



IYRP2026 session at United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Conference of Parties (COP) 16

17:00–19:00 on 7 December 2024 in the Food & Agricultural Pavilion, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Title of session:

Road to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026

Moderator: Fiona Flintan, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Proposed programme:

- Opening remarks: Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD (tbc)
- Opening remarks: T. Jambaltseren, State Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MoFALI) – importance of IYRP2026 for Mongolia and the world
- Introductory film on IYRP2026
- Welcome by Igshaan Samuels, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa, and Co-Chair of IYRP Global Alliance
- How you can get involved in the preparations for IYRP2026: introduction to Working Groups (WGs) – Jonathan Davies, WG coordinator; and presentations from WGs and Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs):
 - Natasha Maru, WG on Pastoralism and Land Rights
 - Mounir Louhaichi, WG on Rangelands and Land Degradation Neutrality
 - Hijaba Ykhanbai, RISG in Central Asia & Mongolia
 - Hannah Longole, WG on Pastoralism and Gender
 - Jacob Lekaitogo, WG on Pastoralist Youth
 - Ken Otieno, RISG in Eastern & Southern Africa
- Roadmap to UNCCD COP17 in 2026 in Mongolia: key events in run-up to and during IYRP2026: Carlos Enrique Michaud, Co-Chair of IYRP Global Alliance
- Closure: Burmaa Dashbai, Co-Chair of IYRP Global Alliance
- Followed by 30 minutes networking to discuss collaboration in IYRP2026.