



# Global actions for Sustainable Rangelands and Pastoralism to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality

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# The IYRP sub-working group on LDN

- Created in 2022 to:
  - support the IYRP Global Coordinating Group (GCG) and the International Support Group (ISG)
  - respond to the invitation of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to raise awareness about rangelands and pastoralists
  - support the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026
- 1<sup>st</sup> virtual meeting in July 2022
  - develop a policy brief to address the UNCCD process and raise awareness about rangelands and pastoralism
  - make recommendations to the UNCCD COP and to the UNCCD Member States, Donors, Civil Society and other Parties

# Rangelands and Pastoralists are important!

- 54% of Land on Earth
- 1/3 of global biodiversity hotspot
- 78% of rangelands are drylands
- Support livestock production
- Contribute to food nutrition and security
- 30% of global carbon pool
- 24% of all languages, and numerous world heritage sites

**Rangelands provide vital ecosystem services**  
**Rangelands are home to over two billion people that depend on the pastoral agrifood systems for their subsistence**

## Challenges and Threats to Rangelands

- Rangelands are facing climatic and anthropogenic pressures, which are resulting in natural resource degradation, productivity losses, land-related conflicts and insecurities, poverty of land users, and displacement and sedentarization of populations.
- In 2019, the average rate of rangeland degradation was 18.5% globally, ranging from 10% in North America to 32% in the Middle East and 35% in South America.



# Challenges and Threats to Rangelands

## Rangeland conversion

**20% of the world's native rangelands  
have been converted to croplands**





# Global drivers leading to rangeland degradation

## Climate change

- Higher temperatures
- Increase frequency of drought
- Extreme weather and unpredictability (recent floodings)
- Increase in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration





# Global drivers leading to rangeland degradation

- Population growth
- Urbanization
- Globalization
- Ineffectual governance





# Drivers leading to rangeland degradation

- Low appreciation of the values of rangelands
- Unbalanced grazing of livestock
- Knowledge and technology gaps
- Neglect of rangelands in restoration actions
- Underinvestment

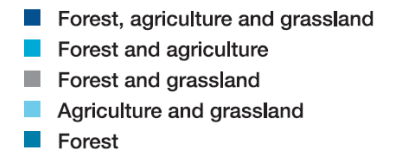
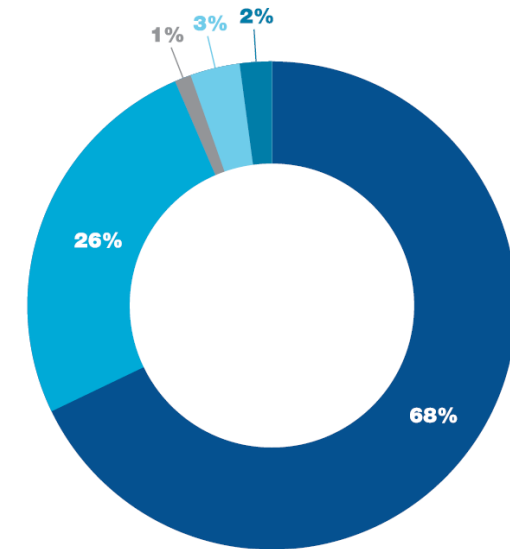


# Actions

The IYRP International Support Group is calling on

## The UNCCD COP:

- To **halt indiscriminate conversion** of rangelands,
- To **increase investment** in nature-based and equitable rangeland restoration
- To **increase the level of ambition of LDN targets** with specific commitments to rangeland restoration and sustainable pastoralism



LDN targets focus





# Actions

The IYRP International Support Group is calling on

**The UNCCD Member State, Donors, Civil Society and other Parties:**

- To recognize **mobility of livestock through pastoralism** as a viable management solution for healthy rangelands and sustainable livelihoods
- To identify and **revise economic policies** that have detrimental effects on rangelands and pastoralists
- To **promote integrated policies** that provide and recognize the multifunctionality of land
- To **adopt participatory governance models** that recognize pastoralists at the heart of stewardship and care for rangelands



# Conclusion

- Committing to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality through sustainable rangelands management and pastoralism will help address food security, climate change, economic development, livelihoods and human well-being.
- The suggested actions by the IYRP International Support Group to the UNCCD is to encourage policy dialogues for knowledge generation and sound interventions aimed at:
  - ✓ improving the political, financial, and institutional enabling environment of rangelands;
  - ✓ supporting pastoralism as a well-functioning system and committing to reducing pressure from anthropogenic and climatic stressors;
  - ✓ strengthening enabling policies to enhance public and private sectors' investments in LDN and land restoration;
  - ✓ capitalizing on the successful lessons obtained from other livelihood systems in dryland areas to address the challenge of sustainably producing food; and
  - ✓ advocating for more investments in sustainable development and restoration of rangelands.



Thank you

