



Consultation workshop on a global rangelands standard and monitoring framework



ICRAF Campus, Gigiri, Nairobi

24-25th October 2024

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Contents

Introduction	2
Workshop Overview	3
Workshop Highlights	4
Day 1	4
Welcome & Opening Remarks.....	4
Rangelands Initiative within the UNCCD	5
Introduction to the STELARR Project	5
Panel discussion on the state of sustainable rangeland restoration initiative and monitoring ..	6
Presentation on the extensive review of SRR monitoring frameworks	8
Introduction to the Global Rangelands Standard	9
Table work on SRR indicators	9
Interactive session on SRR data	11
Keynote presentation on rangeland health.....	14
Takeaways and questions from Day 1 Presentations.	14
Day 2	16
Sustainable Fibre Production and Rangeland Management.....	16
Global Rangelands Standard Development	17
Standard Setting, Assurance and Monitoring.....	18
Rangeland Indicators for Sustainability Assessments	18
Panel Q&A.....	19
Breakout Group Discussions	20
Next Steps.....	20
Agenda	22
List of Invited Participants	25

Introduction

STELARR (Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration) is a project funded by the Global Environment Facility, implemented by IUCN, and executed by ILRI with supporting partners. Its primary objective is to attract private-sector finance for large-scale rangeland restoration by offering incentives, such as standards, that reward sustainable use and restoration efforts.

Through the Rangeland Stewardship Council initiative, the Sustainable Fibre Alliance and partners are developing a comprehensive global standard for responsible rangeland management. This standard hopes to establish clear guidelines and benchmarks for sustainable practices that promote ecosystem health, biodiversity, and the well-being of communities dependent on rangelands. This means a practical rangeland monitoring framework is essential as it provides a baseline for measuring change and impact and accounting for ecosystem services. The meeting served as an opportunity to refine this scheme, incorporating insights from various existing rangeland monitoring tools and methodologies. A draft of the standard was presented at the workshop to gather expert feedback and stimulate in-depth discussions on its structure, applicability, and potential impact across diverse rangeland contexts.

The workshop objectives included:

- 1) Providing updates on the development of a global rangeland monitoring framework.
- 2) To present the latest developments in the Global Rangelands Standard (GRS), a unified benchmark for responsible rangeland management.
- 3) Gathering feedback from rangeland stakeholders to ensure that the GRS and the monitoring framework reflect diverse perspectives and meet the needs of communities involved in rangeland stewardship.

Workshop Overview

Representatives from CIFOR-ICRAF, ILRI, IUCN, CIAT, Just DiggIt, Alliance, WWF-KE, UNCCD, SFA, Sustain East Africa, LCA, TNC, WPF, WYSS Academy, WHH, African Youth Pastoralist Initiative, PPF, Natural State, TNC, Reconcile, TTWCA, and SDDL-MUALD convened for two days at the World Agroforestry Centre to discuss the components and significance of the Global Rangelands Standard (GRS) and supporting monitoring frameworks.

Discussions addressed key topics, including defining rangeland systems and their global challenges, such as land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change impacts. The group also addressed methods for data collection, the current state of data availability and gaps, and government initiatives to promote increased investment in rangeland restoration. Particular emphasis was placed on understanding the socio-ecological contexts of rangeland systems, integrating indigenous knowledge, and fostering sustainable practices in rangeland management.

Participants reviewed various initiatives and tools to develop a unified standard to improve monitoring, data collection, and collaboration for rangeland restoration, such as

the Rangeland Stewardship Council, STELARR project, the Nature Conservancy's Rangeland Hub, and the Re-greening Africa App. After gaining a clearer vision of the ideal rangeland monitoring system, discussions shifted toward developing a practical standard—acknowledging that real-world applications often introduce complexities in measurement and identification. The group examined the requirements for establishing a standard in an ideal context and adapted those principles for a feasible rangeland monitoring framework.

Workshop Highlights

Day 1

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Petronilla Nduthu, State Department of Livestock, Kenya, providing opening remarks.

Petronilla Nduthu, representing the State Department of Livestock, provided opening remarks, emphasizing that over 80% of Kenya is rangeland, yet it often receives limited attention. She outlined the challenges facing Kenya's rangelands and highlighted government initiatives to address these issues, stressing the importance of collaboration and stakeholder cooperation in advancing rangeland restoration. Her remarks underscored the critical need to preserve rangelands and elevate discussions around them—an objective well served by this workshop.

Rangelands Initiative within the UNCCD



Jonathan Davies discussing the role of UNCCD and the Rangeland Flagship Initiative.

