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Convention to Combat
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GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS



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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**
2026

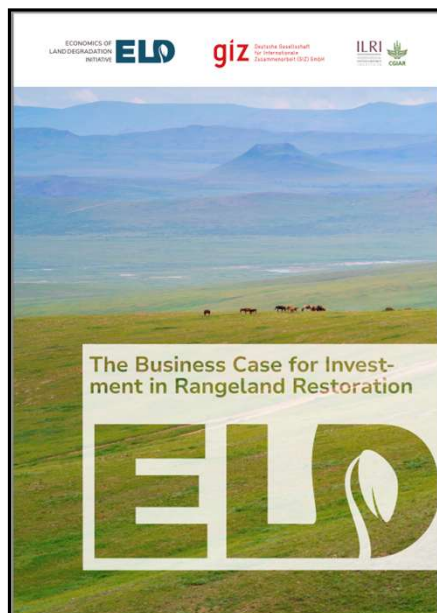
Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Rangelands and Pastoralism – ASIA AND ARAB REGION

12 February 2026

AGENDA – REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISM: AFRICA

1. **Opening Segment:** Why Rangelands Matter
2. **COP16 Decision and Implications**
3. **Regional Context** of Rangelands & Pastoralism and IYRP with stories from India and Jordan
4. **Government perspectives: case studies and solutions from Uzbekistan**
5. **Future policy perspectives from the UNCCD COP17 Presidency**
6. **Silk Road Journey from Riyadh to Ulaanbaatar**
7. **Closing & Resources:** Key takeaways, COP17 priorities, next steps





Jonathan Davies,
Abdrahmane Wane,
Mandakh Nyamtseren,
Lennart Heintz



[Economics of
Rangelands - ELD
Initiative](#)

Why Rangelands Matter

Dr Jonathan Davies



Values of Rangeland Ecosystem Services

Example from a global review of ecosystem services across different biomes

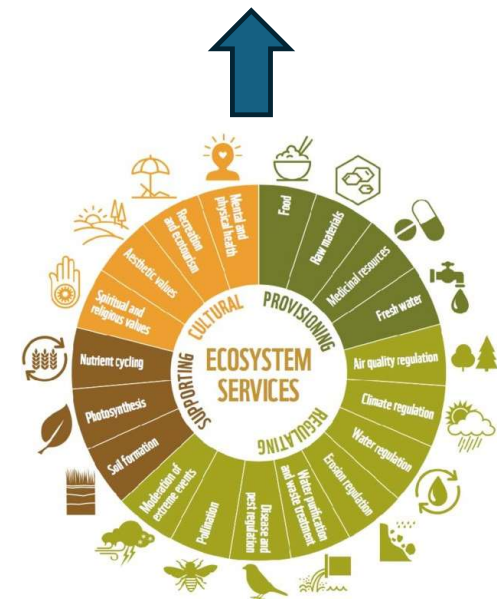
Brander, L. M., R. de Groot, J. P. Schägner, et al. 2024.

“Economic Values for Ecosystem Services: A Global Synthesis and Way Forward.”

Ecosystem services	Value (ha ⁻¹ yr ⁻¹)	Relative value
Subtotal cultural services (aesthetics , culture, recreation...)	US\$ 3,008	51%
Subtotal provisioning services (food , water, raw materials)	US\$ 843	14%
Subtotal regulating services (climate , water flows, air quality)	US\$ 537	9%
Subtotal supporting services (soil fertility , genetic diversity...)	US\$ 1,546	26%
Sum	US\$ 5,934	100%

Valuing Rangeland: Proliferation through Pastoralism

Externally valued ecosystem services



Fodder
Water

Pastoralist
culture

Food
Fuel
Medicine

Pastoralism
(rangeland-
based
livestock
production)

