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Project Implementation Report (PIR)

18/05/23-30/06/24

STELARR (Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration), global

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Basic Data

Project Information	
IUCN Project ID	P03903
GEF ID	10816
Title	Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration (STELARR)
Country(ies)	Global
Regional Programme	
Global Thematic Programme	Forest and Grasslands
Joint Agency (if relevant)	
Executing Agency(ies)	ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute)
Project Type	MSP

Project Description
The Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration (STELARR) project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and executed by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), supported by other CGIAR centres (ICARDA, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, and CIFOR). It will work with livestock value-chain actors including the commercial sector to make value chains more sustainable and climate-friendly by ensuring that investment is made in the resource base (the rangeland) to sustainably raise productivity of rangelands and restore them where needed. STELARR will also contribute to building international commitment and action for rangeland restoration through a combination of convening influential actors and alliances and strengthening evidence-based knowledge. The **overall objective of STELARR** is "*to reverse rangeland degradation and improve productivity of rangelands globally through sustainable livestock value chains, and thereby reduce poverty and secure livelihoods, with inclusive benefits to women and youth*". The project seeks to: 1. Increase rangeland restoration investment through livestock value-chains 2. Enhance global commitment to sustainable rangeland restoration 3. Develop a global monitoring framework for rangeland restoration. This project will support governments and other rangeland stakeholders to make strong commitments to advance sustainable rangeland restoration in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework, Land Degradation Neutrality, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the IYRP 2026. Key outputs include investments in rangeland restoration through sustainable value chains, a rangelands standard with accompanying rangelands monitoring scheme, a global rangelands data platform, and events and publications to improve understanding and support for rangelands globally.

Project Contacts	
Task Manager (Implementing Agency)	Joshua Schneck
Global Thematic Lead (Implementing Agency)	Chris Magero
Project Manager (Executing Agency)	Fiona Flintan
GEF Operational Focal Point	Ulrich Apel

A. Overall Ratings

Overall Development Outcomes Rating[1]	Moderately satisfactory
Overall Implementation Rating[2]	Moderately satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating[3]	Low risk

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[1] This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in Annex L of this document: 1) Highly satisfactory, 2) Satisfactory, 3) Moderately Satisfactory, 4) Moderately Unsatisfactory, 5) Unsatisfactory, 6) Highly Unsatisfactory

[2] Idem

[3] This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in the Annex of this document: 1) High Risk, 2) Substantial Risk, 3) Moderate Risk, 4) Low Risk

B. Outcomes achievements and outputs delivery

The Project has had a slow start-up due to difficulty in filling the full-time position. – Global Policy and Business Expert, which caused delays across project implementation. This position is now filled and the successful applicant will start on the 1st October 2024. Despite this challenge, the Project has been able to achieve good outputs including a global livestock sector review supported by regional studies, the draft co-development of a first-ever global rangelands standard for sustainable rangelands products supported by a global rangelands monitoring scheme in design, and good progress on the establishment of a global rangelands data platform. Additionally, the project has been represented at several global events with accompanying communications.

Additionally, the Project has started dialoguing with private sector on what incentives and mechanisms would be needed to achieve private sector investment in large-scale rangeland restoration. To date there has been strong interest, but moving this forward needs to be a key focus for STELARR over the next six months. A key partner in this regard is UNCCD and their Business for Land Initiative to which STELARR is connecting. STELARR is also engaging strongly in the unofficial preparations for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, which will be a global opportunity to bring positive attention to rangelands.

The Project commenced in May 2023 and is expected to close in October 2025. As of July 1 2024, the project is behind in its implementation due to the challenge and delays described above, and a no-cost extension is requested to end of September 2026.

The Project is working towards **Outcome 1 incentives and reduced risks for investment** and has undertaken a **livestock sector analysis (global and regional)** to guide the decisions on which value chains to work with i.e. to harness commercial sector finance for rangeland restoration. As part of this a set of models for this investment have been identified including those where there are direct linkages between the investor, the value chain and the rangeland (e.g. a fashion company using some of its profits to fund restoration of rangelands on which its supply chain relies), and those where there are not (e.g. an oil company investing in rangeland restoration through a community fund as part of social and environmental corporate responsibility).
The unedited livestock sector reports are attached.

Tools to assist these investments are also in development including a **tool for understanding the carbon footprint of livestock value chains,** which eventually could be used for understanding impact of interventions or activities to reduce the carbon footprint: Modelling carbon and economic dynamics in livestock systems in Tanzania.

The process of developing a **Global Rangelands Standard (GRS)** led by partner Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) has progressed including:
- Conducted a review of existing standards and certifications relevant to the GRS, and necessary principles and regulations including the ISEAL Code of Good Practice, focusing on environmental conservation, social responsibility, and economic viability.
- Created consultation documents:
  - Statement of Intent: This document clarifies the purpose and goals of the GRS initiative. View Document
  - Draft Standard Document and Feedback Form: Draft 0 of the GRS and a template for soliciting stakeholder input. Download Document
- Conducted the following:
  - Introduction to the standard and STELARR project at Natural Fibre Connect Conference, Biella, Italy 29th September 2023. Session recording is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_Haskr61ds
  - **Private sector investment roundtable 21st March 2024 London** with Sustainable Fibre Alliance. The primary objectives were to gauge private sector stakeholders' understanding of rangelands, identify priorities and challenges concerning rangeland stewardship, and gather insights to contribute to the development of the GRS. The STELARR project was presented.

