



# Global Grassland and Savannah Dialogue Platform

## 6. Meeting Policies for Grassland, Rangeland and Savannah

16.03.2021

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Up-dates on working groups and Rangeland Atlas
- Grasslands on the Global Stage – opportunities for transformation in the UN Conventions (UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD)  
*Martina Fleckenstein, WWF International*
- UN DECADE on Ecosystems Restoration  
*Abdelkader Bensada, UNEP*
- Advancing International Action for Rangeland Restoration,  
*Bora Masumbuko (IUCN)*
- IUCN Grasslands and Savannahs Motion: Next steps  
*Nigel Dudley*
- Applying policies for landscape conservation: the Cerrado,  
*Karina Berg, WWF Brazil*

# Break out groups

**Break out Group: (1)**  
**UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration:**

**Break out Group: (2)**  
**UN Conventions and Grassland Ecosystems**

- How can existing engagements and activities on food at national, regional and global levels be connected/leveraged to influence the UN Conventions?
- How could this group contribute to / accelerate that change?
- What tangible change would you like the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration or the UN Conventions to have on your work\* (\*landscape / conservation / programmes)?
- Does your organisation intend to actively engage in the UN Decade or influence the Conventions, if so how?



# Grassland and savannah working groups

## Mapping group

- **Rangeland atlas** launched in May – 15 maps with a range of filters (protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, livestock production, Landscape Degradation Neutrality, including all pastoral livestock systems, e.g., also Mediterranean forest, tundra etc
- **Rangeland Data Platform**, drawing together information ranging from remote sensing to crowd sourcing, , including restoration options, still in development probably not launched this year

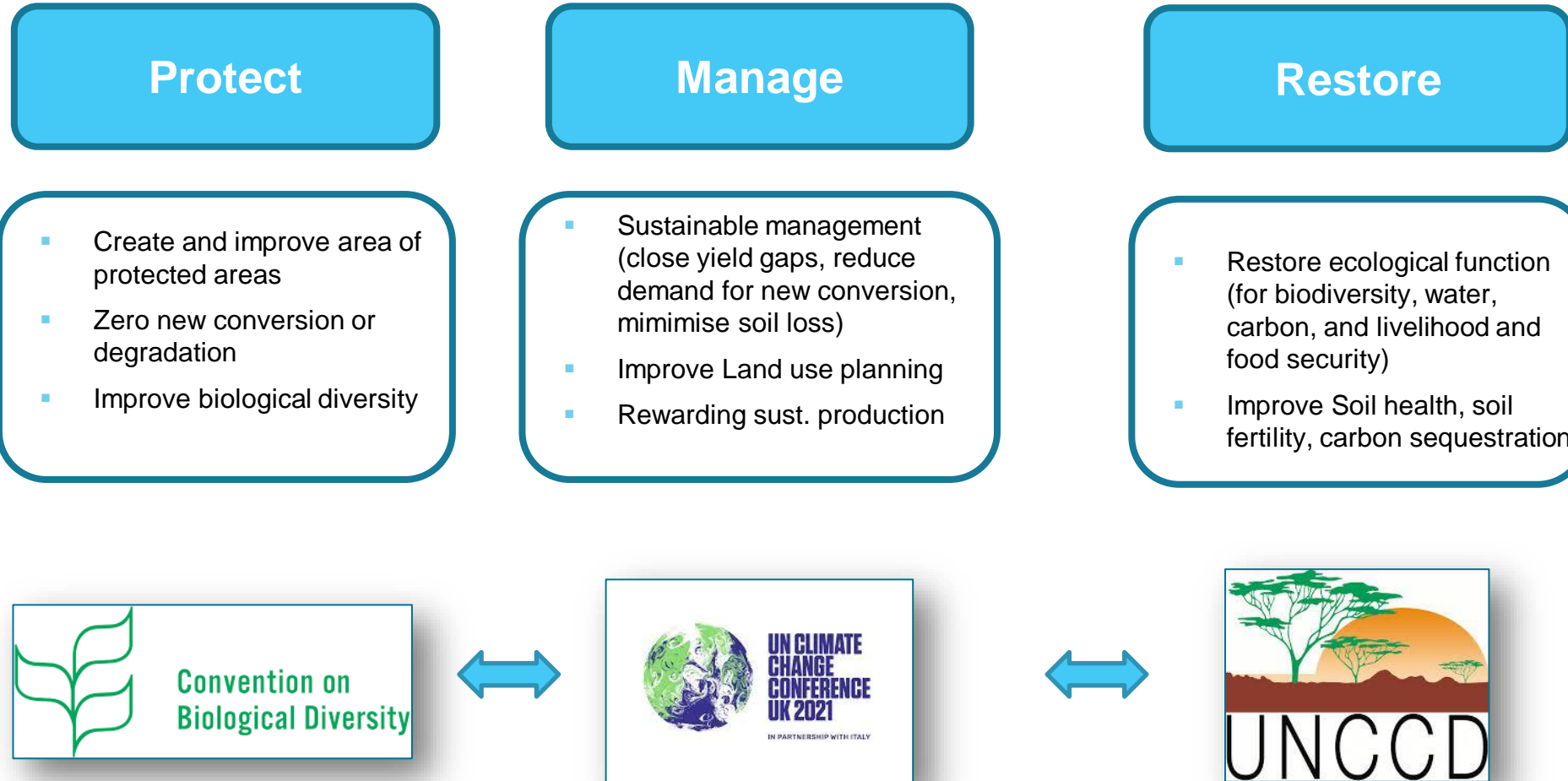
## Grassland hotspots group

- **List of key hotspots:** just had first meeting, aim to identify hotspots from both a biodiversity conservation and social/cultural perspective
- Initial work on indicators ongoing
- Draft, incomplete list developed this year, possibly in more detail later with new IKI funding



**Grasslands on the Global Stage – opportunities for  
transformation in the UN Conventions  
(UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD)  
Policies for Grassland Ecosystems**

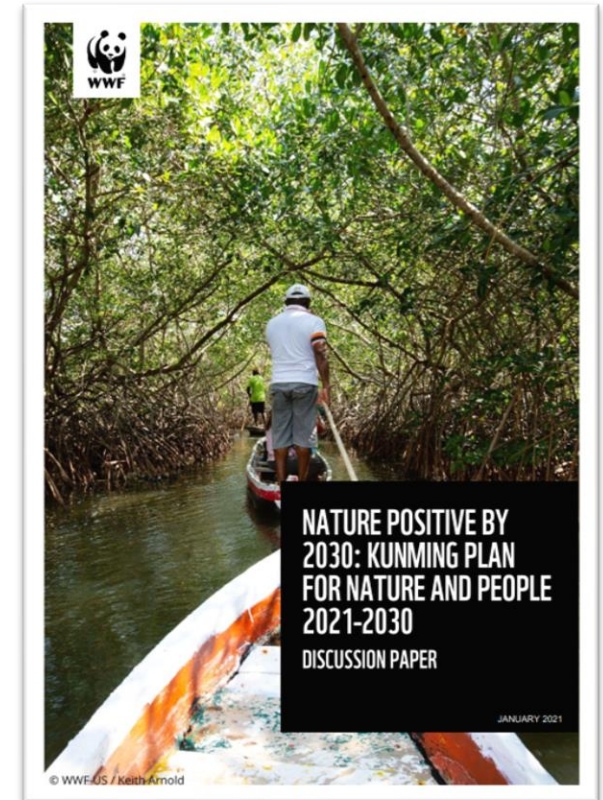
# Grassland Ecosystems and UN Conventions



