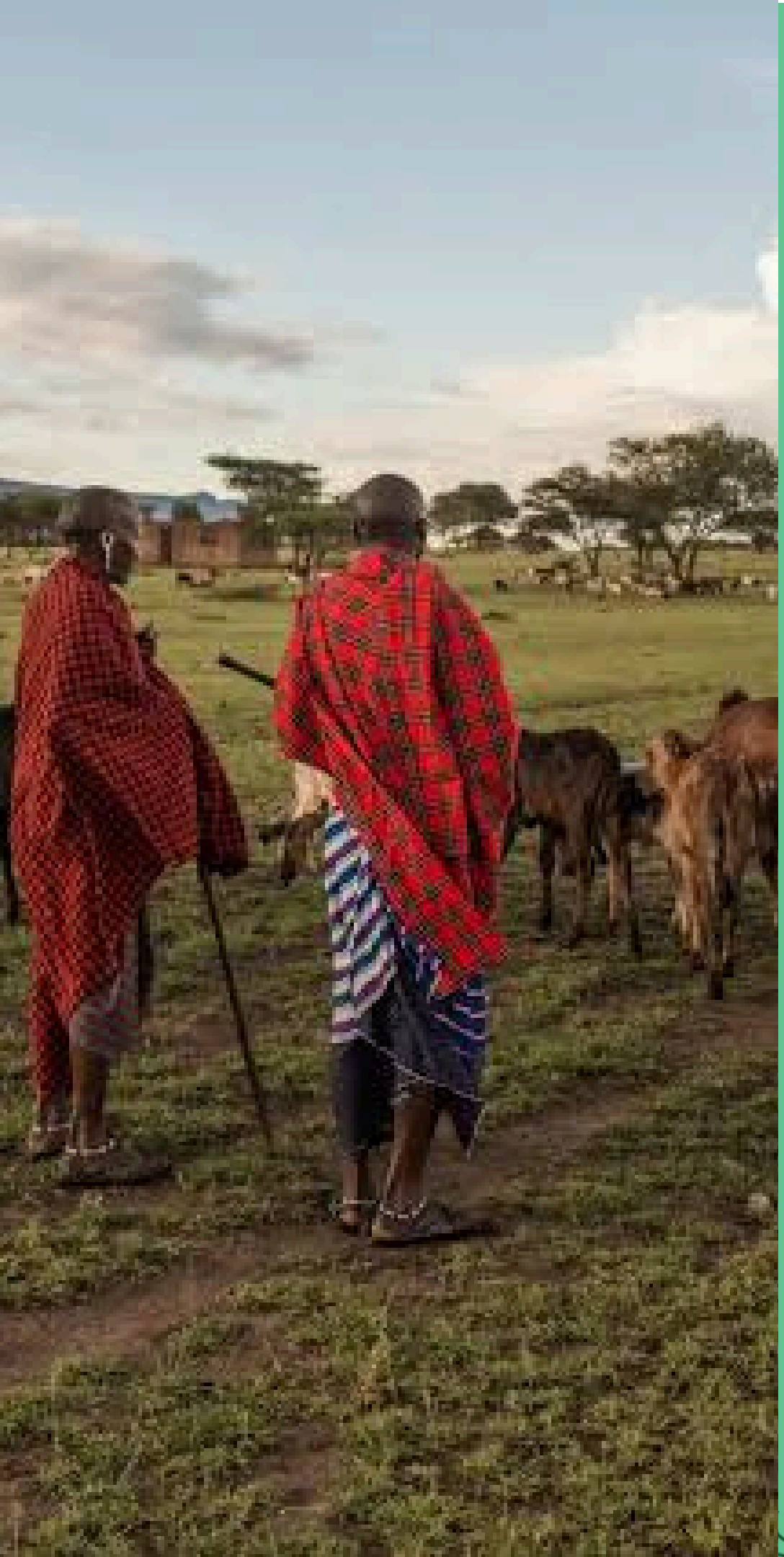

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How can communities lead the fight against invasive species?

Communities are often the first to see invasive species spread and the first to feel the impacts on grazing land, biodiversity and livelihoods.

Participatory Rangeland Management helps communities map their rangelands, strengthen local governance, develop management plans and take coordinated action to prevent, contain and restore invaded areas.

Successful action focuses on:

- Preventing new invasions
- Containing established infestations
- Restoring degraded rangelands
- Monitoring changes over time

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What does invasive species management look like at country level?

Managing invasive species at scale requires policy, investment, research and community action working together.

In Ethiopia, efforts focus on restoration, sustainable land management and supporting pastoral communities affected by invasive species.

Clear invasive species from affected rangelands

Restore native grasses and vegetation

Support community-led restoration programmes

Turn invasive biomass into useful products such as fuel and charcoal

Align biodiversity and land restoration goals

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How do communities work together to stop invasions?

Invasive species are not just an ecological challenge. They are a collective action challenge.

Removing invasive plants requires communities to invest time, labour and resources today for benefits that often emerge over time.

- Build trust around a shared problem
- Agree on common management goals
- Share responsibility for restoration efforts
- Monitor progress together
- Sustain action long after initial clearing

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How can global partnerships accelerate action?

No single organisation can tackle invasive species alone. Effective action depends on strong partnerships across sectors and scales.

Generate and share scientific evidence

Provide tools, standards and guidance

Build technical capacity and expertise

Support national policies and implementation

Connect governments, researchers and local communities

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What solutions are already working?

Effective solutions already exist and can be scaled up to protect rangelands, biodiversity and livelihoods.

Early detection and rapid response

Biological control using natural enemies of invasive species

Community-led management programmes

Strong policies and institutional support

Knowledge-sharing across countries and regions

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Five Takeaways from the Webinar

Prevention is more effective and less costly than restoration

Communities are central to long-term success

Governments play a critical role through policy and investment

Partnerships help scale solutions and share knowledge

We already know what works. Now we need to act

Invasive species are a growing threat to rangelands, biodiversity and livelihoods. Addressing them requires coordinated action from communities, governments, researchers and international partners.

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