Sustainable investments for large-scale rangeland restoration (STELARR)

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10816

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
  CBIT **No**
  NGI **No**

Project Title
Sustainable investments for large-scale rangeland restoration (STELARR)

Countries
Global

Agency(ies)
IUCN

Other Executing Partner(s)	Executing Partner Type
ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute)	Others

GEF Focal Area
Land Degradation

Taxonomy
Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Pasture Management, Drought Mitigation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Forest, Drylands, Biodiversity, Biomes, Grasslands, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approache, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization,

Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Communications, Education, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Integrated Programs, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Integrated Landscapes, Landscape Restoration, Smallholder Farming, Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa, Land and Soil Health, Gender Dimensions, Resilience to climate and shocks, Multi-stakeholder Platforms, Commodity Supply Chains, Adaptive Management, Sustainable Commodities Production, Smallholder Farmers, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Targeted Research, Enabling Activities, Innovation, Learning, Adaptive management

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration
24 In Months

Agency Fee($)
180,000.00

Submission Date
5/3/2021

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
LD-1-1	GET	800,000.00	2,161,840.00
LD-2-5	GET	1,200,000.00	1,631,228.00
Total Project Cost ($)		**2,000,000.00**	**3,793,068.00**

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To strengthen international commitment, national support and investment for rangeland restoration

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
Rangeland investments	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1: Increased investment in rangeland restoration	Output 1.1: Knowledge and awareness of rangeland restoration investment opportunities and potential is strengthened Output 1.2: Inclusive investment partnerships and proposals are developed	GET	1,200,000.00	2,161,840.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
Rangeland restoration commitment	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1: Stronger international commitment to rangeland restoration	Output 2.1: Improved information on rangeland restoration and related VCD opportunities and benefits is available Output 2.2: Partner countries develop consensus on rangelands and rangeland restoration (investment) pathways	GET	578,182.00	1,321,228.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
Monitoring and evaluation	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1 Global monitoring framework for rangeland restoration adopted for rangeland projects and programmes	Output 3.1 Framework of indicators for rangeland restoration elaborated based on the Theory of Change Output 3.2 Project monitoring and evaluation completed based on the monitoring framework for rangeland restoration	GET	40,000.00	10,000.00
			Sub Total ($)		**1,818,182.00**	**3,493,068.00**

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET		181,818.00			300,000.00
	Sub Total($)		**181,818.00**			**300,000.00**
	Total Project Cost($)		**2,000,000.00**			**3,793,068.00**

C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Donor Agency	CGIAR Big Data Platform ? Rangelands Data Platform	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Donor Agency	Kuwait Fund and Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development ? Improving agricultural production systems and conserving natural resources under climate change in the Arabian Peninsula	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,685,340.00
Donor Agency	United States Forest Service ? Watershed Restoration in Badia Areas of Jordan	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	107,728.00
Donor Agency	Swedish Universtiy of Agricultural Sciences - Drylands Transform Project	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	150,000.00
Donor Agency	IFAD - Strengthening Landscape level Baseline Assessment and Impact Monitoring	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Donor Agency	European Union - Regreening Africa	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,000,000.00
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
Other	ILRI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
			Total Project Cost($)	**3,793,068.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Not Applicable

D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
IUCN	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	2,000,000	180,000	2,180,000.00
				Total GEF Resources($)	**2,000,000.00**	**180,000.00**	**2,180,000.00**

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required   **true**

PPG Amount ($)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,500

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
IUCN	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	50,000	4,500	**54,500.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**50,000.00**	**4,500.00**	**54,500.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
381750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
381,750.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
101158.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

101,158.00

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
GEF 7 Core Indicators 3-15-19_STELLAR Project_Aug2021	
Theory of Change (ToC)	
LogframeResultsFrameworkSTELARR	
GEF 7 Core Indicators 3-15-19_STELLAR Project	

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	84,840			
Male	69,414			
Total	154254	0	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Global importance of rangelands

Rangelands occupy approximately 54% of all land on earth, they are home to 30% of all species, contain one third of all soil carbon, and support the livelihoods of up to half a billion livestock keepers. However, in many countries, this rich natural heritage has become synonymous with land degradation, biodiversity loss, poverty and human vulnerability. Rangelands can be found on every continent except Antarctica (Dong et al. 2012) with two-thirds in Asia (36%) and Africa (30%).

About 91% of global rangelands are extensive rangelands with few landscape boundaries (e.g., fences) and have limited crop agriculture (Reid et al, 2008). The remaining 9% support a mix of grazing and cultivated land with boundaries and have low to moderate human populations. Although only 3% of the world?s people live in extensive rangelands, 35% of the world?s sheep, 23% of the goats, and 16% of the cattle and water buffalo graze here (Reid et al, 2008). Rangelands are home to around 2.5 billion people, with the majority of these people living in developing countries and in dryland areas. Dryland inhabitants are often marginalised from development and policy processes, as well as political discourses, and in many countries dryland peoples have for long been denied sustainable development and related appropriate investments. This has contributed to entrenching a profound misunderstanding of drylands environments, leading to inappropriate and even detrimental interventions (Mortimore et al 2009).

Properly managed rangelands can provide food security and poverty alleviation to millions of people. Rangelands provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as food and fiber, carbon storage (including ~30% of the world?s soil carbon), recreation, open space, and water supply (Yahdjian et al. 2015). With improved rangeland management they could potentially sequester a further 1300-2000 MtCO2 e by 2030 (Tennigkeit and Wilkes, 2008). Rangelands are essential resource for both maintaining environmental services like biodiversity conservation and as a source of livelihood, especially for rural communities (Asner et al., 2004). Around 30% off all species are found in rangelands. The Eastern Mongolian Steppes for example are home to the largest remaining intact temperate grasslands of the Earth. Its main distinctive characteristic compared to other steppe ecosystems is that it is dominated by grasslands across thousands of square kilometres, with some

species of bush and shrubs. 25 species of mammals, 174 species of birds, 2 species of amphibians and 5 species of reptiles have been recorded. [1][1]

The most dominant livelihood system in rangelands is pastoralism - extensive livestock production including a degree of movement/mobility, and which can be combined with other land uses including tourism and conservation. Pastoralism makes a strong contribution to many developing country economies; an estimated 80% of agricultural GDP in Sudan and Niger and 90% in Mongolia (Davies and Hatfield, 2006). Good livestock management goes hand-in-hand with good land and resource management for a sustainable and nature-positive livelihood system.

When functioning well and efficiently extensive livestock-based systems are cost-effective, culturally appropriate, have value-added potential for non-food products such as wool, cashmere, and leather, and tourism providing alternative incomes whilst also better contributing to biodiversity, payments for ecosystem services, nature and a healthy environment. As such investments in extensive livestock production rather than intensive is a win-win-win for people, livestock and the environment. Livestock, when managed properly for ecological outcomes including planned grazing, can play a vital role in mitigating climate change by stimulating grassland plants to sequester carbon in soil,[2][2] as well as increase nitrogen stocks,[3][3] soil moisture, and fine litter cover,[4][4] and forage biomass.[5][5]

Threats to rangelands

Though there has been significant research undertaken on some rangelands, for example in Central Asia and East Africa, there is generally a lack of national data on the distribution of rangelands and their health/productivity, which translates into a lack of verified data at global level. Figures used to describe the distribution of rangelands vary significantly and much of the data that is in current use can be traced back to studies undertaken in the 1960/70s. A significant UN report in 2019 underscored

these significant data gaps under the title, ?A Case of Benign Neglect: Knowledge Gaps About Sustainability in Pastoralism and Rangelands? *[6]*[6].

