



LAND REHABILITATION AND SOIL FERTILITY MANAGEMENT

with Smallholders and Agropastoralists



Importance of pastoralism and rangelands

Rangelands cover 25% of the global land area. Land degradation costs an estimated US\$40 billion annually worldwide. The contribution that rangelands make to the maintenance of an ecosystem's functions and biodiversity is extremely important. They play an important role as habitat for wildlife, water retention and for the conservation of plant genetic resources. In addition, pastoral and agropastoral systems provide feed for livestock and in the Sahel they contribute more than 80% to the supply of animal products.

Soil and land degradation and deforestation pose serious obstacles to eliminating poverty, hunger and biodiversity loss



Pastoralist and Rangeland Projects

To assist pastoralists to sustainably manage and rehabilitate rangelands, AGPME is implementing GEF-funded projects on climate change adaptation and resilience and land rehabilitation in Angola, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Niger, Kenya, Lesotho, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Tanzania: “Land rehabilitation and rangeland management in small holders agropastoral production systems in south-western Angola”, “Participatory assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management in grassland and pastoral systems” and “Strengthening resilience to climate change through integrated agricultural and pastoral management in the Sahelian zone in the framework of the Sustainable Land Management approach”.

Rapid degradation of natural habitats, intensification and expansion of cultivation and overgrazing, and replacement of local varieties with highly productive ones are the main factors affecting the diversity of many domesticated species and their wild relatives



Assessment tools

AGPME has been using LADA and SHARP to assess and present solutions for land degradation and climate change resilience and adaptation. In a new global project, FAO is designing a new degradation assessment system tailored to agro-pastoral and pastoral systems, with the results integrated into and disseminated by the FAO Pastoralist Knowledge Hub: Technical support to pastoralists' livelihoods and resilience.

The Bonn Challenge has set a target of restoring at least 150 million hectares of degraded land by 2020 and Ministers have adopted the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets** to restore 15% of countries' degraded ecosystems by 2020. Responding to these challenges and recommendations, FAO is developing the establishment of the **Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism** (FLR Mechanism), which will help countries to achieve their commitments towards the Bonn Challenge and the Aichi Targets.