➤ Cattle

➤ Sheep

➤ Goat

➤ Camel

➤ Horse

➤ Milk, meat, leather

➤ Milk, meat, fibre, leather

➤ Milk, meat, fibre, leather

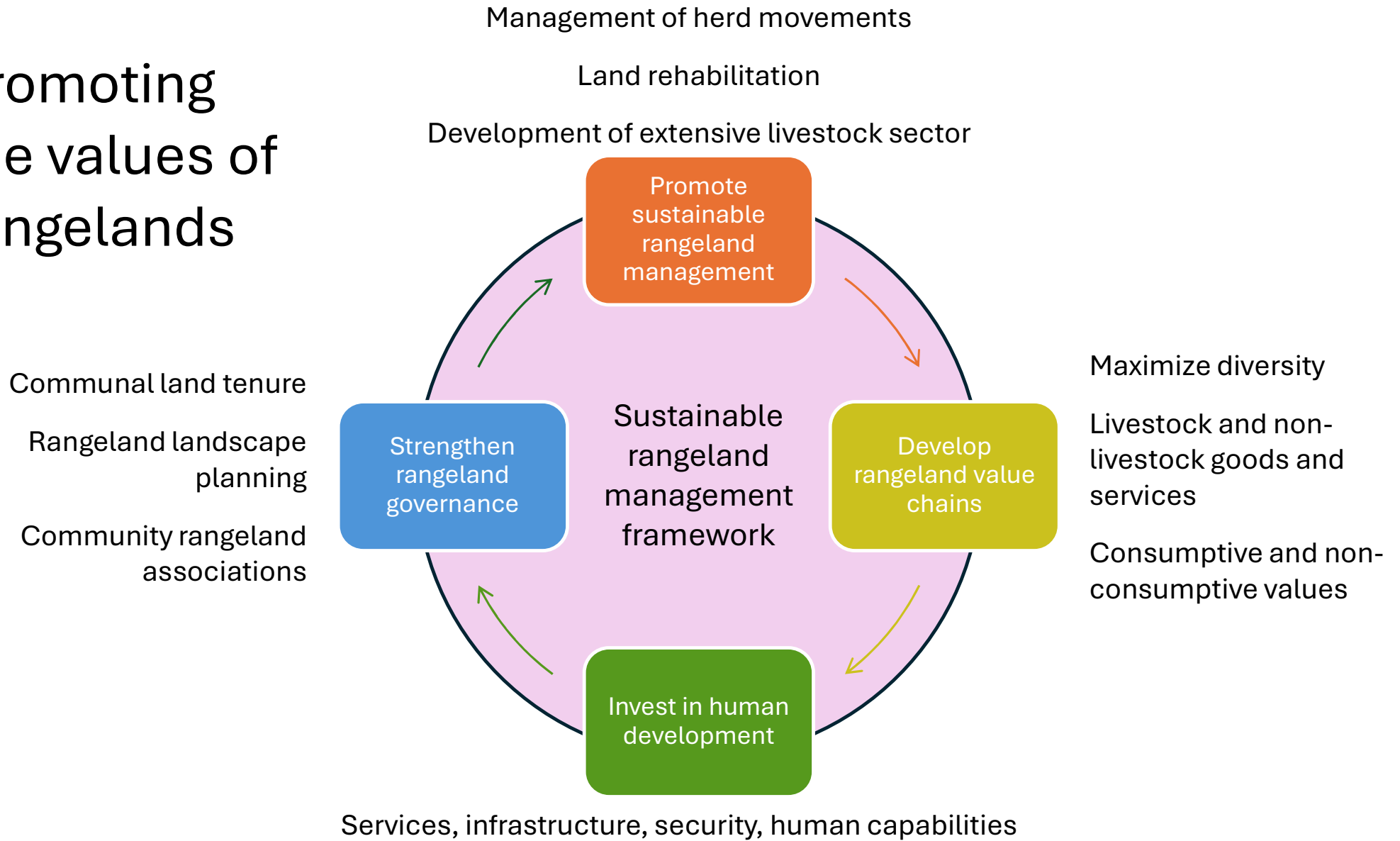
➤ Milk, meat, leather, transport

➤ Milk, meat, leather, transport

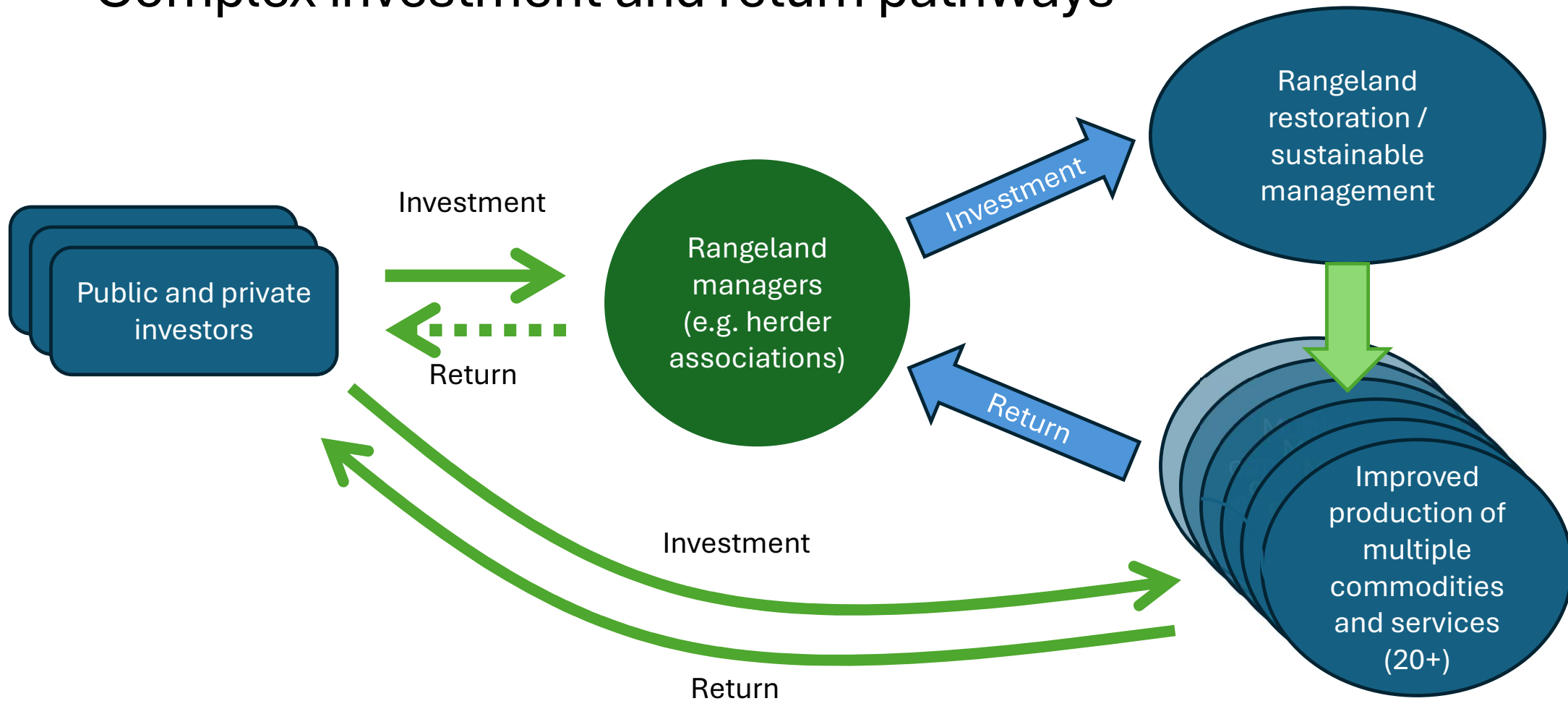
Role of sustainable pastoralism in creating
and maintaining grassland biodiversity

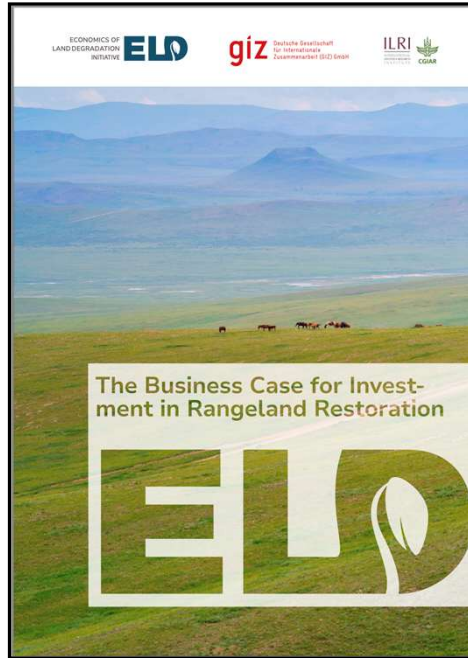
Different economic roles: income, assets, risk
management, employment

Promoting the values of rangelands



Complex investment and return pathways





Jonathan Davies, Abdrahmane Wane, Mandakh Nyamtseren, Lennart Heintz



[Economics of Rangelands](#)
[- ELD Initiative](#)

Thank you





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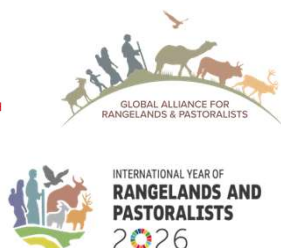


