

What are Rangelands?

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About Rangelands:

- The rangelands category of **Earth's land cover** consists mostly of the **natural grasslands** used by livestock and wild animals to graze and forage.
- The vegetation of ranges may include **tallgrass prairies, steppes** (shortgrass prairies), desert shrublands, shrub woodlands, savannas, chaparrals, and tundras.
- Rangelands are the "**Wild Open Spaces**" that cover about half of the earth's land surface and half of western North America.
- **Reasons for degradation**
 - The problem is driven largely by **converting pastures to cropland** and other land use changes due to **population growth** and urban expansion,
 - Rapidly rising food, fibre and fuel demands, excessive grazing, abandonment and policies that incentivise overexploitation.
- **Significance of Rangelands**

- These are used for **livestock forage, wildlife habitat**, water, mineral resources, wood products, wildland recreation, open space and natural beauty.
 - These are an important economic engine in many countries and define cultures. Home to one quarter of the world's languages, they also host numerous World Heritage Sites and have shaped the value systems, customs and identities of pastoralists for thousands of years.
 - **Two billion people** – small-scale herders, ranchers and farmers, often poor and marginalised – depend on healthy rangelands worldwide.
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Q1: What is Savanna grassland?

It is a vegetation type that grows under hot, seasonally dry climatic conditions and is characterized by an open tree canopy above a continuous tall grass understory (the vegetation layer between the forest canopy and the ground).

Source: Rangelands are facing a 'silent demise', suffering losses as high as 50%

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/rangelands/>

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