



# Conference on "Pastoralism and Rangeland Restoration: a practitioners' dialogue for increased investment in pastoral management of the rangelands"

June 18 and 20, 2019  
Palm Beach Hotel - Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

## REPORT



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## I. Introduction

The conference on "Pastoralism and Rangeland Restoration: a practitioners' dialogue for increased investment in pastoral management of the rangelands" was held on June 18 and 20, 2019 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, at the Palm Beach Hotel. The conference was back to back with the international civil society summit "Desertif'actions 2019" held from June 19 to 22, 2019 in Ouagadougou. More than 140 participants from 22 countries and representing actors from more than 70 civil society organizations (pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, rangeland and livestock experts, researchers), governmental organizations, intergovernmental agencies and international organizations attended the conference and actively participated.

The main objective of the conference was to contribute to strengthening regional and global dialogue on the values of rangelands, the opportunities for rangeland restoration and the role of pastoralists as stewards of rangeland landscapes. The specific objectives of the conference include: (i) documenting and sharing of solutions for rangeland restoration; (ii) strengthening pastoralists' engagement in regional and global initiatives for sustainable land management; (iii) promoting initiatives to influence policies and investments for rangeland restoration and combating desertification.

## II. Opening of the Conférence

The opening ceremony of the conference was marked by three (03) interventions. The speech of Mr. Aliou Faye, Regional Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the speech of Mr. Patrice Burger, President of CARI and the opening speech of the Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of Burkina Faso.

**Mr. Aliou Faye**, IUCN Regional Director, welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Burkina Faso for their support in implementing collaborative projects with IUCN. He stressed that IUCN's Global Program on drylands is supporting projects dealing with rangeland management and conservation including the project *Closing the Gaps in the Great Green Wall* and the *HERD* project, and projects funded by the GEF and implemented in partnership with UN Environment. Mr. Faye reiterated the importance of improving the management and governance of rangelands and integrating them into policies. He called for increased stakeholder commitment and connection between pastoralists and decision-makers to help reduce rangeland management challenges and combat climate change.

**Mr. Patrice Burger**, President of CARI, in his speech recalled that the conference on *Pastoralism and Rangeland Restoration: a dialogue of practitioners to increase investment in pastoral rangeland management* is part of the "Desertif'actions 2019" dynamic. He stressed that *Closing the Gaps in the Great Green Wall* project must encompass the economic, social, and environmental dimension of the LDN as an important dimension. He also recalled the joint work with IUCN in the implementation of past and current projects on cross-border pastoralism. Finally, he hopes this conference will lead to important conclusions to be carried together at the next Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD, and insists on continuing our efforts to better manage rangelands, in particular through the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative.

**The Minister of Animal and Fishery Resources of Burkina Faso**, in his speech, highlighted the negative impact that land degradation in general and rangeland degradation in particular has on millions of people, especially the poorest, and stressed the need to maintain healthy rangeland ecosystems and in a good state of conservation. While recalling that the Ministry of Animal and Fishery Resources of Burkina Faso is making great efforts to improve livestock production and the rehabilitation of rangelands to ensure sustainable development, he expressed the wish that this conference could improve cooperation between the various partners and stakeholders for better governance and management of rangelands.

## III. Summary of sessions, key messages and recommendations

### III.1. Session 1: Why is rangeland restoration important?

Rangelands cover about one third of the Earth's surface and are at the heart of pastoral life, providing food, fodder, shelter and water for people and livestock. Rangelands are home to about a third of the world's biodiversity, including grasslands and grazed species that are the foundation of the pastoral economy. In a world that increasingly demands more from nature and where the planet's ability to support humanity is threatened, rangeland ecosystem services are of increasing value and the role of pastoralists in their protection is increasingly important.

Inattention to restoring rangelands predisposes livelihoods and biodiversity to new risks and increases vulnerability to climate change and desertification. A rapid gap analysis shows that rangelands are currently neglected in the growing global restoration program, although they constitute a significant carbon stock and offer great potential for achieving environmental and development objectives in parallel.

The purpose of this session was to demonstrate the importance of restoring rangelands, and to raise awareness of arguments in favor of investment in restoring rangelands.

An introductory presentation was first made by Razingrim OUEDRAOGO from IUCN, highlighting the extent of drylands, the importance and challenges of pastoralism and drylands at the global level in terms of providing several benefits for humans and the environment. The presentation also highlighted the fact that drylands and rangelands are areas of high biodiversity, and argued for increased investment in rangeland restoration and sustainable pastoralism. The introductory presentation was followed by a panel discussion on the importance of restoring rangelands.

