



UNCCD COP 17,
Ulaanbaatar
Convening 22.-
23.August
Mid-COP 17

Advancing Nature-Positive
Grasslands and Savannas:
protection, management and
restoration



Mid-term Convening UNCCD COP 17



Title:

Advancing Nature-Positive Grasslands and Savannahs: Protection, Management and Restoration



Date: Saturday, 22. and Sunday 23. August, provisional location Gorkhi – Terelj Nationalpark



Number of Participants: about 100

Invitation-only, multi-stakeholder consultation and policy development convening



Organizers: WWF International, WWF Mongolia and partner

Interested Partner: IUCN, IYRP Global Alliance, 4per1000 Soils for Food Security and Climate, C4ASH (Coalition 4 Action on Soil Health), Global Rewilding Alliance, American Prairies, Plantlife, International Land Coalition (ILC), Birdlife International, GIZ/BMZ, Alliance CIAT-Bioversity, Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA), YPARD, FAO Land and Water Division, COP 17 Presidency (tbc)

Overview of the integrated tentative schedule of work for the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties

Hours	Sat 15 Aug	Sun 16 Aug	Mon 17 Aug	Tue 18 Aug	Wed 19 Aug	Thu 20 Aug	Fri 21 Aug	Sat 22 Aug	Sun 23 Aug	Mon 24 Aug Finance Day	Tue 25 Aug Water Day	Wed 26 Aug Land and Peoples Day	Thu 27 Aug Food Systems and Soil Health Day	Fri 28 Aug
8h-10h			Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	side events	side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events	Regional Groups/ side events
10h-13h	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	COP-Opening COP17 President Election Adoption of COP17 agenda	CRIC	CRIC	COP-ODS	COW (for later early COP)	side events	HoS Summit	Ministerial dialogue on Innovative Financial Mechanisms for Healthy Land and Drought Resilience	Ministerial dialogue on Accelerating Drought Resilience	Ministerial dialogue on Restoration of Rangelands and Pastoralists' Communities HLS Closure Adoption of Ministerial Dialogues Outcomes	COW (adopt COW decs)	COP (adopt COW decs)
10h-13h				CST	CST			side events	side events			Youth Forum	CRIC (adopt CRIC decs)	
13h-15h	CST, CRIC Bureaus	COP Bureau	side events	side events	side events	side events	side events	side events	side events	*Special event on (B4L) Innovative financing instruments	Special event on Sand and Dust Storms	Special event on Rangelands	Special event on Food Systems and Soil Health	side events
15h-18h	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	Regional cons. (Annexes I to V)	COW (P&B, W&G, P&F, Drought)	CRIC	Joint CRIC&CST Plenaries	COW (Enhancing UNCCD impact, SDG, Rangelands, Gender)	CST (adopt CST decs)	side events	HoS Summit	COP-ODS	COW (COWs plan, Food COP18)	COP_Gender Caucus	COP (adopt CoW and CRIC decs)	COP (adopt COP decs, Closure)
15h-18h			CRIC	CST	COW (Global sector Land Issues, Migration)	CST	CRIC					Special event on IPLCS Caucuses		
			COP- Formal Statements				COP* (adopt CST decs)							
18h-20h			Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	side events	side events	Contact groups /side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups/ side events	Contact groups /side events	

Index:

- COW Committee of the Whole
- CRIC Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
- CST Committee on Science and Technology
- Reg.cons.Meetings of Regional Implementation Annexes I to V

- COP Conference of the Parties
- COP-ODS CSO Open Dialogue session
- Special events
- COP* Conference of the Parties to follow immediately after the adjournment of the CST
- CoW Committee of the Whole
- CRIC&CST Joint CRIC&CST Plenaries

Key objectives

- Build a shared understanding of the **biodiversity and ecosystem services** of nature-positive grasslands, savannahs and rangelands, and their contribution to sustainable land management and climate resilience.
- Identify **practical solutions, innovations and enabling conditions** for conserving and sustainably managing nature-positive grasslands, savannahs and rangelands, including sustainable pastoralism, coexistence approaches and integrated land-use planning, **that enhance soil health and soil function.**
- **Co-create** a concise, forward-looking policy statement and evidence-based recommendations for COP17, setting clear priorities for national action and UNCCD implementation.
- **Strengthen alignment** across the Rio Conventions to enhance policy coherence for climate action, using food systems transformation and adaptation to drive integrated outcomes.
- **Build a strategic bridge** to CBD COP17 and UNFCCC COP31 to advance global progress on nature-positive grasslands and savannahs.

Proposed Structure

Day 1 – 22 August : Field Visit to Mongolian Rangelands (Gorkhi – Terelj National Park)

- Experience local pastoral systems, wildlife coexistence models, and community-based rangeland management.
- Engage with herders, women leaders, youth groups, and local government.
- Guided discussions on climate impacts, mobility, traditional knowledge, and biodiversity.
- **Networking Dinner and Overnight stay at National Park**

Proposed Structure

Day 2 – 23 August: Workshop

09:00 -09:30 Registration and welcome coffee

9:30 – 10:00 High-level Opening and keynote

10:00 – 11:00 Setting the Scene: Scaling up protection, restoration and management of grassland and savannas

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30 Deep dive

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:30 Way forward

14:30-15:00 Recommendation and Closing

15:00 – 16:00 Reception and check out

From 16:00 Drive back to Ulaanbaatar

Map: Gorkhi – Terelj National Park



Outputs and follow-up

1. Pre-COP17 Policy Recommendations (1–2 pages)

- Produced through virtual consultations, incl.:
 - Key messages for Parties
 - A set of priority policy recommendations for COP17 and IYRP2026
 - Options for integration into national action programmes and intergovernmental negotiations

2. Post-Conference Joint Action Agenda

- A more detailed document (4–6 pages) incl.:
 - Agreed priority actions
 - Proposals for interconvention coordination (UNCCD–CBD–UNFCCC)
 - Recommended finance and monitoring approaches; Opportunities for collaborative initiatives and pilot projects

3. Ongoing Advocacy and Engagement

- Use outputs in COP17 side events, media briefings, and bilateral meetings with Parties
- Strengthen the Global Grasslands and Savannahs Dialogue Platform as a long-term coalition
- Support momentum through IYRP2026 activities