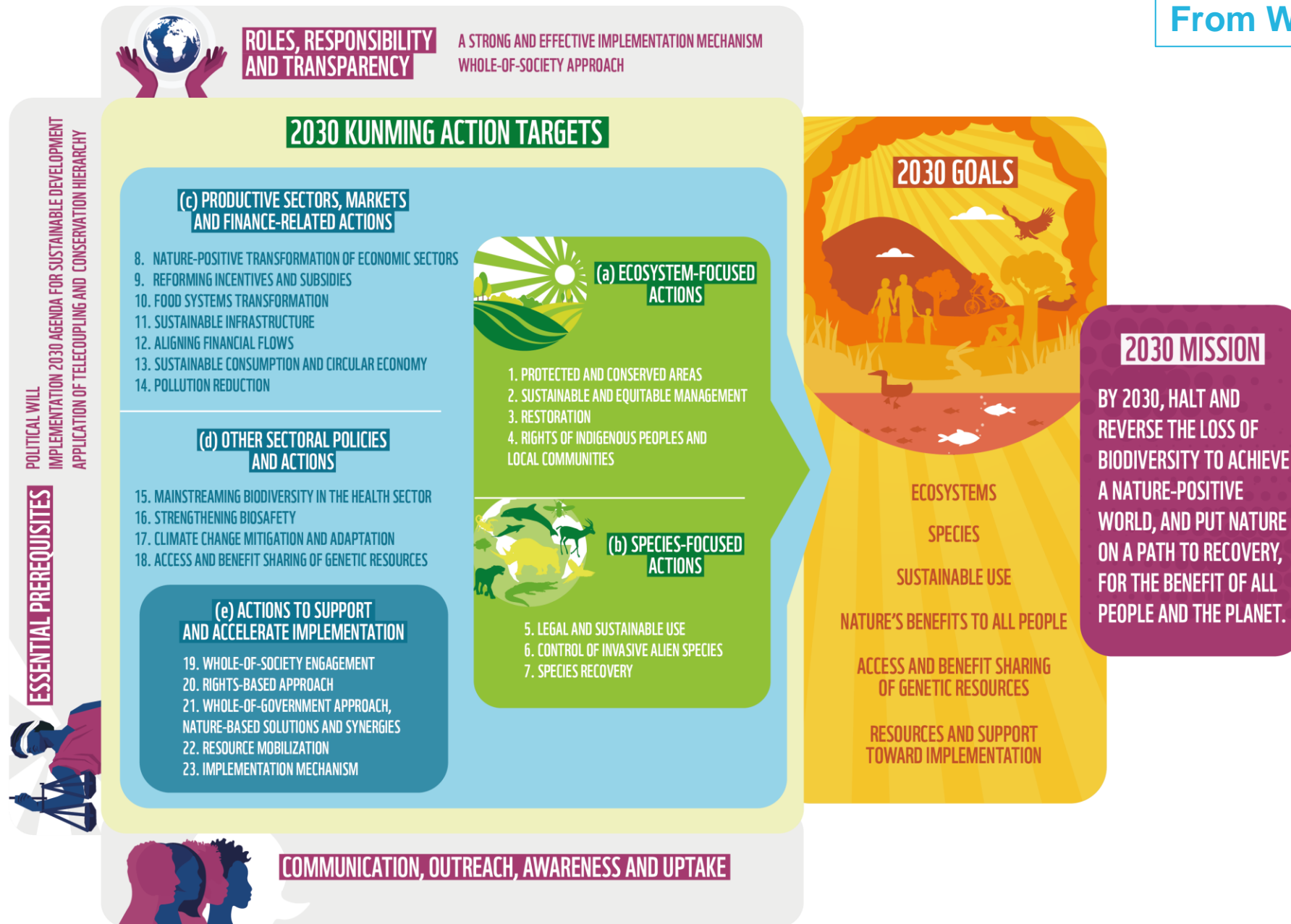


# Grassland Ecosystems in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- ❑ The **CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** – still has a lot of gaps (Link: [Official Up-Date Zero draft](#)) from August 2020, needs a stronger linkage with Food Systems Transformation
- ❑ The **WWF Kunming Plan** proposes six measurable outcome goals and a set of 23 measurable action targets which includes a set on ecosystems-focus actions, species focused actions, including one on Food Systems Transformation
- ❑ **Leaders Pledge for Nature** signed by 84 Head of States saying e.g. “mainstreaming biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels” <https://www.leaderspledgefornature.org/>



Kunming Plan for nature and people



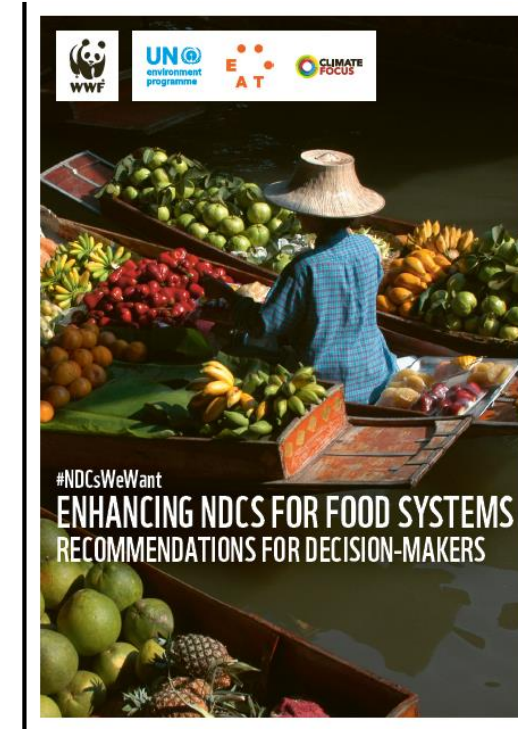


# Grassland Ecosystems and UNFCCC COP 26

## National Determined Contribution (NDC) – revision in 2021

Integration of food system-based mitigation and adaptation activities in National Determined Contributions (NDCs):