#### Panel on the importance of rangeland restoration

The panel explored the issues of the relevance and importance of rangeland restoration. Panelists included: Mr. Salifou SARE from the Swiss Cooperation in Burkina Faso; Dr. KIEMA André from INERA in Burkina Faso; Mr. Hamadou OUEDRAOGO from the Ministry of Animal and Fishery Resources of Burkina Faso; Dr. Maty BA DIAO from CILSS and Regional Coordinator of PRAPS Project; and Mrs. Eatenad RAFALLA from Desert Research Center in Egypt.

#### The following key messages emerged from the various interventions:

- **Rangeland restoration contributes to the development of the agricultural sector** and provides a potential basis for the development process in our countries through the production of meat, milk, non-timber forest products and other agricultural by-products.
- **The establishment, especially by the States, of a sub-regional strategy for the restoration of rangelands**, by supporting farmers' organizations. The importance of rangelands in the economy lies mainly in the restoration and regeneration of these lands. Species such as *Acacia senegal* are important because they are appreciated by small ruminants and camels. In addition, they produce gum, an essential source of income for the population. Regeneration should be extended to other areas, and time should be allowed for regeneration monitoring.
- **The need for better evaluation of grasslands**, using tools that will generate reliable data and knowledge.
- **Regional institutions have a role to play**. For example, ECOWAS should provide itself with a political framework with guidelines that can promote the restoration of the rangelands. Also ensure that the sovereignty of States does not impact this regional agreement. CILSS has defined strategies for fighting against desertification that integrate the issue of rangelands and this is a good starting point for integrated regional policies.
- **Secure the rangeland areas in light of the new contexts marked by terrorism**. The security challenge reduces the mobility of people and livestock. In the current context of insecurity, it is necessary to identify how to ensure livestock mobility.

### **The various interventions highlighted challenges such as:**

- Poor grazing practices that contribute to the abandonment of these grasslands;
- The marketing problem - lack of suitable markets;
- Climate change - the issue of carbon sequestration must be integrated;
- The lack of control and management of extensive grazing - the case of Sudan and Jordan was highlighted;
- The lack of coordination of the actors involved in the sustainable management of rangelands;
- Mining, land grabbing and lack of community planning;
- Lack of long-term investment that does not sustainably combat land degradation;
- Insecurity in areas with high potential for pastoralism.

### **Some solutions have been proposed:**

- Organize and sensitize communities to sustainable land management and provide them with the necessary support;
- Work to limit conflicts of all kinds and foster a peaceful environment for communities;
- Promote literacy in villages and improve the education rate;
- Promote and diversify income-generating activities for the benefit of women. For example, facilitating access to micro-credits;
- Attract and engage the private sector on the issue of restoration and sustainable management of rangelands
- Continuously promote livestock mobility in compliance with relevant regulations;
- Promote the scaling up of good practices for restoration and sustainable management of rangelands;
- Address the issue of rangeland management in a regional manner.

In conclusion to the panel, it emerged that the restoration of rangelands is essential and indispensable in the development of pastoralism and for the financing of this sector.

## **III.2. Session 2: How can we restore and sustainably manage rangelands?**

This session was organized around a plenary session and group work. The purpose of the session was not only to determine the means to be implemented to restore and sustainably manage the rangelands, but also to determine the role of each actor and their involvement to combat rangeland degradation and desertification.

### **i. The plenary session**

Four (4) speakers intervened during this plenary session. The following points are the summary of these interventions.

The first presentation was made by Pablo Manzano, from IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management. The presenter stressed the need to improve the management of rangelands through land restoration with a view to sustainability. Two groups of options are possible. The first concerns technology, which includes improving mobility, controlling grazing through grazing plans, improving range and infrastructure. The second group is related to the approach. These include community-based natural resource management, land and water use planning, marketing and alternative income, tourism and wildlife. To encourage restoration, education should also be encouraged, and mobile education if necessary, for people in perpetual mobility.

The second presentation was made by Serena Ferrari, from FAO. The presenter first introduced the participants to the Pastoral Knowledge Hub that aims to support pastoralists and improve their contribution to the political decision-making process. The platform is built on three pillars: knowledge production, support for the development of regional pastoralist networks, and the creation of a framework for exchange on pastoralism through partnership. She then highlighted the existence of the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Land Tenure for Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. Similarly, there is a technical guide to improve the governance of pastoral lands. In these documents, principles and rules exist that can practically promote sustainable management of rangelands.