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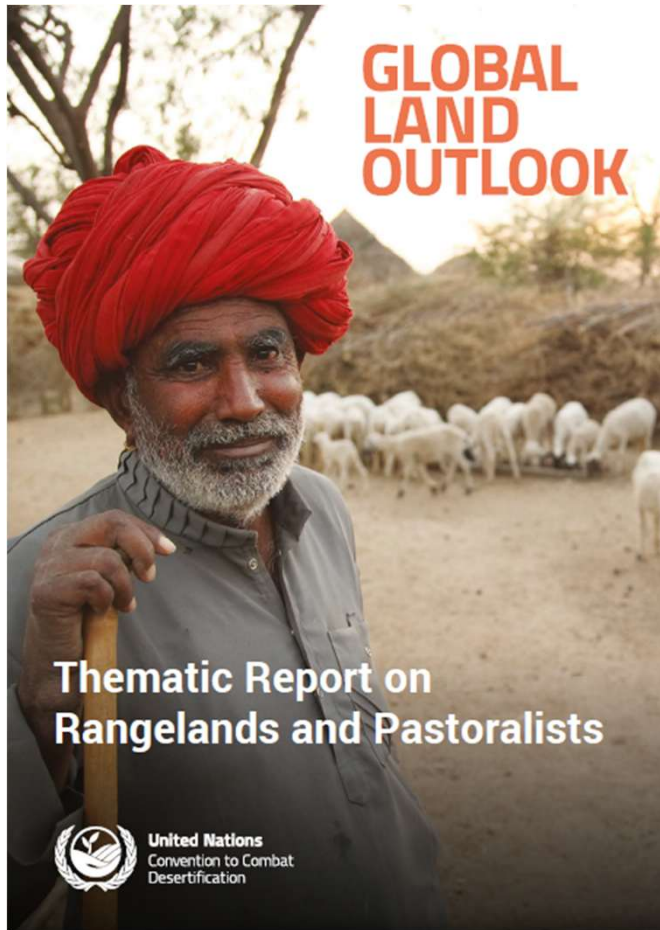
UNCCD COP16 Decision and Implications

Sasha Alexander, Policy Officer, Global Policy
Advocacy & Regional Cooperation, UNCCD

Louise Baker, Managing Director, Global Mechanism,
UNCCD



UNCCD Global Land Outlook: Rangelands and Pastoralists



- People-centered and rights-based framework for understanding and investing in rangeland health and sustainable pastoralism
- Integration of livelihoods, extensive livestock production, regional economies, and national development priorities
- Policy-relevant narrative and legal frameworks for inclusive governance/management approaches
- More than 60 case studies from around the world: learning from the past and planning for the future

UNCCD COP Decision on Rangelands and Pastoralists

Decision 29/COP.16 (2024) represents a commitment by 196 countries and the EU to protect rangelands and the communities that depend on them.

Countries pledged to increase their efforts to conserve, sustainably manage, and restore their rangelands and report progress at COP17, which will be hosted by Mongolia from 17-28 August 2026.

This COP decision represents a fundamental shift, placing rangelands alongside croplands, forests, and wetlands in global sustainability efforts ...

... and fully recognizing the role of pastoralist systems in enhancing climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and food security.

National Priorities Identified by the UNCCD COP

Recognizing the essential role of healthy rangelands in addressing key challenges related to livelihoods, cultural survival, food security, desertification, land degradation and drought, biodiversity loss, and climate change, Parties are invited to:

- prioritize policies and investments for the sustainable management of rangelands,
- foster an enabling environment for responsible and inclusive governance,
- improve tenure security in rangelands in line with the VGGT.



UNCCD Work Programme

The secretariat and the Global Mechanism are requested to work with partners to support Parties with:

- awareness-raising, capacity-building and resource mobilization;
- inclusive, community-based and participatory approaches that meaningfully engage pastoralist and other rangeland communities, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- the development of initiatives for sustainable rangeland management, restoration and conservation through, inter alia, multi-stakeholder dialogues and national consultations (e.g., Flagship Initiative).



Next Steps – COP17

UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia will bring together many diverse rangeland constituencies to celebrate the IYRP and the completion of the Silk Road Journey -- with significant NGO/CSO and high-level representation.

While the agenda is still being finalized, rangelands and pastoralists are expected to feature prominently in numerous COP17 spaces, including special events and interactive dialogues.

Once the schedule becomes available, partners will be invited to help shape the discussions on the next steps for the convention, including modalities for partnerships to leverage technical and financial resources.



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Rangelands Flagship Initiative

Increasing rangeland investments to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality
By conserving, sustainably managing and restoring rangeland landscapes

Development of the Rangeland Flagship Initiative



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• Consultations

- 50 interviews with partners
- Consultative meetings in 2023 and 2024

• Main findings

- Knowledge gaps
- Policy failures
- Low investment
- Missed opportunities

• Resources

- GLO Thematic Report on Rangelands
- Rangeland Flagship Initiative Concept Note
- Draft Rangeland Standard (SFA)
- Draft Screening Tool for Rangeland LDN Projects
- Draft Coalition Concept Note developed by Mongolia

Rangelands Flagship Initiative



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Goal: increase rangeland investments to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality

➤ Conserve, sustainably manage and restore rangeland landscapes

Three components

1. Develop supporting knowledge products
2. Increase public & private investment in rangelands
3. Strengthen institutions to promote rangeland policy and investment

The Initiative will be launched at UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia during the International Year on Rangelands and Pastoralists (2026)

Impacts:

- Sustainable development in rangelands, including:
 - Poverty reduction, livelihood resilience, food security, one health, peace and stability
- Synergy between combatting desertification, conserving biodiversity, and mitigating & adapting to climate change

