

Announcing the Launch of a Special Issue of the SpringerOpen Journal *Pastoralism*:

‘Wildlife and Pastoralism’

Rangelands cover 69% of the world's agricultural land and around 40% of all global land surfaces, providing habitats for domestic livestock, and a diversity of wild plants and animals. However, a general perception exists that there is unfavourable competition between wildlife and livestock production. This view has led to policies and programmes that increasingly segregate the two sectors, often resulting in political and economic conflict between pastoralists and others.

As global incomes rise, demand is accelerating for livestock products such as meat, dairy and fibres, leading to strong economic incentives to intensify livestock production in the rangelands. Livestock intensification is also promoted as a means to prevent destruction of natural habitat. However, recent research shows that intensification is increasingly degrading extensive pastures and rangelands, and can lead to loss of biodiversity with impacts on both wildlife management and pastoralism, in high income as well as low income countries. Intensive livestock production generates higher levels of green house gases and nutrient pollution compared to extensive pastoralism. Intensively produced meats have higher fat content, leading to greater concerns over human health in developed and developing countries.

The principal findings and debates in the papers of this Special Issue of Pastoralism are consolidated in an Editorial entitled “*Co-existence of wildlife and pastoralism on extensive rangelands: competition or compatibility*”, which concludes that there are far greater opportunities for compatibility than some may have previously thought. The Special Issue papers underline that with stronger governance and regulatory co-management, integration of pastoralism and wildlife conservation can offer multiple and complementary income sources for the direct rangeland resource users – both pastoralists and wildlife managers. Wider benefits are also forthcoming – such as more resilience to climate change, while socio-cultural and aesthetic amenities can also be preserved. The Special Issue gives examples of emerging successful models from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Australia. <http://www.pastoralismjournal.com/>

Cattle and the bridge-tailed wallaby in Australia; cattle ranchers working to conserve biodiversity (Ryan McAllister and Fiachra Kearney; 2012)



Wildlife and Livestock co-existence in East Africa (Rob Pringle and Bilal Butt; 2012)



Wild yak in Tibetan rangelands: Herders participating in a conservation meeting in the Tibetan Plateau, western China (Marc Foggin 2012)

