

The International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists 2026

Roadmap for IYRP 2026



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR
RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS



Global Alliance for
Rangelands & Pastoralists

Global Secretariat
Updated May 2026

Outline of the presentation

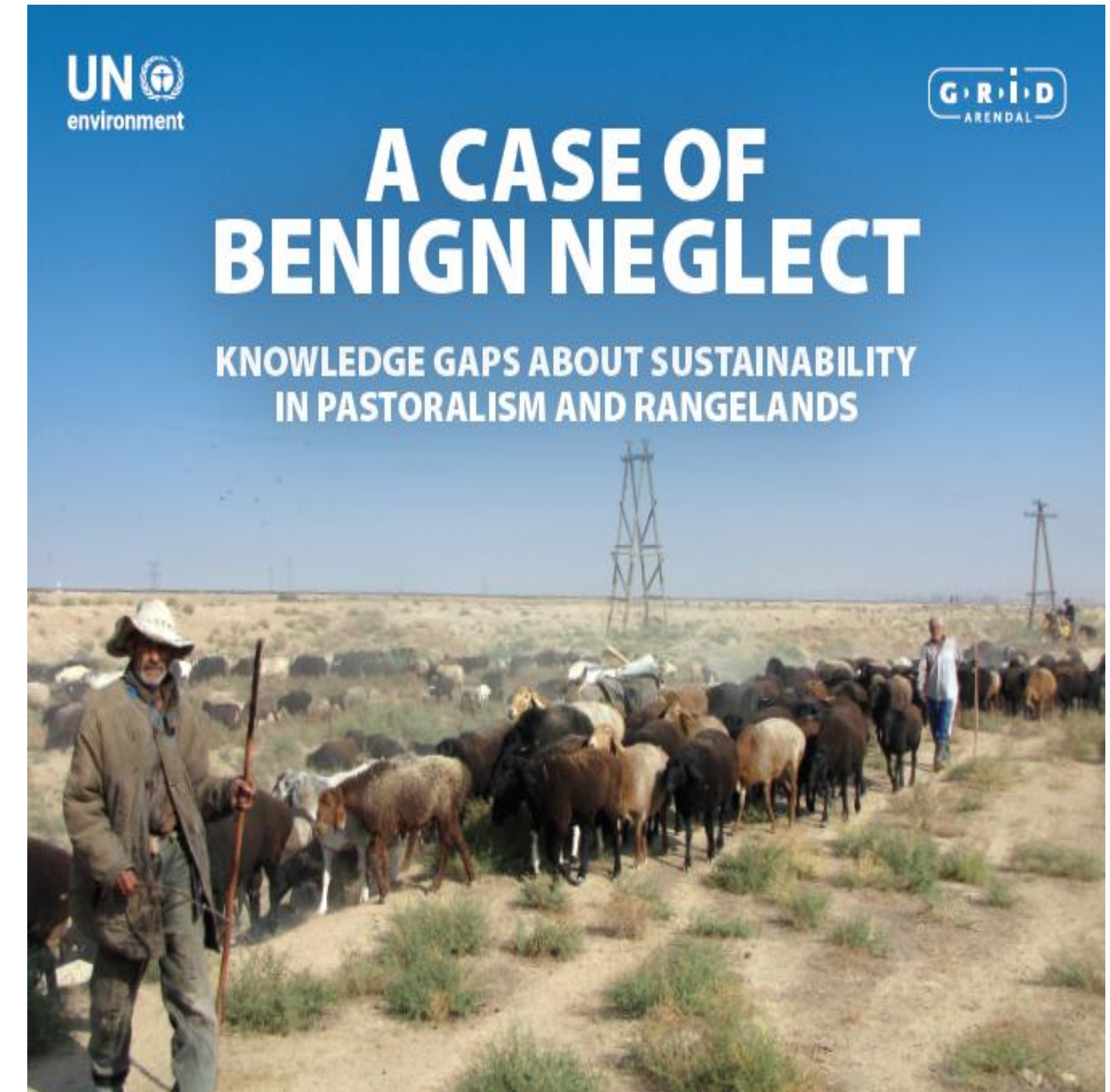
- Why do we need an International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists?
- Short history and structure of the Global Alliance for Rangelands & Pastoralists
- Global Action Plan for IYRP 2026
- Road map 2025-2026
- Beyond 2026



Why an IYRP 2026?