Jonathan Davies, an agricultural economist, presented an initiative from the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) centred on rangeland restoration. He emphasised the need for enhanced monitoring and the importance of building a solid business case to attract private investment in rangeland restoration. Additionally, he discussed the development of principles for sustainable rangeland management and efforts to improve guidance on assessing rangeland health.

Introduction to the STELARR Project



Lennart Hientz introducing the STELARR project

Lennart Hientz introduced the STELARR project, which seeks to attract increased private-sector investment in rangeland restoration. The project comprises three key components:

1. **Developing guidelines and frameworks** to facilitate large-scale investments in rangeland restoration.

2. **Securing commitments** to sustainable rangeland management from stakeholders.
3. **Establishing a global rangeland data platform** to support informed decision-making and monitoring.

These initiatives aim to reverse rangeland degradation and improve productivity through sustainable livestock value chains, thereby reducing poverty and securing livelihoods with inclusive benefits to women and youth.

Panel discussion on the state of sustainable rangeland restoration initiative and monitoring



From Left:

Zvi Tangawamira (Peace Parks/CI), Aura Bravo (Alliance), Hillary Rotich (Just DiggIt), Moses Nokish (Laikipia Conservancies Association), Joseph Njue (IUCN- Kenya), Rose Muiyuro (Sustain), Bernice Sainepo (The Nature Conservancy).

Key experts (pictured above) in the field presented background information and addressed questions from other participants, offering valuable insights and clarifications on various aspects of rangeland restoration and management. Their expertise enriched the discussions, helping to deepen understanding and address any uncertainties among stakeholders.

AURA:

Based in California and working in sustainable business, Aura focuses on attracting financial investment for sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in livestock and crop sectors. Their work aims to identify opportunities that benefit private companies, pastoralists, the environment, and local communities, emphasizing the importance of engaging stakeholders and showcasing the potential for both financial return and environmental sustainability.

BERNICE:

Bernice is a Rangeland ecologist with expertise in soil science. She has worked with the Nature Conservancy in southern Kenya, northern Tanzania, and other African countries. She is developing the "Rangeland Hub" to gather data, discover monitoring tools, and explore scalable solutions for rangeland restoration. Her work includes investigating the availability and sharing of evidence and tools and learning from existing projects and partners.

ROSE:

Rose works with SUSTAIN in East Africa, focusing on rangeland conservation, particularly in Kenya and Tanzania. Their work supports pastoral communities by restoring rangelands and establishing conservancies. Rose emphasises the importance of baseline assessments and engaging communities in conservation efforts, noting challenges with larger conservancies. They helped increase conservancies from 160 to 243, covering 18.3% of Kenya's land, and aim to increase that coverage further. The project also looks into the impact of land use changes, such as converting land for agriculture.

MOSES:

Moses represents the Laikipia Conservation Agency (LCA), which focuses on land degradation and community-private conservancy conflicts in Laikipia, Kenya. To address these issues, LCA has initiated a Landscape Restoration Project, using methods like grass carbon for community conservancies, biodiversity restoration for private ones, and social well-being initiatives, such as working with youth. Their work includes stakeholder engagement and collaborating with organizations like the Landscape and Loveland Group.

HILARY:

Hilary represents Just Dig It, which works in northern Tanzania, southern Kenya, and Senegal. They focus on restoring rangelands using techniques like Earth Smiles (half-moons), farmer-managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), and cross-seed banks, mainly

driven by women in pastoral communities. These methods improve soil quality and vegetation growth in degraded areas.

ZVI:

Zvi leads the "Heading for Health" initiative across seven countries, supporting pastoralism through a restorative model. They focus on improving animal health, market access, and livestock management, particularly in areas affected by diseases like anthrax and foot-and-mouth. Their efforts include mobile auctions and quarantine facilities, carbon credits, and biodiversity credits as financing mechanisms. The initiative has already created jobs and improved rangeland health, with ongoing projects in South Africa and Mozambique and potential expansion into East Africa and Madagascar.

JOSEPH:

Joseph from IUCN emphasized the importance of connecting value chains to market access through private-sector engagement. He highlighted the role of data collection, monitoring frameworks, and standardizing land restoration practices to attract investment. Joseph is focused on ensuring the data is meaningful and usable for long-term financing and sustainable land management.

Presentation on the extensive review of SRR monitoring frameworks



Leigh Winowiecki presented the results from the review of rangeland health monitoring frameworks.