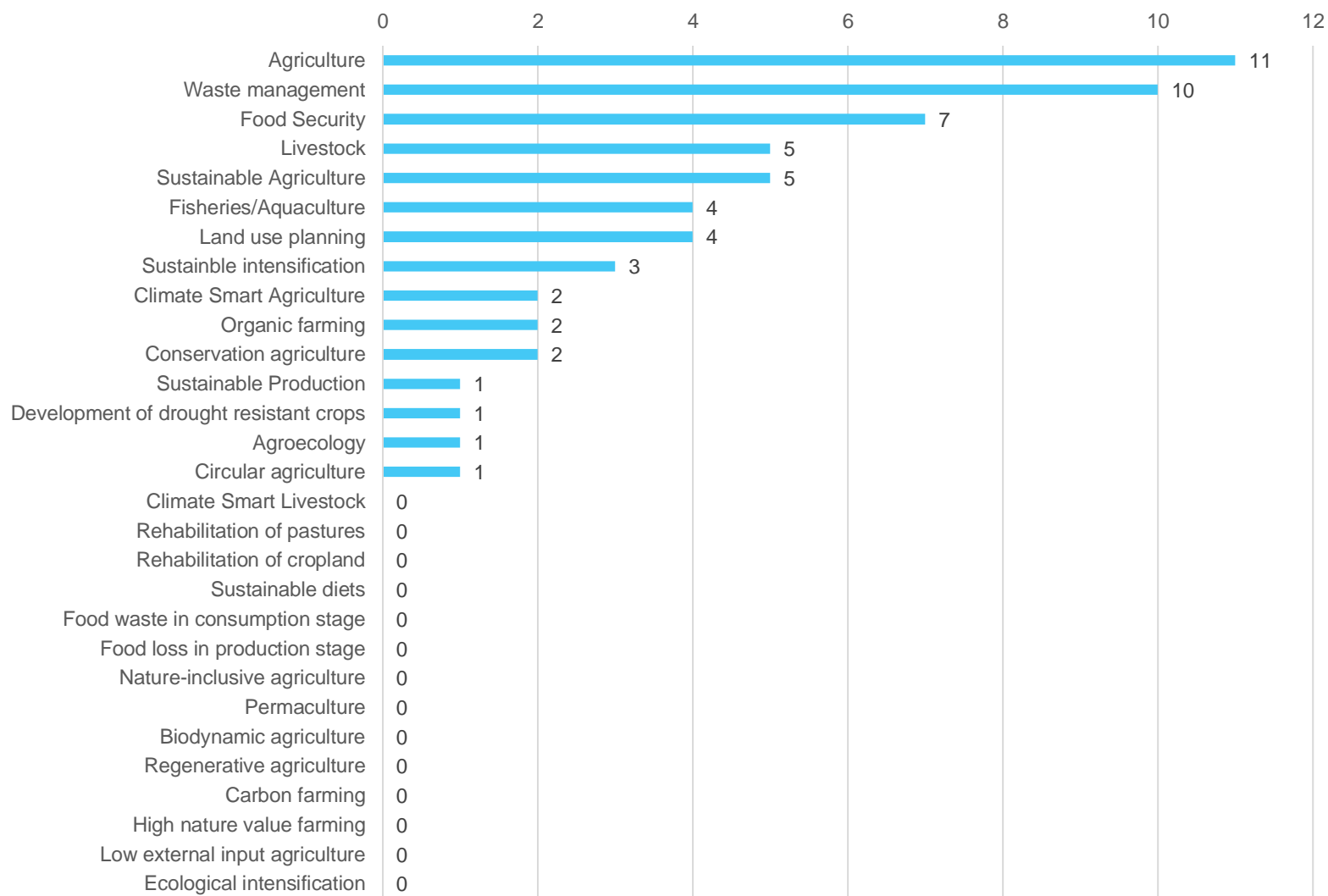
- ❑ Prevention of conversion of natural grasslands
- ❑ Supporting soil restoration and rehabilitation
- ❑ Repurposing of subsidies to enhance sustainable land-use practices
- ❑ Improved Management of pasture and grazing land



Source: Enhancing NDCs for Food Systems, WWF 2020  
[https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_ndc\\_food\\_final\\_low\\_res.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_ndc_food_final_low_res.pdf)

**Restoration of  
grassland is  
only mentioned  
in a few NDCs,  
restoration of  
pasture is not  
mentioned**

## Grassland Ecosystems and UNFCCC COP 26



## From WWF Report: Example on Production



Does your country have high rates of conversion of natural habitats like savannahs, natural grasslands, peatlands, natural forests and wetlands?

If yes, please consider:

- Adopting or/and enhancing ecosystem conservation incentives, laws and policies
- Improving management of protected areas such as national parks and reserves and improving monitoring and detection of illicit activities
- Improving land governance and law enforcement at local, regional and national levels including land tenure,
- Supporting soil rehabilitation and restoration activities
- Supporting land-use planning to build traceable and transparent, deforestation and conversion-free agriculture and forestry supply chains
- Promoting incentives for sustainable rural economies by creating diversified sources of income for local communities and reducing poverty
- Implementing public procurement policies that favor sustainably produced commodities based on robust sustainability standards and frameworks
- Repurposing subsidies to enhance sustainable land-use practices and integrated land-use planning
- Providing and scaling up technical and financial support for sustainable agricultural production focusing on agroecological approaches and sustainable forest management

### Food system activities: reduced land-use change and conversion of natural habitats

#### Emissions

Conversion of forests and savannahs for food and animal feed production contributed to 19% (2.67 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e) of all GHG emissions from the food sector in 2010<sup>35</sup>

#### Mitigation potential

Reduced land-use change (deforestation, forest degradation, peatland conversion and coastal wetland conversion) has a mitigation potential of 4.6 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year<sup>36</sup>

While being converted at even higher rate than forests, natural grasslands and savannahs store at least 470 Gt, (i.e. one fifth of the total carbon contained in vegetation and topsoil worldwide)<sup>37</sup>

Restoring grasslands and savannahs remove resilient carbon efficiently from the atmosphere as it is stored underground and protected from droughts and catastrophic fires<sup>38</sup>

#### Adaptation impacts

Reduced vulnerability of natural ecosystems systems and their services to climate change threats and improved social resilience









#### Co-benefits

Contribution to biodiversity; contribution to ecosystem services; improved livelihoods in local communities; improved trade with markets demanding sustainable products, reduced risk of zoonoses

# Grassland Ecosystems and Nature based solutions

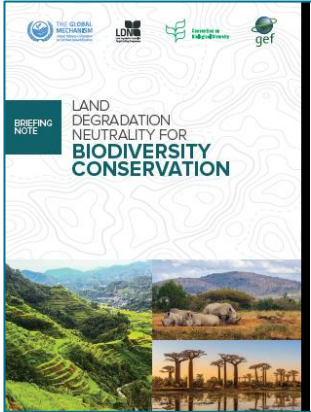
## Nature – based Solutions (NBS) – Tool for Climate Mitigation

Ecosystem conservation, management and/or restoration interventions intentionally planned to deliver measurable positive climate adaptation and /or mitigation benefits that have human development and biodiversity co-benefits managing anticipated climate risks to nature that can undermine their long-term effectiveness.

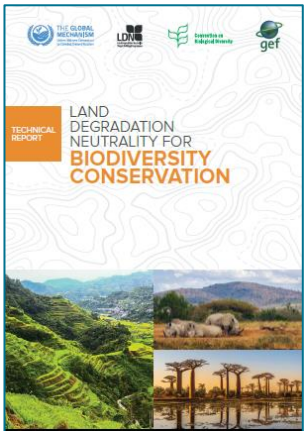
	1	Include the use of nature for both climate change mitigation and adaptation and prioritize actions that provide benefits for both.	✓
	2	Set ambitious, measurable and time-bound numeric targets (e.g. hectares of ecosystems utilized, CO <sub>2</sub> sequestered and/or number of people benefiting from increased resilience).	✓
	3	To maximize benefits to biodiversity, utilize natural ecosystems over “artificial” or “modified” ecosystems, and include climate benefits derived from protected areas.	✓
	4	Explore all ecosystem types that can provide climate benefits – wetlands, forests, mangroves, coral reefs, grasslands, working lands, urban landscapes.	✓
	5	Acknowledge and manage climate risks that threaten the long-term viability of nature-based solutions.	✓
	6	Integrate commitments to other international conventions and relevant national policies that result in climate adaptation and mitigation benefits.	✓
	7	Ensure adherence to social and environmental safeguards, and include community participation and consultation in the development and management of nature-based climate solutions.	✓
	8	Include the need for technical and financial support to achieve results.	✓



# Biodiversity Conservation and Land Degradation Neutrality (UNCCD)



[https://catalogue.unccd.int/1339\\_Briefing\\_Note\\_Biodiversity.pdf](https://catalogue.unccd.int/1339_Briefing_Note_Biodiversity.pdf)