- Reveal important contributions of rangelands & pastoralists for food security, the economy and the environment
- Break myths and misunderstandings about rangelands and pastoralists and amplify the voices of pastoralists
- Fill knowledge gaps with more participatory research
- Promote informed, science-based policies and legislation throughout the world
- Increase sustainable and ethical funding and investment in rangelands and for pastoralists

UNEP Gap Analysis Report:



Getting to sustainability

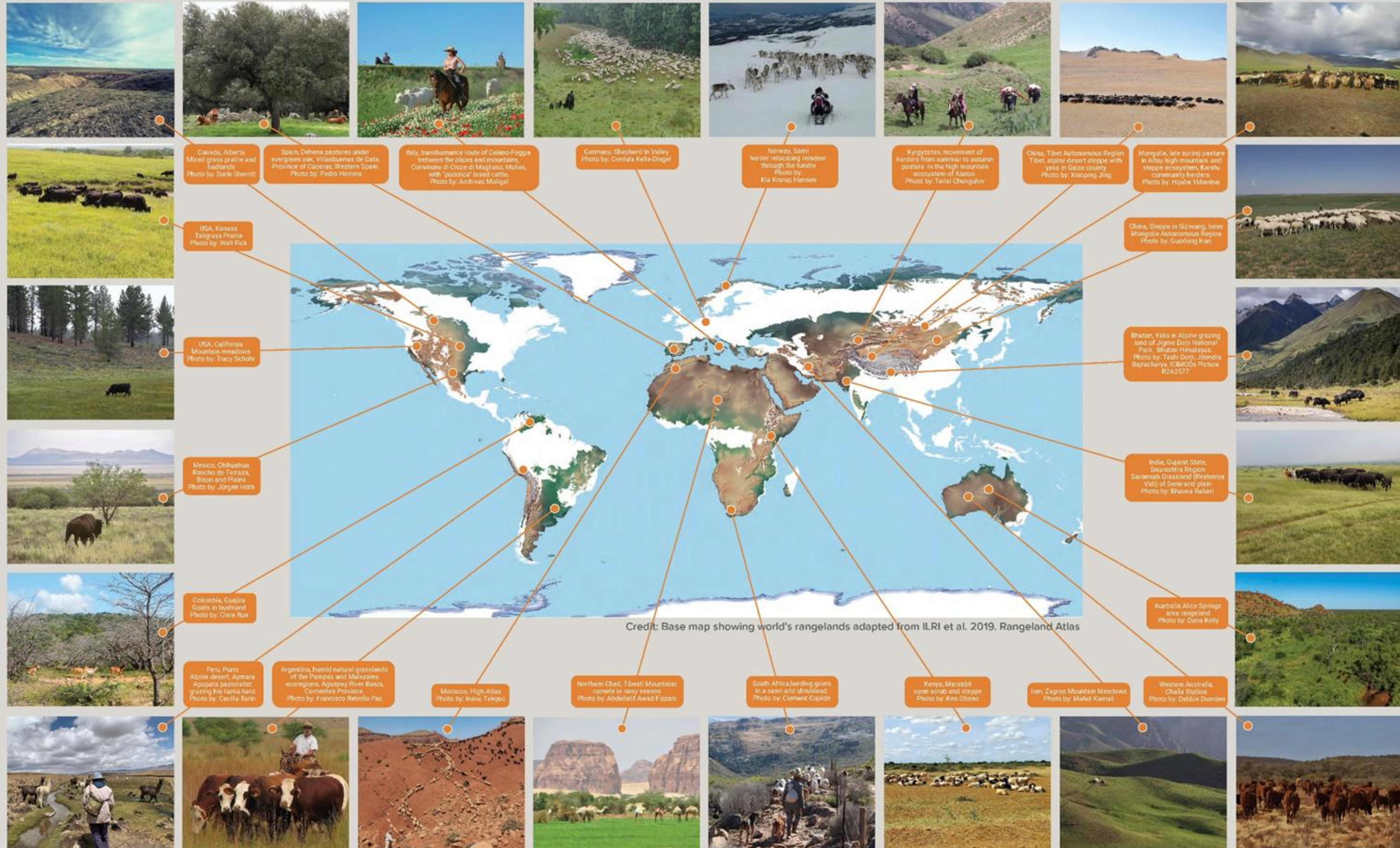
- Rangelands support livelihoods of 500 million people and another 2 billion people along the value chain
- Pastoralist livestock products have high-value protein and are rich in nutrients
- Carbon sinks can be significant in rangeland/pastoral systems
- Rangelands are global biodiversity hotspots and habitats for numerous endangered species and offer valuable grazing land for both livestock & wildlife
- Rangelands cover approximately half of the Earth's land surface

Pastoralism is the
Future!