The benefits of rangelands have not been fully appreciated. Higher productivity areas with permanent access to water such as riverine lands have been converted to crop farming. This has been shown to have high economic and environmental costs placing the whole rangeland system at risk as without access to these lands for dry season grazing, it is impossible to use the rest of the rangeland effectively *(Behnke and Kerven 2013)*. Further, cropping lands have blocked migration routes for both livestock and wildlife, and grazing lands and wildlife habitats have been increasingly fragmented. National boundaries have split rangeland ecosystems.

With extra livestock pressures on remaining land, coupled with impacts of such as government policies and climate change leading to higher temperatures and more erratic rainfall (reduced in some places, increased in others), land degradation*[7]*[7] has increased*[8]*[8] together with a loss of animal productivity, wildlife and biodiversity.*[9]*[9]*[10]*[10] New challenges such as significant increases in the incidences of invasive species have made matters worse, with communities and other local land managers lacking capacity and knowledge to address these new threats.

Further, land use change has been identified as a key driver/trigger for pandemics such as Covid-19 as wild animals get pushed closer to domestic livestock and humans meaning there is greater opportunity for the development of new zoonoses and ?spill-over.? A key hotspot for this is forest-grassland boundaries. Preventing such land use change and monitoring it where it occurs is a recommended measure that will contribute to preventing further pandemics *(https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/agenda/biodiversity-2020/28-october-2020/a-one-health-approach-for-environmental-animal-and-human-health/).[11]*[11] *[12]*[12]

There has been a lack of investment in halting these negative trends, preventing land use change, reversing rangeland degradation, restoring rangelands and raising their productivity. Where

investments have taken place they have been piecemeal and without a common vision*[13]*[13]. In general investments in rangelands including grasslands and savannahs is significantly behind that of forests. The full benefits of rangelands are not fully appreciated, not least due to lack of good data, and there is a lack of understanding and clarity on the opportunities of investing in for example carbon storage and sequestration in rangelands. The linkages with livestock-based value chains including the participation of women and youth have not been fully explored and exploited: increasing the value of livestock and incomes from them can result in a higher appreciation of their value and more investment in ensuring a healthy resource base.

In the past, rangelands were perceived as risky environments, marginal lands, conflict-prone, drought-prone, inaccessible and dangerous receiving little attention including from development programmes. However, over the last two decades this has improved with infrastructure and communication linkages increasing, improved access to basic services for local populations and markets, better drought management programmes and safety-net projects, reduced conflicts and improved tenure security and good governance in many places, and greater support for development interventions including improved and more participatory land use planning. In addition, the particular role that women and youth can play in restoration efforts is being more appreciated. Albeit some risks still exist and there is still great room for improvement in such as provision of services, the investment environment has improved significantly.

Land degradation neutrality (LDN) provides a framework for addressing these threats (https://www.unccd.int/actions/ldn-target-setting-programme). However, response options for achieving LDN in rangelands are restricted due to, amongst other, poor science-based and up-to-date evidence and data on rangelands (distribution, status, economic value including of ecosystem services and investment benefits), few documented good practices of rangeland restoration (particularly at scale), limited understanding of risks and opportunities for investment particularly amongst the private sector, lack of coordination (at regional/continental and national levels) and low capacity amongst governments to restore rangelands at scale including working with local rangeland users/communities. Despite a limited number of relatively small-scale, project-based rangeland interventions and investments, global and regional actors and national governments have been slow to commit to large-scale restoration and public-private partnerships are scarce.

The contribution of the Sustainable Investments in Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration (STELARR)

project

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This project will directly address these degradation trends and improve the enabling environment for restoring rangelands to a full, and where possible, improved productivity. This global project will work with investors to identify the (perceived) risks, member states already implementing GEF investments, and more specifically with GEF-supported projects. The linkages to livestock-based value chains targeting women and youth in particular will be explored and developed, seeking out high-value business opportunities where client and supplier can work together to develop sustainable enterprises both for the environment and financially. Rangeland restoration investments will be increased through working with governments and private investors to fully understand the challenges and opportunities for investments, developing guidance for investments, and conducting awareness raising campaigns. This will include consideration of criteria needed to enable rangeland investments such as tenure security and good governance. Based on this, and where enabling conditions allow, investment partnerships (including private-public) will be developed.

A starting point for STELARR is to confirm the exact nature of the enabling environment (terms and conditions) that best provides for rangeland restoration investments based on where restoration is already taking place, as well as what types of restoration investments provide maximum returns in terms of environmental, social and economic benefits. Awareness of the importance and benefits of rangelands and their restoration amongst different stakeholders including the global public will be raised, collecting and using evidence-based and up-to-date data on rangelands, their status and trends. Good practice restoration efforts linked to sustainable livestock value chains with opportunity for upscaling will be showcased, and guidelines for this developed. Sustainable brands will be flagged, and local stories documented to publicise them. Multi-sectoral and inter-governmental dialogues to reach agreement on rangeland restoration pathways and priorities will be supported.

National and regional/continental action for increasing international commitments to rangeland restoration will be supported through developing a common vision of the future of rangelands, capacity building, establishment of communities of practice and domestication of global commitments to land restoration through rangeland champions.

Rangeland restoration investments will be increased through working with governments and private investors to fully understand the challenges and opportunities for investments, developing guidance for investments, and conducting awareness raising campaigns. This will include consideration of criteria needed to enable rangeland investments such as tenure security and good governance. Based on this, and where enabling conditions allow, investment partnerships (including private-public) will be developed.

Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Understanding of rangelands and their benefits amongst the scientific community have improved significantly over the last thirty years, and particularly in terms of rangeland ecology, the benefits of rangelands and the role of pastoralism in maintaining rangeland ecosystems. However, generally there is a lack of national data on the distribution of rangelands and their health/productivity, which translates into a lack of verified data at global level.

However, this knowledge has failed to have been adequately taken up by governments and other stakeholders, including in policy and legislation that still reflects a bias against pastoralism prioritising other land use systems for investment including in restoration efforts. The benefits of rangelands have not been fully appreciated. Higher productivity areas with permanent access to water such as riverine lands have been converted to crop farming. Cropping lands have blocked migration routes for both livestock and wildlife, and grazing lands and wildlife habitats have been increasingly fragmented. National boundaries have split rangeland ecosystems.), Land degradation has increased together with a loss of animal productivity, wildlife and biodiversity.

Though there have been signs in a shift of thinking amongst some member states and within the global arena - see for example the Ndjamena Declaration, Nouakchott Declaration and Kiserian Declaration - this has not led to any appreciable investment in rangelands particularly from the private sector. And though the world has seen a phenomenal increase in global efforts to restore land, the majority has been targeted to forests and planting of trees. Conversely, this effort has in fact put rangelands at greater threat as several tree-planting initiatives have seen rangelands as vacant ground for these. In general investments in rangelands including grasslands and savannahs is significantly behind that of forests. The linkages with livestock-based value chains particularly targeting women and youth have not been fully explored and exploited: increasing the value of livestock and incomes from them can result in a higher appreciation of their value and more investment in ensuring a healthy resource base. This is despite the fact that over the last two decades the risk environment has improved with infrastructure and communication linkages increasing, improved access to basic services for local populations and markets, better drought management programmes, reduced conflicts etc.

Land degradation neutrality (LDN) provides a framework for addressing these threats. However, response options for achieving LDN in rangelands have been restricted. Despite a limited number of relatively small-scale, project-based rangeland interventions and investments, global and regional actors and national governments have been slow to commit to large-scale restoration and public-private partnerships are scarce.

New initiatives and upcoming ones being launched this year are an opportunity to reverse these trends, fill information and knowledge gaps and move forward from ?business as usual? to a situation where rangelands are given the attention that they deserve. A strengthening global partnership on rangelands has been established and is still growing, reflected in the recent launch of the global Rangelands Atlas http://www.rangelandsdata.org/atlas produced through a partnership of ILRI, IUCN, FAO, WWF, UNEP and the ILC Rangelands Initiative. This Atlas is launched as a working document that will continue to grow (as will the partnership), and will be key resource for this project, feeding into the development of the proposed global rangelands data platform. Improvements in geoinformatics and the availability of higher-resolution satellite imagery presents exciting times for good quality monitoring of such as rangelands and changes in these, overtime.