[https://catalogue.unccd.int/1340\\_LDN\\_BiodiversityGM\\_Report.pdf](https://catalogue.unccd.int/1340_LDN_BiodiversityGM_Report.pdf)

## LDN and Biodiversity Conservation (2019), Briefing Note and Technical Report

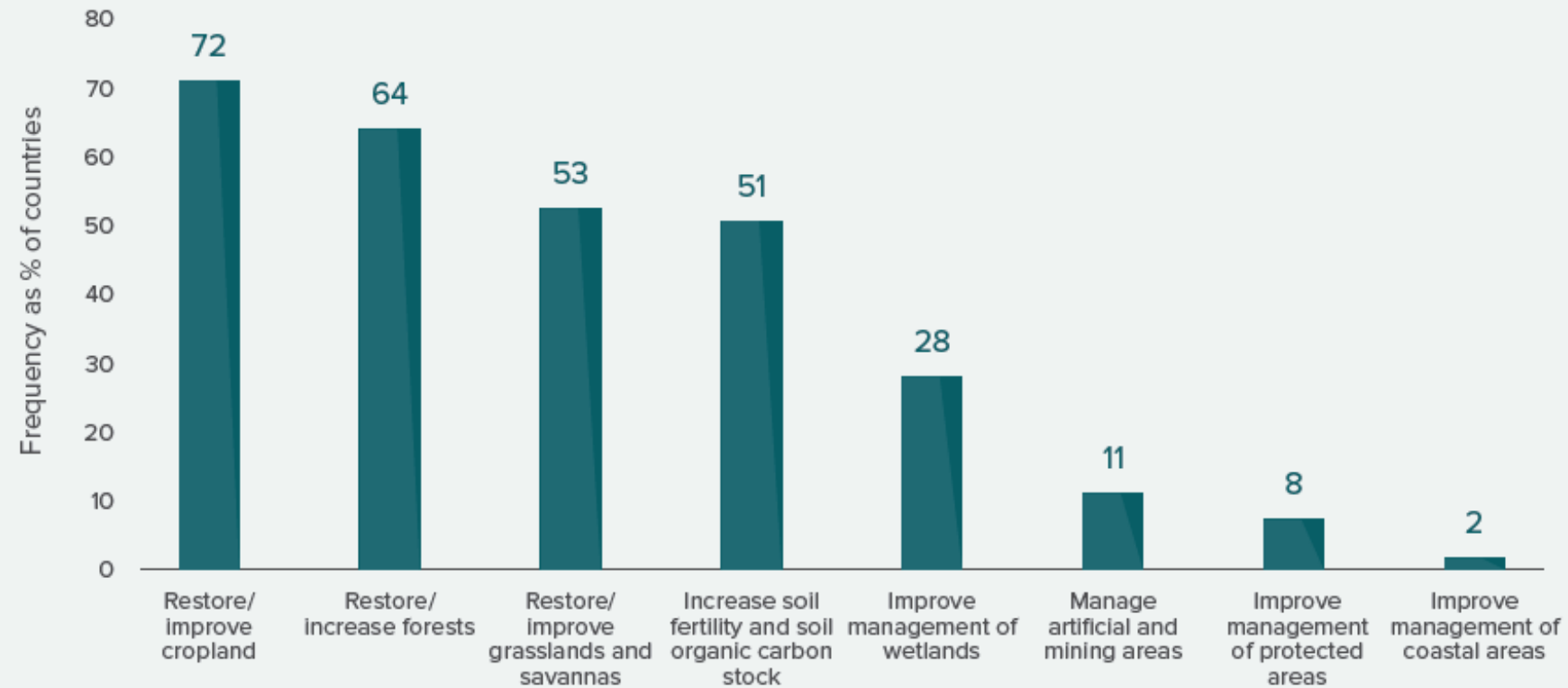
The report provides concrete examples of how LDN can support the achievement of each of the Strategic Goals of the CBD's Strategic Plan and suggests how synergies can be further exploited by countries in their efforts to achieve both LDN, through their voluntary national LDN targets, and their **National Biodiversity Strategies And Action Plans (NBSAPs)**, by promoting actions to address the drivers of land degradation and biodiversity loss, protect ecosystems and support climate action.

Align LDN targets and measures with existing and future commitments on biodiversity and climate change,

# LDN and Biodiversity

**Figure 1**

**Frequency of LDN targets by target group for all LDN-reporting countries as of November 2018.**



Source: LDN target setting country reports

# Influencing UNCCD Policies and actions on the ground

## Recommendation for UNCCD COP 14

- Recommendation paper
- Side events

## Integration of soil restoration into the UNFSS Discussion starter and Solutions

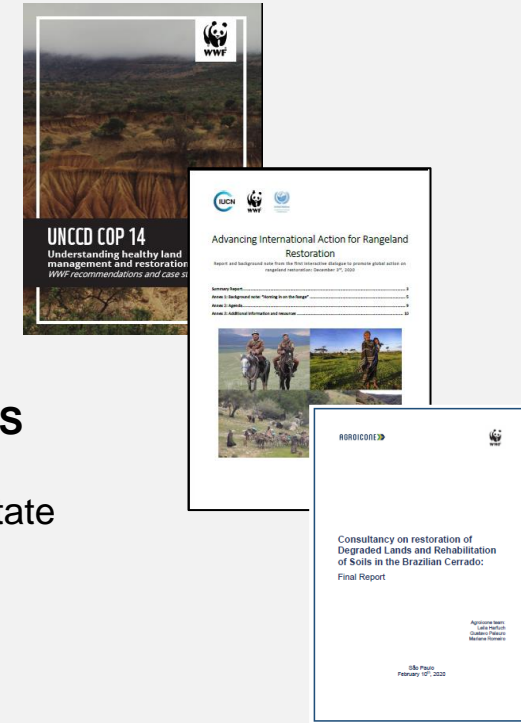
- Restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil function for sustainable food production (discussion Starter UNFSS)
- Gamechanger on “soil”