- **Natural Fibre Industry Consultation 12th April 2024 Beijing.** The GRS consultation, held in conjunction with UNCCD's Business for Land (B4L) Workshop, as part of the Sustainable Natural Fibres Global Conference.
- **International Rangeland Experts and Stakeholders Consultation – June - July 2024, Online.** The consultation gathers insights and feedback from international rangeland experts, ecologists and stakeholders regarding Draft 0 of the GRS.

The following establish a **Rangelands Stewardship Council l**ed by SFA:
- Preparation of paperwork for registration as legal entity
- Definition of RSC committee structures and TOR
- Prepared for recruitment of committee members
- Established RSC website View Sample Home Page
- Development of RSC promotional materials

For **Outcome 2 Strong international commitments,** there has been good progress on the **development of the global rangelands data platform**:
- Consolidation of objectives and goals of the platform and specific requirements of different stakeholders.
- Consultation with STELARR Advisory Group October 2023
- Presentation of the Platform at UNCCD CRIC Uzbekistan 14 November 2023
- Establishment of a user working groups split by technical expertise (5 groups) – consultations will take place in September.
- Establishment of a Rangelands Platform Advisory Group (to meet in September)
- The Development Plan of the project has been formulated.
- The design and the platform architecture has been finalized.
- The development of the MVP version of the platform, that provides a functional version of the platform with core features, has been concluded. The MVP is a simplified version that can be tested for usability created with the outcomes of the preliminary analysis of goals and user requirements. See below for a sample page.

For **Outcome 3 Global rangeland monitoring frameworks,** a review of existing global rangeland monitoring systems has taken place, as a foundation for understanding how can we build on these to develop a suitable system for supporting STELARR-supported rangeland investments. Draft indictors are attached. Report is being finalised]

Sample clip of Rangelands Data Platform in development
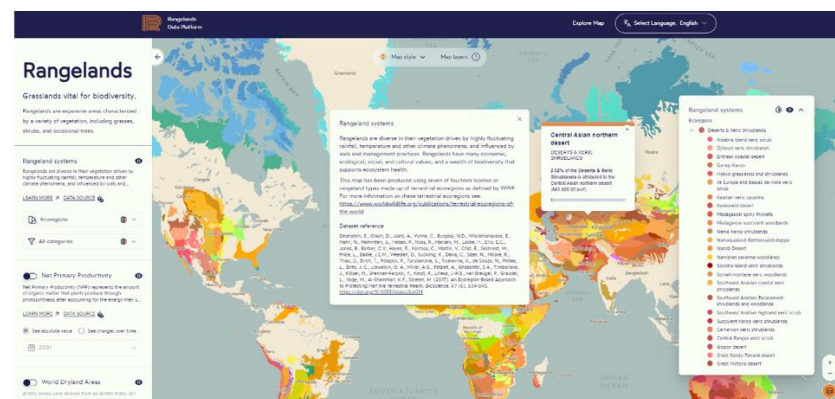
Please fill in the table below building on your result framework.

Outcomes *(Copy and paste outcomes from Result Framework)*	Indicators	Baseline	End of project Target	Periodic Result (2023-2024)	Result to Date (from project start)	Progress rating (HS, S,MS,MU,U,SU)
Outcome 1. Increased incentives and reduced risks for investment in large-scale sustainable rangeland restoration linked to livestock value chains, with a particular focus on women and youth.	No. of investors committed to securing partnerships with local communities on LVCD for SRR	0	At least one investor in each project region	0	0	MS
	No. of local communities committed to securing partnerships on LVCD for SRR	0	At least one local community in each project region	0	0	MS
Outcome 2. Strong international commitments to sustainable rangeland restoration in the context of LDN, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and upcoming IYRP 2026	Strength of international commitments to promoting sustainable rangeland restoration in the context of LDN, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and IYRP 2026	Weak	Moderately strong and improving	Weak	Weak	MS
Outcome 3. Global monitoring framework for sustainable rangeland restoration available for relevant projects and programmes	No. of global monitoring frameworks on LVCD for rangeland restoration	0	One global framework adapted to the project regions including translations	0	0	MS
Outputs	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**End of project Target**	**Periodic Result (01/07/2022-30/06/2023)**	**Result to Date (from project start)**	**Implementation status (%)**

(Copy and paste outputs from Result Framework)						
1.1 Guidelines, tools and frameworks for increased investment in LVCD for SRR, agreed with collaborating projects and partners.	Sector analysis	0	1 sector analysis	1 global and 3 regional sector analysis	1 global and 3 regional sector analysis	100%
	No. of good practice guidelines compiled on investments in LVCD for SRR (particularly targeting women and youth)	0	At least one set of guidelines translated into all major country languages covered by the project	0	0	0
	No. of frameworks and tools for investments in LVCD for SRR	0	At least one set of framework/tools for investments tailored to each project region	1 tool on carbon assessment of LVCD	1 tool	10%
	Standard for certification of rangeland-friendly livestock products	0	Preliminary standard developed and tested by 2025	Global rangelands standard drafted	0	20%
	Percentage of collaborating investors that agree to use the tools and guidelines	0	60%	0		0
1.2 Inclusive and bankable investment partnerships and proposals in LVCD for SRR, in selected value chains	No. of investment awareness campaigns	0	At least one campaign at the global level and one in each project region	0	0	0