Film on IYRP YouTube



DIVERSITY OF RANGELANDS IN THE WORLD



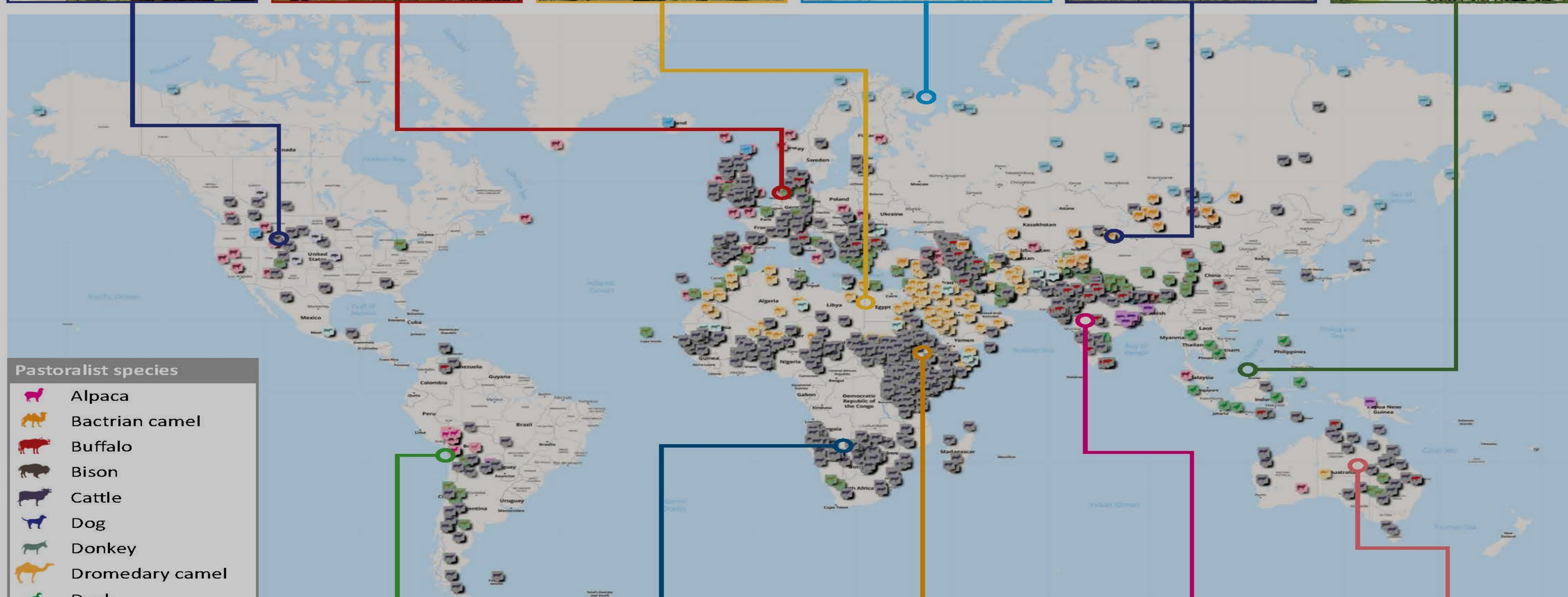
World map of pastoralists



LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Paul Mundy, League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development, paul@mamud.com, August 2025

www.pastoralpeoples.org/pastoralist-map/



- Pastoralist species**
- Alpaca
 - Bactrian camel
 - Buffalo
 - Bison
 - Cattle
 - Dog
 - Donkey
 - Dromedary camel
 - Duck
 - Goat
 - Horse
 - Llama
 - Pig
 - Reindeer
 - Sheep
 - Yak