The third presentation was made by Claire Ogali, from IUCN. The presentation focused on the methodology for large-scale rangeland health assessment that IUCN, FAO and their partners are developing and testing. These are PRAGA - *Participatory Rangelands and Grasslands Assessment methodology*. Currently being tested in 5 countries around the world, the PRAGA methodology was born following the absence of a generally accepted methodology for an evaluation that is not only rapid, large-scale and cost-effective, but also that takes into account the assessment of rangelands users. The presenter highlighted the different stages of the methodology, which combines basic socio-economic study, remote sensing, participation of local communities, field evaluation, etc. She also presented some results of the evaluation of the health of the rangelands through the PRAGA method which was carried out in Kenya and which made it possible to identify the degraded areas of the rangelands, the causes, the various pressures and some proposed solutions. The implementation of the PRAGA methodology requires conditions including the choice of the appropriate evaluation period and the angles of analysis (point of view of rangeland users including pastoralists). In addition, it should be specified how local knowledge should be mainstreamed into the assessment.

The fourth presentation was made by Marius Damiba of LuxDev. He highlighted Burkina's experience in pastoralism and the restoration of rangelands with the support of Luxembourg's development cooperation in Burkina Faso (Luxdev). The degradation of rangelands in general, and in Burkina Faso in particular is linked to livestock growth, poor management of pastoral land, overexploitation of natural resources, and all this leads to the vulnerability of pastoralist households. The presenter covered the methods and approaches used for the recovery of degraded land in pastoral areas in Burkina Faso. Grassroots communities, municipalities and decentralized technical services are involved in the process of recovering and enhancing pastoral areas. He also stressed that in this process, there is a need for incentives that encourage stakeholders to take a greater interest in the recovery and sustainable management of rangelands. In this sense, he mentioned the valorization of the recovery of degraded land through carbon credit.

#### **The following key messages emerged from the various interventions:**

- There are many challenges to maintaining and sustainably managing rangelands. Climate change, encroachment of the agricultural front, mining, variability of rainfall, rising temperatures, etc., are all factors that have an impact on the environment. It is becoming imperative to identify adequate human, technical and financial means to effectively combat land degradation.
- Restoring degraded rangelands requires an assessment of the health of these rangelands, an understanding of the causes and pressures on them. Participatory and accessible evaluation methods such as the PRAGA method should be developed.
- Restoring rangelands, requires a synergy of action and puts the participation of all stakeholders at the heart of the process.
- Restoration and sustainable management of rangelands requires the integration of scientific knowledge into local knowledge.
- The search for adequate funding is of paramount importance for the implementation of restoration and sustainable management activities of the rangelands. Mechanisms must therefore be found to encourage investors, including the private sector, to invest in land restoration and in particular in the restoration of rangelands.
- Provide technical and financial support to communities and raise their awareness of the techniques and behavior to be adopted for the restoration of rangelands.
- Train key defenders who can effectively defend the issue of rangelands (management, restoration, development, financing), both at national and international levels.
- Extensive and cash crop agriculture occupy a large part of the land, which reduces the space for pastoralists to intervene.

#### **Some recommendations include:**

- Involving pastoralists in land policy development;
- Using legal voices for the conservation of pastoral areas;
- Promoting the sustainable management of rangelands as part of the fight against climate change and biodiversity conservation;
- Pastoralists, the main users of the rangelands, do not know borders, so it is important that they are protected, trained, informed and contribute to the decisions that affect them;
- Need to improve rangelands management through innovative approaches and practices.

## ii. The group work

Group 1 addressed the issue of rangelands restoration practices. From all the discussions, it emerged that good practices for restoring rangelands exist, but are nevertheless on a small scale. It is therefore necessary to scale up the practices that have been tried and tested and found to be good for the restoration of the rangelands. In addition, the need to enhance carbon sequestration in the process of recovering and restoring rangelands was raised. Studies have shown that rangelands effectively sequester carbon. Carbon is quantified and carbon credits can be sold to finance the restoration of degraded land. There is also a need to work politically to ensure that the restored land is not reclaimed for other purposes.