Following a broad discussion on rangelands, the group delved into monitoring methods, exploring various indicators and evaluating their effectiveness and applicability. Led by Dr Leigh Winowicki (CIFOR-ICRAF), the conversation underscored the importance of monitoring grasslands, rangelands, and savannahs for their roles in carbon sequestration, soil health and other ecosystem services, referencing a review led by Raqib Valli. This review highlighted inconsistencies and overlaps in existing monitoring frameworks and standards. While participants recognised the potential of remote sensing technologies to track changes over time, they emphasised the need for more specific and measurable indicators.

The team proposed key indicators for monitoring, such as soil organic carbon, annual rangeland productivity, and land use change. Discussions also centred on the need for more significant investment in these ecosystems and the value of collaboration with other organisations. The session underscored the necessity for a harmonised rangeland monitoring framework, advocating for a combined approach of citizen science and remote sensing to enhance scalability. The situation's urgency was highlighted as the need for more data comparability and standardisation continues to hinder progress.

Introduction to the Global Rangelands Standard

David McElroy introduced the concept of the Global Rangelands Standard (GRS), which is designed to unite various commodities and industries toward shared objectives. This standard will address critical areas such as rangeland stewardship, social responsibility, legal compliance, and effective management practices. He also discussed the challenges of measuring the impact of such standards and the need for a global set of *SMART* indicators. The importance of stakeholder consultation and diverse perspectives in developing the GRS was emphasised. The session concluded with a group work exercise, where participants evaluated proposed indicators for the monitoring framework.

Table work on SRR indicators

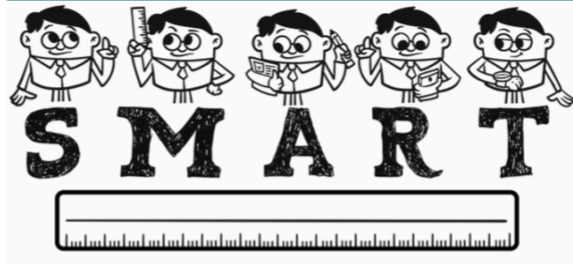
Some contention emerged regarding the indicators' suitability for a global rangeland standard monitoring scheme. To gain deeper insights into participants' perspectives, we divided into small groups and applied the SMART framework to validate these indicators. This framework helps ensure that indicators are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound, providing a robust structure for assessing their effectiveness within a global standard.



Groups discussing the SRR Indicators, and how they fulfilled the S.M.A.R.T criteria.

Biophysical Indicators of Sustainable Rangeland Restoration - 1									
Indicator	What does it Measure?	Is this indicator S.M.A.R.T.?					Feedback on the Indicator		
		Specific? Yes/No Why/Why not?	Measurable? Yes/No Why/Why not?	Attainable? Yes/No Why/Why not?	Relevant? Yes/No Why/Why not?	Timebound? Yes/No Why/Why not?	Does your project measure this? If yes: method? If no: why not?	Should this indicator be included? Yes/No Why/Why Not?	Comments
Soil Organic Carbon	Soil productivity, nutrient content, carbon sequestration								
Soil Compaction	Land degradation, potential for erosion								
Soil Erosion	Soil loss, land degradation								
Provide any other/ missing biophysical indicator									

Format for discussing the effectiveness of the indicators



The SMART framework is a useful way to identify quality indicators. It stands for **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound**.

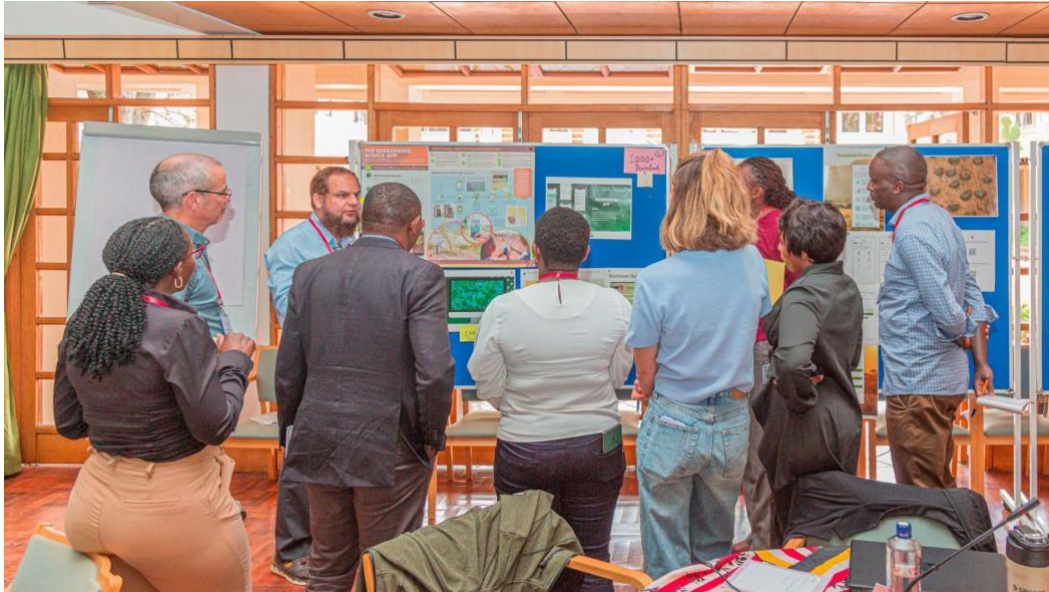
Specific, means that the indicator needs to be narrow and accurately describe what needs to be measured. **Measurable** means that regardless of who uses the indicator it would be measured in the same way. **Achievable** (or attainable) means that collecting the data should be straightforward and cost-effective. **Relevant** requires that the indicator be closely linked to the relevant outcome. Finally, **Time-bound** means that there should be a timeframe linked to the indicator (such as the frequency with which it is collected or measured).

