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MATTERS**
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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**
2026

SUMMARY REPORT

**RANGELANDS
GOVERNANCE
MOBILITY
PASTORALISM**

A MULTISTAKEHOLDER APPROACH

**INTERNATIONAL
LAND
COALITION**



MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE
AND LIGHT INDUSTRY



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



BACKGROUND

Together with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the National Land Coalition (NLC) Mongolia, with support from World Vision Mongolia, Ecco-Farm and Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF), the International Land Coalition (ILC) co-organised the Global Policy Dialogue (GPD) on Rangelands Governance, Mobility and Pastoralism in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from June 9 – 11, 2026. The leadership of Mongolia as the incoming Presidency of the 17th session of the Conference of Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026, have both elevated pastoralism on the global stage and present a unique window of opportunity for policy change.

ILC has been at the forefront of advocacy through the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. Driven by the vision of its 26 pastoralist organisation members, representing the needs and aspirations of 3.3 million pastoralists, and supported by civil society and international organisations, ILC has developed a comprehensive work plan along three pillars: pastoralist leadership and constituency building, policy engagement and knowledge and awareness.

The GPD is firmly embedded within these pillars, tying together initiatives that ILC has supported thus far, and consolidating what must be taken forwards towards COP17.

Organised under the framework of the IYRP and as a milestone ahead of COP17, the GPD fostered knowledge exchange and evidence-sharing, consolidated policy messages, and mobilised government champions from across regions to support transformative rangelands governance and secure rights to land territory and mobility. It reiterated the importance of multistakeholder approaches, such as National Land Coalitions, in convening diverse actors around a shared agenda and advancing collective ownership, commitment, and action towards inclusive rangelands governance and pastoralist rights.

*Anchored within ILC's global campaign, **Mobility Matters**, the event aimed to share and learn from successful multistakeholder approaches that promote mobility, sustainable rangelands management, and community-led climate action.*

Additionally, the event focused on strengthening political consensus and policy action in support of pastoralists. It showcased national level actions ILC is supporting across 13 countries to influence policies and practices by linking national initiatives, such as influencing the revision of the Livestock Law in Cameroon and improving implementation of the Forest Rights Act in India, to global policy processes such as COP17.

Participants came from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, Uzbekistan, including pastoralist leaders, government representatives and development partners. Participants included representatives from both National Land Coalitions and regional platforms, such as the South Asia Pastoral Alliance (SAPA), the Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance (CAPA) and the Rangelands Initiative Africa. It also built on recent regional and global processes, such as Africa and Asia Pastoralist Women's Gatherings, the Global Gathering of Youth Pastoralists, the Desertifications and the Global Landscapes Forum Africa.

Multiple public institutions and departments from Mongolia actively participated in the Dialogue, including the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, the Office of the Advisor to the President of Mongolia for Civil Society Policy and Coordination of Projects and Programmes, the General Authority for Land Administration, Geodesy and Cartography, the Ministry of Environment and Climate, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment Information, and the COP 17 Preparatory Office.

In the run-up to the GPD, ILC has supported pastoralist convenings through the Asia and Africa Pastoralist Women's Gatherings and the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Youth, supported by insights from global events such as the Desertifications and the Global Landscapes Forum Africa. Drawing on the diversity of experiences across regions, the GPD consolidated and validated national and regional strategies, lessons, and advocacy approaches to contribute to the development of coherent knowledge products and policy messages to inform UNCCD COP17 and strengthen the long-term visibility of rangelands and pastoralism within global policy processes.

Discussions in the Global were organised around **THREE** interconnected **THEMATIC PILLARS**:

1 RIGHTS TO LAND, TERRITORY AND MOBILITY

Under this theme, participants explored the importance of securing pastoralists' tenure rights and protecting mobility as foundations for sustainable rangeland management. Discussions focused on the statutory and customary recognition of pastoralists' rights to land, territory and mobility, and the initiatives of the NLCs to influence policies and practices. Participants also examined the use of data, evidence, and research to better inform policy and planning, including approaches for integrating seasonal and transboundary mobility within national land governance and legal frameworks.

2 RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RANGELANDS GOVERNANCE

Participants discussed governance systems that are inclusive, adaptive, and accountable to rangeland users. Sessions examined the role of customary institutions, territorial governance arrangements, and participatory rangeland management approaches in supporting sustainable land use and stewardship. Attention was given to multistakeholder coordination mechanisms, the integration of local and Indigenous knowledge, and opportunities to strengthen the participation and leadership of pastoralist women and youth in governance and decision-making processes.