### **The group made the following recommendations**

1. The duration of support for the restoration process of pastoral lands is generally short. It is therefore necessary to increase the duration of implementation of land restoration projects in order to ensure that the irreversible nature of the restored land is permanently established;
2. Involve local populations and stakeholders at the grassroots level in the design of projects and programs, and strengthen their capacities to ensure their sustainability;
3. Use existing information platforms (national and regional tools, telephones, etc.) to provide rangeland users with information on the status of rangelands and their load capacity;
4. Recognize traditional management practices of grazing land by pastoral communities and the consideration of pastoralists' rights to their land in public policies;
5. Promote sustainable pastoralism among technical and financial partners in the implementation of the Great Green Wall;
6. Work to eliminate poor land management practices in pastoral rangelands;
7. Integrate the valuation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) into pastoralism projects in order to increase not only food security, but also income generation;
8. Create livestock markets, reduce livestock taxes and benefit more from the value of the sector;
9. Improve the conditions for the transport and shipment of livestock products.

Group 2 discussed pastoral governance and presented different types of governance from different countries, including Tanzania, Nigeria, Senegal and Jordan. During the discussions, the group highlighted:

- The role of NGOs in changing the attitudes of local communities. This role includes showing the *success stories* of the governance systems adopted and encouraging other communities to adopt them.
- Changing the attitudes of local communities also depends a lot on the leadership they are given in decision-making.
- The role of government in changing the governance system is crucial. The Hima approach in Jordan, which has had a positive impact on behavioral change and rangeland governance, sufficiently demonstrates the importance of government engagement in the process. The Government is responsible for communal lands, and therefore gives the right to use the land, and subsequently must be involved in the process.
- The mobility of pastoralists from one country to another during the dry season: this movement has a positive impact. It helps to conserve and rehabilitate the land. But it also has a negative impact because it increases the pressure on the land, and therefore good mobility management is needed. This can be done by signing agreements between countries to manage grasslands.
- Tanzania, for example, has established agreements with tribes rather than appropriation rights to give them the right to use rangelands.
- Participatory rangeland management is a key factor in ensuring the sustainability of rangeland management.

### **The group made the following recommendations**

- Work towards the empowerment of local communities;
- Involve all stakeholders in the decision-making process for better governance of the rangelands;
- Review and improve the different peoples' perception about pastoralists, the main users of the rangelands;

- Call on the police forces to ensure that their work is carried out properly, in order to avoid harmful abuses against livestock farmers;
- Local communities must be involved in the design of governance systems;
- Countries must work together to manage rangelands, especially when pastoralists move from one country to another.

Group 3 discussed systems for evaluating and monitoring the health of rangelands through three experiences:

- Participatory Rangelands and Grasslands Assessment methodology - the PRAGA methodology developed by IUCN and FAO. This methodology mainly requires the participation of all stakeholders in the process in order to have convincing results. The methodology is being tested in 5 countries around the world, and then it will require extension work.
- The water points meshing and influences of rangelands health in the Sahel. This presentation was jointly made by CILSS and CIRAD. This is a database on hydraulic infrastructures in the Sahel and they were able to show the harmful aspects on the rangelands health when water points are very close to one another. This work draws the attention of decision makers and all stakeholders to the need to reconcile fodder availability and water points in order to avoid soil degradation.
- Experience of fodder monitoring in Niger. This experiment demonstrated a systematic approach for monitoring grazing land in Niger. This system tracks and quantifies fodder, the status of the disappearance of certain species according to the types of livestock system – nomadism, transhumance, sedentarization – over the years. This monitoring has provided Niger with data on rangeland degradation and soil taming. The experience is to be scaled up in the sub-region (ECOWAS, CILSS region) and then work to improve and diversify land restoration techniques.

**The lessons learned and recommendations from these experiences include:**

- Promoting a systematic and harmonized use of the PRAGA methodology after validation;
- Working on a paradigm shift that takes into account rangelands health when it comes to the establishment of water points in the rangelands;
- Different tools exist for evaluating the health of the rangelands. It is important to understand the specificity of each tool and use it appropriately;
- Mobility is important to maintain healthy rangelands. Advocacy for livestock mobility, including mobile schools to strengthen education within pastoral communities, should be continued.
- More funding is needed for research, validation of good practices and capacity building.

### III.3. Session 3: How to mobilize key actors to restore degraded rangelands?

The purpose of this session was to understand the roles of the different actors and how to mobilize them for the restoration and sustainable management of the rangelands. The session was organized around a plenary session and group work.

#### i. The Plenary Session

Interventions and a panel discussion on mobilizing stakeholders to restore rangelands and increase investment in sustainable rangeland management were the subject of the plenary session.