Indicators are not targets

Note that indicators should not specify a particular level of achievement. We shouldn't be using the words like 'improved', 'increased' or 'decreased' when setting indicators. As an example, 'Increased % of households using smokeless stoves' would not be considered an indicator, rather an Outcome. [Get in touch](#) if you are confused between indicators and targets, it can be confusing!

Interactive session on SRR data

In addition to extensive discussions on rangelands, the gathering provided an opportunity to examine the data, focusing on how it was sampled, interpreted, and applied. This review allowed participants to assess data quality and its role in informing rangeland management and restoration efforts.



Discussion on the Regreening app and developments for the future, led by Muhammad Nabi and Benard Onkware (CIFOR-ICRAF).

ICRAF representatives discussed the Re-greening Africa App, a citizen science data collection tool used for tree planting, Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), nursery, and training modules. The app works offline and collects data on land, tree species, and farmer information. It has been used in various African countries, and over 150,000 farmers' data have been collected. The app is in continuous development, with new modules being added. ICRAF also mentioned the use of the app in monitoring interventions like micro catchments, seeding, receding, and erosion control. The app has been scaled up and is being used across Kenya.



Discussion on grass and tree species diversity led by Leigh Winowiecki.

Leigh discussed the importance of annual grass species in rangeland ecology, emphasising their role in succession and ecosystem health. They highlighted the need for a systematic approach to assess species diversity and functional traits using Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF) data.



Discussion on how LDSF data is used to produce maps of soil organic carbon, herbaceous cover and other indicators of rangeland health, led by Tor Vågen.

Tor also presented maps predicting soil organic carbon levels across various sites in Kenya and Uganda, noting the impact of management and degradation on carbon levels. The team discussed the potential for using satellite data to train models for predicting land health indicators.



Discussion on predictive maps of soil erosion prevalence and land cover, led by Jasper Kleinsmann.

The discussion also showed how to use ground truth data to predict soil erosion and grassland cover across large areas. ICRAF presented a model showing how erosion can be predicted based on field observations and remote sensing data. This model utilises a range of covariates, including Landsat 8, Sentinel-1, temperature, precipitation, and topography. The group explored opportunities for land restoration and identified the need for additional data to predict the presence of specific tree species. Participants were encouraged to engage actively with the data and provide feedback to improve future sessions.

Keynote presentation on rangeland health

Dr Nathaniel Robinson (CIFOR-ICRAF), a geospatial scientist specializing in rangeland ecology and remote sensing, presented on rangeland health, delving into the complexities and unique challenges of rangeland systems. He shared an illustrative story about the greater sage grouse in the Western United States, a case that sparked controversy and led to significant policy changes. Nathaniel emphasized the difference between complicated and complex systems, pointing out that while most ecological models are structured as complicated systems, ecological reality is inherently complex. He underscored the value of heterogeneity within rangeland systems and warned of the risks of over-reliance on precision in conservation efforts. Nathaniel concluded by highlighting the need for comprehensive field data, well-designed sampling approaches, and coordinated efforts among a wide range of stakeholders to understand and manage rangeland systems effectively.

Takeaways and questions from Day 1 Presentations.

