



iyrp2026@gmail.com

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Dear UNCCD accredited Civil Society Organisation and Independent Focal Point

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

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>).

For your information, 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 are encouraging the UNCCD COP Member States and other Partners to incorporate these 8 recommendations into formal Decisions. As a CSO accredited to the UNCCD, we respectfully ask you to consider the following actions:

- Encourage your government to consider these 8 recommendations for decisions at the UNCCD COP
- Participate in or take the lead in raising awareness and generating knowledge about rangelands and pastoralists within your network
- Leverage financial and material support for activities during the year 2026 in your country and region.

We also invite your organization to consider joining the IYRP 2026 Coalition – if you are not already – and be part of this world-wide movement and paradigm change. More information can be found on our website, including about our other thematic advocacy areas <https://www.iyrp.info/working-groups>. Please do contact me directly for any assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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