Rangelands Flagship Initiative



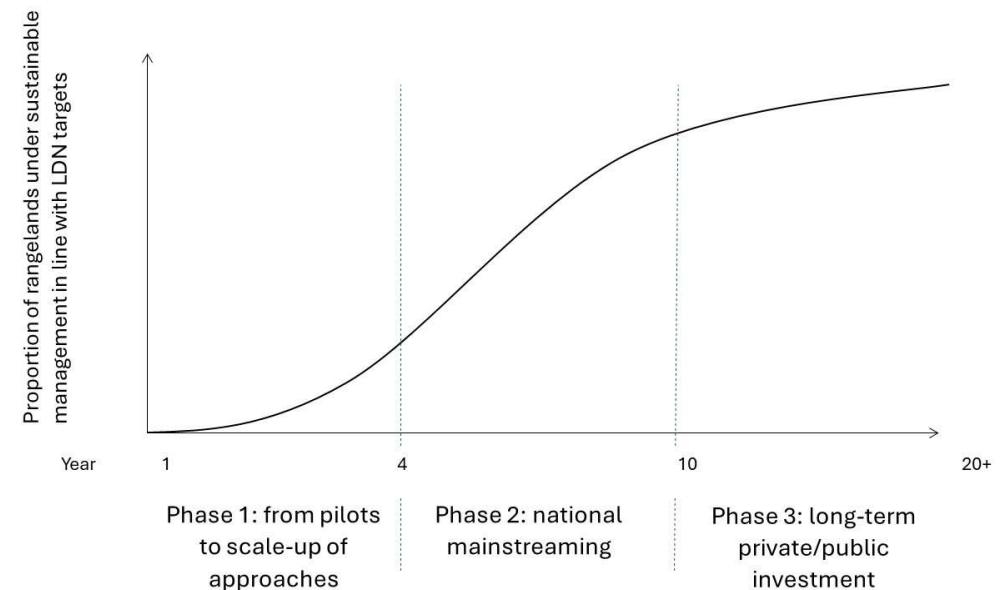
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Rangeland restoration investment needs

Trillion US\$



Long term programmatic investments: from scaling up pilots to national mainstreaming



Component 2: Project pipeline for sustainable rangeland management



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Public-private investment projects in rangeland restoration (US\$ 1billion) contributing to several impacts:

- Sustainable land management & landscape restoration
- Drought resilience
- Mitigating sand and dust storms
- Conserving biodiversity
- Carbon sequestration
- Climate change adaptation
- Food security
- Pastoralist livelihood resilience
- Securing cultural heritage
- Sustainable livestock production
- One Health
- Conflict and Migration



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United for land

Rangeland Flagship Initiative

Thank you



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جمعية سيدات قرى حوض الديسة التعاونية ودورها في تحويل التحديات الى فرص للمرأة البدوية في
البادية الجنوبية
تجربة قطنة الحويطات
~~البادية الجنوبية - حوض الديسة~~



جمعية سيدات قرى حوض الديسة

تأسست جمعية سيدات قرى حوض الديسة استجابةً لحاجة المرأة البدوية إلى إطار تنظيمي يدعم تمكينها الاقتصادي والاجتماعي، ويحافظ في الوقت ذاته على الموارد الطبيعية والتراث المحلي. وقد لعبت هذه الجمعية دورًا محوريًا في تطوير الصناعات المنزلية والحرفية، وتعزيز الأمن الغذائي، والمشاركة في المبادرات البيئية مثل إنشاء المشاتل النباتية وإعادة تأهيل المراعي.





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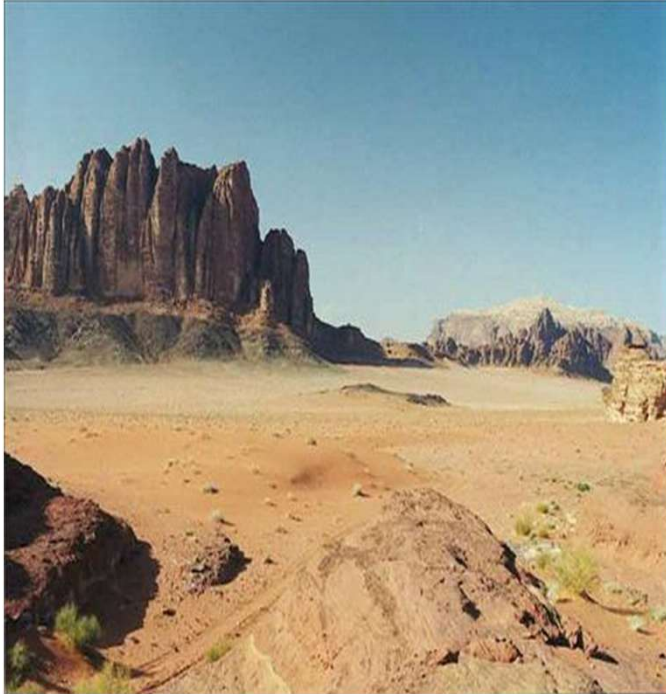
نبذة عن الجمعية :

اسم الجمعية: جمعية سيدات قرى حوض الديسة التعاونية متعددة الأغراض المحدودة
سنة التأسيس: 27 كانون الثاني 2010
الوضع القانوني: جمعية تعاونية نسائية قائمة على المجتمع المحلي
العنوان: الشارع الرئيسي، بالقرب من مركز صحي الديسة، منطقة وادي رم الديسة، محافظة العقبة، الأردن
الموقع الإلكتروني: www.bedouyat.com





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أولاً: توصيف المنطقة والسياق البيئي

- تقع منطقة رم الديسة جنوب الاردن في محافظة العقبة ضمن البادية الجنوبية.
- تعتمد على تربية الأغنام والإبل والرعي كمصدر أساسي للعيش.
- تضم مراعي طبيعية موسمية مهمة للثروة الحيوانية.
- منطقة سياحية قريبة من محمية وادي رم يعتمد سكانها على السياحة كمصدر أساسي .
- بيئة صحراوية ذات كثبان رملية متحركة.
- مناخ قاسٍ يتمثل بقلّة الأمطار وارتفاع درجات الحرارة.



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ثانيًا: التحديات التي تواجه الرعي والمراعي

- تراجع المساحات الرعوية بسبب الجفاف والتغير المناخي.
- التحطيب الجائر للنباتات الرعوية (الغضا، الطلح، الرتم).
- ارتفاع أسعار المحروقات وزيادة الاعتماد على الحطب.
- تأثير المخيمات السياحية ومسارات المركبات على التربة والنباتات.



ثالثاً: فرص مؤقتة للرعي

- توفر الزراعات الموسمية بعد الحصاد مساحات رعوية مؤقتة.
- تسهم في تخفيف الضغط عن المراعي الطبيعية.
- لكنها فرص غير مستدامة على المدى الطويل
- دعم مؤقت للأعلاف من الحكومة الأردنية لمربي المواشي.



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رابعًا: المرأة البدوية وتوليد الدخل

- تحويل الثروة الحيوانية من نشاط معيشي إلى مصدر دخل مستدام.
- إنتاج الحليب ومشتقاته بطرق تقليدية مطوّرة.
- الاستفادة من اللحوم في الأمن الغذائي والدخل.
- استغلال صوف الأغنام وشعر الماعز كمورد اقتصادي.



