

Terms of Reference for Subject Matter Experts for Rangelands Data Platform

Background

Nearly half of the Earth's land surface is classified as rangeland. However, there are significant data gaps on rangelands in terms of distribution, status, changes taking place, restoration, and other opportunities. To fill these gaps International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and partners will be establishing the first-ever global rangelands data platform agreed upon by global actors for consolidating data and monitoring rangelands including in relation to rangelands health and monitoring, resource and land use change, sustainable value chains and opportunities for rangeland restoration.

It is anticipated that this global data platform on rangelands will serve as *the* “go-to” information source on rangelands, with data made publicly available. The information on land use change and restoration will be particularly important for guiding global and national investments in rangelands better building the resilience of communities to shocks and stresses, and for global and advocacy work related to this. It will be a platform for monitoring rangelands and interventions targeting them including those anticipated in the Global Environment Facility project STELARR (Sustainable Investments for Large-Scale Rangeland Restoration) implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and executed by ILRI and partners.

Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

Subject matter experts to guide the development of the global rangelands data platform are needed, helping us understand the diverse use cases and specific requirements of those who work with rangelands data. It is anticipated that this group will be involved in:

- On-Demand Sessions: We will schedule regular on-demand sessions where you can provide detailed information about how you perform your work. These sessions will help us capture a wide range of use cases and understand the practical applications of the platform.
- Needs Assessment: During these sessions, we will discuss what you need from the platform, including specific features, data types, and functionalities that would enhance your work efficiency and effectiveness.
- Expert Consultation: Your expertise will be invaluable in clarifying any doubts that arise about the platform's design, data, and functionalities. We may reach out to you for consultations on specific areas of your expertise.

Each on-demand session will typically last 30 minutes.

We anticipate scheduling these sessions periodically over the next few months, every few weeks, depending on the progress of the platform's development.

Additionally, there may be occasional follow-up questions or requests for further clarification, which we will coordinate based on your availability.

Your participation is entirely voluntary, but your input will directly influence the development of a tool that could significantly benefit the global rangelands community. We aim to make these sessions as convenient as possible for you and are flexible in accommodating your schedule.

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