



Heavy grazing for a short duration forces animals to graze without selection and allows desirable species to recover. Photo M. Louhaichi



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY

It is time to update rangeland restoration procedures to promote sustainable land management in Tunisia

Context

- The national rangeland improvement strategy in Tunisia has been in place since 1990.
- Government agencies sign contracts with agro-pastoralists to protect their grazing lands for 3 years.
- During favourable years, abundant forages are produced (even after 1 year of protection) but grazing is not allowed because of the rigid contracts.

Our innovative approach

- We convened expert meetings involving all concerned stakeholders.
- They agreed a set of indicators to decide whether grazing is permitted.
- Rangers were trained to assess rangelands and decide about grazing.

- Using short-duration, high-intensity grazing systems during favourable years promotes livestock productivity while sustaining natural resource base.
- Taking advantage of abundant natural vegetation boosts trust with pastoral communities and increases their adoption of sustainable restoration practices.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock

LIVESTOCK & ENVIRONMENT

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Outcomes

- Short-duration, high-intensity grazing during favourable years is beneficial to rangeland health and well appreciated by beneficiaries.
- A set of key bio-physical indicators are needed to make sound management decisions.
- Capacity development of partners is necessary to implement necessary changes.



Southern arid rangelands in Tunisia. Photo M. Louhaichi/ICARDA

Future steps

- Get approval to update the procedures of the national agency in charge of rangeland improvement (OEP).
- Summarize key findings in a policy brief.
- Scale these findings to other national and international agencies/institutions.

Partners

- Office of Livestock and Pasture (OEP)
- Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF)



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