



### **Current co-chairs of IYRC Global Coordinating Group: Burmaa Dashbel, Enrique Michaud & Igshaan Samuels**

Since January 2024, the Global Coordinating Group (GCG) for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) coalition is co-chaired by Burmaa Dashbel, Enrique Michaud & Igshaan Samuels.

**Burmaa Dashbel**, based in Mongolia, has 15 years' experience in rangeland management, with a focus on developing a resilience-based rangeland management approach in Mongolia. She holds two Master's degrees: one in plant protection and another obtained in Hungary, specialised in rural development and agribusiness. She is currently pursuing a PhD on the topic of rangeland recovery. At the same time, she serves as the Executive Director of the Mongolian National Federation of Pasture User Groups.



Burmaa commenced her career in 2007 as a researcher in the Green Gold project in Mongolia funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), where she dealt with rangeland protection. Over the years, she has led various international projects, such as the Pastoral Information Collection project funded by FAO, and served as the national expert in value-chain analysis for a development project funded by the European Union.

**Enrique Michaud**, based in Peru, is a veterinarian with over 15 years' experience in projects related to rural development and biodiversity, focussed on animal husbandry and health, wildlife management and pastoralism. He has a particular passion for camelids and high-altitude landscapes. He holds a Master's degree in social management and project development. He is director of the Threads for Dreams project conserving natural fibre colours of alpacas and also serves as National Director of Wildlife in Peru's National Forestry Service (SERFOR).



Enrique has lived for years among pastoralists in various projects related to traditional and local knowledge. He was lead author of the Thematic Assessment Report on the Sustainable Use of Wild Species of the Inter-governmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). He worked as national consultant for, among others, Misereor (Germany), The Mountain Institute, the United Nations Development Programme and Oikos Association, a Peruvian NGO implementing postgraduate programmes on climate change and environment.

**Igshaan Samuels**, based in South Africa, is a researcher in rangeland ecology and management with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in South Africa. He holds a PhD in Botany from the University of Cape Town and has worked in the drylands for over 20 years. His research puts him in touch with grassroots activities and the challenges of pastoralists, particularly the indigenous Nama peoples of South Africa. He is president of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa (GSSA), represents sub-Saharan Africa in the International Rangeland Congress (IRC) Continuing Committee and is in the core leadership team of the Regional IYRP Support Group for Eastern and Southern Africa. Since June 2022, he was co-chairing the IYRP together with Maryam Niamir-Fuller, who has since retired.