Diversity of animals on rangelands



Maasai cattle Kenya
© Michael Benanav



Sheep & goats Turkey
© Michael Benanav



Wildlife Australia
© Caroline Jones



Camels and donkey Niger
© Tim Dirven



Bison USA © David Restivo



Yak Mongolia © Rita Willaert



Reindeer Norway
© Kia Krarup Hansen



Duck India
© Mr. Vinodh



Llamas Bolivia
© Michael Benanav



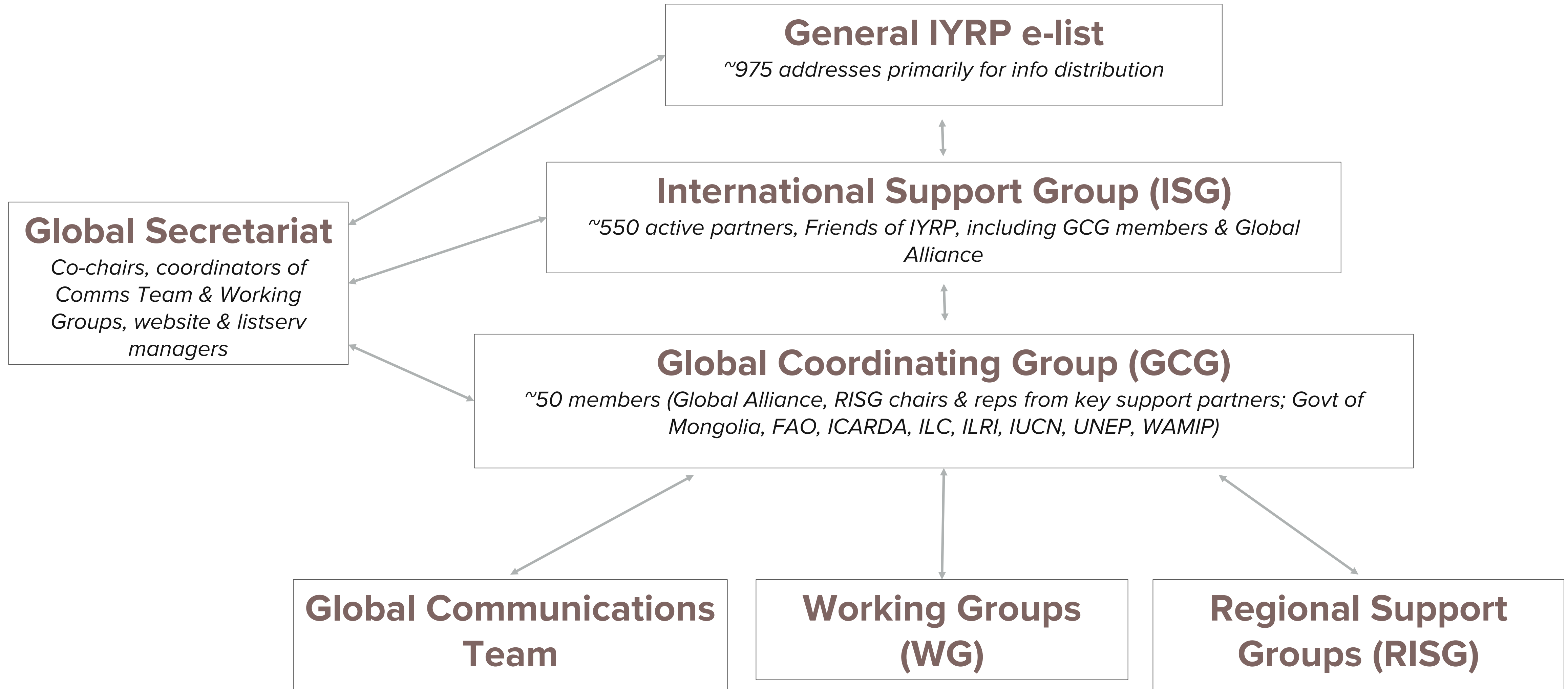
Cow dog and horse
Navajo Nation
© Michael Benanav

Short history of the IYRP 2026

- International Rangeland Congress 2008
- IYRP Support Group established in 2016
- In 2022, UN General Assembly declares 2026 as IYRP
- FAO as Lead UN agency
- IYRP Global Alliance – renamed 2024
- Global Alliance for Rangelands & Pastoralists—renamed Dec 2025



Structure of the Global Alliance

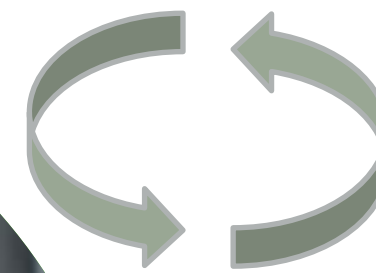


Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

- Arctic
- East Asia
- South Asia
- Central Asia & Mongolia
- Australasia
- North Africa & Middle East
- Eastern & Southern Africa
- West & Central Africa
- Europe
- North America
- South America