## Actions for Grassland and Rangeland Restoration (together with IUCN and UNCCD)

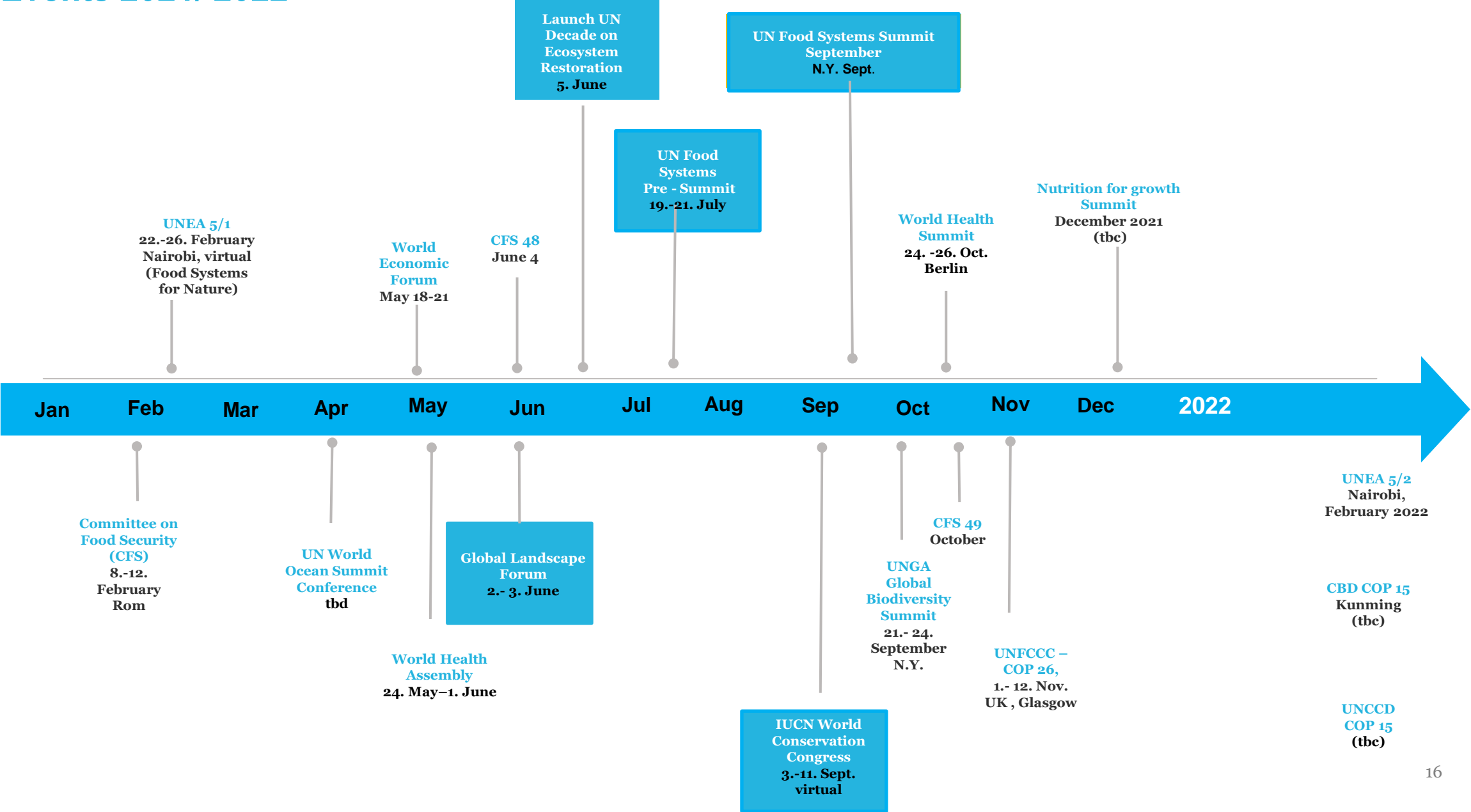
- *Background paper*
- *Consultation in December with UNCCD Focal points*
- *Establishing of a supporter group*
- *Input to CRIC meeting*

## Degraded Land Study:

- *Restoration of degraded land and rehabilitation of soil in the Cerrado in Brazil (not published yet)*



# Key Events 2021/ 2022





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# UN DECADE on Ecosystems Restoration

*Abdelkader Bensada, UNEP*

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# United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021- 2030)



# Prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide

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- UNGA Resolution [A/RES/73/284](#) adopted 1 March, 2019
- Focus 2019/2020 on consultations and partnership building
- Advisory Board, and Task Forces on Best Practices, Finance, Monitoring, Science and Youth
- Strategy and visual identity released 15 September, 2020

[www.decadeonrestoration.org](http://www.decadeonrestoration.org)



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**All terrestrial and marine ecosystems** (such as forests, mangroves, peatlands, freshwater, grasslands, shrublands and Savannahs etc).

**Builds on existing commitments:**

Paris Agreement, Land Degradation Neutrality, Biodiversity Targets, Bonn Challenge, Initiative 20x20, Africa Restoration 100, and others

**FAO and UNEP invited to lead implementation:**

In collaboration with Rio Conventions and other partners; Within mandates and existing/voluntary resources





IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology has been used . Rangelands are mentioned under Grasslands, shrublands and savannahs

## How to restore different ecosystems



### **Grasslands, Shrublands and Savannahs**

From Eurasia and Patagonia to Africa and...



### **Peatlands**

Present in more than 180 countries, peatlands...



### **Urban areas**

Urban areas occupy less than 1 per cent of the...

# Strategy development process

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## **March 2019 to March 2020**

- >25 workshops
- >150 individual expert interviews
- >50 organizations

## **March to September 2020**

- Draft strategy online for consultation
- Strategy revised based on >2500 comments received



# Three Goals

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1. Enhance global, regional, national & local commitments & actions to prevent, halt & reverse the degradation of ecosystems
2. Increase our understanding of the multiple benefits of successful ecosystem restoration
3. Apply this knowledge in our education systems and within all public and private sector decision-making



Source: Greenpop



Source: IUCN





# Barriers

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Public awareness



Political will



Legislative & policy  
environments



Technical capacity



Finance



Scientific  
research



# Pathways to overcome barriers

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## 1. A global movement

- Digital hub
- Awareness
- Education
- Ethics
- Economics
- Financing mechanisms



## 2. Political will

- Leaders as champions
- Legislation and policy
- Cross-sectoral dialogues
- Redirect subsidies



## 3. Technical capacity

- Design, implement, monitor & sustain
- Long-term research
- Lessons learned
- Indigenous knowledge
- Land tenure and FPIC





## Enhancing technical capacity

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**The UN Decade aims to share best practices and lessons learned.**





# Communication Strategy

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## A networked approach that...

Connects **hundreds** of selected global partners...

To **thousands** of local implementers...

Reaching **hundreds of millions** across the globe.

**Building on insights from New Power** to strengthen ownership and celebrate existing efforts by and within countries

**Messaging:** Positive and inclusive antidote to climate anxiety while inspiring a new *#GenerationRestoration*

**Innovations:** An interactive digital home for the Decade to communicate, support and scale action on the ground.



## Visual Identity / Logo



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030

#GenerationRestoration



# Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)

