Monitoring Rangelands from Space: Early Warning System for Namibian Livestock Farmers



By Cornelis van der Waal¹, Jay Angerer², Bertus Kruger³, Pauline Lindeque³, Trophy Haiduwa³, Angelina Kanduvarisa³ & Frank Witneben³

¹Agri-Ecolgical Services, Namibia; ²Texas A&M AgriLife Research, USA; ³Agra Provision, Namibia

Background

Namibia is an arid country characterized by variable rainfall, hence fluctuations in forage production. Poor rangeland-related management decisions result in animal production and asset loss, missed market opportunities and accelerated rangeland degradation such as the loss of desirable, perennial grasses, elevated soil erosion rates and an increase in undesirable plants.

Rationale

Supplying land managers and policy makers with timely, objective information about developing rangeland conditions and livestock markets, results in informed management decisions made, hence increased productivity and decreased degradation rates.

National to farm scale Satellite Frequent monitoring data rangeland status updates Provision European Injun 2015-10-31 Rangeland 2015-11-30 2015-12-31 assessments Data processing and 2016-05-31 information monitoring dissemination Herbaceous Livestock Livestock market Rainfall biomass market data trends Total rainfall for October 2014 to end May 2015 estimates 2014 2015 2016 Herbaceous biomass 1500 Farmer N\$/live rainfall data 400-450mm Jan Feb Mar Apr Jun Jul Sep Oct Nov 450-500mm 500-550mm 550-600mm Season Farm data by F. Lund >600mm Satellite data from eModis **COW FAT**

Results

• Web portal for map products since 2001 (www.namibiarangelands.com)

User feedback

- Email service with 2000+ addresses
- Support to communal conservancies and development projects
- Feedback from farmers and other stakeholders encouraging