The interventions that preceded the panel focused on the following points:

The first presentation was made by Daniel McGahey of Earth Systems. He presented the results of a study on the issue of engaging the private sector in sustainable land management. Indeed, mobilizing resources also requires the involvement of the private sector. In his presentation, he pointed out the increase of investment in agriculture and forest restoration, but not in the restoration of rangelands. Some recommendations were proposed to facilitate the mobilization of actors around pastoralism and the restoration of rangelands.

The second intervention was made by Boureima DODO of the Billital Maroobé Network (RBM). He presented the experience of the Wohaddes pastoral community in Niger and the conservation of biodiversity in the rangelands. He

showed that the main concern of herders in Niger is how to feed their livestock and mobility is the effective way to do so. Pastoralists during this migration try to manage resources, both fodder and water, in a sustainable way. They also raised the appropriate type of animals that can adapt to the surrounding environment. But nowadays, there is a strong tendency to export new breeds that do not adapt to our environment.

The first actors to be mobilized on the issue of restoring rangelands are the pastoralists themselves. Recognize the value of traditional rangeland management practices and encourage pastoralists to do so and therefore better invest themselves. Then, governments are invited to work with civil society to change the sometimes-pessimistic view of pastoralists. Indeed, these stereotypes do not encourage a good mobilization of actors around the cause of pastoralism and sustainable management of rangelands. Finally, the private sector is an important actor, though they tend to develop activities in the rangelands that contribute to their degradation (e. g. mining). It is therefore necessary to bring the private sector to the table to discuss sustainable management of rangelands so that they can participate in decision-making.

The third intervention was that of Tezera Getahun of the Ethiopian Pastoralists Forum. He focused his intervention on the global call for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). The mobilization of actors also requires this form of recognition of rangelands and pastoralists by the United Nations, which dedicates a year to this cause. It has shown that rangelands are important for human well-being and biodiversity, and it is therefore imperative to restore them. He also highlighted the political, economic and climatic challenges facing the rangelands and their restoration. He encouraged the use of the Joint International Congress of Grassland & Rangeland in 2020 as a platform not only to advocate for the IYRP but also to strengthen the mobilization of stakeholders for the restoration of rangelands and increase investment in sustainable rangeland management.

The panel that followed had as panelists : Dr. Shahira Wahbe from the League of Arab States; Mr. Adamou Bouhari of UN-Environment; Mr. Haissam Taaimi from *the Arabian Pastoralist Community Network* (APCN); and Dr. Elvis Paul Tangem from the Coordination of the Great Green Wall Initiative at the African Union.

The panel highlighted how to encourage stakeholders to invest in rangelands restoration. The following points are the summary:

- Fill knowledge gaps to guide not only project designs on landscape management, but also places where to invest effectively.
- Support innovative restoration projects and methods, such as payment for ecosystem services.
- Build the capacity of pastoralists and rangeland users to work to increase investment in land restoration.
- Strengthen collaboration with the private sector. And for that, there is a need for an entry point for collaboration with the private sector. For example, highlight the ecosystem services that rangelands can provide both economically and socially.
- Demonstrate to the private sector the viability of pastoralism. We need to change the perception of pastoralism and show that it is not a risk sector. Indeed, the private sector is not ready to invest in rangelands if it does not see any profit to be made.
- Engage in appropriate advocacy through champions who can represent the interests of the rangelands at all levels - local, national and international, and also within governments.
- Establish links with the three Rio conventions - how rangeland restoration contributes to climate change mitigation, how it contributes to biodiversity conservation. We must take advantage of the multiple benefits of restoring rangelands for the three Rio conventions. The restoration of rangelands is a potential for biodiversity conservation.
- Support governments and local communities by building their capacity on restoration approaches.
- Work to change the mindset of decision-makers on the importance of rangelands.
- Improve cooperation with international organizations and CSOs. Involve decision-makers at the continental level.
- Increase the participation and commitment of the Great Green Wall Initiative as a land restoration initiative in the overall approach to rangeland restoration and increase investments for sustainable rangeland management.

## ii. The group work

Group 1 worked on how to influence policies for the restoration of rangelands. They also discussed the role of international processes and how to influence them.

In summary, it appears that in order to effectively influence policies, both at the local and national level, there is a need to strengthen the legal framework governing the management of pastoral livestock in countries. Collaborative advocacy for the adoption of laws at the local level that take into account pastoralists and agro-pastoralists is needed. What makes it possible to influence agricultural policies for change in countries is the connection between actors, but also the development of multi-actor projects aimed at advocating for change.

At the international level, it is necessary to create a world-class alliance defending the cause of pastoralists and rangelands. This alliance, based on the mobilization of all actors (private sector, elected officials, and government, civil society), should succeed in providing evidence and influencing decisions at the international level.