*Impact at local level:
Promoting pastoralist organizations & their activities*



IYRP Global Action Plan 2025-2026

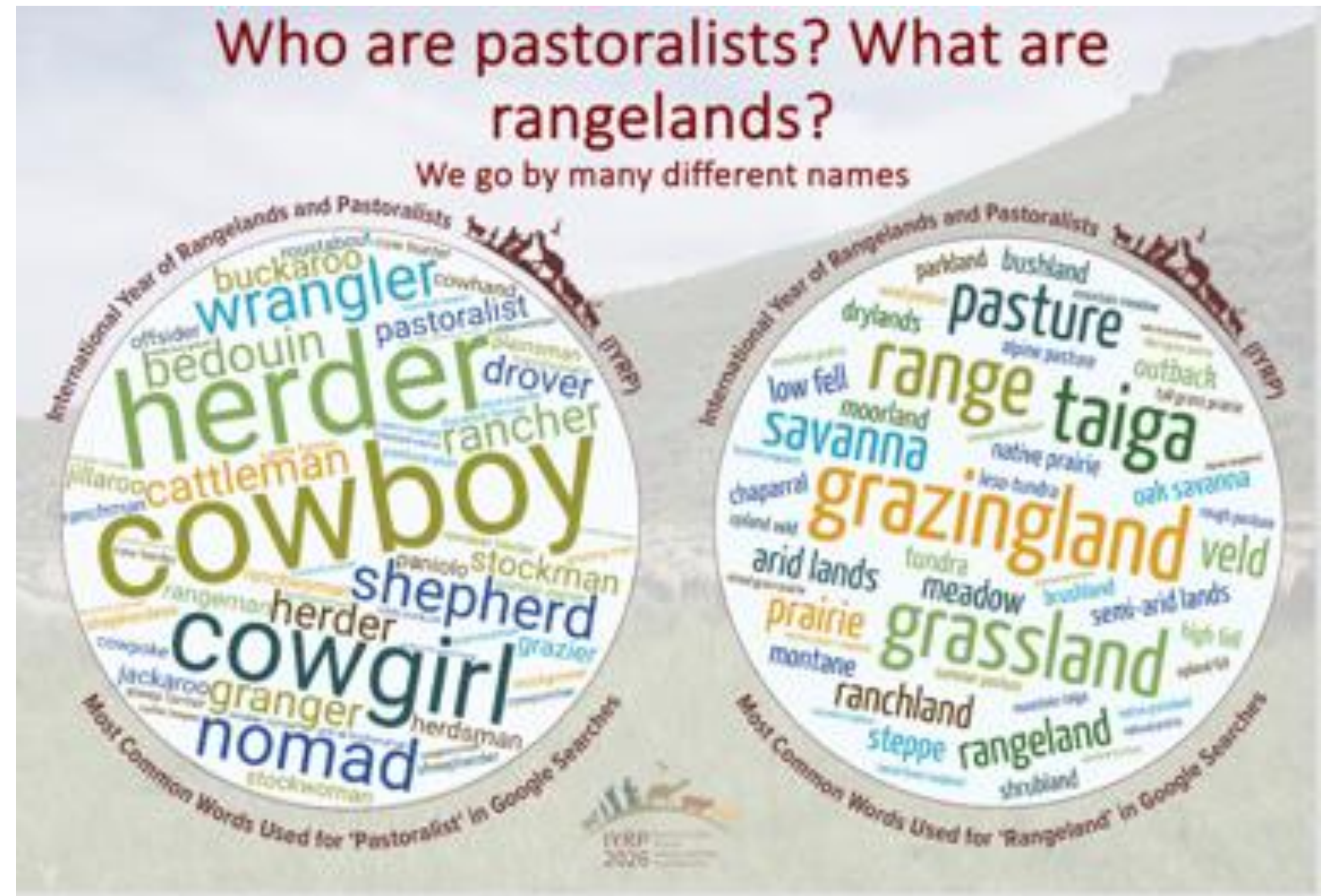
Strategy 1: Multi-stakeholder Coalition Building

