

# The overlooked climate heroes

Hidden beneath our feet lies great potential to protect our climate.



## Carbon storage

- Grasslands and savannahs store 25 — 35 % of terrestrial carbon.
- Upside-down forests: 90 % of grassland carbon is stored in the roots of long-lived grasses.
- In fire-prone regions, they can be more reliable carbon sinks than forests over time.



## Climate adaptation

- Support water and food security.
- Stabilize soils and slow desertification.
- Provide habitat and sustain biodiversity.





### Under threat



- Widespread misunderstanding of the value of intact grasslands.
- Conversion to other land uses including afforestation.
- Mismanagement (over- and undergrazing).

### Action needed



- **Protect** natural grasslands and savannahs – less than 10 % are protected globally.
- **Manage** grassland carbon stores actively: choose adequate management practices, optimise grazing intensity, and prevent invasion of exotic species.
- **Restore** degraded grasslands through natural regeneration or appropriate reseedling.

GRASSLANDS AND SAVANNAHS

THE OVERLOOKED CLIMATE HEROES



# PROTECT THE ROOTS, PROTECT THE PLANET

Grasslands and savannahs must be recognized as essential and stable carbon sinks, and included into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Source:  
WWF, 2025, Protecting the Overlooked Carbon Sink:  
A Policy Agenda for Grasslands.

Photo: Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina



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