**Stockholm+50 side event**

***Nature-based restoration and multipurpose use of rangelands:***

***promising solutions to benefit our planet and people***

**Thursday 2 June
15:45–17:00 CEST
Stockholmsmässan, Room 2**

**Organizers:** Government of Mongolia, WWF, IUCN, ILRI, FAO, IYRP International Support Group (ISG)

**About:** Rangelands including grasslands, savannahs and tundra, occupy 54% of all land on earth ([Rangelands Atlas](https://www.rangelandsdata.org/atlas/)). They ensure food security for millions of people and provide valuable ecosystem services, including climate regulation, conserving biodiversity and water supply.

The most urgent threat to rangelands and grasslands is conversion to other uses. By 2000, these ecosystems decreased by more than half compared to historical levels, primarily due to the increase in cropland and settlements. Successes in preventing deforestation may have a spilled over to cultivating rangelands. Nature-based restoration of grasslands and rangelands will require an urgent and combined effort of controlling conversion, restoring natural ecosystems, and rehabilitating degraded lands.

Another threat is the unintended impacts of large-scale renewable energy schemes on pastoralists. Rangelands are vast open spaces with high insolation rates and wind velocities. Solar and wind parks have disrupted pastoral systems and seldom allowed pastoralists access to energy or income. However, globally important renewable energy production and pastoralism can better co-exist and be mutually beneficial if participatory planning and fair benefit sharing are negotiated from the outset.

**Relevant to Leadership Dialogue 1**. Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all. The event aims to strengthen nature-based solutions to accelerate ecosystem restoration in rangelands through a human rights-based approach, and to ensure fair and sustainable benefit sharing for pastoralists and other users of rangelands.

**Overview:** The 75-minute side event will be an interactive panel discussion between representatives of governments, pastoralists, scientists and civil society. It will be both in-person and virtual. It is designed to symbolically evoke the life and culture of pastoralists and the ecosystems they are stewards of.

**Moderator**: Joao Campari, Global Leader Food Practice, WWF

**Opening remarks**:

* His Excellency Janabazar Tuvdendorj (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Sweden)
* Enkhbat Altangerel (Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia)
* Bruno Oberle, Director General, IUCN – Scaling up urgent restoration actions through policies and investment

**Panelists:**

* Charity Lanoi,Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust
* Anders Oskal, Secretary General of World Reindeer Herders
* Maamankhu Sodhom – World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) Regional Rep for Central Asia
* Harouna Abarchi (Pastoralist Association Nodde Nooto)
* Hussein Wario, Centre for Research & Development in Drylands (CCRD) – Potential for co-existence and sharing benefits of pastoralism and large-scale renewable energy schemes
* Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Executive Coordinator and Director, Global Environmental Finance UNDP – Financing: How to scale up investment in nature-based rangeland restoration and ensure fair benefit sharing for pastoralists
* Fiona Flintan, Senior Scientist Rangelands Governance, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) – Science: how to fill the data gaps on grasslands, rangelands and their use
* Representative of Government of Spain
* Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General

**Broad participation:** The event will be hybrid: we expect in-person and online participants. It will be announced through social media channels and distribution of the invitation by the organizers and the IYRP ISG (https://iyrp.info). All organizers have a broad knowledge on mobilization of participants.

**Expected outcomes:**

* Encourage agreement on measures to urgently control conversion and promote restoration of rangelands, including grasslands
* Ensure that deployment of large-scale renewable energy schemes in rangelands do not have unintended environmental impacts and do not disenfranchise pastoralists but instead ensure benefits
* Encourage the strengthening of national and international commitments to restore rangelands, including grasslands, under the UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNCBD, align LDN targets and NDCs and improve SDG indicators
* Strengthen the scientific foundation for implementing and monitoring restoration and sustainable management at scale by incorporating pastoral systems, animal mobility and local knowledge
* Encourage the mobilization of sustainable finance for rangelands, including grasslands, from private and public sectors, and reduce market barriers to pastoral products
* Encourage Member States to carry out regional assessments of rangelands, including grasslands and pastoralism to close the data gaps
* Recognize pastoralists as guardians of rangelands and strengthen capacities, including of youth and women
* Raise awareness about the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026
* Acknowledge efforts to strengthen governance and secure land tenure for pastoralists and other users to achieve sustainable land management
* Acknowledge the contribution of sustainable rangeland, including grassland, management for ecosystem services and building community and ecosystem resilience to climate change
* Support true cost accounting of all livestock products and recognize the full range of sustainability values in rangelands, including grasslands

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