



Restoring Value to Grasslands

Summary of Workshop Day 1
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Introduction

- This summary must be very short and selective
- Can only try to pick up a few main points
- Will relate these to the Workshop objectives



Workshop objectives 1

Identify & address key knowledge gaps:

- - Where is grassland degradation & associated losses of environmental assets & services most acute?
- - Where, given various constraints, is restoring value to grasslands most feasible?
- - Which policy instruments are best suited to large scale grassland restoration?



Workshop objectives 2

- What role can climate finance & other PES schemes play in supporting large-scale grassland restoration?
- How could the GAA be best positioned to add value to ongoing & past activities?



1. Where in the world is grassland degradation most acute?

- Prof. Rich Conant of Colorado State U presented current state of the art in making assessment at global level to target interventions. His latest work mapping transition from LADA baseline to max NPP (1986-2006) has interesting results that he said should be interpreted with care using local knowledge. But major knowledge gaps still exist.

Where is restoring value to grasslands most feasible? (1)

- In LA southern cone countries, Dr Roberto Diaz (INIA Uruguay) reported on 50 years' results of crop-pasture rotation experiments at La Estanzuela.
- Indications for grassland restoration in this zone are very positive, provided that soil N is maintained.

Where is restoring value to grasslands most feasible? (2)

- In BRA, Dr Kepler of EMBRAPA described reasons for good prospects for achieving goals of GOB programs for ABC and recovery of at least 15 mn ha degraded pasture land.
- Geraldo Martha described economic and other factors that must be examined to ensure pasture recovery is successful.
- Sustainable intensification of mixed systems requires understanding between crop and livestock raisers.

Where is restoring value to grasslands most feasible? (3)

- For the Sahel region of W Africa Alexandre Ickowicz (CIRAD) gave overview of situation, prospects and needs for testing alternative land tenure options, securing mobility for herders and agro-ecological intensification. M. Bary Boubakary confirmed support of the APESS network for undertaking such actions.



Which policy instruments best suited to large scale grassland restoration?

- Conant: first we need to know why degradation occurred and where we are on the curve over time (policy instruments will vary).
- Others stressed need for a suitable incentive package for land-holders and technical advice (e.g. proposed GTPS new project for closing the efficiency gap of low-profile LS farmers) through training of local trainers mobilising private sector.

Which policy instruments best suited to large scale grassland restoration? (2)

Some lessons from PES schemes in Kenya (Dr Jan de Leeuw, ILRI):

- Address land tenure constraints
 - Look at synergies & trade-offs
 - Poverty/income implications
 - Be 'climate smart' where nec.
 - Multiple policy goals need to be combined and balanced
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- But difficult to generalize – recall Roy Behnke's advice re undervaluation of livestock services in pastoral contexts; and Andre Nassar's observation that we need dynamic as well as far-sighted policy instruments for guiding livestock sector development including management of its natural resource base.

What role can climate finance & other PES schemes play?

Timm Tenningkeit (UNIQUE) gave keynote presentation, paper should be read in full.

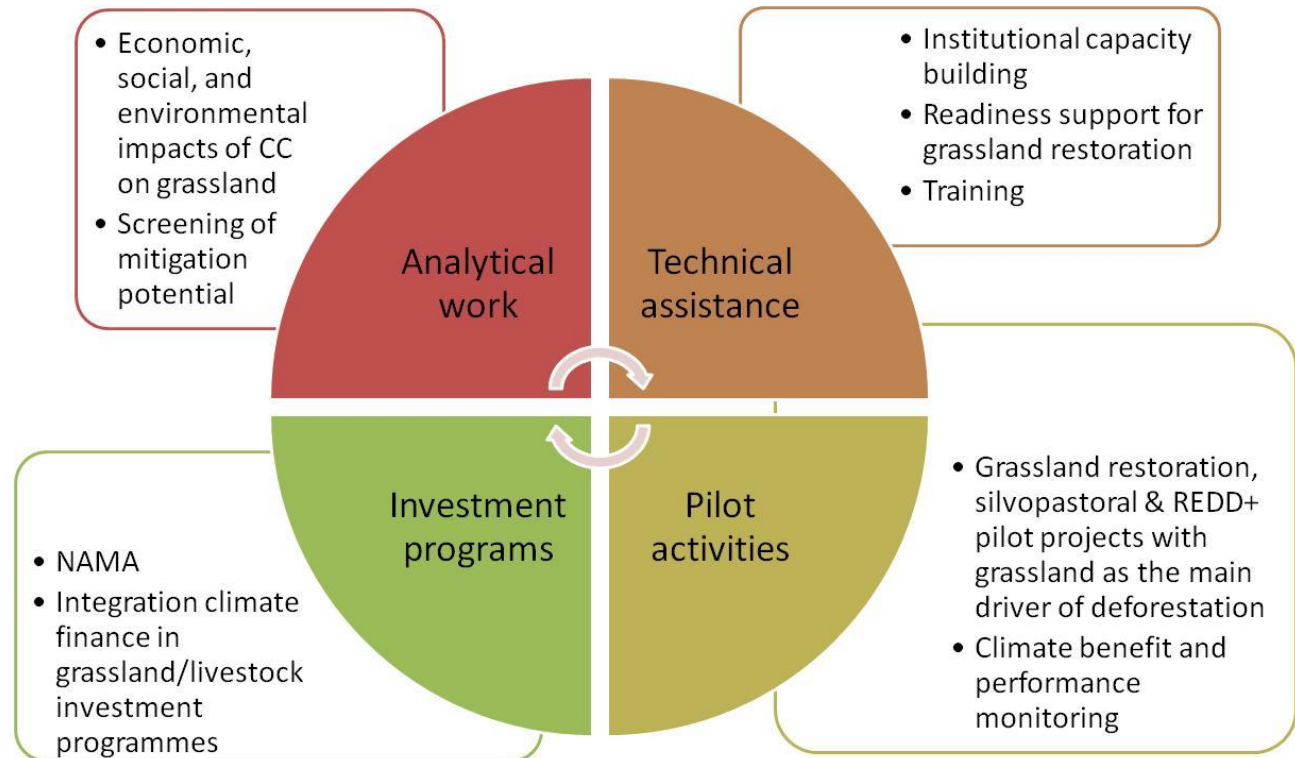
- Climate finance usually just small % of total cost of transformation, most comes from increased productivity.
- Surprisingly little part of GEF financing seems to have been directed specifically to grasslands restoration.
- CC mitigation finance for grasslands C sequestration (analogous to REDD+ for forest) not available yet (and not likely to be so in the near term).
- NAMA could be a financing option for large-scale grasslands restoration projects but implementation procedures not yet clear. BRA a pioneer in this.



How could GAA be positioned to add value to past & ongoing activities?

Only specific comment so far comes in Timm's paper: recommendation for GAA is to consider a more broadly-diversified set of entry points than climate finance/PES, touching on all the different kinds of benefits (and trade-offs) that restoring degraded grasslands can involve: environmental, social and economic.

Tenningkeit proposal for GAA support





Conclusion

- Day 1 provided a rich menu of knowledge and ideas from BRA and internationally;
- Could only summarise here a small sampling;
- But hopefully gives a base for further exploration in WG today.
- Thank you.