1. In terms of monitoring, what would you identify as the main challenge?
2. Assessment tools at local levels: what is the best practice?
3. Interpretation framework for counties at the national level: Do we have standards for benchmarking?
4. Why livestock was not highly visible in the slides?
5. You mentioned livestock products; therefore, livestock plays a vital role in rangelands. Was the estimation of ecosystem services and environmental benefits included in the project?
6. Develop tools for rangeland health monitoring and assessment by collecting and using data for good rangeland management.

7. The theory of change, especially how knowledge management shapes and influences policy, enables a better environment for promoting investments in rangelands.
8. Good presentation from Lennert showcasing the components and detailed explanation of STELARR.
9. Private sector investments: how can we convince investors to invest in rangeland restoration?
10. It is exciting to see the plans for private-sector engagement. Sometimes, we are keen to bridge the gap in restoration financing.
11. How is this data done at UNCCD? Do you have a standard framework for doing this?
12. How are global rangeland data platforms different from global grazing management platforms?
13. Lennert's presentation thoughts: the issue of involving women and youth in restoration and value chain initiatives is excellent. This will create strong membership and ensure sustainability.
14. I connect with the main findings on rangeland consultative initiatives regarding policy failures, knowledge gaps, and missed opportunities.
15. I connected with Jonathan on harnessing private sector finance into rangeland restoration.
16. Standardised parameters for collecting data informing rangeland management.
17. Utilisation of data results by pastoralist/livestock keepers (flow of information).
Data = feedback.
18. Linkages between rangeland health and grazing management.
19. Profiling of rangeland/ grassland globally.
20. Onboard private investors in rangeland management.
21. What is the mode of implementation of the whole project in Kenya?
22. Who is involved in implementing the whole project in Kenya, and at what level?
23. Will there be more partners for this project?
24. Land tenure security is still a challenge in most rangelands. How will investment in the rangelands contribute to tenure security?
25. What do we know, and what don't we know?
26. We need to continue looking at socioeconomic and biophysical indicators to help stakeholders.
27. WRTI has tried something similar in combining various group indicators to get a more holistic data set
28. A focus on indicators such as household income from rangelands, climate change (drought resilience), Gender (Women and youth)
29. Cost-effectiveness: How much are we asking a farmer to put in, and how sustainable is that?

30. This is becoming a much more globally relevant topic
31. We need to better communicate with non-scientists

Day 2

OVERVIEW

The second day of the consultation workshop, led primarily by the Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA), focused on developing a Global Rangelands Standard. It included presentations, a Q&A panel, breakout groups, and discussions designed to engage participants in shaping the standard's principles, criteria, and implementation framework.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Sustainable Fibre Production and Rangeland Management

Una Jones, CEO of the Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA), presented an overview of the organisation's work with herder communities in Mongolia and China. She highlighted the SFA's decade-long efforts to advance animal welfare, mitigate environmental impacts, and promote sustainable fibre production through its five principles for responsible cashmere production, which serve as a global benchmark for the industry.

Una also introduced the Rangeland Stewardship Council (RSC), a collaborative initiative focused on establishing a global standard for responsible rangeland management. She invited participants to contribute to the RSC's development by joining steering committees and attending milestone events such as the UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh.

Her presentation underscored the importance of inclusive consultations in fostering partnerships and ensuring representation across diverse sectors. The RSC initiative was linked to global efforts, including the International Year of Camelids 2024, emphasizing camelids' crucial role in supporting livelihoods and advancing sustainable practices.

Key points from the presentation included:

- Developing effective standards requires input from diverse sectors and stakeholders to ensure relevance and impact.
- Strong traceability systems and reliable data monitoring are critical for verifying sustainability claims and improving practices.

- Monitoring and evaluation are key in shaping policies, backed by robust data systems to inform decision-making.
- Addressing regional contexts, adopting the One Health approach, and fostering transparent collaboration are vital to the success of the Global Rangeland Standard (GRS).
- As highlighted in the International Year of Camelids 2024, camelids play a crucial role in supporting pastoral livelihoods, promoting biodiversity, and advancing sustainable rangeland management practices.
- Emphasis was placed on partnerships and knowledge-sharing among diverse groups, from herder communities to global stakeholders, to ensure inclusive and effective solutions for rangeland management.
- Stakeholders were encouraged to participate actively by joining committees and working groups to shape the direction of the Rangeland Stewardship Council.

Global Rangelands Standard Development

David McElroy, SFA Head of Standards, introduced sustainability standards and the development process. He outlined the foundational components of the Global Rangelands Standard (GRS)—principles, criteria, and indicators—emphasizing its aim to create a credible certification system supported by third-party assurance.

