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HOW RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS CONTRIBUTE TO GEF-9

GEF-9 Focal Areas

- Biodiversity: KMGBF implementation, species and habitat conservation, ecological connectivity, migratory species conservation
- Climate Change: Ecosystem-based adaptation, climate resilience and nature-positive approaches
- Land Degradation: Sustainable land management, restoration and drought resilience

GEF-9 Integrated Programs

- Drylands and Drought Management: Adaptive pastoral systems, restoration and resilience
- Food Systems: Nature-positive livestock production and sustainable grazing systems
- Global Wildlife for Development: Human-wildlife coexistence, ecological connectivity and migratory species conservation

WHAT COULD GEF-9 INITIATIVES DELIVER?

- Inclusive conservation and restoration of rangelands in partnership with pastoralists, Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Nature-positive pastoralism, sustainable grazing systems and drought resilience
- Ecological connectivity and migratory species conservation
- Knowledge generation, monitoring and South-South exchange
- Capacity development, leadership support and institutional strengthening for pastoralist organizations
- Support for implementation of the KMGBF and other global commitments



EIGHTH GEF ASSEMBLY
SAMARKAND 2026
UZBEKISTAN



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS
2026



A CALL FOR PARTNERSHIP

GEF-9 presents a unique opportunity to support initiatives that translate existing global mandates for rangelands and pastoralists into coordinated action, investment and measurable outcomes for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and land restoration.

LET'S EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER
Contact us at info@yolda.org.tr



From Global Mandate to Coordinated Action

RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS

A GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY FOR GEF-9!

WHY RANGELANDS

Rangelands cover more than half of the Earth's terrestrial surface and support biodiversity, including species and habitats of high conservation importance, ecological connectivity, climate resilience and sustainable food systems.

These socio-ecological systems have been shaped and maintained over generations by pastoralists whose knowledge, mobility strategies and stewardship play a critical role in sustaining ecosystem functions, biodiversity and livelihoods across vast landscapes.

WHY PASTORALISTS?

Pastoralists are not simply beneficiaries of rangeland investments. They are among the principal stewards of healthy rangeland ecosystems and key partners in delivering biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, restoration and sustainable land management outcomes.

Supporting pastoralist knowledge, institutions and stewardship is therefore essential for achieving lasting environmental impact.

WHY NOW?

Building on years of advocacy and policy development, recent global commitments have further strengthened this agenda, including:

- International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)
- UNCCD COP16 Decision 29 on Rangelands and Pastoralists
- CMS COP15 Decision on Pastoralism and Migratory Species
- IUCN World Conservation Congress Resolutions on Rangelands and Grasslands

WHY GEF?

GEF-9 is uniquely positioned to catalyse initiatives on rangelands and pastoralism because these socio-ecological systems can simultaneously deliver outcomes across multiple focal areas, Integrated Programs and global environmental commitments.

The challenge is not only securing policy recognition, but also translating existing commitments into coordinated implementation and measurable impact at scale.