	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Progress	Value	%
	No. of investment roundtable dialogues	0	At least one roundtable dialogue per region in the selected value chains	1 x investment roundtable	1	10%
	No. of bankable investment proposal concepts in selected LVCD for SRR	0	At least five bankable proposal concepts distributed across the project regions	0	0	0
	Percentage of women involved in the partnerships	0	At least 50%	0	0	0
2.1: Information on LVCD for SRR is accessible nationally and internationally through data platforms	No. of new data platforms that incorporate STELARR data	0	One new global data platform	First iteration of global platform developed. TWG and Advisory Group established.	0	30%
	No. of peer-reviewed journal articles on LVCD for rangelands restoration	0	At least one journal article	0	0	0
2.2 Intergovernmental dialogues and agreements result in more policies and decisions that strengthen LVCD for SRR	No. of intergovernmental dialogues on LVCD for SRR	0	At least three intergovernmental dialogues	0	0	0
	No. of rangelands champions including women and youth participating in	0	At least one rangeland champion participating in a national	0	0	0

	national dialogues on LVCD for SRR		dialogue in each country covered by the project			
	No. of regional training events on LVCD for SRR	0	At least one training event held in each project region	0	0	0
	No. of project trainees stating improved knowledge of LVCD for SRR	0	At least 60% of trainees stating they had improved knowledge of rangeland restoration	0	0	0
	No. of regional and global events and public media campaigns on LVCD for SRR	0	At least one global and one regional event and public media campaign in all regions covered by the project	0	0	0
3.1 Global monitoring system developed	No. of global monitoring frameworks on LVCD for rangeland restoration	0		0	0	10%
3.2 Global Monitoring Framework developed and tested	Percentage of collaborating stakeholders participating in the development and ground	0		0	0	0

	testing of indicators				

GEF Core Indicators

Please report on GEF core indicators that are relevant to your project using [guidance provided by GEF](#) on the implementation of the GEF-8 results measurement framework

Table 1. Eleven GEF Core Program Indicators

Indicator # As per GEF portal	Indicator	Baseline	Project Target	Progress to date (from project start)	Mean of Verification
3	Area of land and ecosystems under restoration This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration • Area of forest and forest land under restoration • Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration • Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration	0	6,000,000	0	
11	People benefiting from GEF-financed investments This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following Sub-Indicators. • Female • Male	0	565,200 total beneficiaries of which 280,340 are women and 284,860 are men	**0**	

C. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	YEAR Development Objective Progress Rating[4]	YEAR Implementation Progress Rating[5]
Project Manager / Coordinator - Fiona Flintan	*MS*	*MS*
	MS	*MS*
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	*Overall Assessment*
	Due to delay in employing full-time person, the Project activities and outputs have been delayed.	*Due to delay in employing full-time person, the Project activities and outputs have been delayed.*
IUCN GEF GCF Portfolio Manager for Centers	*Overall Assessment*	*Overall Assessment*
	Moderately Satisfactory	*Moderately Satisfactory*
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	*Please provide justification for overall assessment*
	Despite the delays in onboarding Project staff, Project appears on track to meet its development objectives with good progress in a short amount of time.	Despite the delays in onboarding Project staff, Project is advancing well with delivery of some important outputs in a short amount of time including the Global Livestock Sector Review, Draft Global Rangelands Standards for Sustainable Rangelands Products, and work to establish a data platform. We expect Project Implementation ratings to improve in the coming year.
IUCN Global Thematic Programme (IA) - Chris Magero	*Overall Assessment*	*Overall Assessment*
	MS	*MS*
	Please provide justification for overall assessment	*Please provide justification for overall assessment*
	A slow start to the project was caused primarily by delayed onboarding of project manager and by time required to ascertain administrative and governance elements of the project.	*The project elements especially personnel recruitment took longer than anticipated to be on board, hampering the progress of activity implementation.* *Nonetheless, the foundational elements for output 1.1 and 3.1, the livestock sector analysis and the global rangeland monitoring framework has progressed. Partners and stakeholders have been mobilized, informed and engaged rudimentarily. There is need to accelerate the deliverables in the next implementation cycle.*

D. Adjustments

Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure.

The project has had a slow start due to the difficulty of filling the main full-time position, Business Development and Policy Advisor. It has taken over a year to find a suitable person. We have now identified a person and he will start in October. Though we have been able to proceed with some activities in the meantime, other activities have been delayed. However, it has allowed us to spend more time identifying

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[4] This section will use the scale used by the GEF and outlined in Annex of this document: 1) Highly satisfactory, 2) Satisfactory, 3) Moderately Satisfactory, 4) Moderately Unsatisfactory, 5) Unsatisfactory, 6) Highly Unsatisfactory

[5] Idem

the right partners and building relations with these e.g. with UNCCD. We therefore request a no-cost extension to September 2026, which will also allow the Project to contribute to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, during which we are anticipating launching the rangelands standard and the rangelands data platform developed with support from STELARR.

These delays will have no negative impact on the substance of the project outcomes, and rather it may have improved them due to longer time to build a strong foundation for project partnerships. It is just that some of our results will take a little longer to produce than anticipated.

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines.

Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting documents as appropriate within this PIR submission.

- [ ] Results framework
- [ ] Components and cost
- [ ] Institutional and implementation arrangements
- [ ] Financial management
- [X] Implementation schedule
- [ ] Executing Entity
- [ ] Executing Entity Category
- [ ] Minor project objective change
- [ ] Safeguards
- [ ] Risk analysis
- [ ] Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%
- [X] Co-financing
- [ ] Location of project activity
- [ ] Other

Minor amendments	Change description
Implementation schedule	Due to slow start-up of the project, implementation will continue until April 2026 as a no-cost extension.
Co-financing	Due to slow start-up of the project, co-financing sources have changed. New list will be provided.

