



Global Momentum for Grassland, Savannah and Rangelands

Wednesday, 29.June 2022:

Time: 14:30-16:00 CEST / 13:30-15:00 GMT / 9:30-11:00 Brasilia / 08:30-10:00 EST / 15:30-17:00 Nairobi

The next six months offer several occasions to strengthen commitments to conservation of grasslands, savannahs and rangelands at a global level. At the UNCCD COP in Abidjan in May, heads of delegation and multilateral partner gave supportive statements to a proposal to set up a Global Coalition on Grasslands, Savannahs and Rangelands (GSR) and take actions to conserve and restore these landscapes for people, climate and nature. In November the Climate Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC COP) will take place in Egypt and in December the CBD COP will happen in Montreal. There is a global momentum to strengthen protection, management and restoration of Grassland Ecosystems.

Focus of the meeting:

- Learn about outcome of UNCCD COP and the Global Coalition on Grasslands, Savannahs and Rangelands (GSR)
- Discuss opportunities to strengthen GSR at the UNFCCC and UNCBD Conference of Parties
- Exchange information on plans for engagement like joint side-events
- Up-coming reports and other issues

Agenda:

When	What	Who
14:30 -14:35	Welcome	Martina Fleckenstein, WWF
14:35-14:55	Outcomes of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and proposals for a Global Coalition on Grassland, Savannah and Rangeland	Karina Berg, WWF
14:55 -15:10	Discussion on options for a Global Coalition and next steps	Facilitated by Nigel Dudley
15:10 – 15:20	Up-date on policy work on restoration for the CBD Open Ended Working Group meeting in Nairobi	Barbara Bendandi, WWF
15:20 – 15:30	Proposals for input to the UNFCCC	Sophie Cowling, PlantLife
15:30 - 15:40	Stockholm 50+ - Supporting pastoralists- Call for 3 action Outlook on further supporting IYRP	Martina Fleckenstein, WWF Maryam Niamir-Fuller, International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists
15:45-16:00	Discussion	

Links:

UNCCD Decision on migration: Through discussions with a number of engaged countries we secured specific references to **grasslands, savannahs and peatlands**, linking their **sustainable management and restoration** to **food and freshwater security** in the COP decision. [UNCCD COP\(15\) L.10-2207467E.pdf \(unccd.int\)](#)

Publication: [Strategic approaches to restore grasslands, savannahs and rangelands](#) Post-2020 GBF: [Grasslands in Target 2,3 and 10](#)

Protocol:

General Notes and Agenda by Martina Fleckenstein – WWF Food Practice

- Short Overview of last and upcoming events:
 - UNCCD Cop 15 in Abidjan (May)
 - Stockholm +50 (June)
 - UNFCCC COP preparations in Bonn (June) for conference in November in Egypt
 - UNCBD Working groups have met to prepare for conference in December in Montreal

Reflections UNCCD COP 15 by Karina Berg – WWF Grasslands

- Recap UNCCD COP 15:
 - High Level Breakfast with 27 Member States to push the **Coalition of Grasslands, Savannas and Rangelands**
 - Idea of the coalition is to gain political momentum and restore at least 90 million hectares of degraded lands
 - Report: [The Role of Restoration for Land Degradation Neutrality](#)

Discussion:

Jurgen Hoth:

- Highlights the importance of funding for research and governance of managing grasslands

Harko Koster (SNV):

- Need for connection to agricultural day at UNFCCC COP27
- Growing interest from African countries on management of grassland and savannas
- Make use of African agricultural events to push the topic

Ana (WWF Brasil):

- Points out the role of traditional and local communities and economies and Human Rights Elements

Maryam Niamir-Fuller:

- Could the goal of 19mio ha of restoration be more ambitious?
- Atlas could be more detailed in terms of type of degradation

Patrick Worms (CIFOR-ICRAF)

- Points out the lack of knowledge of grassland management on the level of policymaking and communication
- notes Silvopastoralism as another productive agricultural system for desert environment

Pedro M. FAO

- Will launch technical report on Silvopastoralism, Food security, LDNs, restoration and resilience in October

Reflections on CBD OEWG 4 by Barbara Bendadi – WWF

- Very little agreement among parties for Target 2 and 10
- In target language emphasis is laid on absolute numbers of hectares of land to be restored
- No agreement on a definition of degraded lands, description of ecosystems (e.g. freshwater vs. Inland water) and priority areas
- Question remains on whether to restore natural areas or all areas including managed ecosystems
- Options proposed:
[Global Land Outlook](#)
[GEO BON Ecosystems](#)

Reflections on UNFCCC by Sophie Cowling – Plantlife International UK

- British-based NGO working on restoration and grassland management
- Working partnerships across multiple sectors (research, communities, governments) influencing farming and land management policies in the UK after Brexit
- Three resources to be developed for COP27 in partnership with WWF:
 1. Short Grassland Policy Briefing
 2. Supported by Global Case Studies
 3. Comprehensive Evidence review (Grassland and Carbon Storage)

Reflections on Stockholm+50 by Martina Fleckenstein – WWF Food Practice

- Event on Nature-based restoration and multipurpose use of rangelands
- Agreement on 3 Action Areas that are listed in the final report:
 1. Stop Conversion of rangelands
 2. Deployment of large-scale renewable energy schemes in rangelands
 3. Strengthen the global coalition
- Outlook on future events

Reflections by Maryam Niamir-Fuller – UNEP

- 3 years to prepare for 2026 (International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists) --> What is needed to have an impact?
- Proposes dialogue on the exact change should be pushed forward

Discussion:

Barbara Bendadi:

- CBDs focus is more on the role of pastoralism
- UNCCD will focus on grassland ecosystems, importance of food --> momentum is there

Ann Waters-Bayer Agrecol CELEP Germany:

- IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) on 3-9 July in Bonn --> <https://ipbes.net/events/ipbes-9-plenary>