

An International Profile of the Society for Range Management

Frank H. Khattat and James A. Tiedeman

Have you ever wondered just how international the Society for Range Management (SRM) is? The answer can be derived by reviewing and examining the SRM membership background and those that support the Society indirectly through subscriptions to its regular publications. The SRM has a rich and varied number of members from approximately 70 countries, including many charter members from Canada.

Rangeland resources of North America represent a unique ecosystem among the native vegetation of the phyto-geographic regions of the world. Thanks to the efforts of conservationists, land managers and ranchers, American grasslands are well studied and managed. No wonder, then, that these vast resources have attracted numerous students and scholars interested in the ecology of grazing land, to the United States and to the SRM for leadership and technical assistance in the art and science of range management for application in their developing countries. Government research institutions, universities and other international agencies send many

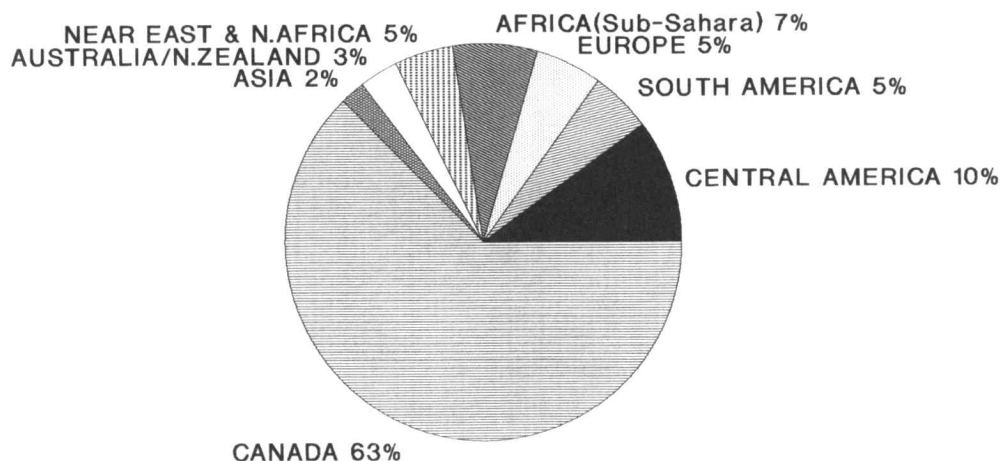
scientists from all over the world to capture American ingenuity and know-how and learn the economics of livestock husbandary and range management. U.S. universities have played a significant role in educating overseas scientists and range technicians. The graduates have kept in contact with their counterpart U.S. technicians in advancing range management knowledge and skill in their home countries. Some of these scientists periodically return back to the U.S. and participate in SRM annual meetings by presenting papers on their native grass and range projects. This has contributed to a better understanding of the world's rangeland resources. We learned, for example that grassland is called steppes in Asia, pampas in South America, and veld in South Africa. Today, SRM is mighty proud of a record of achievement in accelerating and maintaining scientific and educational ties with the rest of the world. For these reasons and, as we approach the year 2000, a survey of SRM's international membership and supporters in a changing global setting is relevant and timely.

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Profile of SRM's International Membership

As of May 1990, the total enrolled members of the

FIGURE 1
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP



Total Membership: 450

Society was 4,839. Of this total, there were 4,389 U.S. members or 91 percent, and 450 non-U.S. or international members or 9 percent. Of this latter number, there were 286 Canadians representing 6 percent of the total SRM membership. Among the international membership, Canadians comprised about 63 percent, while those from Central and South America comprised about 15 percent. This included 44 members from Mexico. The membership in other regions of the world is shown in Figure 1.

Profile of International Non-member Subscribers

As of May, 1990, there were 404 U.S. subscribers and 295 non-U.S. subscribers to the *Journal of Range Management* and *Rangeland*, who were not members of SRM. The international subscriptions of SRM Journals is a sizeable factor representing about 42 percent of non-member SRM subscriptions worldwide. A major number of these were institutional subscriptions rather than individuals. Nevertheless, these publications provide the readers a sense of belonging to the range science profession and an indirect tie to SRM and *Journal* contributors.