Key focus areas of the GRS:

- **Respectful Tenure:** Ensuring compliance with local laws and protecting the land and resource rights of communities and stakeholders, fostering equity and inclusivity.
- **Effective Management:** Implementing robust training programs and safety practices to equip rangeland managers with the skills and tools needed to sustainably oversee operations.
- **Rangelands Management:** Striking a balance between the needs of wildlife and livestock to maintain ecological harmony and biodiversity while supporting livelihoods.
- **Decent Work:** Upholding labour rights, fair wages, and safe working conditions for all individuals involved in the rangeland value chain.
- **Conservation:** Proactively addressing land degradation, water management, and soil health to preserve the integrity and productivity of rangeland ecosystems.
- **Contamination:** Mitigating the impact of hazardous waste and ensuring responsible management of pollutants to protect environmental and human health.

The framework aims to connect stakeholders across the value chain, from producers to end-users, fostering accountability and sustainability.

Standard Setting, Assurance and Monitoring

Dr. Shalini Raghav, SFA Research Manager, introduced the key components of credible sustainability standards, referencing ISEAL's codes of good practice. Drawing on examples like Fair Trade International, she highlighted the foundational role of stakeholder participation and robust data collection in developing effective and trusted standards.

Key points include:

- Stakeholder engagement ensures diverse perspectives are incorporated, enhancing the credibility and relevance of standards.
- Impartial assurance processes ensure standards are actionable and achieve intended outcomes.
- An integrated monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework enables continuous improvement by measuring impact and informing strategic decisions.
- Regular reviews are essential to maintain relevance and adapt to evolving challenges.
- Resource constraints and the complexity of implementation present ongoing challenges.

Rangeland Indicators for Sustainability Assessments

Roy Behnke, an expert on rangeland systems, addressed the complexities of certifying sustainable practices for rangeland systems and proposed ten key indicators for sustainability assessments:

- The change in area and per cent of bare ground.
- Visual assessment of signs of sheet erosion or an increase in the number and size of gullies.
- Changes in well water levels.
- Abundance and diversity of invertebrate aquatic animals relative to undisturbed water bodies.
- Reduction in the scale of herd mobility due to infrastructure or to changes in property rights.
- Abundance and distribution of iconic, at-risk, or legally protected plant and animal species.
- The area that is affected by undesirable invasive plant species.

- Rangeland annual plant productivity, NPP (net primary production), estimated using NDVI (normalised difference vegetation index).
- Livestock numbers (all species) plus some measure of their dependence on rangeland forage.
- The extent to which laws clarify land tenure, recognise customary rights and provide a means of resolving property disputes by due process.

Roy emphasized the importance of adapting best practices to regional contexts, harnessing indigenous knowledge, and involving producers in data collection to enhance sustainability efforts. The proposed sustainability indicators focus on measurable environmental factors such as soil health, water levels, and changes in bare ground. This approach ensures that assessments are based on practical, affordable, and scientifically supported indicators and acknowledges the diversity of rangelands, which support various livestock species and are managed in different ways.

Producers are crucial in recognizing signs of rangeland degradation and understanding its causes. By incorporating self-assessment, producers take the first step toward certification, ensuring they have the technical capacity to collect data cost-effectively. The indicators, which are output-oriented and evaluate environmental impacts, do not prescribe specific management practices but cross-check Indigenous knowledge with scientific evidence for reliability during external audits. Drawing on best practices from the Western US and supported by scientific sources such as the Rangelands Roundtable report (J.E. Mitchell, 2010) and the 2023 paper on livestock grazing management (*Principles for Successful Livestock Grazing Management on Western US Rangelands* – Jablonski et al.), the four guiding principles for selecting indicators are affordability, practicality, scientific support, and broad applicability across diverse rangeland environments. Remote monitoring technologies like Google Earth were also highlighted as tools to verify data and track rangeland fragmentation.

Panel Q&A

Following the presentations, a panel discussion addressed several key topics:

- The governance structure of the Rangeland Stewardship Council (RSC) and the importance of diverse representation. Participants were encouraged to join long-term working groups to share their expertise and provide feedback on the Global Rangelands Standard (GRS).
- The challenge of balancing achievable standards with the need for meaningful improvements.
- Equity and justice concerns regarding land use and community engagement.

- The importance of gradual implementation to support smaller operators and avoid unintended market exclusion.
- The potential for the standard to validate carbon projects while aligning with rangeland management priorities.
- Expanding the scope of the standard to include a broader range of rangeland uses, such as medicinal plants and environmental health.
- The need for flexibility in the standard to accommodate diverse rangeland practices worldwide.