E. Implementation Progress

Quarter Report	Planned Expenditure	Actual Expenditure		Total budget	1,985,000.00
Project start	0	0		Quarter Planned	198,500.00
Q3 Y1	198,500.00	16,300.55			
Q4 Y1	397,000.00	147,530.59			
Q1 Y2	595,500.00	13,006.60			
Q2 Y2	794,000.00	28,513.32			
Q3 Y2	992,500.00				
Q4 Y2	1,191,000.00				
Q1 Y3	1,389,500.00				
Q2 Y3	1,588,000.00				
Q3 Y3	1,786,500.00				
Final	1,985,000.00				

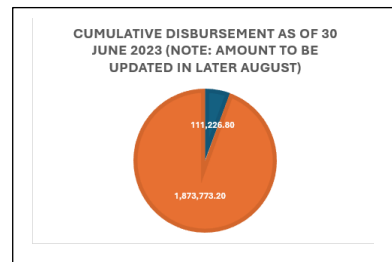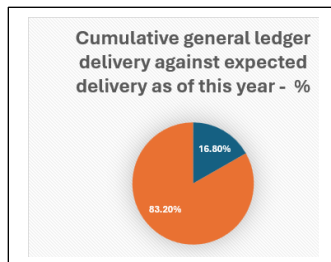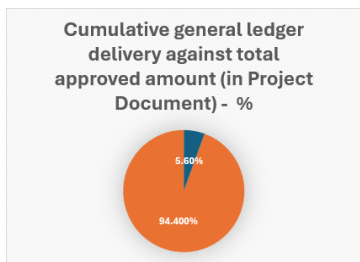Planned and Expenditure analysis
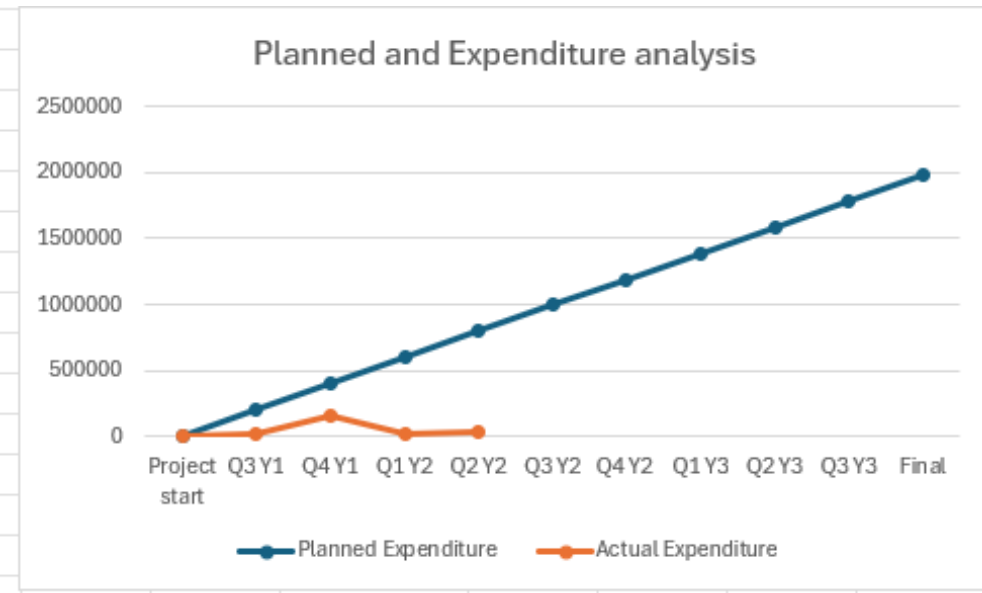
Cumulative Disbursements	
Cumulative general ledger delivery against total approved amount (in Project Document) - %	5.6%
Cumulative general ledger delivery against expected delivery as of this year - %	16.8%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June 2023 (note: amount to be updated in later August)	USD 111.226.80

Key Financing Amounts	
PPG Amount	USD 50,000
GEF Grant Amount	USD 2,000,000
Planned Co-Financing	USD 4,102,048
Co-Financing to date	USD 99,905 reported in financial report plus see Annex 1

Key Project Dates	
PIF Approval Date	02/12/2021
CEO Endorsement Date	08/11/2022
Project Document Signature Date (Project start date)	18/05/2023

Date of Inception workshop (Project launch)	24/10/2023
Expected date of mid-term review	03/2025
Actual date of mid-term review	N/A
Expected date of Terminal Evaluation	
Original planned closing date	30/10/25
Revised Planned closing date	Under discussion

Dates of Project Steering Committee / Board Meetings during reporting period (June to July)
01/12/2023

Cumulative general ledger delivery against total approved amount (in Project Document) - %

5.60%
94.400%

Cumulative general ledger delivery against expected delivery as of this year - %

16.80%
83.20%

CUMULATIVE DISBURSEMENT AS OF 30 JUNE 2023 (NOTE: AMOUNT TO BE UPDATED IN LATER AUGUST)

111,226.80
1,873,773.20

F. Critical Risk Management

Risk Category[6]	Risk description	Rating Level (H, M)	Mitigation measures undertaken in this reporting period	Risk Owner	Updates / Changes
External	Risk of private sector not willing to invest in rangeland restoration blocking STELARR achieving outcomes	M	Rangelands standard in development as incentive for investments	ILRI	N/A
Operational	Risk of STELARR supported interventions causing conflict, violence and unrest due to limited understanding of context, weak monitoring and weak stakeholder consultations causing delays and even abandonment of project activities	M	No measures undertaken yet	ILRI	N/A
Strategic	Risk of projects that STELARR helps to design have negative environmental and social impacts during implementation causing negative legacy of STELARR and compromised reputation of IUCN, ILRI and other partners	M	No measures undertaken yet	ILRI	N/A

Project overall risk rating (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High). *Please see Annex – Ratings definition for guidance.*

2022 rating (H, S, M, L)	2023 rating (H, S, M, L)	Comments/reasons for the rating for 2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
L	L	The project is working across countries with flexibility to move focus if context in one particular country deteriorates.