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دور المرأة في الصناعات الحرفية

- إعادة تدوير الصوف وشعر الماعز بدل حرقه.
- إنتاج سجاد، بُسط، إكسسوارات، وقطع تراثية.
- تسويق المنتجات للسياح والزوار.
- تعزيز الاستقلال الاقتصادي للمرأة والحفاظ على التراث البدوي.]



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أثر دور المرأة اقتصاديًا واجتماعيًا

- تخفيف الفقر والبطالة بين النساء.
- دعم استقرار الأسر في بيئة هشة.
- تقليل الاعتماد الكامل على الرعي الجائر كمصدر وحيد للدخل.





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خامسًا: المبادرات البيئية الداعمة

- إنشاء مشتل بيئي من قبل جمعية سيدات الديسة.
- إكثار النباتات الرعوية وإعادة تأهيل الغطاء النباتي.
- دعم استدامة الثروة الحيوانية كمصدر دخل للنساء.
- تخصيص الحكومة لمحميات رعوية رغم محدوديتها.





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سادسًا: أهمية إيصال صوت المرأة الرعوية

- تمكين المرأة من المشاركة في المحافل الإقليمية والدولية.
- تعزيز دورها كفاعل اقتصادي وبيئي.
- دعم نماذج تنمية محلية قائمة على الموارد الطبيعية.



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الخلاصة

تمثل المرأة البدوية عنصراً محورياً
في حماية المراعي،
وتحقيق التنمية المستدامة،
وتحسين سبل العيش في البادية
الجنوبية.



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2026

County case studies and solutions: Uzbekistan

Anait Khurshudyan, UNCCD National Focal Point and
Chief Specialist, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental
Protection, and Climate Change of Uzbekistan



The Challenge: Why Rangelands Matter in Uzbekistan



Key stakeholders affected by rangeland degradation

**25,6
mln. Ha**

Rangelands are the **largest land use type** in Uzbekistan, mainly in arid and semi-arid zones

20%

of rangelands are degraded

30%

lost vegetation cover

40,5%

affected by salinity



Our Policy Response: Uzbekistan National Rangeland Strategy & Integration into LDN

- Policy adopted:

Law on Pastures (2019) established the legal foundation for protection, use, and monitoring of rangelands

Presidential Decree (2023) strengthened measures for sustainable pasture use and institutional coordination

Cabinet of Ministers Resolution (2024) launched a comprehensive approach to sustainable rangeland management, protection of groundwater resources, combating rangeland degradation

- Key commitments: Presidential Decree PQ-71 (2024) and Cabinet Resolution No.97 (2024):

**1 mln UZS
per ha**
State subsidies
applied

56,000 ha
cotton fields
supported

18,700 tons
of organic
fertilizers

- Link to LDN: Rangelands fully integrated into Uzbekistan's national commitments on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) under the UNCCD framework.

Implementation in Action

Pathways to Scale: Policy → Finance → Results

RANGELAND RECOVERY (2024–2025)

680,000 ha

degraded pastures
improved

SALINITY & MELIORATION MEASURES

24,400 ha

salinity-
affected
land
improved

189 km

open
collectors
constructed

90 km

closed
collectors
constructed

2,603 km

collector
systems
rehabilitated

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

363.9
mln

trees planted
(2024–2025)
under “Yashil
Makon”

84.5
mln

shelterbelt
trees on
agricultural
lands

22.1
mln

trees on forest
fund lands for
erosion control

What We Need Next: Uzbekistan's Priorities for Regional Cooperation & Support

- Strengthening the Scientific and Technical Foundation
- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Development
- Improving Economic and Management Instruments
- Scaling Sustainable Land Management Approaches
- Enhancing Regional and International Cooperation

UNCCD COP17

**VISION AND PATHWAYS FOR
SUSTAINABLE RANGELANDS;**

“WHAT WE CAN TABLE BY COP17”



RESTORING LAND RESTORING HOPE





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COP17
ULAANBAATAR 2026

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HOPE

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING LIFE

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING CLIMATE

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HEALTH

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING ECONOMIES

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING WATER SUPPLY

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING CULTURE





Synergetic Visibility in 2026

- 2026 as a convergence year: Three Rio COPs, IYRP
- Elevate national rangelands targets onto the global stage
- Frame rangelands as climate–biodiversity–land nexus solutions



Scaling Up Existing Policies

- Build on existing targets, strategies,
- Share best practices and replicable models across regions
- Strengthen investment pipelines linked to national rangelands targets



UNCCD COP17 Outcomes

- Advance a strong COP17 decision reinforcing rangelands restoration priorities
- Strengthen alignment between policy ambition and resource mobilization
- Catalyze the launched initiatives, investment projects and strengthened governance frameworks

Synergies for Rangelands Action

- 12 monthly thematic events will cover a broad range of issues related to rangelands at the international level.
- New initiatives and solutions will be developed, and policy needs identified
- Advocacy for the potential of nomadic pastoralism and the importance of traditional knowledge.

- Establish a sustainable foundation for policies and initiatives related to Rangelands for many years to come.
- Share the initiatives as outcomes to COP-17 with subsequent MEA COPs.
- Build on the success of COP17 to advance actionable outcomes for the sustainable management of Rangelands



- Incorporate and endorse the initiatives emerging from the IYRP in international policy documents and convention decisions.
- Expand investments and partnerships for rangeland and dryland restoration.
- Promote nature-based solutions and improve the livelihoods of people in dryland areas.
- Deliver new initiatives based on the results of IYRP to the subsequent COPs , including UNFCCC COP and CBD COP

STEPPE ACTION AGENDA

Coherent delivery platform that:
Aligns UNCCD, UNFCCC, and CBD
objectives in drylands;

Moves from fragmented projects to
landscape-scale transformation;

Converts policy alignment into
finance-ready investment pipelines.



