



Rangeland  
Stewardship  
Council

# STATEMENT OF INTENT

Global Rangelands Standard (GRS)  
June 6, 2024

STANDARD CONSULTATION



# GLOBAL RANGELANDS STANDARD

## Background

The Rangeland Stewardship Council (RSC) is an independent, non-profit standard-holding organisation that contributes to the health of the world's rangelands. RSC works with global and local initiatives in rangeland stewardship that recognise and promote the social, cultural, environmental, and economic value of rangelands.

## Global Rangelands Standard (GRS)

Voluntary Sustainability Standards have been recognised by UNCTAD as important mechanisms driving the uptake of practices that contribute positively to the Sustainable Development Goals. At present, there is no globally defined set of standards that apply specifically to sustainable rangeland stewardship. The Global Rangelands Standard will meet this need, taking a landscape approach to calibrate and co-ordinate rangeland management requirements across different species and the full range of products that rangelands supply.

The UNCCD is encouraging the development of the GRS and seeking wide-ranging participation. Additional support comes from the GEF-funded STELARR (Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration) Project, which is implemented by IUCN and executed by ILRI and partners.

Mounting scientific evidence alongside decades of stakeholder engagement indicates that livestock producers recognise the signs of rangeland degradation and understand what causes it. By building out from the extensive indigenous knowledge held by pastoralists, the Global Rangelands Standard seeks to empower rangeland communities to pursue nature-positive management approaches.





# WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

## Principles for GRS

The objective of this consultation is to assess whether: (1) the core principles of the draft GRS align with global and regional objectives; (2) determine the ecological applicability of the GRS; and (3) ensure each supporting criterion effectively delineate the intent of the principles. Given its global scope, these principles must encompass all relevant areas and cater to diverse stakeholder needs without causing implementation challenges.

**PRINCIPLE 1: Compliance with Law** – includes all the supra-national, national, state and local laws.

**PRINCIPLE 2: Indigenous People & Local Communities' Framework** – ensure that the standard criteria consider the interests and rights of indigenous people and local communities.

**PRINCIPLE 3: Effective Management** – plans and procedures are systematic, organized sets of actions or steps designed to achieve specific objectives or outcomes.

**PRINCIPLE 4: Decent Work** – ensure that hiring practices are conducted to uphold the principles of non-discrimination, fairness, respect for workers' rights and tackle gender inequalities.

**PRINCIPLE 5: Rangeland Stewardship** – reduce the impacts of rangeland production on the natural resources addressed through the development of a site-specific Rangeland Stewardship Plan.

# FAQS

## Standard Development Process

The process for standards development is detailed in the GRS Terms of Reference, which is based on the [ISEAL Standard Setting Code of Good Practice](#). The RSC will establish a governance body responsible for making decisions on the development and implementation of the GRS. This includes the Steering Committee, the Standard Setting Committee (SSC) with expert working groups, and the Science Technical Committee for the researching and drafting of the GRS. For more information about the SSC and how to become a member, email [consultation@rangelandstewardship.org](mailto:consultation@rangelandstewardship.org).

## How can the GRS be Adapted?

National and regional standards will complement the Global Rangelands Standard, with specific country-level requirements developed by registered standards development organisations and endorsed by national initiatives.

## How are Decisions Made?

Decisions are made by the RSC Science Technical Committee, in consultation with the SSC and the Steering Committee. All decisions are announced and justified through the RSC website.





# CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

We seek fairness and inclusiveness through consultation. From June 2024 through December 2026 there will be the following opportunities to provide feedback and be heard:

ACTIVITY	PLANNED DATES
International Rangeland Experts and Stakeholders Consultation, online	June - July 2024
Herder Engagement Consultation Various Locations	July - December 2024
MEL Framework Consultation and Development	July - December 2024
Industry Consultation Natural Fibre Connect Conference, Italy	September 2024
Gender and Decent Work Consultation	September - November 2024
Regional Consultation International Symposium on Pastoralism, Senegal	November 2024
Presentation of the GRS and Consultation COP 16 Event, Saudi Arabia	December 2024
Private Sector Investment Roundtable	2024 – 2025, Details TBC with STELARR partners <sup>1</sup>
Public Consultation	January - April 2025
Regional Consultation Sustainable Natural Fibre Conference, China	April 2025
Regional Consultation International Rangeland Congress, Australia	June 2025
STC, SSC and SC revision of GRS draft	September - December 2025
Public Consultation	January - April 2026
STC, SSC and SC revision of GRS draft	June - September 2026
Edit and format final draft of GRS	October - November 2026
Publication of GRS	December 2026

## CONTACT US

We appreciate and encourage feedback at every stage of our development process. If you have any questions or comments regarding this plan, please send them to [consultation@rangelandstewardship.org](mailto:consultation@rangelandstewardship.org). Kindly note that all feedback will be anonymised and published online.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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