



THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024

League for Pastoral Peoples LPP

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, ON
17TH OCTOBER,
2017

- **1. Declares 2024 the International Year of Camelids;**
- **2. Encourages all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to promote awareness among the public of the economic and cultural importance of camelids and to foster the consumption of their goods to contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;**
- **3. Invites the FAO to facilitate the organization and implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all other relevant stakeholders;**
- **6. Invites all relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions and to provide other forms of support for the International Year.**

INITIATIVE OF BOLIVIA IN 2016

- **The Plurinational State of Bolivia**
- **Bolivian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- To: Professor Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, Rome, Italy
- Ref.: **VRE-DGRM-USEC-Cs-527/2016**
- La Paz, 7 July 2016
- Mr Director-General,
- I have the honour of addressing you in relation to the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to be held from 26 to 30 September 2016 at the Organization's headquarters.
- I would be most grateful if you could include Bolivia's proposal to make 2018 the International Year of Camelids as an item of the provisional agenda during the COAG sessions so that it can be given due consideration.
- Mr Director-General, please be assured that Bolivia is committed to working together with the FAO Secretariat on handling the material and information required to present the topic at the COAG.
- Yours with the greatest and most distinguished respect.


JUSTIFICATION BY FAO



- Camelids are the main means of subsistence for millions of families who live in the most hostile ecosystems on the planet in over 90 countries.
- These animals are essential for food security and nutrition as they are the main source of meat protein and milk for smallholder farmers and indigenous communities in different regions throughout the world. They also provide fibres, organic fertilizer and transport and are indispensable for nomadic livelihoods.
- The document examines the opportunities and benefits that could be generated by declaring an International Year of Camelids for contributing towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FAO Strategic Objectives.

IYC AND SDGS

against hunger (SDG 2), as well as helping to tackle extreme poverty (SDG 1). The optimization of the many qualities of camelids (meat, milk, fibre, means of transport) would also contribute to guaranteeing food security and nutrition, providing sustainable livelihoods and promoting the inclusion of communities that benefit from these animals. The participation of women working with camelid fibres and involved in pastoral work is relatively high, which significantly encourages the



3. Camelids can clearly help promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 15) and, therefore, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and stem the loss of biological diversity.

CAMELIDS: 7 MEMBERS

- **Old World Camelids: dromedary camels, Bactrian camels, wild Bactrian camels,**
- **New World Camelids: llamas, alpacas, vicuñas, and guanacos.**

'IN THE CASE OF SOUTH AMERICAN CAMELIDS

- the four existing species (llama, alpaca, vicuña and guanaco) were the main livestock in pre-Hispanic times, and are considered a unique species of indigenous mammals from the continent. These species also symbolize an important element in the cultural identity of ancestral indigenous communities.'



‘Camelids are the main source of protein throughout South America's extensive Andean highlands as well as in the majority of deserts in Africa, Asia and Australia. Meat from these animals guarantees daily food for thousands of people. They also provide fibre for clothes for indigenous communities to keep warm as well as producing organic fertilizer that guarantees scarce agricultural production of limited crops for subsistence, which not only feeds them, but helps produce one of the only forms of income generation, as their products can be sold at local informal markets. The animals also serve as transport for products and people. ‘



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FROM THE PROPOSAL

- ‘One of the many virtues of camelids throughout the ninety countries is their **gentle nature and eco-friendly consumption** of the limited plant resources available in arid and semi-arid grasslands. As a species they are the **least contaminant of all ruminants in terms of greenhouse gases** produced. The role of camelids in food security is crucial for communities living in these ecosystems, where other livestock species would be unable to survive, let alone be able to produce food and subsistence for local communities.’

OBJECTIVES

- The aim of an International Year is to educate public opinion and governments on the importance of recognizing and **valuing the economic and social importance of camelids in the lives of communities** that are highly susceptible and vulnerable to extreme poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.
- 10. The **huge potential of camelids would help to reduce levels of extreme poverty**, given that optimizing their multiple qualities (meat, milk, fibre, means of transport) would help increase income and resources as well as guaranteeing sustainable livelihoods and reducing hunger and malnutrition. In summary, the integrated management of camelid products will promote community inclusivity and help to create sustainable employment as well as promote equality.

GOALS OF IYC ARE NOBLE!
BUT IS CURRENT RESEARCH AND PRACTICE ORIENTED AT
MEETING THEM?

CONCERN ABOUT CAMEL RESEARCH: TURNING THE CAMEL INTO A COW?