Rangelands Flagship Initiative

**Initiative to Promote Integrated
Water and Land Management to
Increase Resilience in Dryland
Regions**

Nature-Based Solutions for Infrastructure



COMPONENTS



Component 1

Develop supporting
knowledge products



Component 2

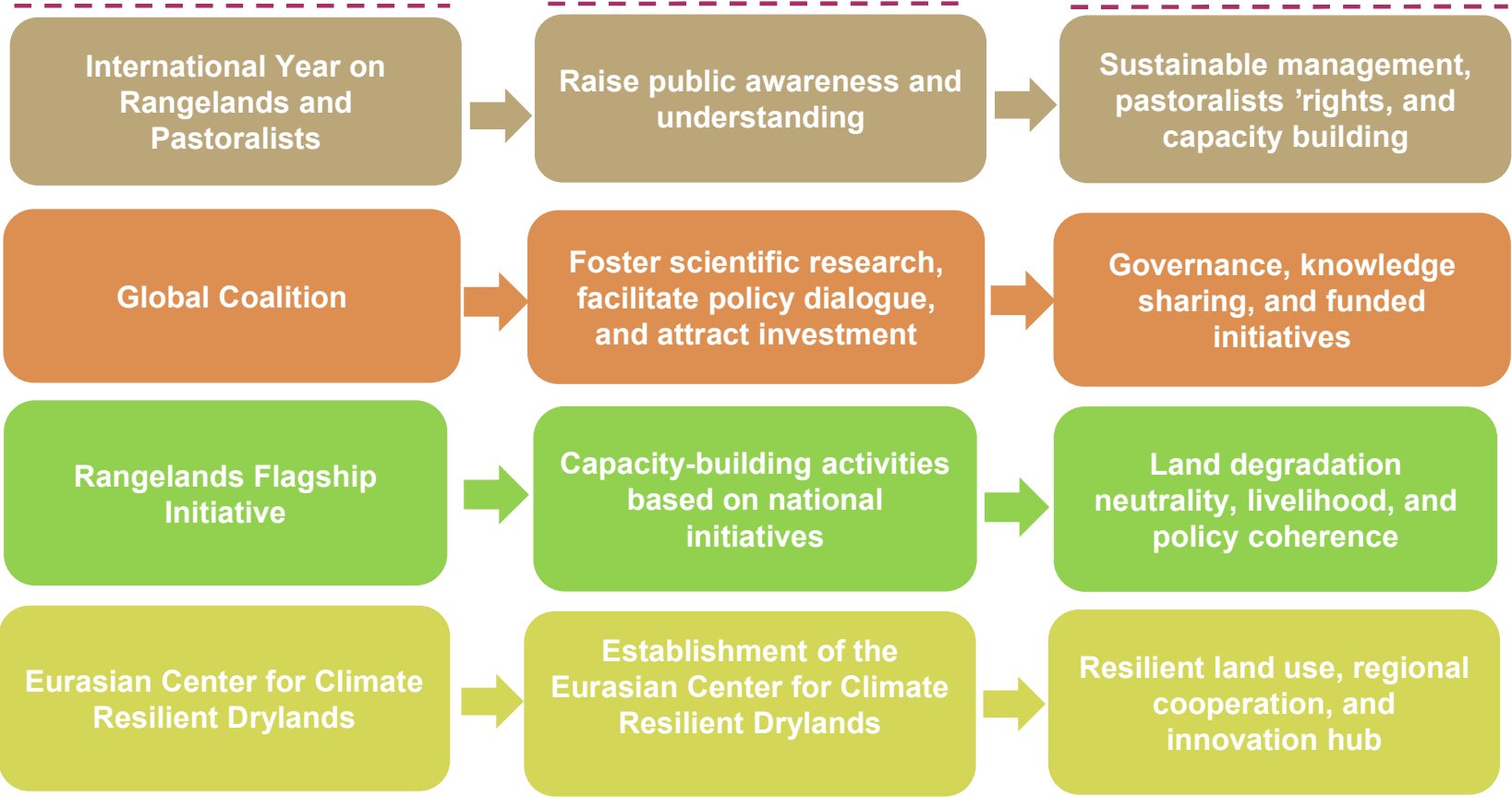
Increase private and
public investment in
rangelands



Component 3

Strengthen institutions
for rangeland policy and
investment

Integrated Framework for Rangeland Action Toward COP17



The Role of Focal Points and Civil Society

❖ Actively Engage with the IYRP's 12 Thematic Months

- Align national activities with the IYRP events
- Use thematic months to mobilize policy dialogue and public awareness

❖ Support and Shape Mongolia-Led Initiatives

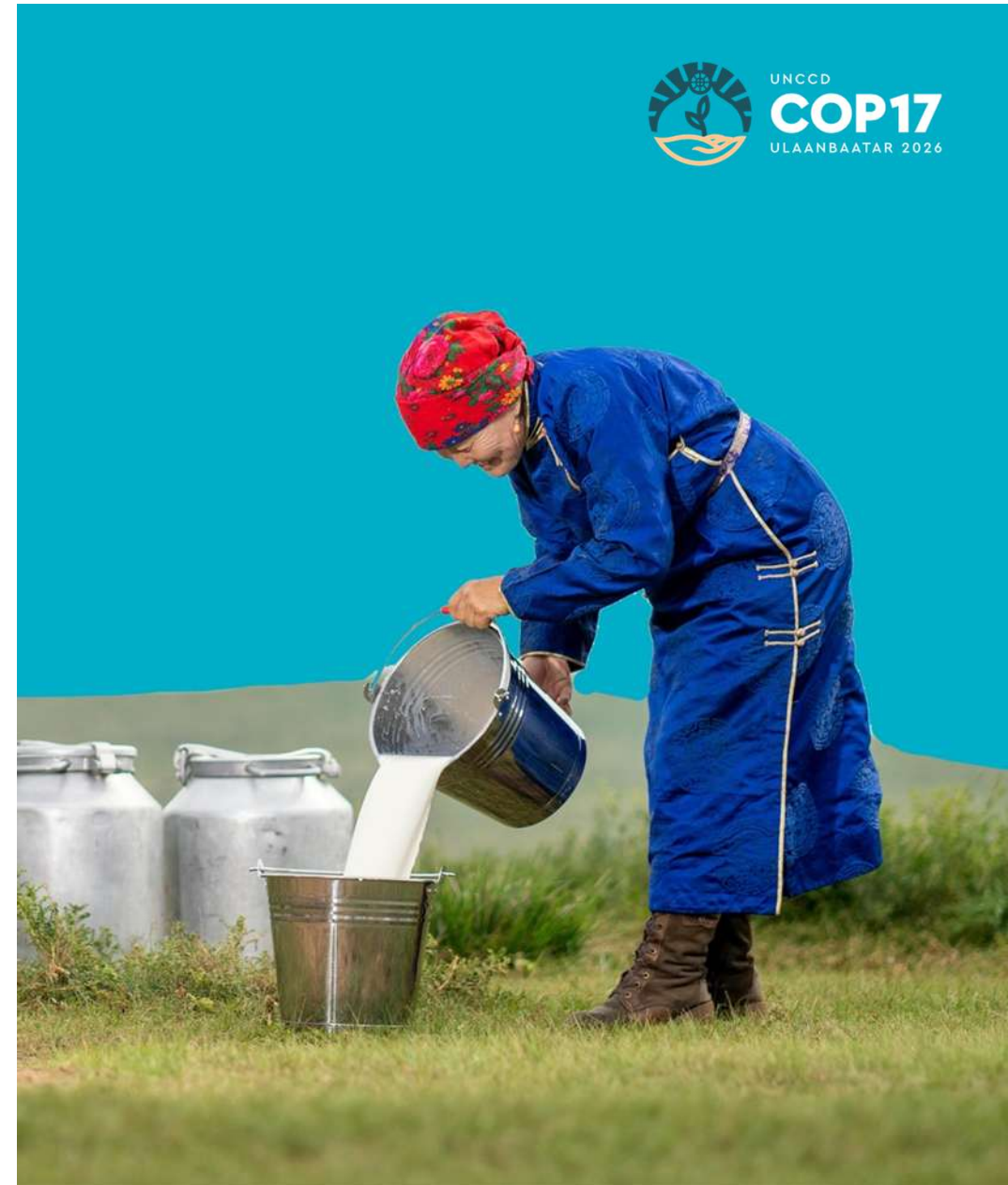
- Provide political backing and technical inputs to strengthen proposals