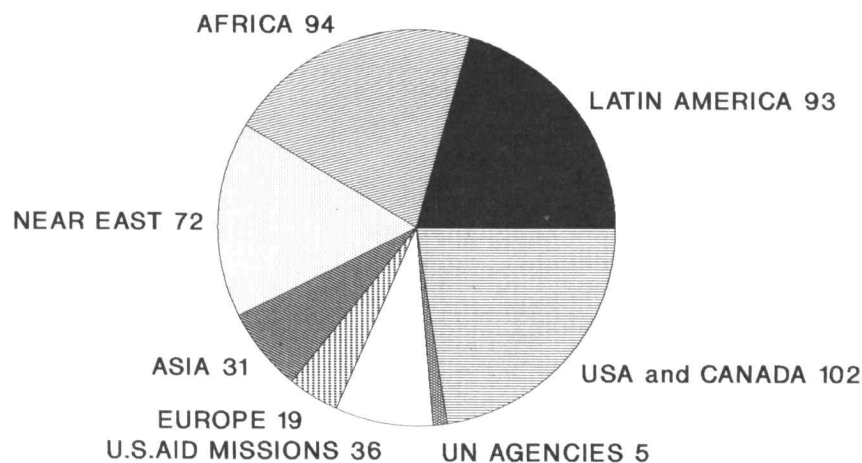
International subscriptions are more than double the total membership in Africa and the Near East Regions. In Europe, Asia and Australian regions, subscriptions outnumbered the membership by six-fold. This is because, the SRM *Journals* are the only publications totally dedicated to range science around the world. Range articles are also published in ecological and natural resources journals but the fact remains, SRM *Journals* are specifically designated to cover rangeland resources. Additionally, learned society publications are acquisitioned by libraries in Europe and developing countries to diversify their research journal holdings.

International Range News

The SRM International Affairs Committee (IAC) realized the importance and need for a better link between range scientists in other countries and those in the United States. Some U.S. based members assigned overseas on Agency for International Development (AID) and other international agency range projects were equipped to train and attract a number of native scientists to membership in the Society for Range Management. Range curricula in universities overseas were introduced as a result of U.S. expatriate scientists' contribution to this otherwise unrecognized and untaught field. To keep these local scientists and technicians abreast of latest developments in this field and provide a medium for the exchange of news and ideas, the IAC launched the *International Range News* in 1986. In 1987, the *News* was expanded into two issues per year and SRM now accepts contributions of \$10 or more from subscribers to defray the cost of printing and mailing.¹ The purpose of the *International Range News*, as stated by the editors is "To increase awareness of on-going range management activities in developing countries. By communicating through this newsletter, a forum of professionals will be created dedicated to the wise management of rangeland. . ." The *News* is currently mailed to more than 375 individuals in 69 countries outside the United States and to 44 U.S. based subscribers. Edited by James A. Tiedeman of Washington State University and Doug Johnson of Oregon State Uni-

¹Individuals interested in receiving the *International Range News* should exchange the equivalent of \$10 in UNESCO coupons, available at your country's UNESCO Commission, and mail to **Society for Range Management**, 1839 York Street, Denver, Colorado 80206, U.S.A.

FIGURE 2
INTERNATIONAL RANGE NEWS
REGIONAL MAILING LIST



Total Copies Mailed: 732

versity, the *International Range News* has a reasonable readership and can be expanded into more than two issues per year, should the number of subscriptions increase. The number of copies mailed to each region of the world (by subscription or as complimentary copies) is illustrated in Figure 2.

The SRM Host Country Liaison Program (ILP), which was formally adopted by the International Affairs Committee in the SRM Annual Meetings in Reno last February and endorsed by the Board of Directors, established six regional liaisons: Africa (South of the Sahara), Asia, Australia-New Zealand, Europe, Circumpolar and the Near-East and North Africa Regions. The purpose of the program is to enhance communication and coordination on rangeland resources of the world through the estab-

lishment of SRM chapters or sections. Each region will have a U.S. based SRM focal point representative to facilitate contacts with a host country liaison representative. It is hoped that with this SRM initiative, SRM's circle of membership and subscribers to its publications widens and the numbers cited in this paper expand.

The Society for Range Management has carried the torch towards understanding of global range resources through nearly half a century since its founding. We welcome our international visitors during the 1991 Annual International Meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. with the theme "**Rangeland Resources: Influencing Change in a Global Setting,**" **Make this occasion a focus for better understanding of this rich and varied resource.**

Grass Is Immortal

Senator John J. Ingalls

Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned with traffic become grass grown, like rural lanes, and are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal.

Beleagued by the sullen hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality, and emerges upon the first solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulture of the elements, which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibres hold the earth in its place, and prevent its soluble components from washing into the wasting sea. It

invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidding pinnacles of mountains, modifies climates, and determines the history, character, and destiny of nations.

Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfares and the field, it abides its time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates. It bears no blazonry of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the earth.

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