11th October 2022

October Grasslands Dialogue Platform – chat discussion

00:31:36 Karina Berg: http://www.ganaderiaextensiva.org/ - Pedro Herrera's organisation.

00:31:40 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: I'd be keen to see restoration of degraded GSR mentioned.

00:32:05 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: Ah, I see in the mission..

00:34:19 Barbara.Bendandi: Restoration is key part of the GSR coalition. At the launch in UNCCD COP, it was mentioned that countries have already made committments to restore 90 Million ha of grasslands, Savannahs and rangelands. We used the word Conservation here, but you are right we should spell it clearly

00:36:11 mekdaschi: under principles first bullit, why is social importance not listed

00:37:12 Gregorio Velascogil: I would like to see mentioning pastoralists within the documents as a main livelihood on the rangelands

00:39:05 Harko Koster - SNV: I second the mentioning of pastoralist in the document.

00:40:07 Pedro Herrera (Spanish Platform on Pastoralism): 👍

00:40:08 Leigh Winowiecki (CIFOR-ICRAF): Looking at the principles, I like the enabling "evidence-based" dialogues- and it could extend beyond policy dialogues and could be community dialogues, investment dialogues, intervention dialogues…….

00:40:17 Harko Koster - SNV: protect, manage and restore, seem better than conservation as a term.

00:41:10 Lucy W/ African Conservation Centre: Quite agree on the need to bring to the fore the rangelands whose restoration has direct value for pastoral livelihoods

00:41:31 mekdaschi: why not stick to the Response hierarchy language of Avoid > Reduce > Reverse

00:43:27 Jenny Hawley, Plantlife International: This looks great, thank you, I agree with the point about highlighting restoration. Can I suggest adding a specific mention of biodiversity on this summary page, as 'nature' can mean very different things to different people. Under Objective 1, this could read "biodiversity & the environment" at the end. Thanks.

00:46:56 Lucy W/ African Conservation Centre: Thanks Maryam, the aspect of mobilizing knowledge on degradation of rangelands is key to inform action. We here at ACC have had studies to calculate and document a degradation index for southern kenya and northern Tanzania and happy to share and learn tools, methodologies for these kind of assessments.

00:47:40 MK: Thank you for this. Avoiding conversion should be a major priority. Once grasslands become soy or other crop fields it's largely gone. Restoration in this case is difficult and very expensive. Restoration from a degraded state is a different story. What we're talking about when we use the term "restoration " can be confusing. also noted absence of the word biodiversity in it.

00:48:05 Seth Itzkan: Yes. Concur. "climate, pastoralism," and "restoration" are key words and ideas to have forward in regards to grasslands and savannahs.

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00:49:00 Seth Itzkan: Yes, the word and notion of "soil" is also key.

00:52:13 Chris Dickinson - GCF: It should link to national strategies too...NDC, NAP's etc

00:54:56 Chris Dickinson - GCF: My favourite Thai dish is 'spicy morning glory'

00:59:22 GEFSEC JM Sinnassamy: Hi everyone, about @Chris Dickinson's comment about the connection to NDCs, NAPs... We have a global project on this subject under preparation with IUCN and ILRI.

01:02:27 mekdaschi: Do you still want us to comment the document? or wait for a new version?

01:02:58 GEFSEC JM Sinnassamy: I would suggest coordination with a GEF7 project under preparation entitled "Sustainable investments for large-scale rangeland restoration (STELARR)" (GEF: $2,000,000; Cofinancing: $6,043,068).
This global project is designed with IUCN as GEF agency and the International Livestock Research Institute, ILRI, a CGIAR center as other executing partner.
Basically, the project aims to raise the profile of these ecosystems in the international agenda of nature-based solutions, including the restoration agenda.
The project will help to promote the UNCCD agenda by increasing the consideration of rangelands in the NAPs under the UNCCD and the voluntary LDN targets. It will also promote restoration of rangelands within the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and strengthen nature-based solutions in the context of 2030 agenda and before the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists planned in 2026.

01:03:32 Chris Magero - IUCN: @JMSinnassamy indeed, the STELARR project under preparation for GEF funding will be focussing on Sustainable investments for large-scale rangeland restoration

01:04:00 GEFSEC JM Sinnassamy: And specifically for Tony, here is the narrative"

01:04:03 GEFSEC JM Sinnassamy: Narrative
Rangelands occupy approximately 54% of all land on earth, they are home to 30% of all species, contain one third of all soil carbon, and are grazing areas for 35% of the world's sheep, 23% of the goats, and 16% of the cattle and water buffalo. Rangelands support the livelihoods of very poor and often marginalized communities essentially in LDCs and drylands areas. Properly managed rangelands can provide global environment benefits, ecosystem services (food, fiber, water, carbon – potentially additional 1,300-2,000 MtCO2e by 2030), food security, and poverty alleviation to at least half a billion livestock keepers, and make a strong contribution to national economies.

01:04:09 Tony Simons CIFOR-ICRAF: but no mention of C3/C4, whilst C4 is only 3% of species C4 species fix 25% of carbon sequestered by vegetation. water use efficiency options of grasses are also amazing ….