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) recognized the importance of rangelands during its second meeting in May 2016 (UNEA-2), when 158 countries passed Resolution UNEA L.24 on ?Combating desertification, land degradation and drought and promoting sustainable pastoralism and rangelands?. This decision reflects the growing awareness of rangeland degradation and interest in supporting pastoralists as guardians of the rangelands.

Indeed, while the UNCCD has not developed explicit recommendations on rangeland restoration, discussions with parties to the convention are ongoing to strengthen support under it. While progress towards clear international support for rangeland restoration remains tentative, these examples show that there is growing opportunity to accelerate action for rangeland restoration through international dialogue. The principles of LDN, as well as other international commitments (e.g. pledges for Forest Landscape Restoration under the Bonn Challenge) clearly state the need for balanced responses across ecosystems and land use types. During UNCCD COP14, a number of countries raised concerns over imbalances in restoration efforts, including the neglect of dryland and grassland biomes in restoration initiatives. This demonstrates a growing impatience among some countries to see greater action in these marginal environments. Parties to the UNCCD recently held the first inter-actor dialogue and agreed to push rangeland restoration as an agenda item through the next UNCCD COP.

Further, there are internationally agreed frameworks such as the VGGTs (Voluntary Guidelines on Good Governance and Tenure), Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, the Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, and the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism?s ?Minimum Standards in Sustainable Pastoralist Development?. These provide a framework for the development of global standards, tools and processes for large-scale rangeland restoration.

Of great significance in 2021 is the launch of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration on 5th June in which Grasslands, Shrublands and Savannahs have been identified as one of six ecosystems requiring urgent attention. [14][14] All activities proposed here align with the proposed ten actions of Decade, including financing, shifting behaviours, and building capacity for restoration implementation at multiple levels. As IUCN, ILRI and ICRAF are both Global Partners of the Decade, activities, communication, and outputs will be aligned with the decade goal(s) and will be communicated through the Decade?s communication channels to ensure wide dissemination and reach. ILRI is currently expanding a partnership agreement with UNEP on rangelands including how to support the UN Decade. It is yet to be seen how the implementation of the Decade will move forward, however it is understood that there will be significant opportunities to allign this project with the goals and implementation of the Decade and this will be explored more with UNEP and partners in the project design.

Further, the preparations for the UNFSS (UN Food Systems Summit) have identified in Action Track 3 and game-changing solution: Restoration of Grasslands, Shrublands and Savannahs through Extensive Livestock Production, recognising the important role that livestock can play.

The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) is an important platform for convening different stakeholders, sharing experience and knowledge, for dialogue for the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. This includes the involvement of the private sector. For example, in November 2019 the GLF convened in Luxembourg for its fourth annual Investment Case Symposium focused on how can sustainable land-use financing be moved into the mainstream, The event brought together nearly 500 of the world?s leaders of sustainable finance institutions to ease the process of channeling investment into landscape sustainability projects and supply chains. The Luxembourg Government has recently agreed to extend this platform for three years. GLF is working with UNEP on the launch of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration for which the German Government has provided US$20 million, with GLF receiving US$3.5 million over 2 years.

Additional important platforms and events where rangelands will be discussed are World Conservation Congress, the One Planet One Health initiative, the UN Food Systems Summit, the UNCCD Global Mechanism and knowledge hub, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), the Just Rural Transition, the Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral systems (an inter-governmental body of the Committee on Forestry), Evergreening Alliance and the Global Alliance for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), together with the global and regional groups established as part of the call for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. The project will work with these in order to extend the reach of the project in terms of consolidating good practices and influencing.

To help fill the data gaps on rangelands a global rangelands data platform is being developed by ILRI and partners. Improvements in geoinformatics and the availability of higher-resolution satellite imagery presents exciting times for good quality monitoring of such as rangelands and changes in these, overtime. At Atlas of maps combining global datasets to show a first impression of issues in rangelands will be launched in 2021.

Work conducted by IUCN, the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP), and others demonstrates the high value of ecosystem services in rangelands and shows the opportunities for public and private investment. Innovation in local action has increased in recent years, including through projects funded by the GEF, creating new avenues for experience sharing and scaling up including IUCN?s HERD initiative generating new lessons on rangeland investment in Africa and Asia, while the GEF7 Dryland Impact Programme demonstrates a significant effort to scale up forest landscape restoration in these areas. The Global Child Project on Sustainable Drylands Landscapes led by FAO will contribute to promoting regional dialogue over rangeland restoration opportunities. Regions that have paid little attention to restoration in the past such as the Arab region are now pushing for regional restoration processes ? see the Arab Land Conference that took place in February 2021. The UNCCD Science-Policy Interface (SPI) has released the Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality: this provides a scientific basis for understanding, implementing and monitoring LDN. It has been designed to create a bridge between the vision and the practical implementation of LDN, including through the LDN Target Setting Programme. The GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) has also issued guidelines offering practical help in developing GEF projects which contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality[15][15].

IUCN and WWF are collaborating in a new Latin America Grasslands project (in Paraguay, Colombia and Argentina) under the International Climate Initiative, which will provide new partnerships in a region that has been relatively disconnected from global discourse on rangelands. And development agencies such as IFAD are increasing their investments in rangelands and initiatives such as the Great Green Wall, in which IUCN is lobbying for greater attention to rangeland restoration.

ILRI and CGIAR centers are in the process of developing new core programmes for the One CGIAR going forward from 2022. This includes programmes focusing on improving agrosilvopastoral systems. There is an opportunity here to link to these programmes and draw from the rich expertise and experiences of CGIAR centers, increasingly realising the opportunities of working more closely with development and conservation partners and governments for greater impact on the ground.

At the local level in many countries, elected leaders and civil society organisations are representing communities more effectively, and support is growing for upholding the rights of these populations. Improvements in land tenure, governance and sustainable and participatory rangeland management are taking place, creating further incentives to invest in rangeland restoration.

This combination of growing policy support, emerging knowledge, built capacities and stronger voice creates a unique opportunity to give impetus to innovations and investments accelerating LDN attainment in the most remote regions. An emerging group of international and local actors, including CGIAR centres, WISP, the Rangelands Initiative of the International Land Coalition (ILC), the Global Grassland and Savannahs Platform Coalition led by WWF, and the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub of FAO, the Dryland Restoration Initiative Platform (DRIP) are building momentum for change and creating further opportunities to strengthen global investment in restoration and sustainable management of remote landscapes. Existing regional coordination and implementation mechanisms can be leveraged within the context of this project, such as the Great Green Wall Initiative in northern and southern Africa, and the Central Asia Countries Integrated Land Management (CACILM) Initiative in Central Asia.

The time is right to connect and reinforce these nascent initiatives and global opportunities, and support their coalescence into a global rangeland restoration movement through sustainable extensive livestock production systems with a common vision for the future of rangelands and the pastoralism that it supports.

Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the

project

The Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration (STELARR) will support the restoration of rangelands at scale in the Middle East & North Africa, Central Asia, and the Latin America & Caribbean regions as part of a new global rangeland restoration movement. These regions are currently under-represented in rangelands dialogue, and rangelands are under-represented in regional and global restoration dialogues. Responding to the challenges outlined above, in light of the current opportunities, requires action on at least two levels. STELARR will also support mobilizing sustainable private investments in rangeland restoration, including green finance, and public-private initiatives. STELARR will 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 overarching goal of STELARR is that ?rangelands are restored and sustainably managed in line with national voluntary targets for Land Degradation Neutrality?.

The objective of STELARR is ?to reverse rangeland degradation and improve productivity of rangelands globally?.

