



iyrp2026@gmail.com

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Dear UNCCD Country Focal Person

Your country is among the 102 countries that have shown support for designating 2026 as the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). **We deeply thank you.**

The IYRP International Support Group is a coalition of 350+ organizations around the world that have supported the designation of IYRP 2026, and are changing mindsets and raising awareness about how to achieve sustainability in rangelands and for the pastoralists who are their stewards (<https://iyrp.org>).

One of the Working Groups of the IYRP Coalition has focused on collating the science and evidence related to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality in Rangelands. It has concluded its work with 8 recommendations for the UNCCD COP Member States and Other Partners, calling them to action such as halting indiscriminate conversion of rangelands, reforming unsuitable and unbalanced subsidies, and increasing investment into rangeland restoration – including through the LDN Fund (<https://iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/IYRP%20LDN%20Working%20Paper%20March%202024%20high%20res.pdf>).

A short Policy Brief that summarizes these 8 recommendations can be found here (https://iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/IYRP_LDN_Policy_Brief%20high-res.pdf). A special webinar to disseminate the need for such recommended actions is being organized for 17th June 2024, World Desertification and Drought Day.

We respectfully request your country to follow up on your commitment to IYRP 2026, by:
considering these 8 recommendations for decisions at the UNCCD COP;
ensuring adequate financing for activities to raise awareness during the year 2026 in your country and region; and
supporting the efforts of the Lead UN Agency, FAO, to raise funds to celebrate the IYRP.

Yours sincerely,

Igshaan Samuels

Co-Chair IYRP International Support Group

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