Strategy 2: Knowledge Generation

Strategy 3: Celebration & Awareness Raising

Strategy 4: Policy Advocacy over the next decade

Strategy 5: Appropriate Investment for rangelands and pastoralists



IYRP Global Action Plan 2025-2026

<https://iyrp.info/iyrp-2026-global-action-plan>

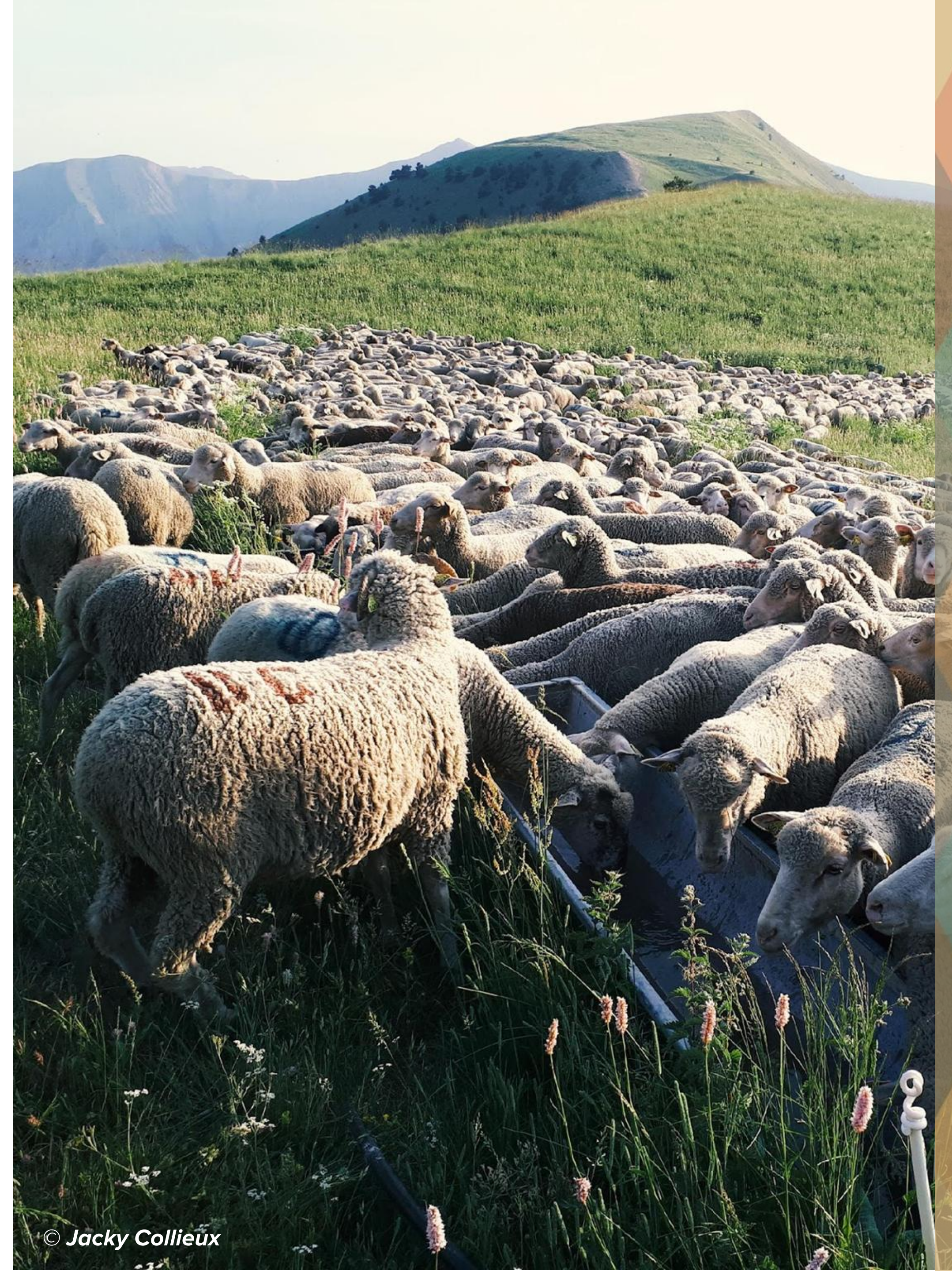
Knowledge generation through thematic Working Groups

Objectives of Working Groups:

- Greater awareness in science & society about how rangelands & pastoralists contribute to food security, economy, environment & cultural heritage
- Foster changes in national, regional & global policies
- Increase sustainable & ethical investment in rangelands & pastoralist livelihoods

Tasks of Working Groups:

- Collate and analyse existing research results (science review)
- Stimulate and engage in participatory research to fill gaps and explore opportunities
- Science- and experience-based advocacy with key messages for the public, international bodies, local communities, etc.