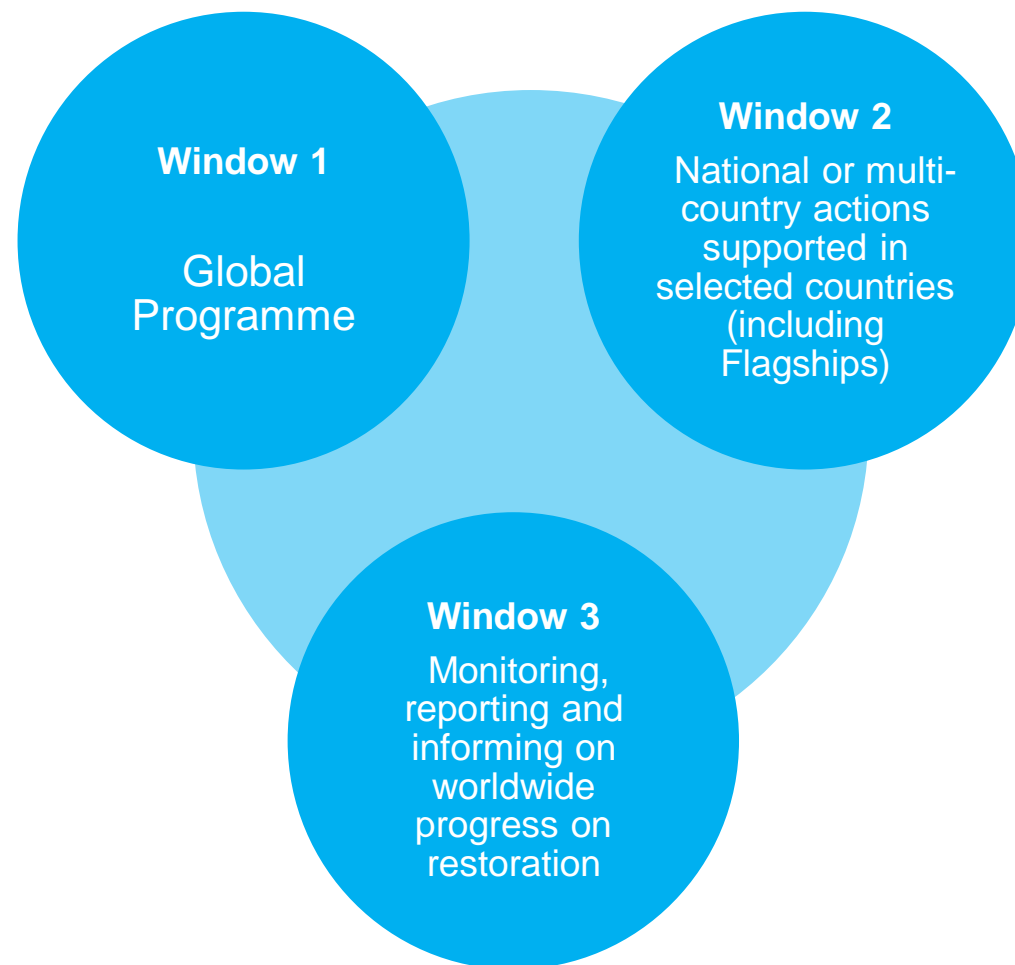
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The Fund will enable the implementation of the UN Decade Strategy

**MPTF:** efficient UN mechanism, easy to add new initiatives and implementing partners. Discussions on-going with MPTF secretariat and potential donors.

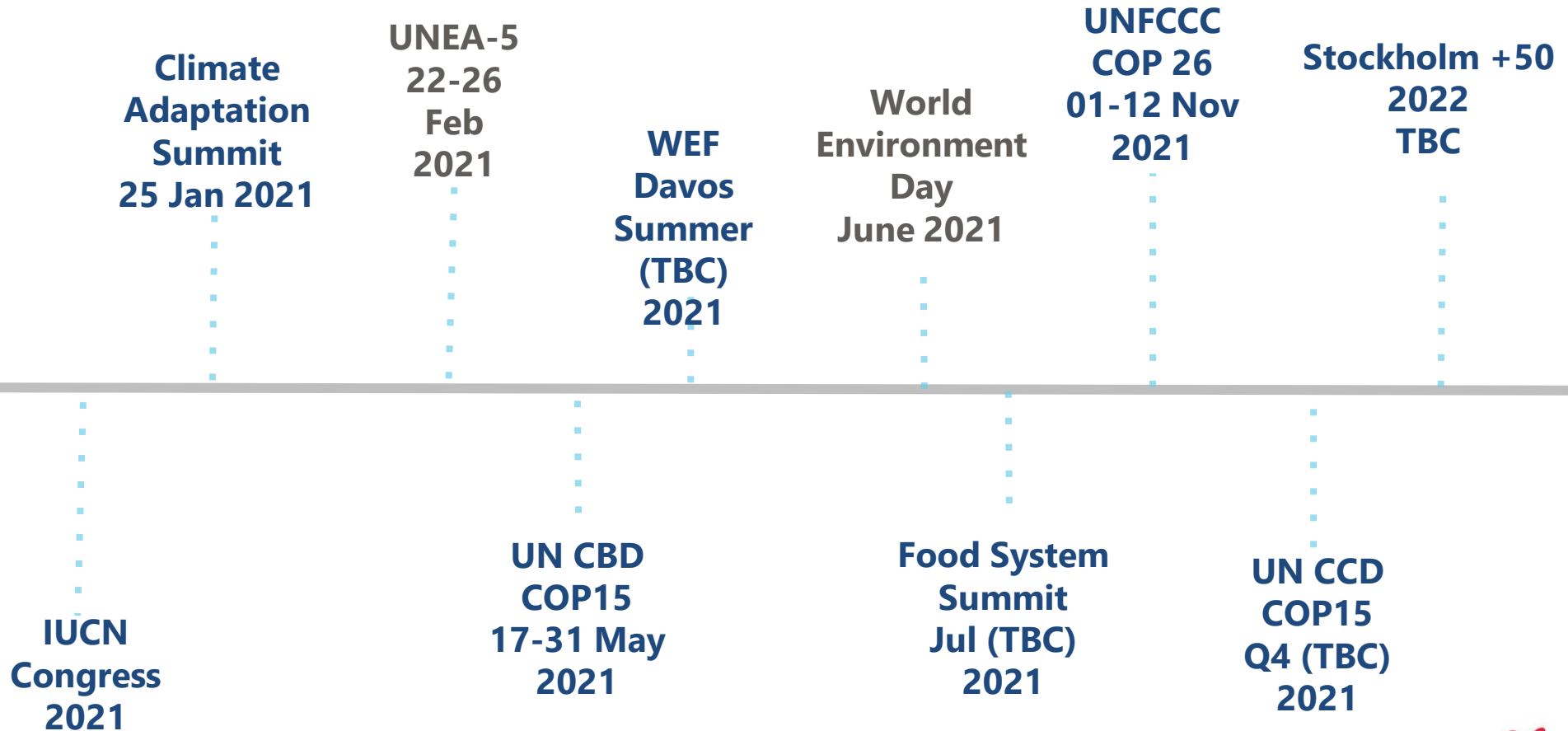
**Lead by FAO & UNEP joint team:**

Coordinating and reporting on UN Decade; outreach, initiation of activities and global dialogues.



# Building momentum for 2020-21

## Key Events





# Steps to launch

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Public-facing launch during World Environment Day 2021 (5 June)

Before the launch and in preparation of it, countries are invited to:

- **Show their support and link existing efforts** to the UN Decade by:
  - Using the visual identity
  - Identify restoration sites to be showcased as early successes
  - Using #GenerationRestoration on social media to ensure posts are featured on the website
  - Preparing information and tools adapted to national contexts, such as websites, brochures, campaigns
- **Prepare new contributions** in time for the launch such as:
  - Restoration commitments and announcements
  - Reports, policies, guidelines and frameworks in support of restoration
  - Events – local or online – in line with COVID-19 guidance



## Contacts

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**UNEP** - [restorationdecade@un.org](mailto:restorationdecade@un.org)

**FAO** - [decade-on-restoration@fao.org](mailto:decade-on-restoration@fao.org)





Join  
#GenerationRestoration

—  
Thank you



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**UN**  
environment  
programme

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# **Advancing International Action for Rangeland Restoration,**

