

Major Pressures Driving Changes in Rangeland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

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1. Introduction

- ❖ Ethiopian rangelands are endowed with adapted flora and fauna that contribute to the good life of its inhabitants.
- ❖ Identification of rangeland biodiversity and ecosystem services drivers is a significant first step
 - To understand more about the ongoing changes that are happening and
 - to contribute to informed decision making
- ❖ Direct drivers are factors directly influencing the rangeland ecosystem, while indirect drivers are factors affecting the way direct drivers drive the ecosystem.

2. Methodology

- ❖ The positive and negative impacts of lifestyle changes and development activities on the biodiversity and ecosystem services were assessed in this ecosystem.
- ❖ Drivers represent the underlying causes of rangeland biodiversity and ecosystem services change, and dictate the ways in which people's lifestyle, including socially, economically, politically factors, shape the world.
- ❖ Existing knowledge about the direct and indirect pressures driving changes in the Ethiopian rangeland biodiversity and ecosystem services were reviewed.

3. Results

3.1 Direct drivers

3.1.1 Natural

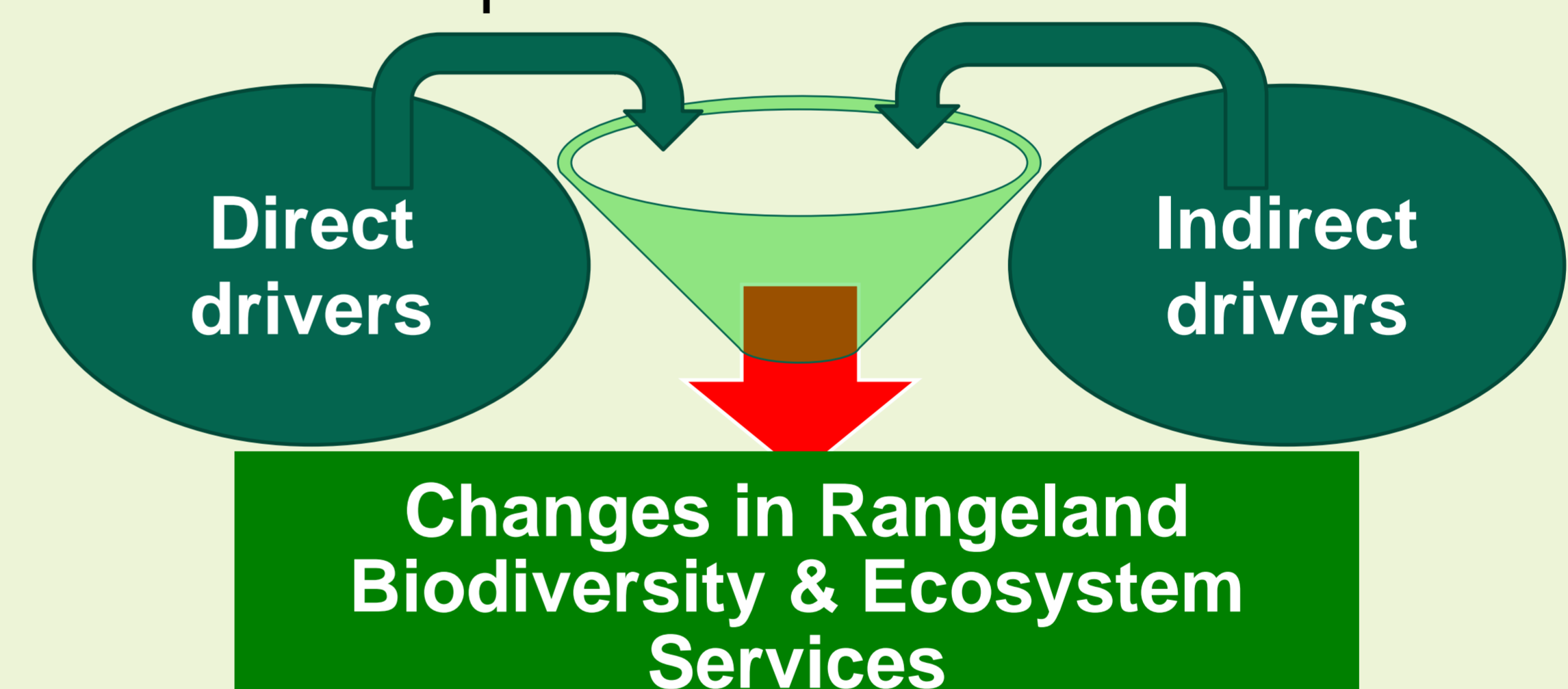
- ✓ Natural climate variability and weather patterns
- ✓ Wildfire as driver of ecosystem change
- ✓ Climate change

3.1.2 Anthropogenic

- ✓ Lack of appropriate rangeland management
- ✓ Land use land cover change
- ✓ Overexploitation
- ✓ Inappropriate extension service
- ✓ Privatization and/or sedentarization
- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Encroachment by native and invasive species

3.2 Indirect drivers

- ❖ Policy changes
- ❖ Inadequate policy intervention
- ❖ Governance systems
- ✓ Lack of appropriate government structure
- ✓ Weakening of Indigenous Knowledge
- ✓ Overlooking the importance of indigenous knowledge
- ✓ Lack of awareness and knowledge by decision makers
- ❖ Insecurity



4. Conclusion

Rangeland restorations, re-vitalization of use of fire as a rangeland management tool, appropriate land use policy, improved grazing management and selective clearing of woody plants should be the directives to be followed.

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