Current Working Groups

1. Afforestation in Rangelands
2. Pastoralism & Gender
3. Pastoralism & Water
4. Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality
5. Rangelands & Biodiversity
6. Pastoralist Economy
7. Pastoralist Youth
8. Pastoralism & Land Rights
9. Pastoralism & Climate Change
10. Pastoralists & Carbon Markets
11. Pastoralist Animal Fibre
12. Pastoral Commons



Raise awareness through 12 global themes ~ one for each month of 2026

Also showcasing:

- One animal per month

Key messages based on findings
of IYRP Working Groups

Each RISG interprets & implements
these themes to address regional
needs & priorities



Celebrate and raise awareness at all levels

Local/National examples:

- Naadam, Mongolian traditional festival of pastoralists, June every year
- Transhumance: when thousands of sheep walk through Madrid – Oct every year
- Annual Aadi Kidai Pongal Festival, organized by the Tamil Nadu Federation of Pastoral Peoples Sangams (TFPPS)

Regional examples:

- West Africa (agro)pastoralism conference – November 2024 in Senegal
- Southern Africa 60th Annual Grassland Society Conf. – July 2025 South Africa
- Regional and global Gatherings of Pastoralists: events focused on herders and cultures, youth and women

Global examples:

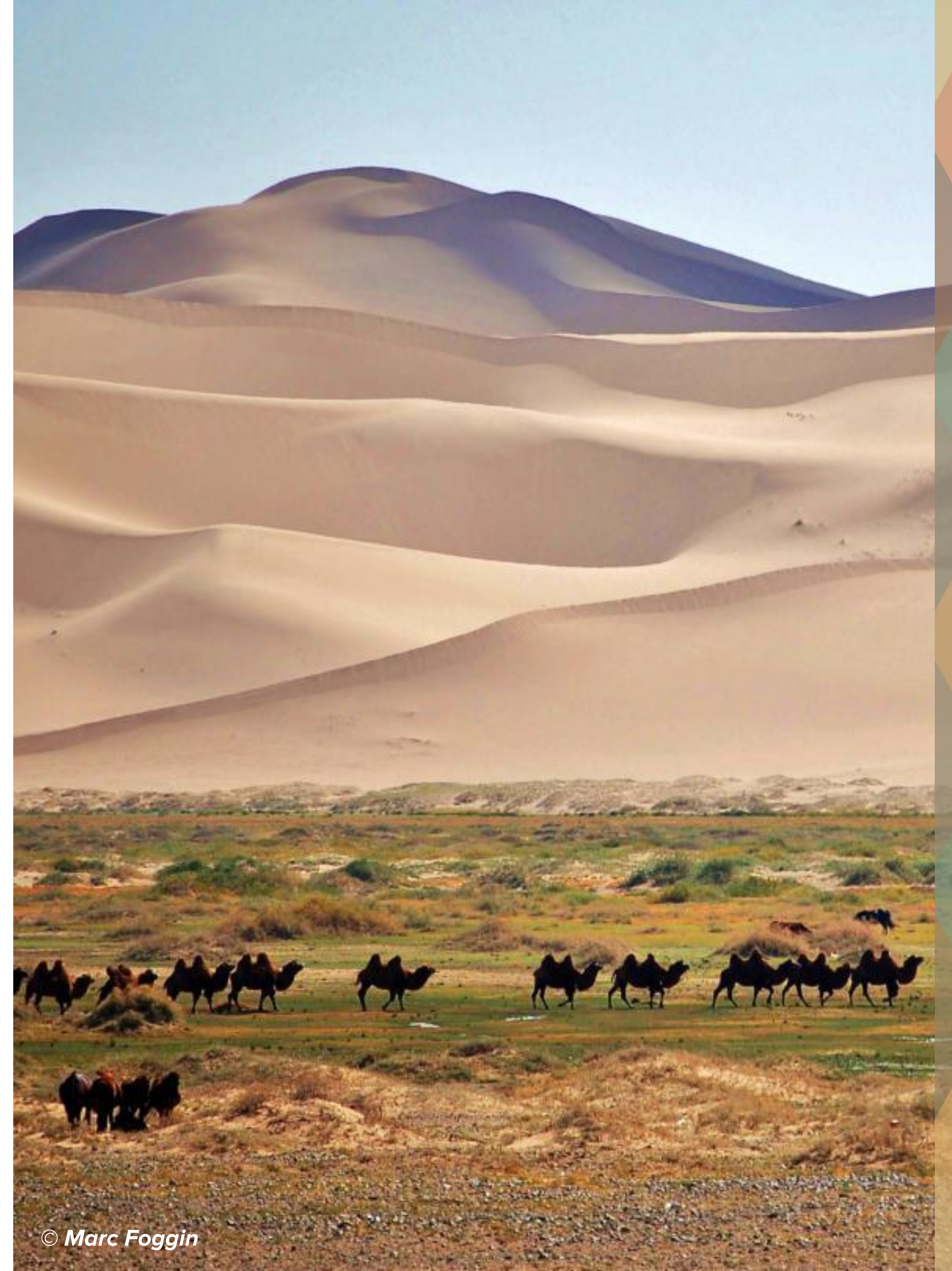
- Sámi Mobile Food Lab at World Food Forum -
- International Rangeland Congress IRC 2025 – Adelaide, Australia; June 2025
- Global Landscape Forum/ Rangelands - June 2026 in Kenya