G. Gender

Progress in advancing Gender equality and women's empowerment
Please note that all projects approved since GEF 6 are required to carry out a gender analysis and provide gender-responsive measures to address differences, identified impacts and risks, and opportunities through a Gender Action Plan (GAP) or equivalent.

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[6] IUCN risk categories: Strategic, Financial, People management, Operational, Legal/Compliance, Information systems, External

Does this project specifically target woman or girls as direct beneficiaries?
Yes it does. The project aims to benefit 565,200 beneficiaries with 50% women and 50% men
In case a gender analysis was not undertaken during project preparation (PPG), has it been carried out in this reporting period? If yes, what were the main findings? If an analysis during project design had been undertaken, but further updates have been carried out during the reporting period, please indicate this below. Please also report on additional site level gender analyses if they were undertaken during this reporting period.
Gender analyses will be undertaken when we start working with the livestock value chains. This has not commenced yet.
Please describe progress in implementing the Gender Action Plan (GAP); you could also add the GAP in form of a GAP progress report as annex. Please also specify results achieved this reporting period through implementing gender-responsive measures.   Results reported can include site level results working with local communities as well as work to integrate gender considerations into national policies, strategies and planning. Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.
Please see Annex below.
Please report on gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated targets as established in the results framework
We have not yet been working on activities that require a targeted gender focus – we will include this once we have identified the value chains that we will be working with.

H. Implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Information on progress, challenges and outcomes of Stakeholder Engagement
Please see below Annex for details on implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan. Key engagements in the reporting period include: - Engagement with multiple stakeholders in the consultation processes for the rangelands standard through both virtual and in-person meetings.   - Engagement with multiple stakeholders in the investment round tables held with the Sustainable Fibre Alliance with particularly strong participation of the private sector.   - Strengthened partnership with UNCCD both in supporting the development of the rangelands standard and in co-organising events to raise attention to rangelands globally.   - Partnership between international organisations including IUCN, WWF, CGIAR partners, FAO, UNEP, International Land Coalition, others to raise attention to rangelands globally.   - Strong involvement of multiple stakeholders in development of Rangelands Data Platform through experts user group consultations and Advisory Group.

I. Environmental and Social Safeguards

This project is categorised as Low Risk and this categorisation has not changed, so as advised this section has not been completed.

Progress of implementing the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other safeguard tools			
Environmental and Social Risks	**Risks identified by ESMS Screening or during any update of ESMP since project start[7]**	**Actions taken during this FY; explain in particular how you engaged with groups affected by the identified risks**	**Are the measures considered sufficient? Are there any outstanding issues relevant for next FY?**
Adverse gender-related impacts	**N/A**		
Risks of affecting vulnerable groups	**N/A**		
Risk of undermining human rights	**N/A**		
Community health, safety and security risks	**N/A**		
Labour and working conditions	**N/A**		
Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals	**N/A**		
New risks emerged	**N/A**		
ESMS Standards[8]	**Required management measures/plans (when standard triggered)**	**Actions taken during this FY; explain in particular how you engaged with groups affected by the identified risks**	**Are the measures considered sufficient? Are there any outstanding issues relevant for next FY?**
Involuntary Resettlement & Access Restrictions ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Resettlement Action Plan ☐ Resettlement Policy Framework ☐ Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts Access Restriction ☐ Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework ☐ Other:		
Indigenous Peoples ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Indigenous Peoples Plan ☐ Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework ☐ Other:		
Cultural Heritage ☐ yes ☒ no	☐ Chance Find Procedures ☐ Other:		

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[7] Add n/a if the respective risk issues has neither been identified during the ESMS screening nor in any update of the ESMP.

[8] Please check the respective box to indicate the decision at Screening stage: whether a standards has been triggered or not, or the decision was deferred to the implementation phase. If the latter, please explain the status of this decision.

☐ TBD			
Biodiversity & Sustainable Use Natural Resources ☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Pest Management Plan ☐ Other:		
Project Risk Category (as per ESMS Screening)	☒ Low Risk ☐ Moderate Risk ☐ High Risk		
Have findings during implementation triggered any changes to the **Project Risk Category**? If yes, explain the issues and the new rating.	No, they have not changed		
List all risk issues that are now rated as **high risk** (if any)			
Has a list of relevant **host country regulations** on environmental and social matters been established? What is the status of the project's compliance with the applicable laws and regulations?	This is global project with no direct/first-hand interventions in countries.		
In case any changes of regulations have occurred since project design, have these changes been reflected in project implementation?	N/A		

In addition, please indicate whether any grievances as per IUCN and GEF ESS policies have been received during this reporting period. If yes, please answer the below questions and attach the grievance log as annex in order to describe status and progress of the case. The latter should also be done in case grievances had been received in earlier reporting period.

Please explain the grievance
N/A

Please indicate how it is being/has been addressed

J. Knowledge Management

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval during this reporting period.

Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? How does the project collect, document and share good practices? Please list relevant good practices from this year that can be learned and shared from the project.
The project has a joint knowledge management and communications strategy. We are not yet at a point where we have good practices to collect and share.

Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.
The project has a joint knowledge management and communications strategy that aims to both communicate about the project, its intentions and its results, as well as to raise positive attention to rangelands more broadly. There is no one big major communication success to report, but rather it has been a steady raising of awareness on a) the project and b) pastoralism, rangelands and rangeland restoration generally. The main communication challenge was not having the project full-time position filled which limited time available for communication activities, as well as causing a day to project implementation.

Communication material

Please provide a list of publications, project website, project page on the IUCN website, any other facebook, twitter, flickr or youtube account related to the project, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents.
Publications - **Modelling carbon and economic dynamics in livestock systems in Tanzania** https://hdl.handle.net/10568/139279 **Blogs: published on GEF, CGIAR and ILRI websites as well as appearing in GEF e-Newsletter** - Supporting livestock value chains to restore large rangelands https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/blog/supporting-sustainable-livestock-value-chains-restore-large-rangelands - Charting a path to more sustainable livestock value chains with a Rangelands Stewardship Council and a rangelands standard https://www.cgiar.org/news-events/news/charting-a-path-to-more-sustainable-livestock-value-chains-with-a-rangelands-stewardship-council-and-a-rangelands-standard/ **Events** - Sustainable livestock value chain investments for rangeland restoration side event at Global Landscapes Forum Finance, Luxembourg Finance for Nature, February 2023 https://www.globallandscapesforum.org/video/sustainable-livestock-value-chain-investments-for-rangeland-restoration/ - Financing Sustainable Livestock Value Chains for Rangeland Restoration, Global Landscapes Forum Digital Africa https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/agenda/africa-2022/15-september-2022/financing-sustainable-livestock-value-chains-for-rangeland-restoration/ Presentations at the STELARR Inception and rangelands data platform meeting, Rome 2023 - The RAMONA project and potential linkages to the ILRI platform https://hdl.handle.net/10568/151525

- Sustainable rangeland/grassland restoration in Latin America
https://hdl.handle.net/10568/151539
Rangelands Stewardship Council. Introduction.
https://hdl.handle.net/10568/151485
Sustainable value chains for rangeland restoration and livelihoods in Africa – a tentative mapping
https://hdl.handle.net/10568/151540
Sustainable investments in large scale rangeland restoration (STELARR)
https://hdl.handle.net/10568/151486
Component 3: Global monitoring framework for sustainable rangelands
https://hdl.handle.net/10568/151507

Lessons learned

Please share any particular lessons learnt in the context of project implementation (e.g. successfully tested tools, unexpected positive or negative impacts) and/or lessons learnt regarding one of your key outcomes

The biggest delay to implementation has been employing finding the full-time staff member. On hindsight could have worked better to go through a headhunting recruitment firm rather than us/ILRI trying to employ someone direct.

Communicating impact

Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives and biodiversity and how it contributed to the target(s) pledged through internal conventions (UNCCD LDN, UNFCCC NDCs, CBD NBSAPs, SDGs, etc) and/or national policies

(The text will be used for IUCN Corporate Communications, the IUCN-GEF web-site, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts)

Please also note you can share your success story and solution on the IUCN PANORAMA web platform. This will allow for knowledge retention and dissemination of project outcomes and success factors.

We are not yet at a point of communicating impact

What is the most significant change that has resulted from the project this reporting period?

Raising of interest in the concept of the project i.e. harnessing commercial sector finance for rangeland restoration through sustainable value chains.

Annex - Ratings definitions

Implementation Progress Ratings

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Implementation of **all** components is in substantial compliance
with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be presented as "good practice".

Satisfactory (S): Implementation of **most** components is in substantial compliance with the

original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action.

Moderately Satisfactory (MS): Implementation of **some** components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **some** components requiring remedial action.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): Implementation of **some** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with **most** components requiring remedial action.

Unsatisfactory (U): Implementation of **most** components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): Implementation of **none** of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

Global Environment Objective/Development Objective Ratings

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Project is expected to achieve or exceed **all** its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as "good practice".

Satisfactory (S): Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings.

Moderately Satisfactory (MS): Project is expected to achieve **most** of its major relevant objectives, but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve **some** of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits.

Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU): Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only **some** of its major global environmental objectives.

Unsatisfactory (U): Project is expected **not** to achieve **most** of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, **any** of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits.

Development/Adaptation Objective Ratings (For LDCF/SCCF/GCF Adaptation)

Highly Satisfactory (HS): Project is expected to achieve or exceed all its major development/adaptation objectives, and yield substantial adaptation benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as "good practice".

Satisfactory (S): Project is expected to achieve most of its major development/adaptation objectives, and yield satisfactory adaptation benefits, with only minor shortcomings.

Marginally Satisfactory (MS): Project is expected to achieve most of its major relevant development/adaptation objectives, but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major development objectives or yield some of the expected adaptation benefits.

Marginally Unsatisfactory (MU): Project is expected to achieve its major development/adaptation objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to achieve only some of its major adaptation objectives.

Unsatisfactory (U): Project is expected not to achieve most of its major development/adaptation objectives or to yield any satisfactory adaptation benefits.

Highly Unsatisfactory (HU): The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, any of

its major development/adaptation objectives with no worthwhile adaptation benefits.

Risk ratings

Risk ratings will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project that may   affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risks of projects should be   rated on the following scale:

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to   hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

Substantial Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.