*Bora Masumbuko (IUCN)*





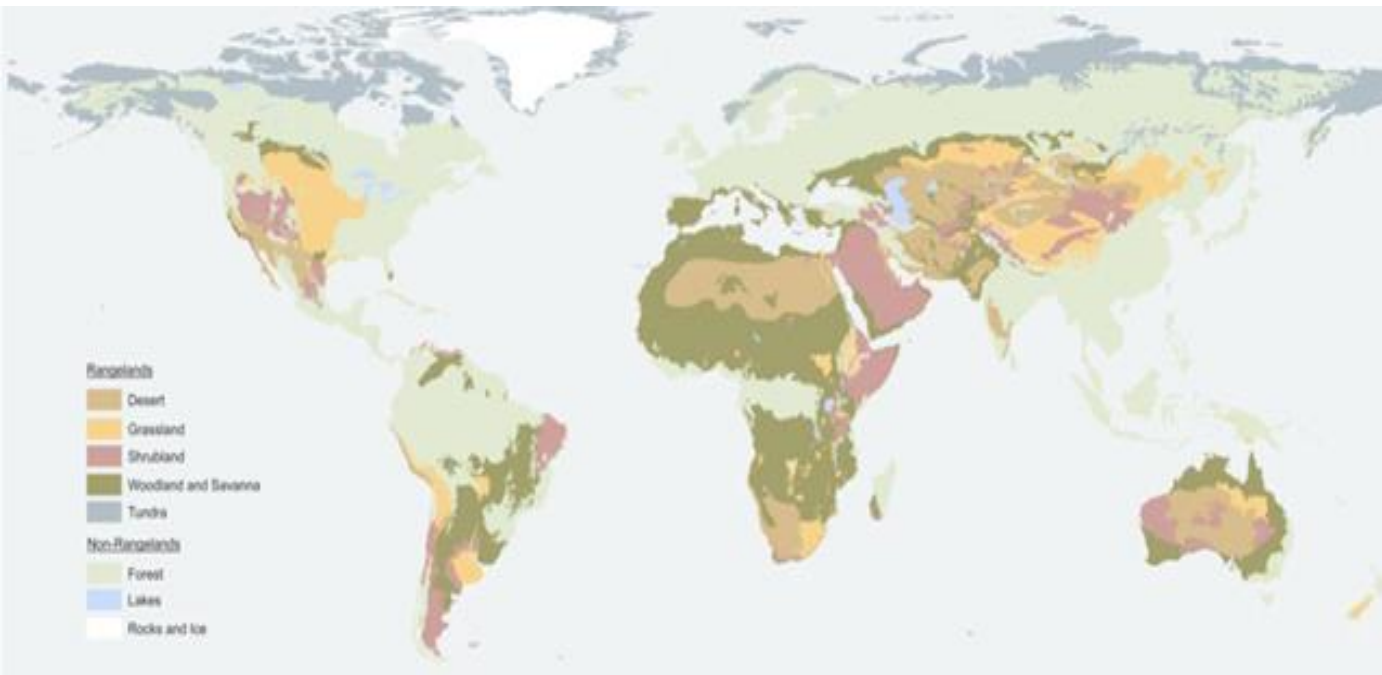
# Advancing International Action for Rangeland Restoration in the UNCCD process

Global Grasslands & Savannas Dialogue Platform:  
Policies for Grassland, Rangeland and Savannas - 16 March 2021

Bora Masumbuko, IUCN

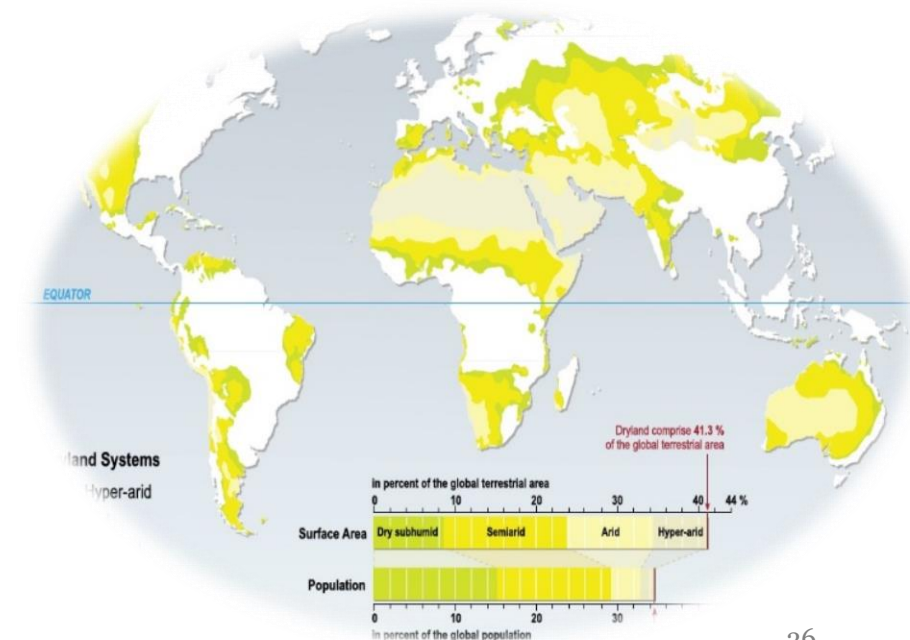


# Global distribution of rangelands



Rangelands include **savannah, prairie, steppe, pampas, shrub and dry woodlands, tundra, desert and mountain pastures**

- Significant overlap with the world's drylands
- 30-50% of all land (depending on definition)
- Some estimates include hyper arid lands
- 200-500 million livestock keepers
- Up to 30% of rangelands may be degraded







**Rangelands are home of livestock keeping people:  
Pastoralists, herders, ranger**

**Rangeland are imporant wildlife habitats**

**Rangeland provide ecosystem services of high value**

# Threats of rangelands

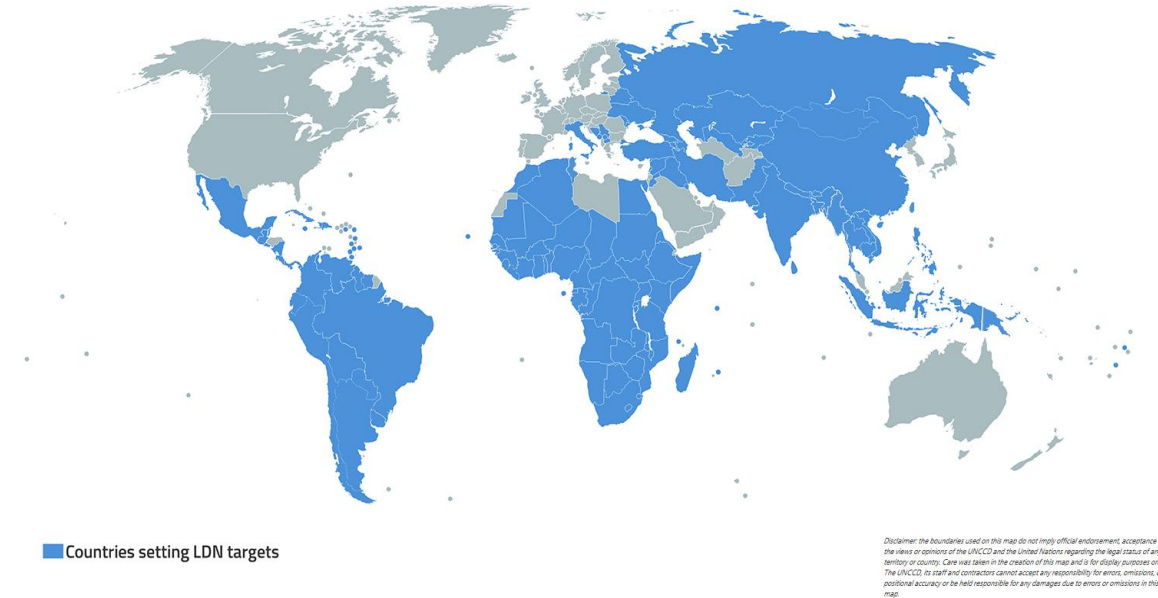
- Land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change
- Insufficient attention to rangeland restoration actions
- Absence of effective institutional mechanisms
- Misperceptions of rangelands as 'wastelands'