Transhumance celebrations, Madrid 2007

Advocacy for global policy change

- *AMCEN (African Ministerial Conference on the Environment) 2017*
- *UN Environment Assembly, UNEA-4 (March 2019),*
- *UNCCD COP 16 (December 2024),*
- CMS COP 15 (March 2026), Campo Grande, Brazil
- UNCCD COP 17 (August 2026), Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Equitable investments in rangelands and for pastoralists

Leverage more investment and funding for:

- Pastoralist development programs
- Rangeland restoration
- Protection from conversion

Ensure compliance with ethical and equitable standards



Journey to IYRP 2026 and beyond ~ a few highlights

(more achievements available at: <https://iyrp.info/calendar>)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 and beyond
Raise Awareness & Build Coalitions	IRC 2016	SRM		First Tropentag Annual Film Festival	IYRP ISG has 155 members	South Asia RISG Awards	Dana + 20	Trans-humance expanded in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage		IYRP Global Alliance has 550 members	Gatherings of pastoralists at national, regional & global levels	Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists
	IYRP Support Group	2017	IYRP ISG (35 NGO + 12 PO)	UNESCO Transhumance Declaration	RISGs	CELEP Film: Pastoralism is the future	IY of Mountains	GLF Africa	IY of Camelids	IRC 2025		International Day of Rangelands and Pastoralists
Build knowledge	CELEP Annual Meeting	World Reindeer Congress								Andean regional pastoralist gathering		
	WISP-NET	IYRP 12 themes	ILC Report: Making rangelands more secure	GASL 2019	IRC/IGC Joint Congress	LPPS launches World Map of Pastoralists	PASTRES Briefs	FAO Drylands Summer Schools launched	Rangeland Stewardship Council established	ILRI's STELARR		RSC standards finalized
Change Policy & Investments	FAO-PKH	GSSA 2017		UNEP Benign Neglect Report			ILRI et al. Range-land Atlas		ILC Rangeland Tenure Security indicators	RSC standards launched		Global rangelands database
	UNEA-2, Res. L.24	Mongolia National Comm.	WB Land & Poverty Conf.	Mongolia Gov. proposal to FAO COAG	IUCN WCC endorses IYRP	FAO Conference Resolution	UNGA declares IYRP 2026	Participatory grazing guideline for Namaqualand South Africa	UNCCD COP 16 resolution	UNCCD Sec launches Rangeland Flagship program	Events at: UNCCD	SDG Post 2030 agenda
	CBD COP 13 Side Event	AMCEN Resolution		UNEA-4 Resolution		EU Comm. Of the Regions			South Africa Policy on conversion		CBD	Increased funding for rangeland and pastoralist projects
											UNFCCC	

IYRP Pastoralist Gatherings 2025-2026



Road Map 2025-2026: key global points

- **July 2025:** FAO establishes official IYRP Steering Committee
- **July 2025 to May 2026:** Regional pastoralist, women's and youth women gatherings
 - Each will give inputs to the Global Pastoralist Gathering in Mongolia August 2026
- **December 2025:** FAO officially launches the IYRP
- **January 2026:** Start of celebrations and launch of first monthly theme of IYRP
 - Social media, webinars, film festivals and YouTube videos for every month of 2026
- **June 2026:** Global Landscape Forum/Rangelands in Kenya
- **August 2026:** Global Pastoralist Gatherings and other activities at UNCCD COP 17 in Mongolia
- **October 2026:** Global Alliance Gathering at CBD COP 17 in Armenia
- **March 2027:** Closing ceremony of IYRP 2026 and final reporting

Beyond 2026: calling for a decade of action

- Changes in national, regional, global policies promoting the protection and sustainability of rangelands and pastoralists, fair and equitable benefits and upliftment
- Creation of a Pastoralist Caucus at UNCCD
- Rangeland Stewardship Council and standards for certification of pastoralist products



Beyond 2026: calling for a decade of action

- Lobbying for an International Day and International Decade of Rangelands & Pastoralists
- Increased funding and investment for pastoralist-led programmes
- Global data base of rangelands and pastoralists
- Strengthening of the Global Alliance for Rangelands & Pastoralists



Join us for the IYRP!

<https://iyrp.info/>

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