STELARR will have two outcomes. Outcome 1 will be increased investment in rangeland restoration and Outcome 2 will be strengthen national and international commitments to rangeland restoration and investments. **Please see attached theory of change and logframe/results framework.**

Outcome 1. Increased investment in large-scale rangeland restoration linked to livestock value chains (particularly targeting women and youth)

Output 1.1. Knowledge and awareness of rangeland restoration investment opportunities and potential is strengthened

1.1.1. A sector analysis of (perceived) risks, challenges, opportunities of investing in rangeland restoration, including the role of women and youth,conducted through dialogues with key global and national stakeholders.

1.1.2. Global, regional and national data platforms established on investment opportunities, innovations and good practices, and investors

1.1.3. Good practice guidelines for investments in rangeland restoration and livestock product value chains (particularly targeting women and youth) are published, including compliance with established standards, tools, processes, and internationally agreed frameworks e.g. VGGTs, FPIC, and guidelines for safeguards.

1.1.4 Agreed upon frameworks, tools and processes for rangeland investment

1.1.5 Targeted awareness campaigns conducted with key investor groups

Output 1.2. Inclusive investment partnerships and proposals are developed

1.2.1.   Investment dialogues convened between major categories of investors and stakeholders (including women and youth) in target regions

1.2.2.   Securing of bankable rangeland restoration investments and related livestock product value chains (particularly targeting women and youth), following agreed standards, tools and processes, including public-private partnerships with identified donors/partners

Outcome 2.   Stronger international commitment to rangeland restoration

Output 2.1.   Improved information on rangeland restoration and related value chain development opportunities and benefits is available

2.1.1.   Global knowledge platforms on rangelands are strengthened to highlight trends and opportunities, and showcase restoration approaches and practices including for monitoring purposes

2.1.2.   Global and regional data on rangeland degradation and restoration opportunities are published in a peer-review journal

Output 2.2.   Partner countries develop consensus on rangelands and rangeland restoration (investment) pathways

2.2.1.   Intergovernmental dialogue on restoration and investment supported under the Rio Conventions and other international fora including the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

2.2.2.   Rangeland champions, including elected representatives and community leaders, women and youth, are supported to promote domestication of international commitments to rangeland restoration

2.2.3.   Regional training events for key national partners to roll out private investment guidelines (Act. 1.1.3)

2.2.4.   Awareness raising on rangeland values and sustainable livestock production in public events and global media campaigns

Component 1 will emphasise addressing the capacity gaps around mobilizing private investment, including better understanding the enabling environment and criteria for successful and sustainable investments and value chains development (targeting women and youth) based on sustainable livestock products, convening dialogue with and between investor groups and potential investors and clients, and generating awareness of innovative investment solutions (see more below). A sector analysis will be carried out of (perceived) risks, challenges and opportunities of rangelands restoration, and key global public and private players with potential for restoration and their interests. Amongst other, the project

will: 1) map the benefits (both public and individual/collective) of the rangelands to public and private players; 2) build understanding of incentives and motivations for investments; 3) Identify risks and barriers to investment and ways to address or mitigate them; and 4) identify synergistic opportunities where it makes sense to combine public and private investments. The project will specifically target investments that support the pastoral and rangeland systems including value chains utilising animal products and/or contribute to the restoration and rehabilitation of the land and resources. Value chains will target the inclusion/leadership of women and youth, as a means to their empowerment.

Component 2 will raise understanding of the importance of rangelands, their restoration and linkages to sustainable value chains amongst different stakeholders. Good practice restoration efforts with opportunity for upscaling will be showcased, and guidelines for this developed. Multi-sectoral and inter-governmental dialogues to reach agreement on rangeland restoration pathways and priorities will be supported connecting to and building on other related global dialogue, for example on sustainable agriculture and restoration including the UN Food Systems Summit, Global Landscapes Forum and UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration. The outcomes of these rangeland restoration dialogues will be channeled to prioritize and actions of parties to the UNCCD, UNFCCC and the CBD, to harness the potencial of rangeland restoration on climate change adaption and mitigation.

Component 3 will elaborate and monitoring framework based on an expanded theory of change for the project. This framework will develop metrics to monitor the impacts of the project activities on large-scale landscape restoration that will include sub-indicators on knowledge products and awareness creation, capacity development, sustainable land investment and the contribution of global knowledge platforms. The output of this component will be applied to monitor project activities but will also act as a guideline for monitoring rangeland restoration across different global programs and projects.

Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The programmatic approach of this project responds to the recognition in GEF-7 Programming Directions that ?Because of the scale of these biomes [including grasslands, savannahs, shrublands etc.], a comprehensive and large-scale set of investment is needed as fragmented and isolated projects will not be sufficient in these large ecosystems to maintain the integrity of these unique and globally important areas? The novelty of this Impact Program resides in the fact that GEF will be aiming at maintaining the ecological integrity of entire biomes by concentrating efforts, focus, and investments, as well as ensuring strong regional cross-border coordination? [16][16].

The project outlined in this concept is aligned with the GEF LD Focal Area strategy, and specifically Goal 1, ?aligning GEF support to promote UNCCD?s Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept through an appropriate mix of investments?. The primary aim of the project is to boost investment in rangeland restoration and sustainable livestock product value chains as part of this, which represent prominent degradation ?hotspots? in the LDN targets of many countries, but where investment is currently very low, meaning that LDN implementation is not proceeding in line with the recommendation of the LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework.

The project will contribute to LD Focal Area Objective 1, to ?Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN?. It will collaborate with the Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program sub programme on ?Dryland Sustainable Landscapes? (see below).

The project will also contribute to LD Focal Area Objective 2, ?creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation?. In particular the project will help to institutionalise rangeland restoration, strengthen governance of rangeland landscapes, provide technical assistance for leveraging private investment, engage smallholders (in this case pastoralists including agropastoralists), build capacity and strengthen both knowledge and monitoring.

STELARR will coordinate with GEF?s Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL) initiative under the Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program in particular the Global Coordination Project (GCP) under development, by generating complementary knowledge and tools, strengthening engagement with regions that are not strongly included in the impact programme, and strengthening investment in specifically rangelands, which are neglected in restoration initiatives in many countries. In particular, this project will strengthen knowledge and capacity for rangeland restoration and will strengthen institutional commitment to balance restoration of rangeland and forest landscapes. The two projects will collaborate on knowledge management and on the use of platforms for stakeholder engagement. STELARR will emphasise work on grasslands, shurblands and savannahs, which are the most neglected and poorly understood components of the rangelands, and it will help to address the following gaps in DSL:

? Generate knowledge and evidence on the state of land degradation in rangelands, the extent of commitment to rangeland restoration within LDN voluntary targets, and gaps or imbalances in investment responses

? Strengthen capacity to restore and sustainably manage healthy rangelands as part of landscape restoration actions, including capacity to effectively engage rangeland communities and uphold their land and resource rights

?   Build institutional commitment to rangeland restoration, including addressing institutional gaps over jurisdiction and mandates for rangeland management

?   Promote private investment in rangeland restoration.

Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline the GEFTF, LDCF,

SCCF and co-financing

STELARR is global cross-country project which will work in three specific regions. Activities will take place at this level, but impacts will be felt more at national and eventually local levels. As such, indirectly the project will contribute to many of the GEF sub-indicators related to sustainable land management, rehabilitation, restoration, etc.

As described above investments are being made in rangeland restoration albeit in an ad hoc and fragmented way. STELARR will enhance these initiatives and the benefits from them by improving the enabling environment for them and building capacity. Further, the impact of the project is not only about what can be achieved during the project lifetime but also to what degree has the enabling environment been improved in order to increase future investments (impacts). Indeed, improvements in the enabling environment will benefit both current investments (including those supported by GEF) and future ones thereby increasing the generation of global environmental benefits.