Modest Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

The table below illustrates how the risk categories used by GEF and IUCN align with one another.	
GEF risk categories	**IUCN risk categories**
Climate	External
Environment & Social	Part of ESMS risk assessment
Political and Governance	External
Macro-economic	External
Strategies and policies	Strategic
Technical design of project or program	Operational
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Operational
Fiduciary: financial management and procurement	Finance
Stakeholder engagement	Part of ESMS risk assessment
Other	People management; Legal / Compliance; Information systems
Financial risks for NGI projects	N/A

The table below illustrates how the risk rating/level used by GEF and IUCN align with one another.	
GEF risk rating / level	**IUCN risk rating / level**
High	High

Substantial	High
Moderate	Medium
Low	Low

Substantial

High

Annex 1: STELARR Gender Action Plan

Objective	Activities	Progress 2023-4
Increase understanding on the importance of a gender lens in pastoralism and the important roles that women play	- Research on gender, women, pastoralism and VCs - Participation in meetings and networks on gender and pastoralism - Events or other initiatives to raise attention to gender, women and pastoralism - Films on women and livestock VCs - Blogs/news on success stories on women	- Participating in IYRP ISG working group on pastoralist women and discussions are underway to organise a gathering next year as lead up to IYRP - Contributing to UNCCD's #HerLand compilation volume.
Improve gender equity of livestock value chains with which STELARR will work	- Undertake gender analysis of value chains as part of value chain analysis of the value chains with which we will work. - Provide guidance on improving gender equity in the VCs with which we work. - Gender disaggregated beneficiary data.	- Not yet started indepth study on or working with VCs
Support activities that contribute to gender transformation in livestock value chains with which we work	- Identify women LVC champions - Build capacity and confidence of champions to participate in meetings, and other - Films of women champions - Engage with VC actors to look for entry points to improve participation of women and other and provide guidance	- Not yet started working with value chains
Improve gender focus of investments in livestock VCs for rangeland restoration	- Investors guidelines on importance of gender in livestock value chains - Blogs/news on success stories for women in VCs on relevant business platforms	
Maintaining gender equity during project implementation	- Ensure all staff and partners understand STELARR's commitment to support gender equity across the project - Encourage gender equity in project structures including Project Steering Committee and advisory groups - Encourage gender equity in meetings and events - Implement gender action plan - Preferred use of pastoralist women's images in publications	- Importance of gender equity discussed at Project Steering Committee meeting. - 40% women in Project Steering Committee

Annex 2: STELARR Stakeholder engagement plan and progress

Actor	Anticipated engagement	Actual engagement 2023-4
IUCN	- Implementing agency - Link to GEF (and other) funded projects supporting rangeland restoration - Regional and global policy influencing - Chair of Project Steering Committee	- Chaired PSC - Co-led Advisory Group meeting - Co-organised UNCCD CRIC side event - Participated with ILRI in bilateral conversations about global collaboration on rangelands including at forthcoming COPs.
ILRI	- Executing agency - Knowledge generation and sharing at the global and regional levels - Regional and global policy influencing (promote rangeland restoration, private sector engagement and dialogue on regional restoration initiative) - Coordinator of global rangelands data platform - Member of Project Steering Committee	- Executing project including rangelands standard, rangelands data platform, global livstock sector analysis. - Co-organised UNCCD CRIC side event - Participated with IUCN in bilateral conversations about global collaboration on rangelands including at forthcoming COPs. - Led engagement with below stakeholders. - Participated in PSC.
• ICARDA, • ICRAF/CIFOR • Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT	- CGIAR partners assist with knowledge generation and policy influencing at the global and regional levels - Participation in targeted and applied research to be carried out within the framework of the project - Member of Project Steering Committee	- Collaborative Resaerch Agreement established between ILRI and these CGIAR centers. - Undertook regional livestock sector analysis. - Participated in PSC.
Research orgnisations • CIP	- Joint research and linkages to VCs	- Working with CIP (Potato Center) Peru on understandin the Vicuna VC, with which STELARR may work with,
• Global Landscapes Forum	- Platforms and knowledge service providers	- Held pre-project event at Global Landscapes Forum Finance, Luxembourg January 2023

Actor	Anticipated engagement	Actual engagement 2023-4
• Natural Fibre Connect • Grasslands and savannahs coalition • Global Research Alliance • CGIAR Sustainable Finance Group • IYRP international support group Others to be identified after the sector analysis	- Dialogue facilitators between governments, other stakeholders, private investors and green financing organizations - Some may be interested to be members of the Project Advisory Committee	https://www.globallandscapesforum.org/video/sustainable-livestock-value-chain-investments-for-rangeland-restoration/ - Sustainable Fibre Alliance is a key partner of STELARR and leading the establishment of the standard and Rangelands Stewardship Council. - Attended Natural Fibre Connect meeting in Biella, Italy and will attend again in 2024- key meeting place for private sector. Also NFC held meeting on rangelands standard in China in April 2024. - ILRI and IUCN participate in WWF's Grasslands and Savannahs group and they assisted in identifying people for the Data Platform user groups. - The rangelands standard consultation included IYRP ISG members
International conservation organizations	- TNC - WWF	- Have discussed with WWF on identifying restoration opportunities - WWF attended Advisory Group meeting - Collaboration with WWF (IUCN and others) for global rangelands events - Several people from WWF and other conservation organisations are contributing to the development of the Rangelands Data Platform as a member of the user group consultation.
Global Livestock Advocacy and Development (GLAD)	- Platform implemented by ILRI - Support global media campaigns - Facilitate dialogue between commercial investors and other stakeholders - Member of Project Advisory Committee	- Undertaken joint global advocacy work on rangelands
Rangeland Stewardship Council (to be launched September 2022)	- Platform and overseeing body for certification of rangeland-friendly products	- Still in establishment with support from STELARR. ILRI has participated in preliminary meetings.