❖ Operationalize the Three Components of the RFI

- Collect and scale knowledge and best practices
- Collaborate with national and local authorities to design projects and policy pathways
- Strengthen governance mechanisms for rangeland action

❖ Build Momentum

- Promote rangelands in upcoming international events and processes



UNCCD COP17

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Silk Road Journey from Riyadh to Ulaanbaatar

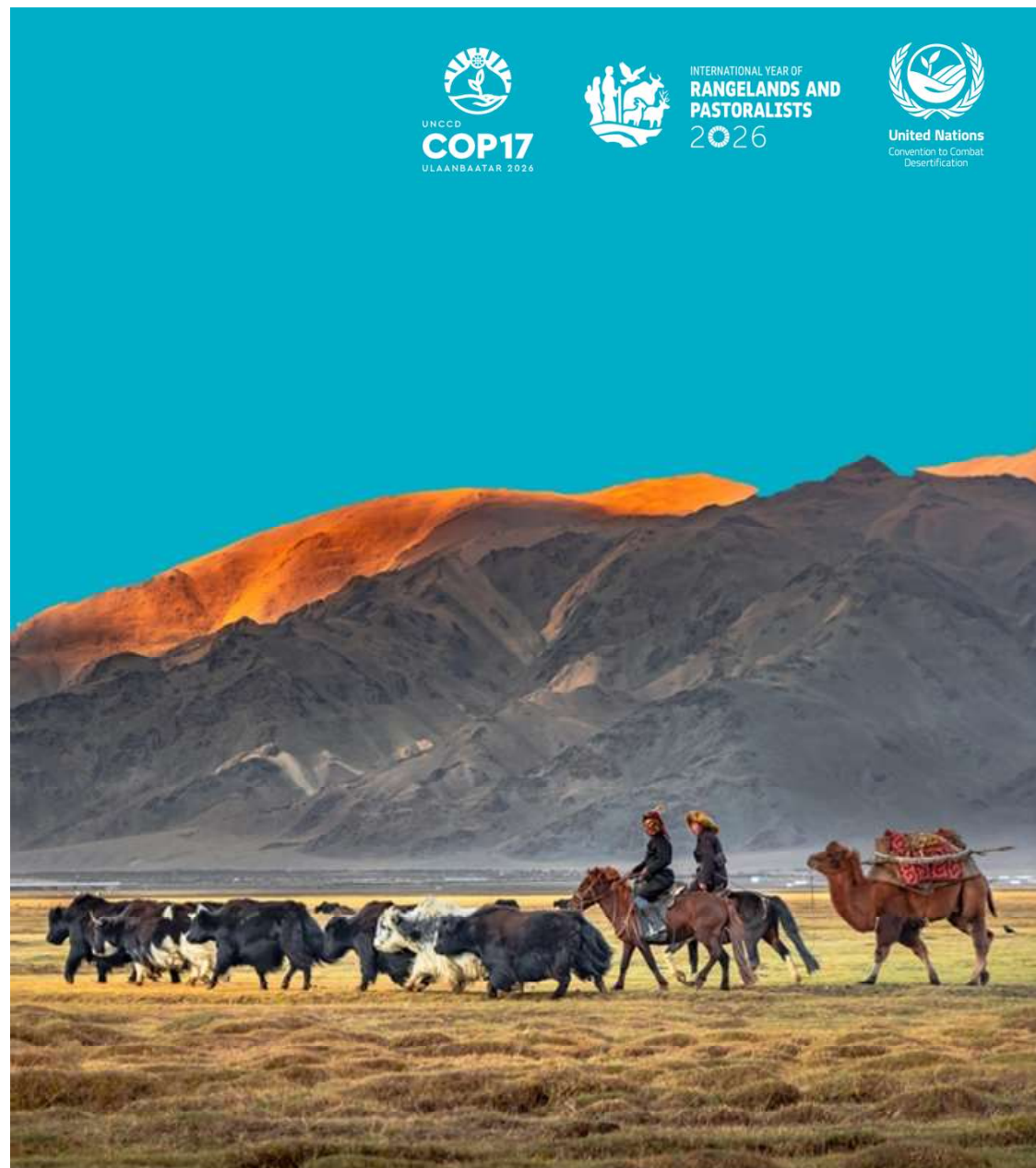
OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS

RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HOPE



Why This Journey?