This project will support land restoration at scale in rangelands by facilitating investment in this together with related livestock product value chains (targeting women and youth), with knock-on positive impacts for climate change adaptation, mitigation and biodiversity (see above). The project with do this through the LDN framework. Rangeland restoration will lead to improved ecosystem functioning and thus improved water supply, reduced drought and food risk, a more ameliorating environment and other. Investments in ?other effective area-based conservation measures? (OECMs[17][17]) including community-led conservation initiatives such as ICCAs (indigenous and community conserved areas) will be an important part of the dialogue.

For example, STELARR will help countries meet their Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, thereby contributing to the achievement of UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework Strategic

Objective 1: Improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality. By improving understanding on rangelands, and an enabling environment for investments in restoration, STELARR will assist countries to achieve their LDN targets, as proposed in their Project Documents, by focusing in particular on rangelands, and by supporting the storage and recovery of carbon stocks in vegetation and soils.

STELARR will further contribute to environment benefits through:

i)   Increasing access to data on rangelands, good practices on restoration and other so that projects planning to and/or currently implementing investments in rangelands can do so in a more informed way.

ii)   Improve coordination and cooperation mechanisms at regional and global levels and informing the targeting of investments in rangeland restoration from regional and national priorities.

iii)   It will contribute to the scaling-up of good practice rangeland restoration projects to other areas, countries, regions.

Co-financing

Co-financing includes:

-              Global rangelands data platform ? with funding from the CGIAR Big Data Platform, the establishment of the rangelands database is already underway and will provide a ready platform consolidating data, understanding changes and trends, and sharing data. This project will strengthen this working with governments and development partners to ensure the platform is most useful for decisions on rangeland restoration and fulfilling LDN commitments (US$100,000) led by ILRI.

-              Kuwait Fund and Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development ? Improving agricultural production systems and conserving natural resources under climate change in the Arabian Peninsula (US$1,685,339.81) including rangelands in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Bahrain and Yemen) 2019-2022 led by ICARDA.

-              United States Forest Service ? Watershed Restoration in Badia Areas of Jordan (US$107,728) including technology packages for controlling and monitoring gully erosion led by ICARDA.

-              Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences - Drylands Transform Project (US$150,000)

- IFAD - Strengthening Landscape level Baseline Assessment and Impact Monitoring (US$500,000)

- European Union - Regreening Africa (US$1,000,000)

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Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

STELARR supports the development and adaptation of restoration approaches to rangelands including through investments. It will work across stand-alone GEF (and other) supported projects facilitating sharing of knowledge, good practices and experiences, in order to develop a common vision for rangeland restoration and guidelines/frameworks for this.

The project is also innovative in supporting partnerships between governments, communities and other stakeholders with investors in rangelands, in particular the private sector functioning at regional or global level, increasing the ability of national actors to identify opportunities for partnerships with the private sector (for example through value chains or financial services), and also increasing their bargaining power, enabling them collectively to negotiate favourable terms of trade in regional and global value chains.

STELARR is a collaborative effort of IUCN, CGIAR centres, and development agencies including IFAD working with regional bodies and national governments and projects. The practice/policy interfaces in collaboration with research institutes is innovative.

By working with regional bodies, governments, development agencies and other stakeholders from the full design of the project through to its implementation, the sustainability of interventions and activities supported by the project will be improved. This will be increased through capacity development.

Scaling-out will be promoted through the implementation of LDN commitments by countries and more specifically in land degradation and restoration activities in rangelands, supported by guidelines and frameworks, and capacity building. Further STELARR will work with existing continental and regional platforms (inter-governmental and other) in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and approaches

among policy-makers and practitioners from different (IP and non-IP) countries. In additional regional dialogue and other events for capacity building and knowledge exchange will be supported.

For scaling-up, STELARR will work in three priority regions. There is potential opportunity for scaling up to other regions. Further the project will work at global level raising awareness on rangelands and their benefits, opportunities for investment etc. Knowledge and data collected through this project will be made available globally through the global rangelands data platform. Working with the Drylands Sustainable Landscapes project and others will further provide opportunity for scaling-up.

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[1] https://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5946/

[2] As detailed in Soil4Climate?s grazing research compendium ?Hope Below Our Feet,? properly-managed grazing has been found to sequester carbon in soil at the following levels: 1.2 tC/ac/yr (Teague 2016), 1.5 tC/ac/yr (Stanley 2018) and 0.93 tC/ac/yr (Rowntree 2020). Teague (2016) suggests the drawdown potential for AMP grazing in North America is 0.79 GtC/yr.

[3] Mosier et al 2021

[4] Dowhower, S. L. 2020

[5] Hillenbrand, M., 2019

[6] Johnsen, K.I., M. Niamir-Fuller, A. Bensada, and A. Waters-Bayer, 2019. A case of benign neglect: Knowledge gaps about sustainability in pastoralism and rangelands. United Nations Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal, Nairobi and Arendal

[7] *Key indicators of degradation include bare soil, soil erosion prevalence and compaction.*

[8] Livestock overgrazing and rangeland degradation pose a serious challenge to biodiversity conservation on the steppes of Mongolia and emanate from a number of interrelated factors. Following the rapid rise in livestock numbers since the 1990s, land degradation and desertification expanded, especially in the more marginal desert-steppe and desert regions[8]. In 2001 government officials reported that >70% of Mongolia was at least marginally degraded and 7% was seriously degraded. By 2007 the Mongolian government had increased their estimates of seriously degraded land to 9.0% of its land base, or some 14.08 million ha[8]. Most of the degraded land occurred on pasturelands, with some 12.31 million ha (9.8%) of steppe pasturelands designated as seriously degraded. As livestock numbers increase, they eventually degrade Mongolia?s rangelands (as they already have in many parts of the country, especially the more semiarid rangelands), with negative effects for future grazing by livestock and wildlife[8].

[9] *Despite the commitment made by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, global biodiversity indicators show continued decline at*

steady or accelerating rates, while the pressures behind the decline are steady or intensifying (Butchart et al. 2010[9]; Hudson et al. 2014[9]; Mace et al. 2010[9]).

[10] Field studies combined with remote sensing and Geographic information system (GIS) methodologies suggest a decline in vegetation richness of 10?30% across Sahel and a southward shift of Sahel, Sudan, and Guinea zones due to shifts in temperature and precipitation regimes[10].

[11] Predict Consortium (2014) Reducing Pandemic Risk and Promoting Global Health. https://ohi.sf.ucdavis.edu/sites/g/files/dgvnsk5251/files/files/page/predict-final-report-lo.pdf

[12] UNEP and ILRI (2020) Preventing the next pandemic ? Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/preventing-future-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks-protecting-environment-animals-and

[13] As highlighted in GEF-7 Programming Directions, ?*?SFM investments have been isolated to certain small forest lands across all of GEF?s eligible countries with no sustained vision nor potential for ecosystem or biome level outcomes. Fragmented and isolated investments while good for small area of forest, fall short of maintaining the integrity of entire biomes where there is that potential?*.