Focus is on camels separated from their socio-economic and ecological context



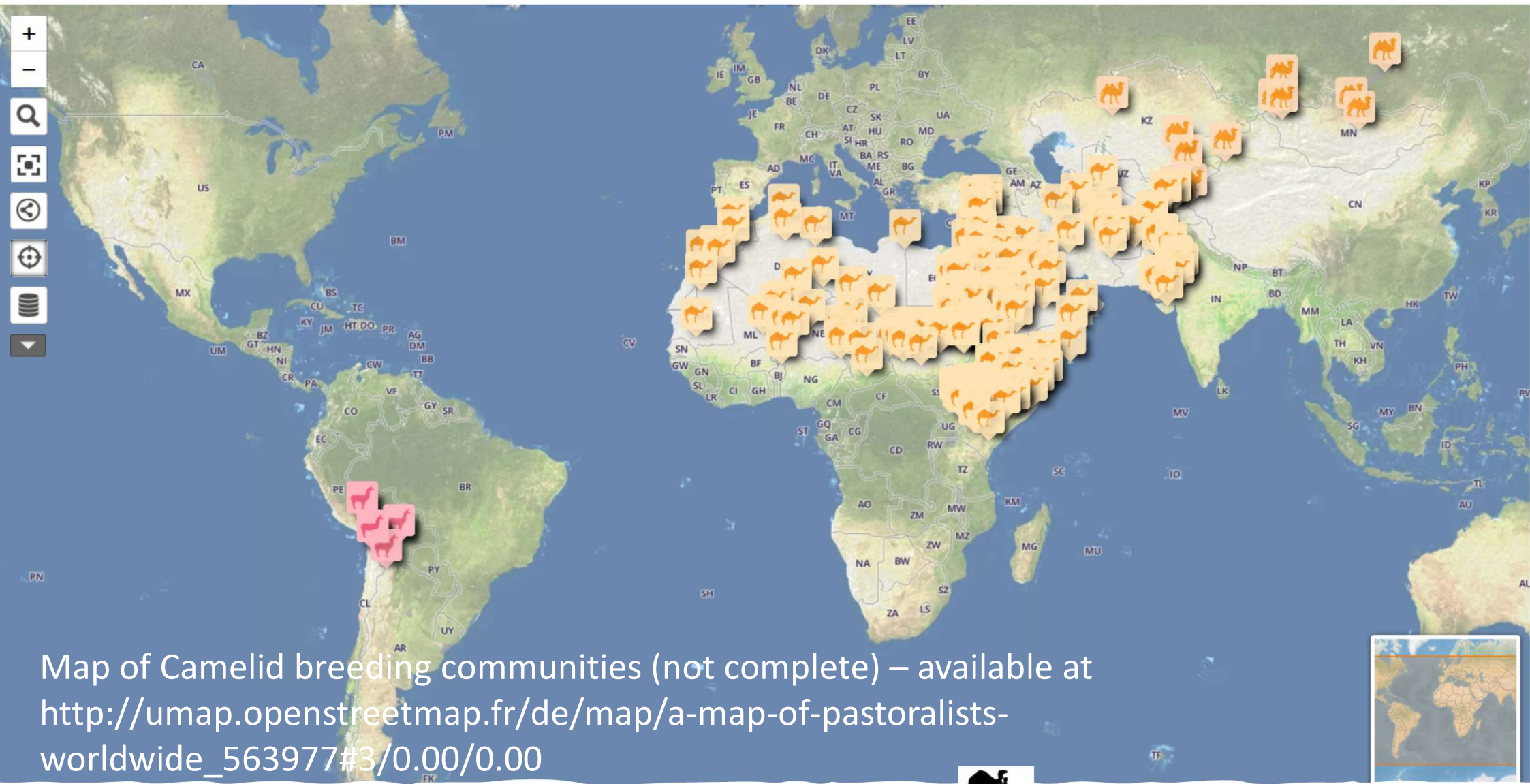
Interest seems to be in increasing yield and performance under controlled conditions, such as large scale dairy farms in UAE.



Trend towards industrial systems, with high-tech interventions such as artificial insemination, cloning and embryo-transfer being aspired to and lauded as scientific advances.



Very few projects and people seem to be working on the ground with camel herding communities, although situation in South America may be better.



Map of Camelid breeding communities (not complete) – available at http://umap.openstreetmap.fr/de/map/a-map-of-pastoralists-worldwide_563977#3/0.00/0.00

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LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND INDIGENOUS LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT

WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN DURING THE IYC AND BEYOND:

- **Achieve a better understanding of problems/potential of camelid keeping as experienced at community-level**
- **Identify research needs by engaging with communities**
- **Enable communities to raise and make their voices heard**
- **Educate camel scientists to adopt holistic perspective and reflect on implications of their research**
- **Facilitate interaction between communities and policy makers**
- **Encourage social business models and resist corporatization**
- **Avoid the mistakes of the cow dairy sector and carve out a more compassionate way of livestock keeping!**

IF WE DO IT
RIGHT...

- **IYC can prepare the ground for the IYRP**
- **Catalyze a more holistic community oriented model of livestock development**
- **Contribute to a change in the livestock development paradigm, away from the ,efficiency‘ paradigm.**
- **Lead the way in making animal sourced food socially acceptable again.**

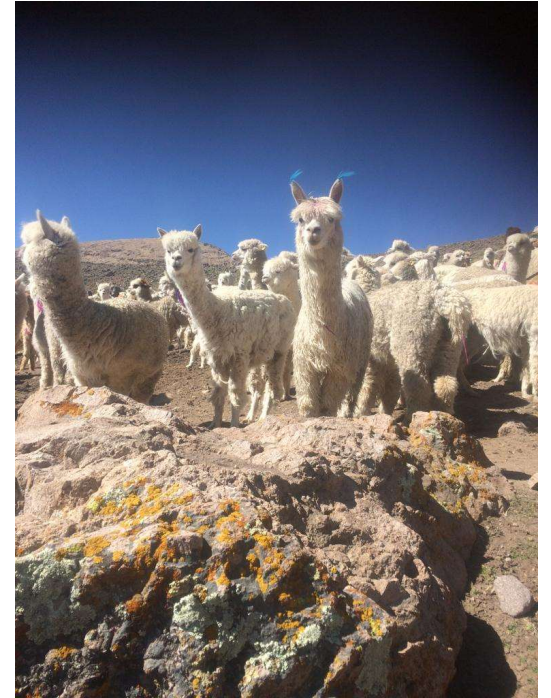


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SUGGESTIONS

- **We urgently need a logo for the IYC – is FAO going to provide?**
- **We split up into regional/species specific groups – South American Camelids, Bactrian camels, dromedary camels and coordinate between them.**
- **We plan out subjects/themes for each month of the IYC – taking cue from IYRP group.**
- **Do we need a website?**





THANK YOU

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