- ❖ Symbolic and physical **6,000 km caravan** journey along the fabled Silk Road
- ❖ Celebrate the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists** and build momentum from UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in Dec 2024 to UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 17-28 Aug 2026
- ❖ **Highlight rangeland ecosystems** and their stewards across numerous nations
- ❖ **Strong visual storytelling**, high visibility and media opportunities along the journey to ensure country ownership and partner engagement





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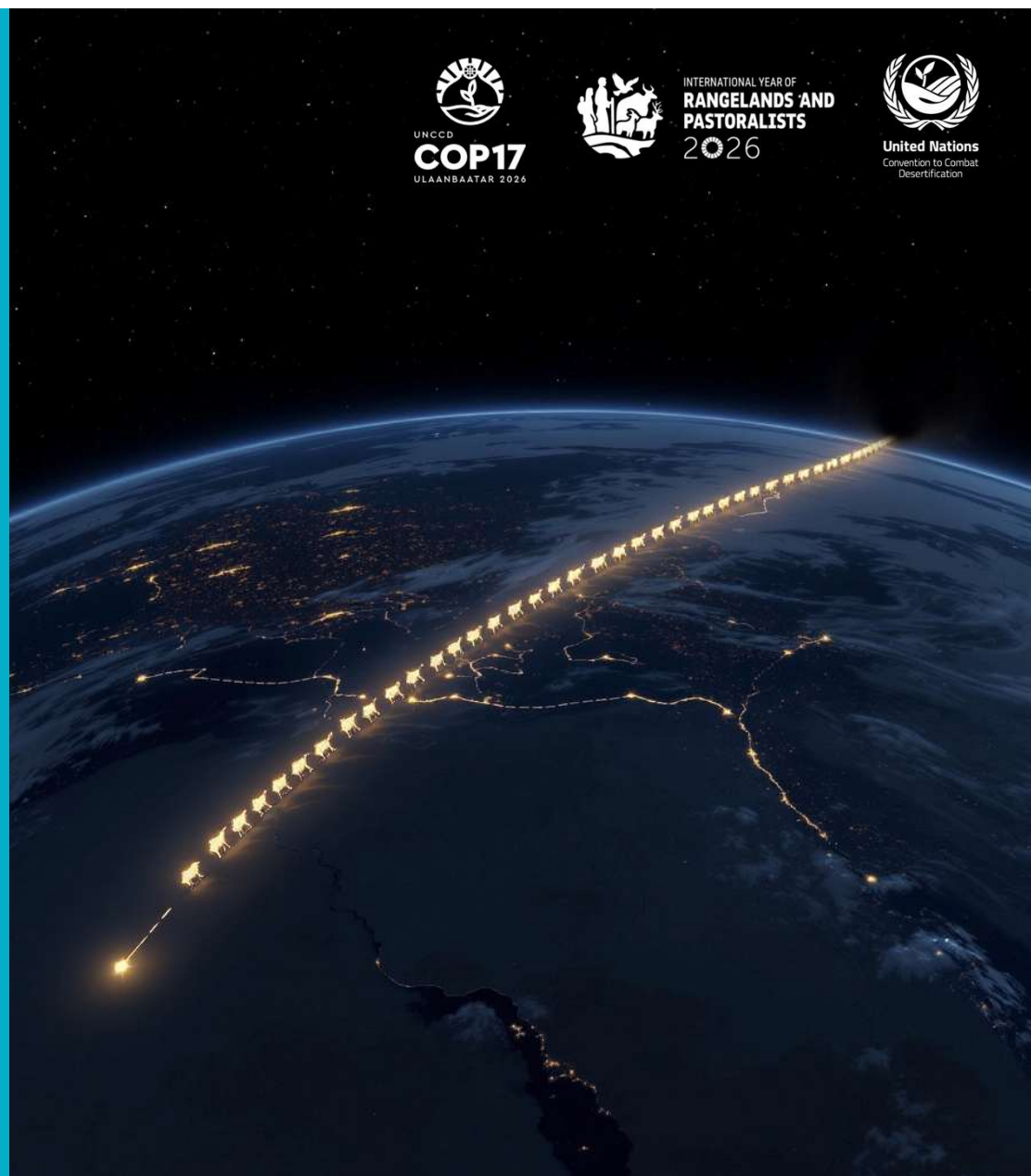


Campaign Objectives

- ❖ Spotlight sustainable rangeland solutions across the journey and around the world
- ❖ Secure investment and political support for rangelands
- ❖ Elevate pastoralist voices—especially women, Indigenous and local leaders
- ❖ Inspire global audiences through vivid, story-led communications

The 6,000 km Journey

- ❖ Starts in Riyadh (COP16 host) and finishes in Ulaanbaatar on COP17 opening day
- ❖ Departs 5 months before COP17, (after Ramadan 17 Feb- 19 March 2026) to respect observance periods
- ❖ Small core team travelling, others join per leg
- ❖ Route follows historic Silk Road and includes several former UNCCD COP/CRIC host countries



Call to Action (COP17 Arrival)

- ❖ Delegation leaders join final leg of the Silk Road Journey – entrance into Ulaanbaatar on COP17 opening day
- ❖ Joint Call to Action urging support for rangelands and pastoralists, building on COP16 decision and setting the stage for Rangelands Flagship Initiative adoption



Tentative Timeline



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
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2026



- ❖ **April -May 2026:** Saudi Arabia → Jordan → Türkiye
- ❖ **May-June:** Azerbaijan → Russia → Kazakhstan → Uzbekistan → Kyrgyzstan

- ❖ **July-August:** China → Mongolia
- ❖ Additional events in other Rangelands Coalition countries on 17 June



Outreach and Visibility

- ❖ **National events** at each stop (government, civil society, academia, private sector)
- ❖ **Media opportunities** (e.g. national announcements) to ensure political ownership in countries
- ❖ **Film crew + travel blog/vlog** on UNCCD and partner channels
- ❖ **Short documentary** screened at COP17
- ❖ **Longer documentary** series to be developed in partnership with a global streaming platform or broadcaster





Partners & Resources

- ❖ **Countries:** UNCCD Parties along the route, especially those that hosted previous COP/CRIC meetings
- ❖ **International partners:** IYRP Secretariat (FAO) and IYRP SC members (e.g. International Land Coalition)
- ❖ Global broadcasters/streaming platforms as media partners
- ❖ Corporate partnerships for equipment, insurance, etc.
- ❖ In-kind support, e.g. hybrid vehicles, event costs, etc.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

P.O. Box 260129

D-53153 Bonn, Germany

Office Location

UNCCD

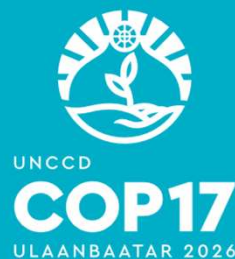
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1

D-53113 Bonn, Germany

Switchboard

Tel: 00 49 228 815 2800

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**
2026



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



RESTORING LAND
RESTORING HOPE



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



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ILRI



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**
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Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag



Closing and further resources

Resources & Recording

 Further resources & recording emailed through IUCN Engage

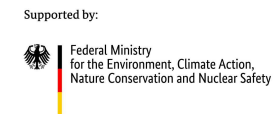
 Visit engage.iucn.org to stay updated

Join the Movement - next dialogues:

 31 March with focus on synergies between Rio Conventions

Contact Information

 Leonie.meier@wwf.de



based on a decision of
the German Bundestag