# Global policies in support of rangeland restoration

- **Gaps in addressing rangeland restoration** in current global commitments
- **Healthy rangelands contribute to CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, SDGs**
- Rangelands need to be well embedded in these commitments
- This will further facilitate the **coordination of policies** for rangeland management and improved action



# Bridging the gap: a Global dialogue on rangeland restoration

## The 1<sup>st</sup> multi-actor rangeland dialogue (Dec 2020):

09 speaker countries (incl. 'Champion' countries) in 5 regions

The dialogue called for:

- **Strengthened knowledge** on rangeland degradation and restoration
- **Improved and scaling up of good practices** for rangeland restoration
- **Strengthened governance** of rangelands
- **Strengthened land tenure for rangeland communities**
- **Strengthen investment** by private and public actors in rangelands



# Next steps for enhanced Global action for rangeland restoration

- **“Champion”** countries are committed to drive a process that would lead to greater attention to rangelands nationally, regionally and globally
- Key messages of the rangeland dialogue embedded in countries’ statements during the CRIC19 + IUCN statement
- **The dialogue and other rangeland related events further influence the UNCCD processes including the next COP, GLF Africa, etc**





Thank you



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# Applying policies for landscape conservation: the Cerrado,

*Karina Berg, WWF Brazil*



# The Cerrado: Applying Policies for Landscape Conservation





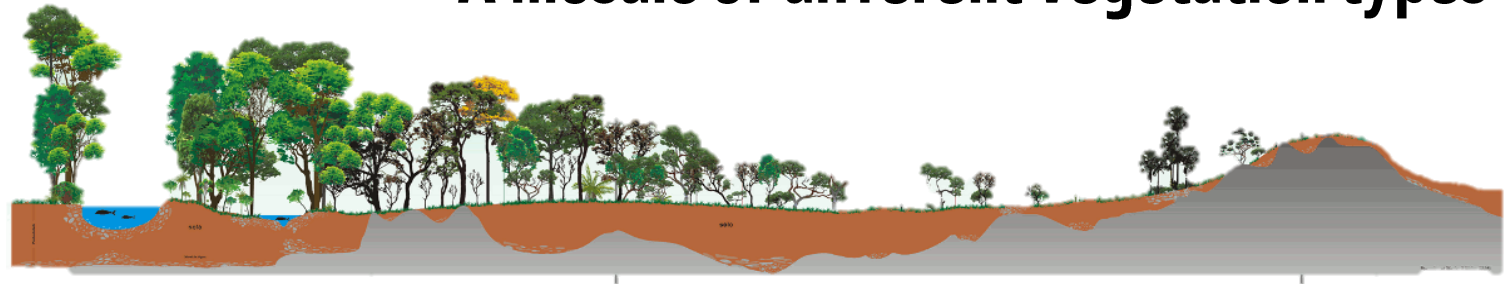
# Brazil's Cerrado



**200 million hectares:**

**Bigger than Holland, Belgium, UK, Germany,  
France, Italy and Spain combined**

**A mosaic of different vegetation types**





**5% OF GLOBAL  
BIODIVERSITY**



**SOURCE OF 40% OF  
BRAZIL'S FRESHWATER**

**The Cerrado's  
Importance**



**STORES 13.7 BILLION  
TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>**



**TRADITIONAL COMMUNITIES'  
LIVELIHOODS**



# Conversion and fragmentation key drivers

A landscape photograph showing a savanna with a large fire in the background under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with dry, brownish vegetation and a few small trees. A large, dark, charred tree trunk stands prominently on the left. In the background, a bright orange and yellow fire is visible, likely a controlled burn or a wildfire. The sky is filled with large, white and grey clouds, with some blue visible. The overall scene suggests a transition from a natural landscape to a managed or degraded one.

- Global/local commodity demand – soy and cattle
- Land speculation
- Weak land and environmental governance and ineffective implementation of laws
- Unvalued native vegetation (natural capital)



**The Cerrado goal: By 2030, a resilient, productive, and valued landscape where conversion and fragmentation of natural systems and habitat are halted, and both people and nature thrive.**





# Cerrado programme framing under Global Conservation Policies



## Global Agendas:

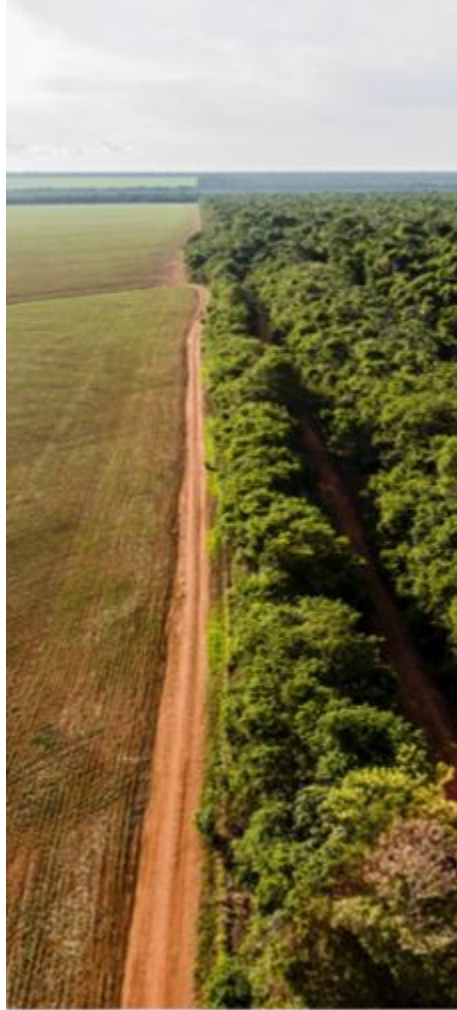
- **SDGs**
- **CBD**
- **Paris agreement**
- **UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**

## Brazil National Agendas:

- **Nationally Determined Contributions**
- **National Policy on Climate Change (PNMC)**



# The Cerrado: Areas of Action



Tackling  
conversion



Rehabilitation of  
pastures



Restoration



Protected Areas



Socio-biodiversity  
& communities<sup>50</sup>



# Strategic Pathways

## Influencing Policy



Help develop, strengthen, implement mechanisms, laws, policies that eliminate conversion and fragmentation and conserve the environment

## Shifting Finance



Advocacy, benchmarking of best practices, influence of enablers/regulators to shift and scale up investment, to low carbon and conservation activities

## Engaging Markets



Promote exclusion of conversion in soy and beef and seek markets for community-led agro-extractive businesses

## Strengthening Governance / Management



Advance good governance to protect/ restore habitat and resources, and rehabilitate degraded areas to support conversion-free commodity production

# WWF Brazil & partners: Successes

## Engaging markets:

- Deforestation reduced from 1 million to 600,000 ha/year in the last 5 years (via The Cerrado Working Group, the Cerrado Manifesto with a Statement of Support signed by 140+ global companies, the Sustainable Meat Declaration)

## Shifting finance:

- The ABC (Low Carbon Agriculture) Program
- LDC (soy trader) long-term loans for farmers to rehabilitate degraded pasture
- The Cerrado Funding for Soy Farmers (US \$15M)

## Advocacy and public policy influence:

- The #ampliaveadeiros campaign
- Lobbying to avoid downsizing of two Cerrado PAs
- Lobbying contributed to Congress rejecting structural changes to the Brazilian Forest Code



# Thanks



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