***CBRLM 2012 Methodology (based on Contract for Consultancy Services for the Performance of Grassland Surveys Field Report 2012)***

One of the projects of Millennium Challenge Account Namibia (MCA-N) Agriculture is the Community-Based Rangeland and Livestock Management (CBRLM) program. The main goal of the CBRLM project is to increase wealth among farmers in the northern communal areas (NCA) of Namibia by enhancing the productivity of their livestock through improved rangeland resource, livestock management, marketing and community development; implemented in 21 Rangeland Intervention Areas (RIAs) in 6 regions.

The MCA-N’s monitoring and evaluation (M&E) directorate has established, amongst others, a rangeland/vegetation assessment to evaluate the success of the CBRLM program in improving rangeland condition in the NCA (a prerequisite for improved livestock productivity). This rangeland assessment comprises a baseline survey conducted during 2012, followed up by a survey of the same sites or subset of sites in 2014. In total, 414 sites were monitored in 2012, distributed over 102 grazing areas (GA) in the NCA. GAs were paired into 51 CBRLM treatment-and-control pairs.

The 2012 survey consisted of two field phases. During the June/July field phase, 144 sites clustered in 6 high density (HD) pairs of GA (12 per GA) were monitored. In September/October, these same 144 HD sites were monitored again, in addition to 270 sites clustered in 45 low density (LD) pairs of GA (3 per GA). Within a GA, monitoring sites had previously been identified in a rigorous stratification process (not part of this consultancy and report).

AGRA was contracted to execute the 2012 rangeland assessment baseline survey and successfully completed the June/July 2012 field survey. For the September/October 2012 field phase, the services of a Field Facilitator, a Botanist, an Equipment Manager and 12 Field Enumerators were required to monitor all 414 sites. The Botanist also served as the Assistant Field Facilitator. All field staff received training in the appropriate methodologies before the actual field work started, to ensure competent implementation and consistency across different implementers.