3

CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

The GPD considered pastoralism as a climate-resilient production system and a key contributor to sustainable food systems. Discussions addressed rangeland restoration, land degradation neutrality, drought preparedness, biodiversity stewardship, and sustainable livestock value chains. Participants explored how pastoralist knowledge and practices can contribute to national and global climate, biodiversity, and land restoration commitments, while ensuring that climate and restoration investments support pastoralist livelihoods and resilience.

Across all three thematic areas, the GPD emphasized the importance of multistakeholder approaches that bring together governments, pastoralist organisations, civil society, research institutions, and development partners to co-create solutions, strengthen accountability, and connect local realities with national and global policy processes.

As a special initiative at the GPD, ILC recognised five local solutions and innovations for sustainable and inclusive rangelands governance led by its members. 22 case studies from 10 countries were received through an open call and evaluated against six criteria such as: multi-stakeholder collaboration, pastoralist empowerment, scalability, influence on policy and practice, inclusion of women and youth, and use of data and evidence.

The **RECOGNISED INITIATIVES** were:

- ▶ **Transforming Integrated Rangeland Governance, COLARP Nepal** – This initiative showcased the transition from a fragmented rangeland management approach to the Karnali Rangeland Management Strategy and Action Plan (RMSAP), an inclusive multi-stakeholder governance model that provides equal space for government agencies, pastoralists, communities, researchers, and other actors while promoting community stewardship of rangelands.
- ▶ **Strengthening the Extensive Livestock System through a Multi-Stakeholder Network Approach, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) India** – This initiative demonstrated how the Rainfed Livestock Network has brought together diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives to reshape narratives around extensive livestock systems and influence policies and programmes in support of pastoralists and mobile livestock keepers.
- ▶ **Community-Led Pasture Law Reform in Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia Pastoralists Alliance (CAPA)** – This initiative highlighted how multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level, like the National Land Coalition and at the regional level, like CAPA, can amplify the voices of pasture users and pastoral communities, enabling policy reforms that place their rights, priorities, and knowledge at the centre of decision-making.
- ▶ **Supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to Reclaim Their Land Rights for Climate Resilience in Drylands, Ujamaa Community Resource Team (CRT) Tanzania** – This initiative presented a sustainable and replicable model for securing communal land tenure, strengthening biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and the equitable management of natural resources.

- ▶ **From participatory action-research with women herders to the transformation of global policies: a process of genuine participation, Reseau Bilital Maroobé, Burkina Faso** – Through the SenseMaker approach, this action-research led to the design of the Mosaic of Women Pastoralists that pictures a vibrant and multifaceted image, drawn from reality, of the roles of women pastoralists in their communities from nine countries of the Sahel and West Africa.

KEY POLICY ASKS EMERGED FROM THE GLOBAL POLICY DIALOGUE

Corresponding to the thematic discussions at the GPD, and preceding consultations with members and key allies, **THREE POLICY GOALS** were clearly identified:

1 RIGHTS TO LAND, TERRITORY AND MOBILITY FOR PASTORALISTS:

Problem statement: Pastoralists have historically experienced poor tenure security. Government policies have largely tended to restrict pastoralist use and access to lands or offer inappropriate tenure rights along private property models, undermining the collective, seasonal and mobile use of land.

POLICY ASKS

- ▶ The UNCCD should encourage governments to implement tenure security for pastoralists along the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), especially its Technical Guide 6 on Improving governance of pastoral lands, as called on in Decision 29/COP16 on Rangelands and Pastoralists.
- ▶ Governments should expand legal frameworks to secure the collective, shared, seasonal and mobile use of land by pastoralists, explicitly discouraging individual titling, fencing, or subdivision.
- ▶ Governments should recognise mobility as adaptive capacity, acknowledging that the spatial expression of pastoralism will change with evolving circumstances and that policy frameworks must have built-in mechanisms to accommodate this.
- ▶ Governments and donors should invest in timely, disaggregated, and community-validated data to inform better, evidence-driven policies, including through the new pastoralist-specific tenure indicators developed by ILC, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC-Knowledge) and Prindex — the first framework designed to measure de jure, de facto, and perceived tenure security for mobile land users. UNCCD monitoring frameworks, such as the PRAIS, should incorporate pastoralist data.