[14] See: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/types-ecosystem-restoration/grasslands-shrublands-and-savannahs

[15] https://stapgef.org/guidelines-land-degradation-neutrality

[16] GEF-7 Replenishment Programming Directions. GEF/R.7/19. April 2, 2018

[17] Other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) is a conservation designation for areas that are achieving the effective in-situ conservation of biodiversity outside of protected areas.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

The project acts globally and regionally, with emphasis on the Middle East & Africa, Central Asia, and the Latin America & Caribbean regions as part of a new global rangeland restoration movement. These regions are currently under-represented in rangeland projects. The following map, developed by ILRI and its partners, is the latest attempt to map the rangealnds globally and is part of a Aangelands Atlas that will be pubslihed in 2021. The map shows the global distribution of rangelands and illustrates the significance of these lands in the target regions. While Africa is also a major region, there are a number of African initiatives on rangelands and pastoralism and the new project will complement those to represewnt rangelands from a more global perspective.
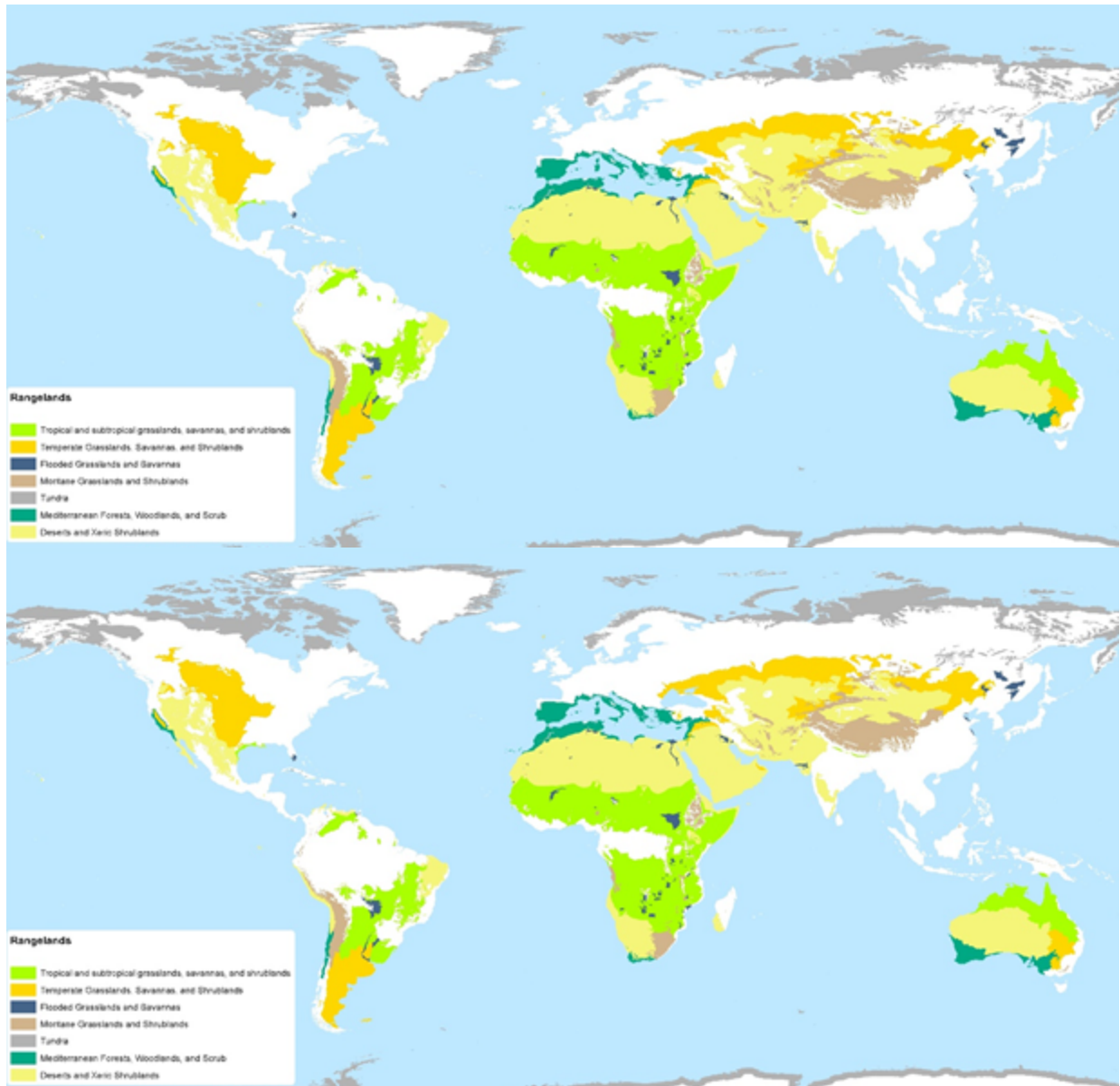
2. Stakeholders
Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why:

IPS and local communities, CSOs, private sector. In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, will be engaged in project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

Actor	Role
IUCN	Implementing Agency Linkage to GEF (and other) funded projects supporting rangeland restoration Regional and global policy influencing
ILRI	Executing agency: knowledge generation and sharing at the global and regional levels, regional and global policy influencing (promote rangeland restoration, promote private sector engagement, dialogue on regional restoration initiative), coordinator of global rangelands data platform
ICARDA, ICRAF, IFPRI	CGIAR partners assisting with knowledge generation and sharing at the global and regional levels, regional and global policy influencing Participation in targeted and applied research to be carried out within the framework of the project.
Implementing agencies of GEF- and other supported rangeland restoration projects (IFAD, FAO World Bank, IUCN, WWF - TBC)	Quality assurance of rangeland restoration projects, facilitating knowledge exchange, advising them on opportunities for capacity development, and regional/global cooperation Members of Project Task Force, advising on programmatic directions
Regional economic/development commissions and programs, (e.g. SADC, ECOWAS, CAREC).	Platforms for policy dialogue Participation in regional strategy formulation, prioritisation, discussions and negotiations on rangeland restoration, facilitated by the Project
Global, regional, national pastoralist organisations e.g. World Pastoralist Forum, WAMIP (World Alliance for Mobile Indigenous Peoples), CSOs	Coordinated representation of pastoralistinterests, and participation in the project Representation of pastoralists in dialogue and negotiations with private sector actors and in policy and planning dialogue. Representative on the Project Task Force
Global Landscapes Forum	Facilitator of dialogue between governments and other stakeholders, and private investors and private and green financing organisations

Actor	Role
Knowledge hubs: Pastoralist Knowledge Hub FAO,UNCCD Knowledge Hub and Global Mechanism, Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agro-silvopastoral Systems, Global Landscape Forum, WOCAT, EverGreening Alliance, GASL,	Sources of knowledge and information potentially to be channelled to the development of common vision for rangelands restorationn, guidelines and othere. Recipients, repositories and channels for dissemination of knowledge and experiences generated through the project.
Host governments of IP countries	Executing Agencies of GEF and other funded projects Beneficiaries of capacity development
UNCCD Global Mechanism	Oversight and advice on project reporting on LDN indicators Facilitate outreach and knowledge sharing about the outcomes of the project with the broader UNCCD constituency, including through knowledge sharing at UNCCD events such as UNCCD CRICs and COPs (e.g. at upcoming UNCCD CRIC19 in November 2020 and/or reporting on lessons learned about LDN implementation at the upcoming UNCCD COP15 in 2021) Technical support and facilitation of LDN capacity building events Coordination and sharing of experiences with LDN Transformative Programmes and Projects portfolio Establish contact with the LDN Fund manager entity (e.g. Mirova)
Private sector	Participation in dialogue and other to fully understand the perceived and actual risks andbarriers to restoration in rangelands Participation in STELARR-facilitated exploration of opportunities for rangeland restoration Support to rangeland restoration inculding finance Provision of technology and ICT support to dryland rangeland restoration
Financing entities (e.g. LDN Fund)	Potential sources of financial investment support (including innovative financing, PES and carbon payments) to rangeland restoration: the STELARR will facilitate linkages between governments and others and these entities in order to support the identification of financing needs and opportunities, and the channelling of resources.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

Women?s role in livestock production is often overlooked and undermined. Normally in pastoral communities women and men share production activities to ensure optimum outputs. Often women?s labour contribution can be more than men as women undertake childcare, livestock activities and are often the ones to take on new tasks such as in crop farming or alternative income generation activities. It will be important for this project to consider these gender dimensions in order to optimise the opportunities for rangeland restoration linked to gender-sensitive livestock value chains particularly targeting women and youth. With women involved in such activities it should be a direct route to improved health, education and social well being in households and the community.