Breakout Group Discussions

The afternoon breakout sessions facilitated in-depth discussions on the principles, criteria, and indicators of the Global Rangelands Standard (GRS). Participants explored topics such as tenure rights, effective rangeland management, decent work, conservation, and contamination, applying a structured approach to assess the draft standard.

Feedback was gathered based on the following considerations:

- Relevance of the standard to rangeland sustainability goals;
- Clarity and accuracy of the principles and indicators;
- Feasibility of implementation by stakeholders;
- Measurability of the indicators and outcomes;
- Effectiveness and impact in achieving sustainable management;
- Differentiation between mandatory requirements ('shalls/musts') and improvement-oriented indicators ('mays').

Participants emphasized the importance of adaptability, inclusivity, and incorporating region-specific data to enhance the standard's practical implementation.

Recommendations also highlighted the need for clear guidance on prioritizing mandatory requirements while providing pathways for improvement.

The insights generated from these discussions will contribute to refining the GRS framework, ensuring it supports effective rangeland management and the resilience of rangelands worldwide.

Next Steps

1. Revision of the indicator list based on feedback from the group work session.
 - 1.1. Incorporation of governance and policy indicators.

- 1.2. Variability and diversity metrics to be incorporated into the monitoring framework.
- 1.3. Exploration of integrating indigenous knowledge into the monitoring framework.
- 1.4. Making the data open and accessible
- 1.5. Development of a tiered/hierarchical approach for core vs. optional indicators.
- 1.6. Refine socioeconomic indicators based on feedback.
- 1.7. Account for and differentiate impacts from various land change/degradation drivers.
2. The STELARR project team will ensure that the monitoring framework aligns with and supports the rangeland standard being developed.
3. Sustain East Africa team will continue to contact rangeland practitioners for the East Africa Rangelands Hub database.
4. Identify opportunities to include more data from West Africa.
5. The STELARR team will engage more with national agricultural research systems (NARS) on framework development.
6. The STELARR project team will explore applying rangeland standards to products other than fibre (e.g., gums, resins, niche beef products).
7. As part of the Rangeland Stewardship Council (RSC) initiative, the Global Rangelands Standard (GRS) will be refined based on insights gathered from the consultations.
8. Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) and RSC will ensure that the GRS's development includes realistic and achievable requirements, with feasibility as a key factor in defining them.
9. Members of ICRAF, SFA, STELARR Project and RSC will collaborate on developing a monitoring framework that supports sustainable land management, aligns with the GRS, and promotes best practices.
10. SFA and RSC will work towards making monitoring data and information accessible and usable for herders and local communities.
11. SFA and RSC will share links and information on how to join committees and working groups with interested participants.
12. The RSC will develop a governance structure and establish committees.
13. SFA and RSC will explore strategies to secure sustainable, long-term funding to support the Global Rangelands Standard's development, implementation, maintenance, and associated monitoring system.

Agenda



Consultation workshop on a global rangelands standard and monitoring scheme: Draft Agenda

ICRAF Campus, Gigiri, Nairobi

24-25th October 2024

STELARR (Sustainable Investments in Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration) is a project funded by the Global Environment Facility, implemented by IUCN and executed by ILRI with supporting partners. Its main objective is to harness private sector finance for large-scale rangeland restoration. For this to be achieved private sector require incentives such as standards rewarding sustainable use and restoration. The Sustainable Fibre Alliance is developing such a standard for global application, the draft of which will be presented at the meeting for your expert input and discussion.

Such a standard and private sector investments in rangelands also require a rangeland monitoring scheme that provides a baseline from which change and impact can be measured and used in financial accounting of ecosystem services provided. The meeting will be an opportunity to provide input into the development of this scheme, building on and drawing from the many rangeland monitoring tools and approaches that exist.

Objectives of the workshop include:

- 1) To provide an update on the advancement on a global rangeland monitoring framework/scheme
- 2) Present advances of a global rangeland standard
- 3) To receive feedback from rangeland stakeholders



