

Rangelands Rising Report-COP17 UNCCD

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Environment

Why in news?

Rangelands Rising: Investing in Sustainable Management and Restoration, a new global report, was released recently.

Rangelands

- Rangelands are natural or semi-natural grazing ecosystems.
- They include grasslands, savannas, shrublands and open woodlands.
- They cover about 54% of the Earth's land surface supports around 500 million pastoralists.
- They contain nearly one-third of the world's important biodiversity areas.
- They provide food, biodiversity, water security, ecosystem services and drought resilience.

Report - Rangelands Rising: Investing in Sustainable Management and Restoration.

- **Released at** - UNCCD COP17, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- **Produced by** - ILRI, GIZ, Economics of Land Degradation Initiative, UNCCD and IUCN.
- Rangelands generate an estimated \$21-47 trillion in annual benefits.
- **Economic returns from restoration** -
 - Restoration generally generates \$4-6 for every \$1 invested.
 - When wider public benefits such as water supply are included, returns can reach \$36 per \$1.
- **Rangelands and climate change** -
 - Healthy grasslands can function as net carbon sinks, storing substantial carbon in soils.
 - Degradation can release this stored carbon.
 - Rangelands also improve water infiltration and aquifer recharge.
 - Under the Paris Agreement, "rangelands" appear in the climate plans of only 24 countries, compared with 181 countries for forests.
- **Pastoralism** -
 - Many rangeland ecosystems evolved alongside grazing, and pastoralism.
 - Well-managed pastoral systems can support biodiversity and ecosystem health.
 - Pastoralists contribute labour, traditional knowledge, livestock and long-term stewardship but receive very less benefits.

- **Financing gap** –
 - Private-sector financing accounts for only about 6% of global finance directed towards combating land degradation and drought.
 - Climate-related blended finance reached \$15.5 billion through 84 deals in 2024.
- **Drought management** – Governments often focus on post-disaster relief rather than preventive investment.
- It advocates *investment in resilient rangeland management before drought occurs*.
- **Significance** – The report highlights the holistic importance of rangelands and calls for greater investment in their restoration and sustainable management.



Reference

[Down To Earth| Rangelands Rising Report-COP17 UNCCD](#)