

UN International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026

Overview of IYRP Working Groups: October 2024



IYRP INTERNATIONAL
2026 YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS

www.iyrp.info

Working groups agreed to date

1. Afforestation in Rangelands
2. Pastoralism & Gender
3. Pastoralists & Water
4. Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality
5. Rangelands & Biodiversity
6. Economics of Pastoralism
7. Pastoralist Youth
8. Pastoralism & Land
9. Pastoralism & Climate Change
10. Mountain Pastoralism



Afforestation in Rangelands (status: work plan implemented)

Coordinators: David Briske (Texas A&M University, USA) and Susi Vetter (Rhodes University, South Africa)

- **Outputs**
 - Brief for IYRP WG on Afforestation in Rangelands
 - Rangeland afforestation is not a viable CC mitigation strategy (2-page brief in English and Russian)
 - State-of-the-science evidence-based paper submitted for publication
- **Communications**
 - Trees won't save us (YouTube video)
 - Scrutinizing the Benefits of Rangeland Afforestation as a Natural Climate Solution (YouTube video)
- **Headline message**
 - Rangelands are valuable ecosystems, and afforestation efforts – driven by a climate change mitigation agenda – present a serious risk

Pastoralism & Gender (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinator: Nitya Ghotge (ANTHRA, India)

- Outputs in the last 6 months
 - Policy note has been prepared and uploaded on the website
 - Policy brief is being prepared and will be published shortly
- Previous outputs
 - Concept note available on website
 - Films on women pastoralists selected for the film festival on & about pastoralist women
 - Key Messages document brought out, translated into several languages and posted on IYRP website
 - Mera Declaration 2010 being revisited and translated into different languages
- Future plans
 - WG will participate in several events at the IRC 2025 – Abstracts and workshop ideas have been approved
 - WG is in touch with groups in the US who are preparing for the International Year of the Woman Farmer (2026)
- Communications
 - Small videos being prepared for Women's Day

Pastoralists & Water (implementing workplan, meeting every 2 months)

Coordinators: Adrian Cullis & Kerstin Danert

- Outputs
 - Concept note available on website
 - Key resources shared within the group
- Communications
 - Planning meeting held in mid-October to sharpen communications
 - Policy brief and blog series in preparation
- Headline messages
 - Rangeland health – balancing ecological processes in the rangelands
 - Water governance – decision-making about access to, distribution & use of water
 - Water resource development – repair and construction of infrastructure

Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinators: Bora Masumbuko (IUCN) & Mounir Louhaichi (ICARDA)

- Outputs in the past 6 months
 - Science review paper "Enabling pastoralist management of rangelands to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality" submitted to the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* for publication
 - Submission and approval of an abstract to the International Rangeland Congress 2025: *LDN: Challenges and solutions in rangelands* – full document due by 6 December 2024
- Previous outputs
 - Working Paper on "Global action for sustainable rangelands and pastoralism to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality"
 - Call for Action technical brief (based on executive summary of the full document) delivered and translated to other languages including Arabic and French
- Communications
 - Call for Action tweets for social media channels (draft version)

Rangelands & Biodiversity (status: implementing work plan)

Coordinators: Rashmi Singh (IIT Hyderabad, India) & Matthew Luizza (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, USA)

- Outputs in the last 6 months
 - 1 book chapter for forthcoming Routledge Handbook on Pastoralism in pipeline
- Previous outputs
 - Concept note complete and posted online
 - 2 global reviews for peer-reviewed publication in pipeline
- Communications in the last 6 months
 - ICIMOD webinar: 'Exploring synergies: Pastoral practices, rangeland biodiversity, and ecosystem services' (May 2024)
 - Panel presenter for Maasai International Solidarity Alliance (MISA) workshop on conservation & land grabbing in northern Tanzania (Sept 2024)
 - Members attending and sharing IYRP messaging at CBD COP16 (21 Oct – 1 Nov 2024)
- Previous communications and in the making
 - Policy brief being developed (based on headline messages)
 - Presentation of messages at dryland farming event in India (Feb 2024)
 - Headline messages to be elaborated, approved & shared by Jan 2025

Economics of Pastoralism (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinator: Serena Ferrari (CIRAD, Senegal)

- Outputs (past 6 months)
 - Survey among those researchers on willingness to participate in the WG
 - Literature review on the different approaches used to analyse the pastoralist economy in French and English
- Previous outputs
 - Concept note available on website
 - List of researchers & institutions working on economics of pastoralism from all around the world
- Communications
 - Key messages on false myths and new narratives around the pastoralist economy (being planned)

Pastoralist Youth (status: implementing work plan)

Coordinators: Jacob M. Lekaitogo (Kenya) and Elena Chen (China)

- **Outputs**
 - Concept note available on the website, 2024 activities strategy has been developed
- **Communications**
 - Social media platforms created, (Facebook, X, Instagram)
 - Key messages developed by the group
 - Policy brief being prepared
 - Short videos campaigns being prepared on IYRP campaigns
- **Future plans / ideas**
 - Present messages at global platforms and other conventions i.e. linking IYRP with World Cup 2026
 - Session at IRC 2025 to talk on a topic on youths and future of pastoralism
 - Working on the idea of a global youth alliance by 2026

Pastoralism & Land (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinator: Natasha Maru (International Land Coalition)

- Outputs
 - Toolkit for CSOs on how to secure pastoralists' land rights
 - Output 1 – Position paper on pastoralism and land (led by Saverio Kratli & Mark Moritz) – draft paper is being validated, revised and finalised for presentation at UNCCD COP16
 - Output 2 – Develop a case-study archive (led by Natasha Maru) – output is under reconsideration by the group, possibly to be developed through ILC membership
 - Output 3 – Communications and campaigns, merged with IYRP global comms with Wahid taking lead
 - Messaging supporting ongoing campaigns for defending pastoralists' rights to land/ against eviction & appropriation
 - Videos & social media messages
 - Presentations in policy forums

Pastoralism & Climate Change (status: developing work plan)

Coordinators: Nick Sharpe, Elena Chen & Carmen Jaquez

- **Outputs**
 - Concept note being finalised
- **Communications**
 - None to date
- **Headline message**
 - Group is seeking to bring to light the misleading communications, methodologies and injustices inherent in the narrative that currently exists around GHG emissions stemming from rangelands and extensive livestock, to better inform policymakers, researchers, producers and advocacy groups.

Mountain Pastoralism (status: developing work plan)

Coordinators: Eric Chavez (temporary)

- **Outputs**
 - Concept note being developed
 - In development – Policy Brief on “Mountain Highland Ecosystems and their Pastoralists”
- **Communications**
 - None to date
- **Headline message**
 - Mountain pastoralists’ role in the provision of key ecosystem services to societies beyond mountain landscapes need to be recognised and protected

Thank you

