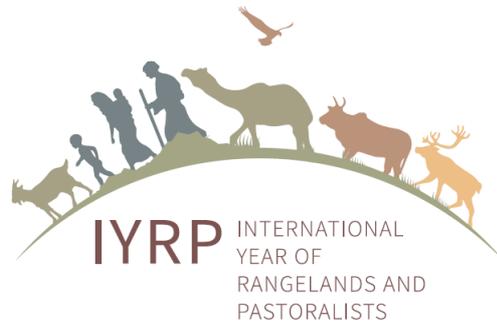
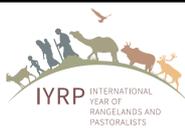


IYRP initiative: where does it come from and where are we going?



**ISG's introductory notes for kick-off meetings
of Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)**

16 December 2020



Why an IYRP?

- **To increase worldwide understanding of importance of rangelands & pastoralists for food security and environmental services**
- **To inform decision-making at all levels, calling for enlightened policy to benefit current & future generations**
- **To mobilise people worldwide to address today's challenges and to grasp new opportunities in rangelands & pastoralism**
- **To boost efforts for creating new knowledge and sharing experiences and practices related to rangelands & pastoralism**

Source: IYRP Global Flyer Nov 2020



Photo: Veronique Magnin



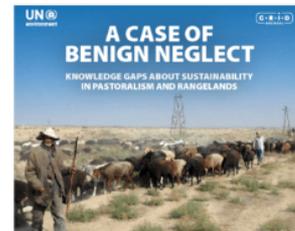
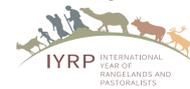
Photo: Wolfgang Bayer



Photo: CENESTA

Milestones passed on long road to IYRP

- **IRC/IGC 2008 Inner Mongolia, PRC:** Idea arose
- **IRC 2011 Argentina:** Resolutions calling for IY of Rangelands and Global Rangelands Assessment
- **SRM and Rangeland Partnership 2015:** Reinvigorated efforts for IYR&P
- **UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA-2) 2016:** Resolution on promoting rangelands & pastoralism (R&P) and call for gap analysis
- **IRC 2016 Canada:** Agreement on action plan to promote IYRP and form “International Steering Group” (ISG)
- **2018–19:** UNEP-funded R&P gap analysis
- **UNEA-4 2019:** Africa Group resolution for IYRP
- **Aug 2019:** Mongolian Government proposed IYRP to UN; ISG became “International Support Group” to Mongolian team



Process for approval as United Nations International Year

- **Aug 2019:** Mongolian Government proposed IYRP to UN
- **Oct 2020:** FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) endorsed Mongolian Government’s proposal for IYRP in 2026
- Proposal supported by over 150 organisations and over 50 national governments
- **Dec 2020:** Proposal endorsed by FAO Council
- Next hurdles in UN process:
 - FAO Conference June 2021
 - **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Sept 2021**



Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

Multi-stakeholder RISGs being created to generate more support and partnership:

- expand network of supporting organisations and governments in 10 regions of the world
- work with Government of Mongolia, FAO and ISG to plan and implement IYRP activities in these regions

Central role for pastoralist organisations in these activities



Photo: J. Dillon/MercyCorps

Immediate action = Self-organisation of RISGs

East Asia

South Asia

Central Asia & Mongolia

Australasia

North Africa & Middle East

Eastern & Southern Africa

West & Central Africa

Europe & Arctic

North America

Latin America & Caribbean

1. Selection of Chair of RISG
2. Selection of RISG representative to ISG
3. Selection of RISG representative to global Communications Team
4. Confirmation of geographical composition of RISG



Priority actions: ISG and RISGs generate more support for IYRP

- **Convince governments** in your home countries/ regions to support the IYRP:
 - Approach Ministries of Agriculture (in time for FAO Conference) and Foreign Affairs (in time for UNGA)
 - Share IYRP Global Flyer and possibly regional or national flyer
 - Invite governments to co-sponsor resolution with Mongolian Government
- **Raise attention** at international meetings (e.g. side events, ministerial meetings, e.g. as was hosted by ILRI at UNEA-4) and insert IYRP into official resolutions
- Further populate **“online booth”** (www.iyrp.info) and launch well-targeted **social media campaigns** (as in case of tweets to Embassies in Rome for COAG)



Photo: ILRI/Sarah Kasyoka



Countries that supported IYRP at COAG

East Asia:
China
South Korea

Australasia:
Australia

West & Central Africa:
Burkina Faso,
Mali

Central Asia & Mongolia:
Kyrgyzstan,
Mongolia

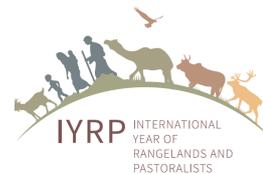
North Africa & Middle East:
Egypt, Iran,
Jordan, Saudi Arabia

Latin America & Caribbean:
Argentina, Cuba,
Dominican Republic, Peru

South & Southeast Asia:
Afghanistan,
Myanmar,
Philippines,
Thailand

Eastern & Southern Africa:
Ethiopia, Kenya,
Sudan

North America:
Canada,
Mexico



Europe & Arctic:
European Union (27 countries), with also individual country support from Finland, Hungary, Italy, Serbia*, Spain and Turkey*
(*not part of EU)

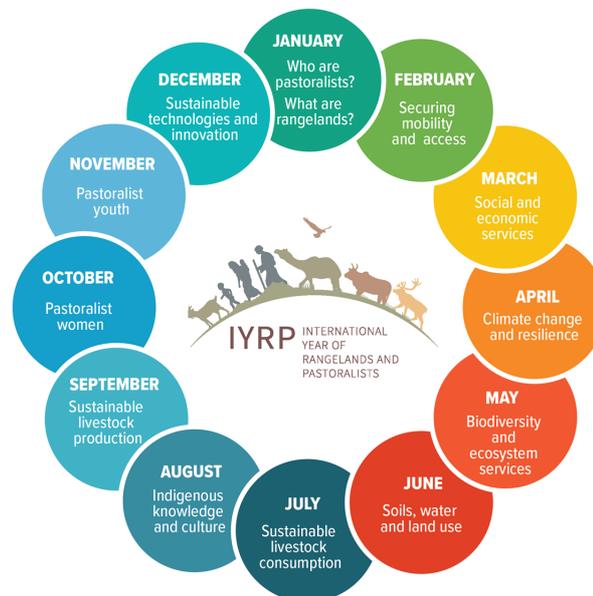
Generate support among non-governmental partners

- Recognise common interests & *combine efforts* of rangelands & pastoralism communities of science & practice
- Use our personal and professional *networks*
- Find supporting partner organisations involved with:
 - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by 2030
 - **UN Decade of Family Farming** (2019–28)
 - **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** (2021–30)



Possible monthly themes in each region

- Expanding awareness of complexity & diversity of R&P
- Revealing new insights
- Highlighting priority issues of pastoralists
- Balancing coverage of environmental, social, economic & policy issues



...to be refined and finalised together with RISGs

Important contacts



- **ISG Chair:** Jim O'Rourke (jorourke@csc.edu)
- **ISG Vice-Chair:** Maryam Niamir-Fuller (mniafull2@gmail.com)
- **ISG Communications Team:**
 - Barbara Hutchinson (barbarah@cals.arizona.edu)
 - Ann Waters-Bayer (waters-bayer@web.de)
 - Engin Yilmaz (engin@bican.net)
- **IYRP archives:**
<https://globalrangelands.org/international-year-rangelands-and-pastoralists-initiative>
- **IYRP online booth:** www.iyrp.info