01:06:24 Karina Berg: thank you for all your thoughtful, valuable insights. We will take on the perspectives and feed into the draft for country delegates. If you have any further comments before the end of tomorrow. Please forward to myself and Michael Koch michael.fw.koch@gmx.de and karinaberg@wwf.org.br

01:14:17 mekdaschi: Maybe inappropriate agricultural expansion (rather than intensification). Because sustainable intensification is a potential 'solution' for agr land

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01:15:09 Maryam Niamir-Fuller: Two points about IYRP 2026: A) I would also like to encourage this Coalition to think a bit further ahead than this year, to 2026. The IYRP 2026 will benefit from a "big message" from this coalition - whether that would be the launch of a major initiative, or a brilliantly argued scientific finding that will change the tide of perceptions, or a definitive global map, etc. b) In addition, we would like to set up a Working Group that would focus on finding the evidence and describing "restoring with grazing" - including the many different regional and cultural variations of it, where it works where it does not, its impacts on controlling fire, its effects on BD and climate change, on livelihoods, on livestock mobility, etc.. The aim is to gradually strip away the negative perceptions that exist (rightly or wrongly) about grazing. Would this Coalition like to take such a Working Group on board?

01:15:28 Seth Itzkan: Tg means Teregram

01:15:39 Seth Itzkan: Teragram

01:17:59 Gregorio Velascogil: I am sorry but i have to leave the meeting. MAny thanks to all

01:19:08 mekdaschi: we might an example or case study from Central Asia. Unfortunately, Eleanor Milne could attend this meeting will contact you

01:19:32 Silvia Scozzafava: @Maryam I am interested in such a WG on "restoring by grazing", there is a need of sound guidelines in this field I believe

01:19:58 Harko Koster - SNV: I have to leave as well. I would have love to chat about the events we are preparing for the COP27 Food System Pavilion on pastoralism. Please contact met hkoster@snv.org if you are interesting to collaborate at COP27 events.

01:20:02 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: Nigel I would be keen to see the whole presentation and sign on

01:21:48 Leigh Winowiecki (CIFOR-ICRAF): Thanks everyone! I agree- let's shout all about this initiative at UNFCCC COP27- I hope we can find a least one slot in the Food Systems Pavilion: the Coalition of Action 4 Soil Health (CA4SH) is hosting the Boosting Soil Health Day on 11 Nov: https://foodsystemspavilion.com/ - will follow up: https://www.coalitionforsoilhealth.org/ca4sh-events/60udxzrt2wzfuvwv3poa92b2tte73u

01:22:17 Leigh Winowiecki (CIFOR-ICRAF): Unfortunately, I have to jump on another call- thanks for the discussion.

01:22:43 Nigel Dudley - Equilibrium Research - Wales UK: I will be circulating the final drafts to everyone on this call within a couple of days. All welcome to sign - we'll include logos etc

01:23:20 Chris Dickinson - GCF: Some GCF funded grassland projects, Kenya, Botswana and Mongolia, https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp141

https://www.greenclimate.fund/ae/ci

https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp113

01:24:33 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: As far as CoP is concerned I will participate in an official UNFCCC side event, a panel discussion:

Event: Towards Resilient, Sustainable, Transformed African Agriculture and Food Systems

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Date: November 14th

Time: 11:30—13:00

01:25:40 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: Also in the IICA pavilion: Towards Sustainable Grassland and Livestock Management

01:25:57 tsetsgee yundendorj: A team of 2 from Mongolia supports points raised by Maryam

01:26:06 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: And in Africa Pavilion: Improving African Cattle management to achieve the objectives of the Paris agreement and food security

01:27:34 Fiona Flintan: ILRI involved in several side events - happy to collaborate

01:29:18 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: When I have our final programme for CoP I can share with you Karina to send around the group.

01:30:34 tsetsgee yundendorj: From Ms Maamankhuu: In Mongolia no rainfalls during the summer time, making desertification worse, Apparently, something wrong happening with our clouds.:(

01:31:37 Jo Riggall - Plantlife: More info about global Important Plant Areas: https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/nature-reserves-important-plant-areas/important-plant-areas

01:33:44 Chris Magero - IUCN: Thanks @Nigel, certainly agree that it would be a great engagement. We are already having these discussions internally within IUCN but I believe that the communication must be more robust - if the narrative (and it's impact) is to be usefully countered. Good point though.

01:34:45 Nigel Dudley - Equilibrium Research - Wales UK: Chris maybe we should talk with Stewart about this. Let's follow up...

01:35:29 Seth Itzkan: Loving this discussion!

01:36:04 Lucia Gerbaldo (FAO): The WeCaN Nurturing Community of Knowledge Practice for Women in dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems- https://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/wecan-community-practice/en/

01:36:42 Lucia Gerbaldo (FAO): Is organizing several side events during COP27, especially during the gender day and the water day- happy to collaborate

01:37:31 Alissa Wachter, WWF: If you are new to this group, please be sure you get added to our email list so that we can follow up with you! Please send an email to Karina at karinaberg@wwf.org.br to be added.

01:41:20 Tony Simons CIFOR-ICRAF: How many countries have grasslands in their NDCs??

01:43:12 Ruaraidh Petre - GRSB: Should we be looking to increase the number of member countries involved?

01:43:54 Barbara.Bendandi: some countries have grassland in their NDCs, most of them in the LDN

01:44:10 mekdaschi: Exaclty Tony this should be found out

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01:44:13 Tony Simons CIFOR-ICRAF: is there a globally accepted grassland ontology? as if everyone develops their own habitat types (categories) it is hard to link it all up. UK has 12 in their list. Is there as much attention going into CBD COP15?

01:44:55 Maryam Niamir-Fuller: Good point Tony. We've developed an oncology for rangelands which is also quite long!

01:44:58 Nigel Dudley - Equilibrium Research - Wales UK: It is still complicated Tony, this is one of the reasons why there is such a variation in estimates of carbon storage

01:46:01 Jo Riggall - Plantlife: Thanks very much Karina, all

01:46:11 Claire Rumsey- Plantlife: Thank you!

01:46:13 Seth Itzkan: Thank you.