This project will not work directly with local communities, but rather will seek to build the capacity of governments and other stakeholders to consider and address gender issues and women?s empowerment as part of investments in community-led rangeland restoration intiatives. This will include men and women?s role in decision making processes related to rangeland restoration and implementation. This will be a component of the trainings undertaken. Further, good practices involving pastoral women (and youth) in restoration will be sought, and show-cased through documentation and film.

 STELARR will thereby indirectly contribute to the improved delivery of gender-sensitive interventions and activities benefits across the different projects it will work with and promote the empowerment and inclusion of women (and youth). The project will facilitate access to, and application of, guidance resources in relation to gender, such as the Practical Guide for Improving Gender Equality in Territorial Issues (IGETI) (2018) and Governing land for women and men (FAO, 2013), a technical guide to support the achievement of responsible gender-equitable governance of land tenure, and the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the VGGT Guidelines on Pastoral Land Governance. These guidelines seek to promote the land rights of women farmers/pastoralists, among others, who face serious gender discrimination in all regions.

Gender-focused activities of STELARR will include:

-        Supporting sharing of examples of gender-sensitive and/or women-led rangeland restoration through documentation and film;

-        Providing guidance to stakeholder, projects and initiatives on how to carry out gender-sensitive rangeland restoration through guidelines, trainings and other.

-        Contribute to gender-focused initiatives related to rangeland restoration at regional and global levels.

-        Making gender actions and outcomes highly visible in key regional and global events and through communication channels (social media, news stories, films etc.).

-        Linking to the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact program, STELARR will contribute to forthcoming project between WOCAT and the UNCCD Secretariat on gender-sensitive SLM Technologies and Approaches. Through this project, WOCAT will develop a methodology for assessment, as well as evaluating a number of technologies already existing in the WOCAT Database in view of their gender-sensitiveness, so that such technologies can be prioritized by interventions with similar contexts and conditions.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Will the project?s results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes
4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes
Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

STELARR will work closely with the private sector mainly at global and regional levels as a core component (component 1) of the project including identifying barriers, risks and opportunities for investment in rangeland restoration, mapping benefits of rangelands to public and private players, and building understanding of incentives and motivations for investment in rangeland restoration and gender-senstive sustainable livestock product value chains targeting women and youth. This will enable a better understanding what an enabling environment for investment is and criteria for successful and sustainable investments. Overall the project intends to improve the enabling environment for private (and public) sector investment and engagement in rangeland restoration and related value chains, assist the development and implementation of the investments and partnerships supporting them.

STELARR will develop guidance for investors in rangeland restoration on compliance with established standards, tools and processes, including internationally agreed frameworks e.g. VGGTs, FPIC; and conduct targeted awareness raising campaigns on rangeland restoration benefits and opportunities with key investor groups. Standards, tools and processes for investments and nature-based solutions including developing public-private partnerships for rangeland restoration agreed across stakeholders will be developed.

The project will work with the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) to facilitate dialogue at the global level between investors, value chain actors such as Danone and Gobi Cashmere, marketing associations and non-profits like FUNDAPAZ or REDES CHACO, finance companies including development banks in the target regions and microfinance institutions, fund managers such as the LDN Fund and the Green Climate Fund, and off-setting companies such as extractive industries. The project will also help to expand knowledge of, and innovation with, different investor interest groups, including ecotourism and other non-consumptive uses of nature (including possible payments for ecosystem services), input suppliers (e.g. seed nurseries), and niche product developers and generate awareness of innovative investment solutions, such as mobile money, risk-reducing insurance, green finance and others. The project will take advantage of opportunities presented by existing private sector platforms such as Business for Nature (B4N) [1], for supporting the engagement of multiple private sector actors and facilitating scaling-out across sectors and geographically.

The project will take stock of private companies with potential for rangelands investments including those with whom GEF is already partnering . The opportunity of a rangelands stewardship certification scheme will also be explored ? the introduction of traceability schemes as part of One Health schemes in such as Mongolia are important developments in this regard ? see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfrBfD6q-4o&t=7s. Component 1 will draw on existing standards that have been agreed and are publicly available and will use these to influence potential investors, and to identify potential pitfalls for rangeland investments that require additional guidance. Component 1 will bring together major categories of investors and other stakeholders in target regions, including investors in livestock value chains, investors in SDG outcomes, extractive industries investing in offsets, and potential investors in Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) including carbon sequestration. PES may be relatively low in rangelands, but the low population density means that there are fewer people to divide such payment between, which may increase the motivation to invest.

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[1] https://www.businessfornature.org/

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

The activities are built on the strength that the multiple stakeholder including government and intergovernmental organizations will be willing and able to commit to strengthening their actions on rangelands. This project will also support investment in rangeland restoration through documentation of opportunities for investment, developing guidance, creating awareness and developing proposals that support sustainable investement in rangelands. These activities will be supported through already existing projects that are being implemented by other institutions including IUCN and ILRI under other funding including GEF and GCF.

Climate change predications in rangelands include that in 16% of rangelands globally (approximately 12,000,000 km2) the average maximum temperature is predicted to flip from below 35?C to greater than 35?C by 2050. This flip will be a critical threshold for rangeland vegetation and heat tolerance in some species. The remaining 84% of rangelands will not be affected having a higher average maximum temperature and/or are not impacted. It is predicted that 27.74% (22,053,984 km2) of all rangelands (79,509,421 km2) will be affected by climate changeIt is predicted that approximately 31% of rangelands will be affected by one or more climate change thresholds by the year 2050. It is predicted that approximately 12 million km2 be affected by a maximum temperature aver 30?C, and 9.6 million km2 be affected by a shorter growing season. A further 3 million km2 will be impacted by annual temperature over 8 degrees (Rangeland Atlas, ILRI et al 2021).

Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Lack of prioritization of rangeland restoration by governments and projects	High	Low	Awareness raising of importance of rangelands will be carried out, and technical advice given. Champion countries, projects, and individuals will be identified and supported to influence reluctant parties.	ILRI
Limited organizational capacity or credibility of regional and government bodies	High	Low	Interactions with multiple regional and national bodies in order to spread risk; strengthening of the capacities	ILRI
Limited commitment of private sector to invest in rangeland restoration	High	Low	Project will work closely with private sector to jointly identify barriers and opportunities for rangeland restoration, support platforms for information exchange, and build a critical core of investors currently and/or willing to invest in rangelands.	

Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Limited receptiveness of governments and other stakeholders to knowledge inputs	High	Low	Outreach to governments and other stakeholders regarding the potential benefits from taking on and responding to knowledge inputs	ILRI
Climate change ? see predicted passing of climate change thresholds including temperature rise in some rangelands in the Rangelands Atlas www.rangelandsdata.org/atlas	Low	High	Climate change will strengthen the rationale for the project, rather than undermine it. The project will support countries/regions in addressing climate change issues in relation to rangeland restoration	ILRI
Conflict, violence and unrest	Low	Medium	The project will work at regional and government level so this should not impact greatly on project results. The incidence of such risks strenthen the importance of this project i.e. to improve the productivity of rangeland which should indirectly postively effect conflict.	ILRI
Impacts on communication and participation due to national, regional or global health emergencies	Medium	Low	Investment in virtual means of communication, advisory and IT support to participating countries and stakeholders. The project has been designed with this in mind and therefore elaboration of activities will account for these risks.	ILRI
Social and environmental threats posed by national, regional or global health emergencies	Low	High	As with climate change, these threats will strengthen the rationale for the project, rather than undermine it: the project will support countries in developing and implementing response, recovery and resilience strategies within the context of rangeland restoration, including regional/global cooperation on these issues.	

Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
COVID19 pandemic related impacts on the internal and international travel, operation of government/ partners/ project; health impacts on general population as well as economic impacts, regionally, nationally and locally	High	Medium	1. If there are changes in cofinance, then partners to work closely to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas. 2. It is likely that periodic closures of transport and offices as well as restrictions on organizing meetings/ training with large number of people will impact implementation of the project. The project will support stakeholders in identifying methodological alternatives that allow effective participation under these circumstances, and where necessary will arrange for technical inputs to be provided to the child projects virtually (on line). Where technical specialists are able to visit project countries, recommended safe practice will be followed to minimize risk both to the specialists and the national stakeholders. 3. Ensure close collaboration with private sector entities and logistic companies to understand emerging barriers related to the pandemic and establish feasible options, with an emphasis on regional/transboundary collaboration 4. This can also be an opportunity as we have moved strongly to more internet-based communciation and consultations rather than face-to-face which can reduce costs and impact on the environment.	Project executing agency, and ILRI
Project catalyzed by this project could lead to environmental and social risks.	High	Medium	5. All proposals that will be developed as part of this project will be ensure that they comply with IUCNs environmental and social management standards	IUCN

6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

ILRI will be the executing agency responsible for the delivery of the project working with the partners including IUCN, the CGIAR centres, GEF-supported projects including government representatives and other. ILRI will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project outputs and results entrusted to it in full compliance with GEF and IUCN requirements, including timely reporting, effective use of GEF resources for intended purposes, and due diligence with regard to social and environmental quality standards

ILRI together with the other CGIAR centres including ICRAF (the World Agroforestry Centre), ICARDA (the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) and IFPRI (the International Food Policy Research Institute) will be responsible for data collection and consolidation, development of tools and manuals, identification and documentation of good practices in rangeland restoration, identification of potential investors, research on barriers and opportunities for rangeland restoration and other. Several of these CGIAR centres are already playing a key role in regional and global dialogue on rangelands, and in providing technical advice to GEF-funded projects or other.

IUCN and ILRI will coordinate all efforts to implement the project?s components, ensuring leveraging and alignment with each others? relevant ongoing initiatives and also that all deadlines are achieved in a timely manner.

A Program Task Force (PTF) will be established and chaired by the designated Budget Holder in IUCN for the project. It will be comprised of one representative each from the partners (TBC) and representatives from the UNCCD Global Mechanism and GEF-STAP will be invited to participate as ex-officio members. The members of the PTF will each assure the role of Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PTF members will (i) technically oversee activities in their sector, (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project, (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency, and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project wherever possible.

The Program Task Force will meet at least once per year in person (virtually if necessary) and will meet with greater frequency as required, to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs across the Program; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project; iii) Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support;

iv) Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; v) Effective coordination of government partner engagement under this project and across the country investments; vi) Approval of the Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget; vii) Making consensus-based management decisions when guidance is required by the Global Project Coordinator (from ILRI).

A **Program Management Unit (PMU)** will established within ILRI to support the PTF. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidelines of the Program Task Force, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be composed of a Global Project Coordinator. In addition, the PMU will include part-time training and capacity building expert, a private sector engagement expert, and a communications expert.

Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives

This project will support and work with GEF-financed projects and other initiatives working in rangelands, in the proposed regions. It will support them to share experiences including lessons learned on rangeland restoration, access data and information on rangelands, and to build their capacities through trainings. These activities will also help to build a network (community of practice) of project staff working on rangelands restoration, which will continue to be a forum for sharing experiences and knowledge. Further, the project will work to improve the enabling environment for rangeland restoration, and for public and private investment in rangelands so potentially leveraging funding for continuing and developing new restoration work in-country and regionally. This coordination support will be of fundamental importance in permitting flows of knowledge and best practices between projects. Coordination with non GEF-funded projects will also contribute to the project?s objective of scaling-out impacts beyond the boundaries of the in-country projects themselves, to national and regional levels.

Executing and implementing agencies of the above projects including UNEP, FAO, WB and IFAD will be invited to engage with IUCN and ILRI during the project preparation phase. Others such as representatives of different investor interest groups will also be invited. Representatives from these groups will also be invited to participate in the Project Task Force. During the project preparation discussions will be carried out with governments to reach agreement about which projects STELARR can work with.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions?

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc

For many countries around the world that depend on extensive livestock production as a contribution to national GDPs and local livelihoods, this project will be highly important in terms of reversing rangeland degradation and improved rangeland productivity, whilst bringing together multiple sectors (agriculture, conservation, land, water, business development, conflict/peace etc.). In particularly the project will assist governments to fullfill their commitments to multiple international agreements including land degradation neutrality (LDN), Bonn Challenge, Convention on Biodiversity and other global frameworks, and with clear opportunities for mitigating climate change.

 The project will in particular contribute to the generation of information to operationalise LDN targets on rangelands including consideration of DLDD (desertification, land degradation and drought) whilst also building capacities to address these and continue monitoring of them. An initial mapping of LDN indicators at global level in the recently launched Rangelands Atlass (see www.rangelandsdataplatform/atlas) suggests that rangelands are currently relatively stable in terms of land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks, however it is anticipated that with climate change (also mapped in the Atlas) and increasing land pressures this will change. The project will contribute to a number of action items defined in the LDN: Guidelies for GEF Projects.

With the establishment and/or strengthening of data platforms for rangelands restoration and multistakeholder consultation processes involving national governments at regional level it is anticipated that capacities will be built to ensure actions will continue beyond the life of the project.

8. Knowledge Management

Outline the knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

Knowledge management is a fundamental component of this project, including knowledge generation, analysis, management, and sharing. Through knowledge it is believed that investments in rangelands will be improved and increased through more informed decisions and priority setting, better monitoring and accounting of costs and benefits, improved knowledge strorage, management and accessibility for multiple stakeholders, greater buyin from different stakeholders contributing to knowledge generationn and sharing (with all knowledge valued), simplified documentation of complex terminologies etc., trainings and capacity building. The knowledge generated will also be used to influence a more enabling and supportive environment for rangeland investments with influencing of high-level dialogues and frameworks, as well as public campaigns.

Knowledge outputs drawing from evidence-based research and analysis will build on and align with existing good practices of rangelands restoration including from WOCAT https://www.wocat.net/en/, WWF?s Grasslands and Savannahs Platform, UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and UNCCD

Science-Policy Interface. Good practice in rangeland restoration from GEF and other supported projects will be identified and documented through documentation including film.

KM and dialogue on rangeland restoration will be facilitated through national coalitions of actors (including civil society, elected representatives and others) and regional cross-sectoral, multi-country communities of practice on rangelands, rangelands degradation and restoration established or strengthened. National dialogues on domestication of international commitments to rangeland restoration will also be established.

The need for big data on rangelands has been highlighted by global, regional and national development partners, including organisations investing in rangelands development such as the World Bank, USAID, IFAD and UNEP. The project will work closely with these partners to ensure that data collected and communities of practice established are aligned with and support their investments. A global rangelands data platform is being established by ILRI, and this project will strengthen this platform. This will also draw from data platforms set up by pastoralist networks and NGOs ? for example the data platform established by Reseau Bilital Maroob? (RBM) and Action Contre la Faim on Covid-19, climate change and pastoralism.

Global and regional data on rangeland degradation and restoration opportunities will be published in a peer-review journal.

A number of guidelines will be developed by this project including to support trainings on rangeland restoration science, local knowledge and globally agreed standards, tools and processes; and also for undertaking and monitoring rangeland restoration. These will be produced as complete documents for soft and hard copy accessing, as well as be made available on line in a manner to enhance online accessibility and learning including use of audio-visual aids and web-based media.

9. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

Rangelands
- Tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas, and shrublands
- Temperate Grasslands, Savannas, and Shrublands
- Flooded Grasslands and Savannas
- Montane Grasslands and Shrublands
- Tundra
- Mediterranean Forests, Woodlands, and Scrub
- Deserts and Xeric Shrublands

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