



Factsheet series

Sustainable Rangeland - Grazing

Uncontrolled grazing

Uncontrolled grazing leads to rangeland degradation. This leads to less soil moisture retention, less grass, and increased erosion. Grass levels fail to sustain livestock through dry season (Figure 1).

Fact

Controlled grazing allows for good grass cover and stores up to 10 times more water in soil. This promotes grass growth longer into dry season.

Rules for Controlled Grazing

1. Grazing areas should be divided into blocks and grazing plans devised.
2. Grazing committees need to be formed that decide how grazing is conducted.
3. Grazing plans should be devised for both wet and dry season grazing.
4. Livestock should be combined, cattle, sheep and goats.
5. Bunched herding allows for controlling direction & speed (Figure 2).



Figure 1. An uncontrolled grazing area at the end of the 2015 wet season on the border of Enonkishu Conservancy



Figure 2. Controlled grazing using 'bunched' herds and a grazing calendar under a holistic management plan on Enonkishu Conservancy at the end of the 2015 wet season.