



Let's avoid overgrazing the rangelands. Let's do planned grazing. Otherwise, the yield will decrease and the rehabilitation cost will increase.



Photos: Nihan Yenilmez Arpa - Şükür Güler



CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF
TURKEY'S STEPPE ECOSYSTEMS PROJECT
GCP/TUR/061/GFF

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Turkey's Steppe Ecosystems Project is conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (TOB), General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks (DKMPGM), General Directorate of Plant Production (BÜGEM) and General Directorate of Forestry (OGM) with the financial support of Global Environment Fund (GEF).

For detailed information

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SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF STEPPE RANGELANDS



What is a Rangeland?

As per the Rangeland Law numbered 4342, rangeland refers to “the places allocated for grazing animals due to their grass and used for this purpose since old times”.

Rangeland is the general name for meadows used for grazing, where vegetation is dominated by poaceae, legumes, acrocliniums and dwarf shrubs.

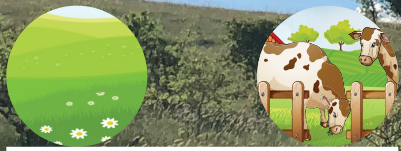
Especially in sheep and goat breeding, these are areas that support the conservation of the traditional structure and also host the wild relatives of the cultivated species.

Covering nearly half of the world’s lands, and one-fifth of Turkey, rangelands make a valuable contribution to people’s lives and the environment.

A large portion of Turkey’s rangelands consists of steppe rangelands and is located in arid and semi-arid climatic regions.

The capabilities of rangelands to contribute to people’s lives and the environment depend on the sustainable management of these areas.

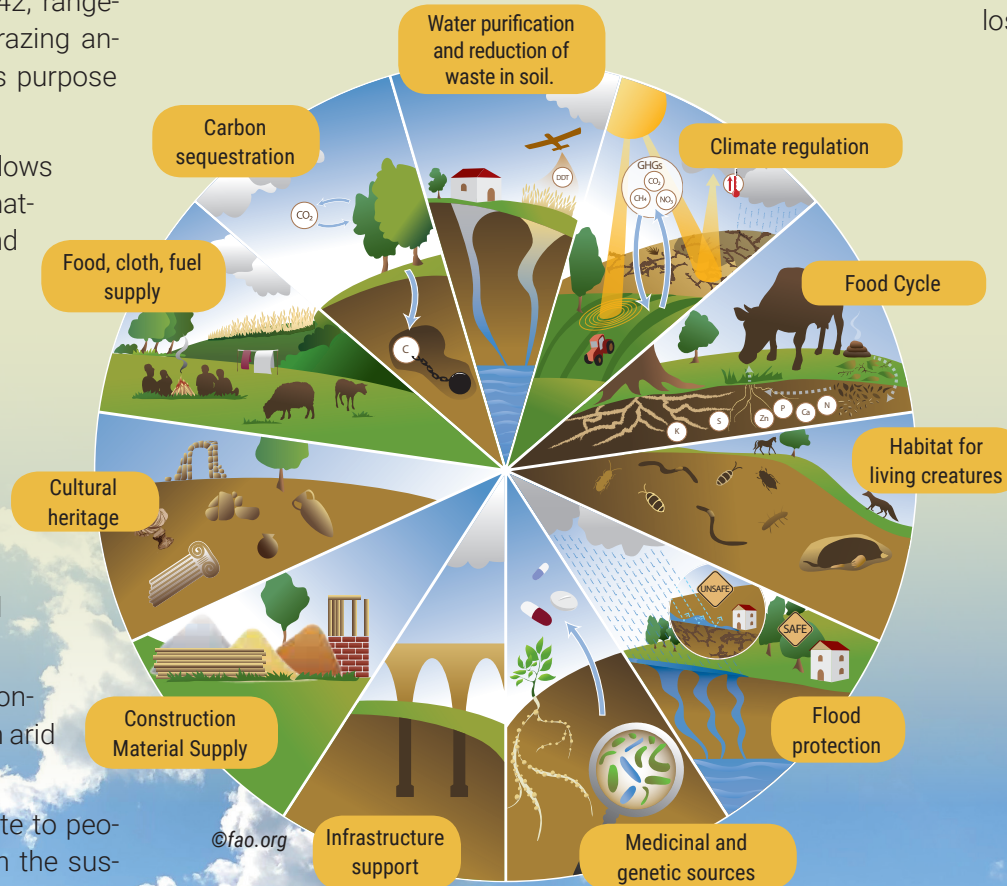
Sustainable grazing management is ensured with balance.



Balance

Sustainable rangeland management is based on establishing a balance between production and consumption in the rangelands.

Services Provided by Rangelands and Ecosystems



Steppe rangelands in Turkey are faced with threats such as excessive use of production areas, habitat loss and degradation.

MOST IMPORTANT THREATS TO STEPPE RANGELANDS



CLIMATE CHANGE
The increasing temperature in the atmosphere causes damage to the environment and the rangeland that is difficult to reverse.



DEGRADATION-HABITAT LOSS
Degradation and habitat loss occur in rangelands as a result of natural disasters and human intervention.



OVERGRAZING
Overgrazing as a result of opportunistic over-exploitation of communal rangelands leads to one of the main problems in steppe rangelands.



INVASIVE SPECIES
Rangelands lose their natural vegetation as a result of overgrazing, causes replacing these plants with invasive species that are more resistant to environmental stresses but have no forage value.



CONSTRUCTION
Construction of dams and roads, mining and settlements cause rangelands to shrink.



OCCUPATION
Despite the preventive regulations of the Rangeland Law, rangelands are occupied and converted into fields for ownership purposes.

Elimination of these threats can be achieved by managing the steppe rangelands with a holistic and participatory approach and maintaining the production and consumption balance in the rangelands.