Actor	Anticipated engagement	Actual engagement 2023-4
	- Representative on the Project Advisory Committee	
• Implementing agencies of GEF involved in DSL IP • FOLUR and other supported rangeland restoration projects (IFAD, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank and WWF) to be confirmed once the Child Projects are identified	- Facilitate knowledge exchange - Advise on opportunities for investor outreach, capacity development and regional/global cooperation - Participate in development and peer review of standards and frameworks - Representative on the Project Advisory Committee	- Not contacted yet
Regional economic development commissions and programmes (e.g. ECOWAS, CAREC and OAS)	- Platforms for policy dialogue - Participation in regional and international dialogues	- Not contacted yet
Global and regional pastoralist organizations, including: • World Pastoralist Forum, • WAMIP (World Alliance for Mobile Indigenous Peoples) • PastoArabic, PastorAmericas, JASIL, A2N, RPPS, SAPA, AFPAT, • ILC Rangelands Initiative • Others to be verified during the sector analysis	- Coordinated representation of pastoralist interests and participation in the project - Representation of pastoralists in dialogue and negotiations with private sector actors and policy and planning dialogue - Training of rangeland champions - Representative on the Project Advisory Committee	- Led of World Pastoralist Forum is on STELARR Advisory Group and attending first meeting, and is also on the Rangelands Data Platform Advisory Group. - Many of these groups are also members of IYRP ISG and have contributed to consultation on rangelands standard. - Not yet engaged with others in terms of value chains
Global livestock networks, including commercial sector representatives	- GASL - GRSB (Global Round Table for Sustainble Beef)	- Attended GASL meeting in Rome July 2024. Not had any specific engagement related to project yet. Met GRSB at the meeting and had brief discussion on collaboration. To follow up.
Civil society organizations in the target regions engaged in LVCD (e.g. AVSF, Sustainable Cashmere of Mongolia, Grassland Groupies, REDES	- Knowledge providers and channelling information to their networks - Peer review of knowledge products, including global standards for certification	- CSOs have been given opportunities to give comment on the rangelands standard through consultations set up by SFA.

Actor	Anticipated engagement	Actual engagement 2023-4
CHACO and FUNDAPAZ) or those providing knowledge such as LPPS	- Training of rangeland champions	
Knowledge hubs: • Pastoralist Knowledge Hub FAO • WOCAT • EverGreening Alliance	- Knowledge and information potentially to be channelled to the development of a common vision for rangelands restoration, guidelines and others - Recipients, repositories and channels for knowledge dissemination and experiences generated through the project	- Discussions had with FAO-PKH about global collaboration. Member of STELARR Advisory Group and attended meeting. - WOCAT is member of Advisory Group and attended meeting, and is also a member of the Rangelands Data Platform expert user groups.
Host governments of DSL IP Child Projects	- Executing agencies of GEF and other funded projects - Beneficiaries of knowledge products for national data platforms	- Not contacted yet
UNCCD Global Mechanism	- Advice on LDN indicators and relevance to rangeland restoration - Facilitate outreach and knowledge sharing of project outcomes with the UNCCD constituency, including through knowledge sharing at UNCCD events such as UNCCD CRICs and COPs - Coordination and experience sharing with LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes portfolio - Establish contact with the LDN Fund manager entity (e.g. Mirova)	- Co-organised global meeting on rangelands developoing roadmap to 2026 IYRP back-to-back with STELARR Inception meeting. - Representatives on STELARR Advisory Group - Had several discussions about STELARR linking with UNCCD Business for Land initiative. - STELARR held side event at UNCCD CRIC - Had several consultations about collaboration at UNCCD COP26
UN Agencies and multilaterals - UNEP - IFAD	- Project potentially working with agency-supported value chains - Linkages to relevant projects and initiatives	

Actor	Anticipated engagement	Actual engagement 2023-4
Private sector (e.g. Burberry, Johnston of Elgin, Danone, Kering, Unilever, Camel Charisma, Alpacal, Marks and Spencer and John Lewis - to be verified during the sector analysis)	Participation in roundtables and other dialogue to fully understand the perceived and actual risks and barriers to restoration in rangelands Participation in STELARR-facilitated exploration of opportunities for rangeland restoration through bankable projects in LVCD	- Private sector have participated in round table invesment meetings organised by the Sustainable Fibre Alliance where STELARR was presented, and having input to the development of the standard and Rangelands Stewardship Council. - Started engaging with them during livestock sector analysis and this will increae as we move forward with working with the livestock value chains.
Producer networks	- National Federation of Pasture Users Group Mongolia	- Not yet working at country level so not yet engaged directly. - SFA has been carrying out consultations with the NFPUG
• Financing entities, e.g. LDN Fund (Mirovia/Althelia) • Yunus Fund • GreenFund • Asian Development Bank Althelia Climate Fund (EIB)	- Potential sources of financial investment (including innovative financing, PES and carbon payments) for rangeland restoration	- Not yet engaged
Africa	- RBM and APESS	
Latin America	- Columbia: CRSB, GANSO, HSJ and Exito and Carulla	- Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT are working with these actors as part of the sustainable beef VC that STELARR will probably work with.
For data platform	- CSIRO - ESA European Space Agency (RAMONA) - Sahel observatory	ESA and Sahel observatory are members of Rangelands Data Platform Advisory Group, and participated in UNCCD CRIC event.