



Subject: Letter to the GCG of the IYRP

Dear GCG of the IYRP,

World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous and Pastoralist Peoples (WAMIP) presents sincere greetings to you.

We are writing to you to express our gratitude for the work carried until now and to express our continued support for the proposal of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP).

From its beginnings in various networks, primarily composed of grassland and rangeland researchers and environmental entities, has always stood out from other organizations for its strength in including pastoral peoples who have been effective custodians of our ancestral rangelands for millennia.

The exposure of our pastoral populations to climate change, land-use change, socio-economic change, and globalization need not be recalled, given that our constituents follow mobile lifestyles based on highly marginal and variable natural resources. They play an important role in the preservation of the ecosystem and sustaining development of the regions.

We have seen tremendous support for the IYRP call from a wide range of organizations and states, as evidenced, e.g., by the growing number of members joining Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) globally and in the defined regions.

At the same time, we would like to emphasize the importance of considering certain aspects from now until 2026 and beyond, based on which we, as WAMIP, will be able to fully invest and dedicate ourselves to the IYRP and its best implementation:

- We expect that a first-ever international year of pastoralists gives a clear voice to pastoralists, not merely as participants/ stakeholders but as rightsholders, which includes a clear role in co-management of the process and initiative. Such proper engagement of pastoralists means that WAMIP and pastoralists CSOs are actively involved in the governance of IYRP, i.e., at the international and regional/ national level as appropriate. In the short term, this specifically consists of the constitution of a formal steering committee following the UNGA endorsement, where the strong representation of WAMIP must be reflected;
- Regarding the governance of the IYRP process, we believe it is also needed to assess how the RISGs have been constituted and operated in each region, considering existing pastoralist networks and their recognition and centrality in the process. These matters must be taken into account for the future governance



of IYRP. This also includes the organization and management of trust funds and funding mechanisms; These demands are in our mind also clearly underlined in the principles of the UN SDGs, where no one should be left behind;

- It would be important to ensure that an open definition of what is considered rangeland is included in all documents and statements: not only grasslands, but also forests, tundra, mountains, and post-harvest cropland;
- Connectivity between rangelands is just as important as the rangelands themselves: animal trails, migration routes, seasonal pasture access, and effective mobility rights and recognition of pastoralists territories of life (Indigenous and community Conserves Areas and Territories "ICCAs") and their customary governance systems are essential to ensure sustainable rangeland use;
- Once an IYRP is adopted, a smaller steering committee with key pastoralist rightsholders and relevant stakeholders should be formed (propose), and a trust fund launched to implement actions;
- These actions must be consensual and based on the concerns and priorities of the pastoral movement, which is crucial at this time to strengthen the management capacities of pastoral coordination at all levels;
- Request the creation of a secondary Trust Fund within the UN with an implementing body composed of FAO, UNEP, and national donor governments, and the presence of the pastoralist movement within it;
- **Let's remember and renew our promise to leave no one behind** through strengthening, recognizing, and involving the pastoralist's governance institutions for their actual participation in decision-making and policy-making processes linked to their destiny at all levels.

We are committed to actively promoting IYRP through our network and using all our communications resources. We can offer spokespeople from all our regional networks (Europe, Central Asia, South Asia, Latin America, North America, West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, West Asia, Central Africa, Arctic).



We are convinced that this is an opportunity to raise the profile and support for rangelands and pastoral issues globally and nationally, improve understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the rangeland ecosystem and pastoralists, and direct increased attention and resources to rangelands and those who manage them.

Respectfully submitted,
Yours sincerely,

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