



SUSTAINABLE FIBRE ALLIANCE

Rangeland Stewardship Code of Practice





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RANGELAND STEWARDSHIP

Introduction

Conserving natural resources and native wildlife requires collective action by herding communities. The Rangeland Stewardship Code of Practice requires that herders demonstrate their performance of good practice in adaptive management, indicated by preparation and implementation of a rangeland management plan that is then closely monitored. The goal is for herders to adopt active and adaptive stewardship practices that are appropriate to their situation and are most likely to improve rangeland condition and local livelihoods.

The SFA's Rangeland Stewardship Code of Practice ensures that rangelands are managed in a way that minimises the risk of pasture degradation and protects wildlife. This is done by promoting collective action and a return to traditional land.

This document gives the requirements needed for sustainable rangeland management and conservation of wildlife in areas, where rangeland managers intend to seek accreditation by the Sustainable Fibre Alliance.

Accreditation standards:



Bronze status

Producer organisations that have completed training in the Rangeland Stewardship and Animal Husbandry codes of practice and that register with SFA their commitment to implementing the codes of practice are awarded bronze status.



Silver status

Producer organisations that have completed an external assessment but that have not been able to demonstrate compliance with all mandatory assessment criteria are awarded silver status. Organisations awarded silver status will undergo an annual external assessment and must improve on at least one criterion each year in order to retain silver status.



Gold status

Producer organisations that have completed an external assessment and that have been assessed as being compliant with all the requirements of the Rangeland Stewardship and Animal Husbandry codes of practice are awarded gold status. Organisations awarded gold status will undergo an external assessment every two years.

Indicator

1 The rangeland manager and rangeland area

1.1 There is a clear description of the rangeland managers, its members and legal status

1.2 There is a list of the members (or member households) of the rangeland management entity

1.3 An area of rangeland, its location and boundaries, have been clearly identified on a map

1.4 There is evidence supporting that the rangeland manager is the main user

1.5 There is documentation that all members have committed to implement the Code of Stewardship



Indicator
2 Rangeland resources and wildlife assessment
2.1 There is a documented rangeland resources and wildlife assessment
2.2 All rangelands in the boundary of the defined rangeland area are included in the assessment
2.3 The results of the assessment have been clearly documented, including a map showing the results of assessment
2.4 All rangeland resources are identified and described
2.5 Current uses of all rangeland resources are described
2.6 The condition of all rangeland resources used for grazing have been assessed
2.7 Key species of plant and wildlife are listed and their habitats identified
2.8 Areas of cultural significance are identified

Indicator
3 Rangeland management plan
3.1 A rangeland management plan covering all areas in the boundary of the defined rangeland area has been prepared
3.2 The RMP considers the findings of the rangeland and wildlife resources assessment
3.3 The objectives of the RMP are consistent with the objectives of the Code of Practice
3.4. The RMP identifies the location of grazing in all seasons
3.5 The RMP identifies measures that are suited to the condition of rangeland resources in each location
3.6 Where locations requiring restoration have been identified, planned measures must differ from measures used pre-assessment
3.7 The RMP includes measures to regulate the use of rangelands by other users
3.8 The RMP describes measures to conserve key wildlife species, including measures to implement the relevant legal regulations
3.9 Measures in the RMP for fencing meet the Code's requirements
3.10 Measures in the RMP for prevention and management of livestock-wildlife competition and conflict meet the Code's requirements
3.11 Measures in the RMP for control of rodents meet the Code's requirements

Indicator
4 Monitoring and evaluation plan
4.1 A clear plan for monitoring and evaluation has been documented
4.2 The M&E plan addresses both monitoring of RMP implementation and outcomes for rangeland condition
4.3 The M&E plan clearly specifies timing, methods, and responsibilities for monitoring and evaluation
4.4 The monitoring plan includes activities to produce and maintain a list of key species
4.5 The monitoring plan includes measures to record predators killed
4.6 Evaluation activities are planned at least annually



Indicator
1 Implementation of the RMP
1.1. Were grazing plans implemented?
1.2. Were management measures implemented in locations identified as requiring restoration different from the measures used prior to the rangeland resources assessment?
1.3. Were planned measures to regulate rangeland use by other users implemented?
1.4. Were planned fencing measures implemented in compliance with the Code of Practice?
1.5. Were planned rodent control measures implemented in compliance with the Code of Practice?
1.6. Were planned non-lethal methods to prevent or minimize competition between livestock and wildlife or predation of livestock by wildlife implemented?
1.7. If lethal predator control measures were used, were these measures and their documentation compliant with the Code of Practice?



Indicator
2 Monitoring and evaluation
2.1. Was the plan for monitoring of RMP implementation implemented?
2.2. Was the plan for monitoring RMP outcomes implemented?
2.3. Was a list of key species in the area kept and updated?
2.4. Were predators killed documented?
2.5. Were planned evaluation activities implemented and documented?
2.6. Are monitoring data and evaluation results documented and available?



Indicator

3 Updating the Rangeland Management Plan

3.1. Updates to the RMP on the basis of evaluation results have been documented

3.2. Were other stakeholders appropriately involved in updating the RMP?

Indicator

4 Updating the M&E plan

4.1. The M&E plan has been updated





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