15.4	26.7	21.4
Others	7.7	6.7	7.1	7.7	0	3.6	0	0	0
Ways to improve rangeland improvement									
Increasing public support	30.8	26.7	28.6	23.1	26.7	25	7.7	20	14.3
Strengthening institutional cooperation	23.1	26.7	25	7.7	40	25	23.1	20	21.4
Integrating indigenous knowledge	23.1	26.7	25	7.7	13.3	10.7	15.4	26.7	21.4
Mitigating illiteracy and improving infrastructure	15.4	6.7	10.7	23.1	6.7	14.3	15.4	20	17.9
Others	7.7	13.3	10.7	0	0	0	0	0	0

Professional' views on indigenous rangeland management practices

Note: Importance order: I, most important; II, moderately important; III, important

Professional' views on indigenous rangeland management practices (cont)

	Percent of professionals' response at importance order								er
ems		Ι			II		III		
	D	С	0	D	С	0	D	С	0
Limits for rangeland conservation and development									
Poor policy implementation	38.5	53.3	46.4	15.4	33.3	25	7.7	13.3	10.
Poor planning	23.1	13.3	17.9	7.7	13.3	10.7	15.4	33.3	25
Lack of multi-stakeholders participation	7.7	26.7	17.9	38.5	33.3	35.7	15.4	6.7	10.
Iliteracy and poor infrastructure	23.1	6.7	14.3	7.7	0	3.6	15.4	13.3	14.
Others	0	6.7	3.6	0	0	0	7.7	0	3.6
Ways to improve rangeland conservation and velopment	/								
Increasing policy support	46,2	33.3	39.3	15.4	53.3	35.7	7.7	13.3	10.
Strengthening capacity-building	38.5	60	50	30.8	33.3	32.1	23.1	0 /	10.'
Involving multi-stakeholders	38.5	60	50	30.8	33.3	32.1	23.1	0 /	10.
Mitigating illiteracy and improving infrastructure	7.7	0	3.4	23.1	0	10.7	30.8	60	46.4
Others	/0	13.3	7.1	0	0	0	0	13.3	7.1
Limits for pastoral economy and marketing velopment									
Low pastoral production and poor processing	23.1	46.7	35.7	23.1	40	32.1	7.7	0	3.6
Poor policy/government support	46.2	33.3	39.3	23.1	20	21.4	15.4	26.7	21.4
Influence of declined national economy	7.7	0	3.6	0	20	10.7	7.7	26.7	17.
Poor infrastructure	15.4	20	17.9	15.4	20	17.9	23.1	40	32.2

Note: Importance order: I, most important; II, moderately important; III, important Interviewees: D, district professionals; S, State professionals; O; overall/average.

P. Public services, rangeland institution and policy development

Problems and solutions on public service and institutional support

ems						
		District professiona	State professionals			
	I	II	ш	I	Π	ш
mits for work iciency	Low salary	No incentives	Poor group cooperation	No incentives	Poor group cooperation	Low salary
blic support for mers	Technical transfer	Consultation and demonstration	Policy and planning	Training and education	Subside and income-generation	Technical transfer
mits in spreading blic services	Poor infrastructure	Lack of finance	Illiteracy	Lack of finance	Poor infrastructure	Illiteracy
lutions to ercome these 1itations	Creating financial resources	Capacity- building, multi- stakeholder involvement	More incentive and motivations	Incentive and motivations	Capacity-building, multi-stakeholder involvement	Mitigating illiteracy
asons of failure the projects	Gap between projects and farmers' needs	Poor communication with farmers	Instability and discontinue of the project	Discontinue of the project	Gap between projects and farmers' needs	Poor communicatio with farmers
oblems in tending research sults	Poor infrastructure	Lack of financial support	Shortage of researchers/exte nsionists	Lack of financial support	Poor infrastructure	Illiteracy, poo communicatio
lutions to ercome these oblems	More practical projects	More financial resource	Strengthening capacity- building	More practical projects	More resources persons and incentive	More financia resource

Professionals' response at different importance order

Items	District professionals	State professionals
Investigation on farmers before project design	Sometime	Sometime
Importance of farmers' involvement in decision-making	Very important	Very important
Government cooperation with NGOs	Sometime	Sometime
Importance of cooperation with NGOs	Very important	Very important
Policy Efficiency in rangeland development	Mostly effective	Mostly effective
Farmers' involve in decision making	Sometimes	Sometimes
Importance of farmers' involvement in decision making	Very important	Very important
Importance of indigenous knowledge in rangeland management	Very important	Very important
Invitation of farmers to decision making	Often	Often
Importance of NGOs' involvement in decision making	Very important	Very important
Which land tenure would be more efficient in pastoral production	Community	Community
Which land tenure would be more efficient in economic-social development	Community	Community

Professional' attitude toward institutional development of civil society

3. Changes in rangeland management

Prof	essionals' views o	n changes in rai	ngeland r	nanagement in pa	st 10 years					
		Professionals' response at different importance order								
ms	District professionals			State professionals						
	Ι	II	III	I	П	III				
ange in public vice and stitutional support	More efficient			More efficient						
iving forces for blic, institutional vice changes	National/region al policy and planning change	National social- economic development	Global change	National social- economic development	National/region al policy and planning change	Glob chan				
anges in rangeland licy-making	No significant change			More rangeland policies						
iving forces for licy-making change				National/regional planning and policy change	Development of NGO and farmer group	Othe				
anges in land ture and ownership	No change			More communal rangeland						
ajor causes for land 1ure and ownership anges				Changes in management systems	National/region al planning and policy change	Othe				

III. Other findings from my observation and perception

In additional to poor public service and technical support, policy and regulations scarcity, poor institutional development and governance, other limitations are should be stressed

• marginalization of pastoralists living in remote, isolated mountainous areas, i.e., poor access to media, outside policy-maker and professionals is a serious problem which hinders the sustainable rangeland development in Nepal.

• Basic researches or surveys are too weak. Database of rangeland size, rangeland type, rangeland primary productivity, feeds (forage, fodder, crop residues, concentrates) availability and seasonality, forage species and feeding values, rangeland condition, livestock number and composition, livestock productivity, animal nutrition are blank. • Development interventions on rangeland management are very limited. Packages of rangeland improvement, rangeland protection, forage cultivation, feed harvest and conservation, animal feeding, animal breeding, animal health care and other practical techniques are not available.

• Human resources and capacity-building are very poor. Most of them have very limited knowledge to deal with specific business in practice, thus the levels of rangeland management, research and extension remain backward.

• Lack of funds is major limitation for most of the interventions in rangeland management in Nepal.

Recommendation and conclusion

To develop sustainable rangeland management of in Nepal:

First, socioeconomic variables must be recognized in their complex interaction with technical factors in the solutions to rangeland management problems. Such an understanding calls for a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach.

Second, indigenous practices and knowledge of rangeland management adapted by local herders need to be integrated into modern technology transfer and policy/decision making. Third, interventions of research, development and extension need to be initiated for marginalized pastoralists.

Fourth, institutional development and imposition of organizations of rangeland management need to be stressed

Fifth, governance reform and policy development need to be formulated through internal and external driving forces.

Sixth, financial resources all interventions and programs in rangeland management need to be created through national and international channels.

Thank you for comments and suggestion