

### **Project Update: May 2014**

We have reached additional 5 PAs. The entire community appraisal was so interesting and the communities in the respective PAs were active participants raising very important points and questions. Access to range land management, better feed and pasture, wild fire management, drinking water, etc. were some points raised during open discussion.

After long, interactive and intensive discussion on their points, a guided and motivated discussion on the project objectives was also conducted. Eventually, almost all prominent leaders from non-formal institutions and other key elders have become convinced of the fact that a change in one will bring about a change in all. They were also pleased about the fact that their participation and cooperation at every level of decisions will be substantiated and recognised. At last they selected their task groups.

Activities in the previous PAs were also monitored. A profound reduction in open encroachments into the park has been recorded. The effort on wild fire management was successful only to delay the used to fire onset timing, by 3 months. But this time, the task groups in the respective PAs were so determined. After effective and participatory assessment, they identified responsible individual and present him to the traditional judiciary system within a week. The convicted guilt was made to pay \$56, bitter punishment, as he is already poor.

Furthermore, they've developed instructions about resource utilisation from the park, like cut and carry green and fresh grass during dry periods. Their children and other community members have been guided to the river bank where they collect grasses without disturbing other park inhabitants.



Top left: Cut and carry system. Top right: Discussion with formal institution and local community. Bottom left and right Discussion with respective PAs