

2026 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS DECLARED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNITED NATIONS

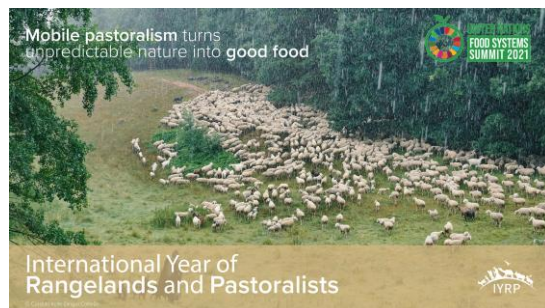
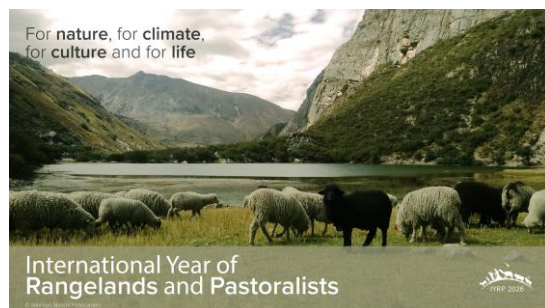
On 15 March 2022, the United Nations General Assembly declared [2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists IYRP](#).

[This Resolution, proposed by the Government of Mongolia in 2019](#), represents the success of an extraordinary movement that has grown to become today [a global coalition of countries, organizations representing all regions of the world and various United Nations agencies](#). In particular 48 pastoralist organizations, 232 civil society organizations and 6 inter-governmental organizations participate in this coalition and 102 governments have either sent letters, or spoken in favor during UN meetings, or co-sponsored the UN General Assembly Resolution.

The Resolution invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations FAO [to facilitate the implementation of the 2026 IYRP International Year](#).

Recognizing that pastoralism is a dynamic and transformative livelihood linked to the diverse ecosystems, cultures, identities, traditional knowledge and historical experience of coexisting with nature, the IYRP Resolution invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and relevant stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector and academia, to implement activities aimed at directing attention to the relevance of the sustainable management of rangelands and pastoralism and its contribution to achieving sustainable development.

The [Press release published by the IYRP Supporting Group](#) highlights that “The rangelands cover over half (scientists currently estimate 54%) of the world’s earth surface and is thus our largest ecosystem, but is most endangered and least protected. Around the world, rangelands support the livelihoods and food security of pastoralists, who provide livestock products not only for themselves but also for millions of people. Pastoralists use their livestock to convert often sparse and short-lived vegetation that cannot be consumed by humans into inexpensive, healthy food with high-quality protein for both domestic and export markets, contributing to global nutrition and food security. Sustainable rangelands and pastoralism are sorely needed even more so now in a world facing an unpredictable and changing climate, where one-tenth of the world population are suffering hunger, and where one million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction. Particularly in the last 100 years, pastoralists have endured numerous injustices such as dispossession of their traditional grazing areas and blocking of their migration routes. Yet these communities continue to survive



and apply knowledge and skills that make them strong allies in sustainable development in the face of the increasing uncertainty we are all experiencing. As stewards of the rangelands, they play a vital role in maintaining and increasing biodiversity and providing ecosystem services, such as in carbon sequestration and protection of watersheds.”

In 2019, [the Mongolian Government began to petition the United Nations](#) to declare an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists to increase global awareness of their importance for food security and ecosystem services. The proposal of the Mongolian Government highlighted that “The health, productivity and environmental sustainability of these lands are directly critical to the livelihoods and cultures of more than 500 million pastoralists, including agro-pastoralists, rangers, and animal keepers around the world. Billions more benefit from these systems for tourism, wildlife and biodiversity, meat and milk and other agricultural products, mining, renewable energy and other uses”.

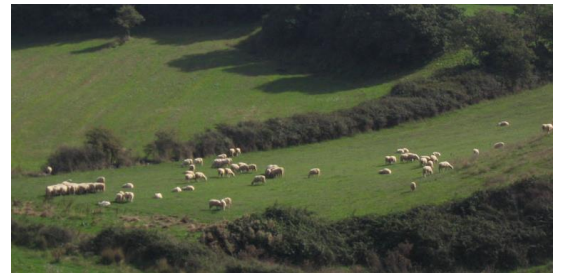
Since 2019, the Mongolian Government’s proposal has been following the complex official diplomatic process to be considered. An *IYRP International Support Group* was formed and a large number of organizations have joined the proposal, including pastoralist organizations, UN Agencies as FAO, IFAD and UN Environment, international organizations and environmental coalitions. The IYRP Group has coordinated numerous meetings and events, working with members to gain the support of their respective partners and new countries for the IYRP.

The website implemented by the *Mongolian National Support Group* and the *International Support Group* in collaboration with strategic partners, has documented all the initiatives carried out worldwide for the proposed International Year and the extraordinary results achieved.

This website will continue to be the main instrument to inform about the initiatives in progress at different levels to build the strategy and a consistent action plan for the 2026 IYPR International Year, involving all the partners already mobilized and following the orientations of the Resolution, which for example call governments and the other actors:

- to further increase responsible investment in the pastoral livestock sector, including for sustainable land management practices, improved and/or restored ecosystems, balanced access to markets, livestock health and breeding, and enhanced livestock extension services, in order to improve productivity, contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, maintain and enhance biodiversity;
- to fill knowledge gaps relating to rangelands and pastoralism and to promote innovative solutions for the sustainable management and ecological restoration of rangelands, taking into account the traditional knowledge of pastoralists.

The work in progress is extensively presented in the [IYRP General Update released in June 2022](#) and published in the website. Among the many initiatives, the document informs that the Regional IYRP Support Groups established in 2020 are actively working to expand the network. A sub-group is focusing on how to reach and inform millions of pastoralists about the IYRP and find ways for them to participate and benefit. Another sub-group is looking to achieve impact on policy change by 2026 through awareness raising in selected global events, such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the



Convention to Combat Desertification. The IYRP will also be working closely with the [UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration](#) and the [UN Decade of Family Farming](#).

The *International Support Group* encourages all interested actors and organizations to establish contacts and be actively involved, also sending letters informing how they aim to engage with initiatives and activities to prepare and celebrate the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

To know more

[IYRP.info website](#)

[IYRP Resolution 76-253.pdf](#)

[Press Release IYRP UNGA 15.03.22](#)

[IYRP in Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mongolia website](#)

[IYRP General Update June 2022](#)

[Proposal 2019 - Government of Mongolia](#)

[IYRP news in FAO website](#)

[FAO 2022. Making way: developing national legal and policy frameworks for pastoral mobility](#)

[Recent publications in Pastoralist Knowledge Hub – FAO website](#)

[IYRP in IUCN website](#)

[Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock \(GASL\)](#)

[International Livestock Research Institute \(ILRI\)](#)

[International Land Coalition](#)

[Maps in gridarendal website](#)

[IYRP in globalrangelands.org website](#)

[Transhumance declared by UNESCO in 2019 as Intangible Heritage of Humanity](#)