2 LINKING ACTION ON RANGELANDS WITH PASTORALIST LAND GOVERNANCE AND LAND RIGHTS:

Problem statement: When actions (and investments) in rangelands bypass pastoralists, they erode community stewardship, food security and climate resilience, while simultaneously denying governments and donors the ability to invest in, protect, or benefit from the vast environmental services these landscapes provide.

POLICY ASKS:

- ▶ Following Decision 26/COP.14 and 28/COP.16 on Land Tenure and the explicit recognition of land tenure security as central to Land Degradation Neutrality, the UNCCD should encourage parties to ensure that restoration projects are explicitly linked to tenure goals, ensuring that public and private investments comply with international standards and human-rights obligations
- ▶ Governments should legally protect pastoralist lands at the national and local level, preventing enclosure, conversion and encroachment on these lands and applying Free, Prior and Informed Consent principles for any development within these lands
- ▶ Governments and global policy conventions, such as the UNCCD, should institutionalise the leadership of pastoralists, especially women and youth, in decision-making by enabling processes and channels that are accessible and inclusive
- ▶ Governments, donors and investors should recognize that decisions about land use and mobility — where, when, and how — belong to pastoral communities, informed by their ecological knowledge and social institutions. Safeguards in decision-making processes should support and legitimise these insights.

3 INVESTING IN PASTORALIST STEWARDSHIP AND FOOD SYSTEMS:

Problem statement: While investments in rangelands have failed to match their potential, those who steward and sustain rangelands have often been left out of financial flows. Limited tenure-led investments in rangelands, critically the lack of direct financing through accessible and inclusive mechanisms, have sidelined pastoralists from action in their lands and suppressed long-term benefits for people and the planet.

POLICY ASKS:

- ▶ The UNCCD should ensure that donors and investors make financing channels accessible to pastoralist-led and community-level organisations, and support them and their platforms to receive and manage funds, disperse opportunities, and leverage different expertise and skills towards shared goals
- ▶ Land and climate investments should work for pastoralists first—to support pastoralist adaptations, resilience and livelihoods, reflecting in National Action Plans at the national level and synergies between the Rio Conventions at the global level

- ▶ Parties should invest in stronger multistakeholder coordination and partnerships, supporting pastoralist-led alliances and institutionalising pastoralist leadership in decision-making processes at all levels

ROAD AHEAD: UNCCD COP 17 & BEYOND

ILC will be bringing these messages into the UNCCD COP17 process and beyond in several ways. At the national level, ILC will work through its NLCs and regional platforms to bring key messages from the GPD to UNCCD National Focal Points and country delegations to be reflected in national positions and contributions to COP17 negotiations and implementation pathways. As trusted multistakeholder platforms, NLCs will engage governments, pastoralist organisations, civil society, research institutions, and development partners to strengthen policy and institutional environments that recognize and support pastoralist rights, mobility, and sustainable rangelands governance. Several of the ILC-supported NLCs will undertake knowledge building, local and national level community consultations and multistakeholder dialogues, including with governments and development partners, under the framework of the Mobility Matters campaign.

At the global level, ILC looks forward to bringing policy messages from the GPD to global members, partners and allies, especially to influence the proposed second decision on Rangelands and Pastoralists, and announcements made through the Action Agenda days, such as the Rangelands Flagship Initiative and the Riyadh Action Agenda Land and Soil

Breakthrough Targets for Grasslands, savannahs and rangelands. ILC will support the integration of these messages into the declarations emerging from the Global Gathering of Pastoralists. Through participation in the Silk Road Caravan, initiated by UNCCD, ILC members have highlighted the importance of tenure and mobility.

ILC will emphasize these messages through its role as a coordinating organisation for the Land and Peoples' Day, and its support for the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Caucuses, Gender Caucus and Youth Forum, together with members and partners. ILC expects to have a sizable presence with close to 20 pastoralist members present at the COP17, and through a booth showcasing messages from the Mobility Matters campaign. ILC looks forward to working together with the UNCCD and key stakeholders to ensure effective, actionable outcomes from COP17.



[HTTPS://MOBILITYMATTERS2026.ORG](https://mobilitymatters2026.org)
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A Global Policy Dialogue under the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026

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