#GLFBiodiversity

Rangeland health restoration initiative for "One World – One Health"
Raise awareness about and investment for rangeland health restoration

White paper

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GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference

Photo by Hanspeter Liniger/WOCAT

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Session Background

- Rangelands occupy half of the world’s land surface and provide major health benefits to people, animals and for ecosystem services e.g. C-sequestration, biodiversity, security and conflict mitigation.
- Rangelands provide a living for around 20 percent of the global population.
- Although one-third of rangelands are affected by land degradation and/or rapid conversion into other uses, they receive the lowest levels of restoration investments. Rangelands need more support.

Key questions (issues)

1. How to recognize the vast spread and spectrum of different rangeland use systems and address their specific potentials for nature-based solutions and needs for investments and restoration?
2. How to monitor and prove the overall benefits of “One Health” to rangelands and their land users, and document and share their wealth of experience?
3. How to create incentives for local communities and youth to engage in the future of sustainable rangeland management?
4. How to raise awareness and mobilize joint commitments for enhanced biodiversity and “One Health” in rangelands across the globe?

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Aim of the session

The session goal is to develop a joint initiative to boost restoration of rangeland health and spread promising sustainable rangeland management (SRM) practices through awareness raising and commitments for joint actions, through:

1. Spreading and using knowledge concerning nature-based practices in different rangeland use systems;
2. Monitoring impacts of rangeland management practices on rangeland health and valuing its multiple services for productivity, biodiversity and resilience to shocks and benefits to people and environment; both within rangelands and at a distance (e.g., reducing floods, droughts, sand/dust storms, conflicts, human migration, while enhancing markets and tourism);
3. Creating incentives for local communities and youth to engage in sustainable rangeland management;
4. Consolidating and strengthening a rangeland consortium.

The session addresses a wide spectrum of participants interested in strengthening rangeland management and restoration, including: rangeland users, implementing agencies, donors, researchers, planners and decision-makers.
Central GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference themes addressed by session

Ecosystem restoration, biocultural diversity, nature-based solutions, community rights and local practices

Speakers will be making their ‘pitches’ and presenting their resolutions. Some of the organizations involved include (see the agenda for updates and further details):

- ILRI
- WOCAT
- IUCN
- WWF
- World Bank
- Camp Alatoo Kyrgyzstan
- University of Alexandria Egypt
- Solaro, Kenya
- Wajari & ABC Colombia
- Forest department
- Wildlife protection division, Leh, India

Key messages

Rangelands in drylands and mountains account for the largest restoration opportunities for ecosystems, human and environmental health, and economic growth. Restoring these and their biodiversity should become a priority to secure "One World - One Health".

Rangelands are largely occupied and used by communities, which have a rich knowledge of how to manage the health and ecosystems of rangelands. However, their management capacity requires greater support from policies and investments to secure tenure, enable governance systems, and connect them to markets.

In order to restore degraded rangelands and spread sustainable management practices widely, nature-based and community-based solutions need to be promoted.

The multiple services provided by healthy rangelands should be proven by monitoring impacts and using these for evidence-based decision making.

Local communities and youth need recognition and incentives to engage in sustainable
rangeland management and a vision for a brighter future, to prevent outmigration.

The session promotes a rangeland health restoration initiative with a clear-sighted vision and coherent approach to rangeland management (grassland, savannahs and silvo-pastoral systems) to improve productivity, build resilience, protect nature and support sustainable development. This can be achieved if the multiple stakeholders involved in rangeland management join forces for a rangeland consortium and develop a common way forward.

**Resolutions**

The session will end with resolutions concerning the four key issues, to be endorsed and carried forward to the next appropriate event in order to promote restoration of rangelands.
Participating organizations

GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020 would not be possible without the support and participation of the following hosts, partners and organizations. For a full list of everyone involved, please visit: events.globallandscapesforum.org/biodiversity-2020/partners

Global Landscapes Forum

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is the world’s largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment Programme and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment Programme, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.