Day One Thursday 24 October 2024: Focus on Global Rangeland Monitoring Framework		
Time	Agenda	Speaker
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	Grace Ndege, ICRAF
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome & Opening remarks	ICRAF Africa Director or CEO
9:10-9:25	Icebreaker and participant introductions – Mentimeter	Leigh Winowiecki, ICRAF
9:25 - 9:40	Scene Setting – Rangelands Initiative within the UNCCD	Jonathan Davies, UNCCD
9:40 – 10:00	Introduction to the STELARR Project	Fiona Flintan and Lennart Hientz, ILRI
10:00- 10:45	Q&A Panel discussion on the state of sustainable rangeland restoration initiative and monitoring	
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break and Group photo	Grace Ndege
11:15 – 11:40	Presentation on the extensive review of SRR monitoring frameworks	Leigh Winowiecki, ICRAF
11:40 - 12:00	Introduction to the Standard- focus on rangeland aspects	Una Jones & David McElroy, Sustainable Fibre Alliance
12:00 - 13:00	Table work on SRR indicators	Leigh Winowiecki, ICRAF
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break	Grace Ndege
14:00 – 15:00	Interactive session on SRR data, including interpretation and use (participants to interact with printed maps and data on SRR and rangeland health indicators) – Prioritization of indicators, sampling framework - Deliberate on existing datasets	Data wall
15:00 – 15:20	Key note presentation on rangeland health	Nathanial Robinson, ICRAF
15:20 -16:30	Interactive session on implementation of a global monitoring framework, action steps	Leigh Winowiecki, ICRAF
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break and closing	



Day Two Friday 25 October 2024 Focus on the Standard		
Time	Agenda	Speaker
9:00 – 9:15	Reflections from Day One – feedback and menti poll	
9:15 – 9:20	Overview of Day 2 Agenda	Una Jones, SFA CEO
9:20 – 9:45	Introduction to Rangeland Stewardship Council – development, collaborations, mission/vision, unified standard, approach.	Una Jones, SFA CEO
9:45 – 10:15	Global Rangelands Standard - Principles, criteria, indicators, and timelines for consultation and development.	David McElroy, SFA Head of Standards
10:15 – 10:45	ISEAL Code of Good Practice - Key elements of and approach to standard setting, assurance and MEL.	Shalini Raghav, SFA Research Manager
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break	Grace Ndege
11:15 – 11:45	Recommended rangeland environmental criteria, indicators, and their significance for biodiversity, land use and land tenure.	Roy Behnke, Odessa Centre Researcher
11:45 – 12:30	Panel Q&A – Discussions will focus on topics related to the presentations and questions about rangeland initiatives.	Una Jones, Shalini Raghav, David McElroy, Roy Behnke, Jonathan Davies
12:30 – 12:45	Consultation Information - Outline different topics for breakout groups and request for group attendance (show of hands).	David McElroy
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch Prepare consultation materials and set up room	Grace Ndege Una Jones, David McElroy, Leigh Winowiecki
14:00 – 14:10	Participants are divided into groups. Each table selects a facilitator to guide discussions and will nominate a person to summarise and present the key findings.	Participants of the consultation
14:10 – 15:20	Consultation on Global Rangelands Standard and related topics.	Participants of the consultation
15:20 – 15:50	Speaker to present key findings from each table.	Participants of the consultation
15:50 – 16:00	Closing remarks	Fiona Flintan, ILRI
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break and closing	



List of Invited Participants

Name	Organisation
Jason Sircely	ILRI
Joseph Njue	IUCN
Rose Muiyuro	Sustain East Africa
Lennart Hientz	ILRI
Abdrahmane Wane	ILRI
Ricardo Gonzalez	CIAT
Moses Nokisho	LCA
David McElroy	SFA
Bernice Sain	TNC
Ivan Kiptui	WWF-Kenya
Luke Ouko	ICRAF
Aura Maria B	CIAT
Jacob Lekaitugo	African Youth Pastoralist Initiative
Federico Del Santo	University of Bolonga
Alex Fenwick	WHH
Muhammad	CIFOR-ICRAF
Benard Onkware	CIFOR-ICRAF
Lenpa Piro	WPF
Milcah Kiringet	Sustain East Africa
Irene Mukalo	Reconcile
Dickens Ateku	CIFOR-ICRAF
Una Jones	SFA
Jonathan Davies	UNCCD
Dr Petronilla Wan	SDLD-MuALD

Elvis Weullow	CIFOR-ICRAF
Antony Wandera	WYSS Academy
Alfred Mwanake	TTWCA
Catherine Machuco	Natural State
Lukelysia Mwangi	CIFOR-ICRAF
Leigh Winowiecki	CIFOR-ICRAF
Zvi Tangawamina	PPF / CI
Tihka Onesmo	AYPI
Fiona Flintan	ILRI
Birika Rukutia Olesikilal	ILRI
Leonie Meier	WWF
David Okul	Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust
Pedro M. Herrera	FAO
Blaise Okinyi	State Department, Livestock
Rima Mekdaschi	WOCAT
Nathaniel Robinson	ICRAF
Vivian Tang	SFA
Shalini Raghav	SF
Charlie Langan	TNC