#### **The recommendations of group 1 work include:**

- Facilitate contact between pastoralists and decision-makers for dialogue and cooperation.
- Invest in pastoral infrastructure.
- Take into account pastoral livestock farming and the question of sustainable management of rangelands in local development plans.
- Secure pastoral areas (against land grabbing) and manage conflicts.
- Mediatize the actions. Today, pastoralists have a strong voice through their participation in international conferences and dialogues, but there is little media coverage of these events to create real change and break stereotypes.
- Decision makers need a better understanding of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs).
- The traditional practices of pastoralists with high potential for restoring rangelands should be recognized and supported (e.g. the Hima in Jordan).
- Continue to advocate for increased political support and action by governments to engage in sustainable pastoralism in view of its socio-economic and ecological potential.

Group 2 worked on innovative financing to support pastoralism and rangeland restoration. They addressed the issue of carbon accounting in agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. Indeed, drylands and rangelands abound in carbon sequestration potential and it is appropriate to promote carbon finance in pastoral areas; anything that could increase funding for the restoration of rangelands. The case of the Plan Vivo project in Burkina Faso was presented and allowed participants to share their experiences.

#### **The key elements identified during the discussions included:**

- The importance of building the capacities of stakeholders on these innovative financing and the implementation of carbon projects;
- Analyzing supply and demand dynamics in carbon markets;
- The lack of data on pastoralism carbon footprint, the contribution of pastoralism to soil carbon regulation and the need for improved data to develop clear policies for green economic growth in the pastoral system;
- The issue of equity in carbon mitigation;
- The creation of agro-pastoral banks. Indeed, agricultural banks are the main sources of financing. There is no specific source of funding for pastoralists;
- Improving the carbon accounting system in pastoral areas.

Group 3 addressed the issues of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) - What approach can we adopt to get our States to support IYRP? Indeed, IYRP is important in raising global awareness of the importance of grasslands and the role of pastoralists in food security and environmental services. It makes it possible to draw attention to the need for sustainable management and an enlightened policy on rangelands for the benefit of present and future generations. It also makes it possible to mobilize all stakeholders to meet current challenges and seize new opportunities in the field of pastoralism and rangelands sustainable management.

### **In order to engage governments in supporting the IYRP, key elements identified during the discussions included:**

- Adaptation of lobbying activities according to countries, as the importance of pastoralism varies according to the national context;
- Encourage CSO coalitions to promote the IYRP;
- Produce a policy brief on the position of pastoral CSOs, with existing evidence (economic, social and environmental contribution of pastoralism, namely from the SDGs standpoint) in support of the IYRP;
- Identify local and national policy makers who can support IYRP and advocate with them.

If the IYRP is approved by the UN, actions for the 12 months would include, for example: cultural exhibitions, promotion of products from rangelands and pastoralism (i.e. pastoral labels); revival of websites and online platform, promotion and enhancement of the restoration of the rangelands through structural projects, etc.

The activities carried out during the year should target both the general public, who are not aware of the importance of pastoralism, and pastoralists themselves, who should be reached through specific channels (mobile, radio, etc.) since they do not always have information tools such as television or the Internet.

## **IV. Conclusion**

The main objective of the conference was to contribute to strengthening regional and global dialogue on the values of rangelands, opportunities for rangeland restoration and the role of pastoralists as stewards of rangelands landscapes. For 2 days, the participants mainly discussed three fundamental issues: (i) Why is the restoration of the rangelands important? (ii) How to restore and sustainably manage the rangelands? (iii) How to mobilize key actors to restore degraded rangelands? At the end of the conference, there was great satisfaction in the fact that the conference enabled them to strengthen their knowledge on rangelands restoration practices. The conference also allowed a consensus on actions involving pastoral actors in the national and regional restoration dialogue, including the Great Green Wall. Recommendations were made and investment options for rangelands large-scale restoration were identified.

The conference also helped to shape the global dialogue within the framework of the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC on rangeland ecosystems. It has also been the place where the contribution of sustainable pastoralism for the achievement of the SDGs has become more pronounced, but also the value of the rangelands and their potential to contribute to the achievement of global environmental objectives through innovative and structuring investments. Finally, the conference helped to strengthen pastoralists' engagement in the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel (GGWSSI).

The two-day conference work was presented during "Désertif'actions 2019", the meeting of global civil society to discuss sustainable land management. The outcomes of the conference also served as a civil society contribution to the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP14) of the UNCCD.