



Regional IYRP Support Groups being launched!

During December 2020, several members of the IYRP International Support Group (ISG) facilitated the (virtual) kick-off meetings of regional support groups to campaign and prepare for the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026. The groups that have been launched thus far are those in East Asia (including China), Central Asia & Mongolia, South Asia, North Africa & Middle East, Eastern & Southern Africa and Europe. Kick-off meetings for the regional support groups in Australasia, West & Central Africa, North America and South America are planned for January 2021. A regional group may also be set up in the Arctic.

The Mongolian Government's proposal for an IYRP has already been endorsed by the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in October 2020 and the FAO Council in early December 2020. The IYRP campaign seeks to generate further support for the proposal when it is discussed during the FAO Conference in mid-2021 and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2021.

The Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs) want to increase the number of national governments and organisations that support the Mongolian Government's proposal or even co-sponsor it at the UNGA. The RISGs will raise awareness in their countries and regions about the importance of pastoralism and rangelands for the economy, society, culture and environment. They will work with the IYRP International Support Group (ISG), the Mongolian Government and the other global supporters to plan and implement informational and promotional activities before, during and after the IYRP in 2026.

The RISGs are also preparing for several sessions during the [Joint International Grassland & International Rangeland Congress](#) (IGC/IRC) in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2021, when overviews of the state of pastoralism and rangelands in different regions will be presented and regional IYRP activities will be planned in more detail.

For more information about the IYRP and the RISGs, see:

- Online booth www.iyrp.info
- Archival website <https://globalrangelands.org/international-year-rangelands-and-pastoralists-initiative>

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