

GCSAYN Road to the IYRP 2026 Declaration

Official Launch of the “Road to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026” Consultations

21 November 2025 (Virtual)

We, the members, mentors, partners, and Centers of Excellence of the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN), representing 88 Centers of Excellence in 178 countries and territories worldwide, together with distinguished scientists, academic leaders, pastoralist advocates, and representatives of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) Global Alliance, having gathered virtually on 21 November 2025 for the official launch of the GCSAYN “Road to IYRP 2026” Consultations;

Building on the foundational African Youth Pastoralist Declaration adopted in Lukenya, Kenya (September 2022) and the subsequent establishment of the African Youth Pastoralist Initiative.

Recognizing that rangelands and pastoralists sustain over 500 million people globally, provide 30% of the world’s meat and milk, safeguard biodiversity, store carbon, and maintain vital ecosystem services, yet remain among the most neglected and misunderstood socio-ecological systems;

Acknowledging the compounded threats of climate change, land degradation, insecure tenure, restrictive policies, marginalization of women and youth, and insufficient investment in research and innovation.

Reaffirming the critical role of youth and women pastoralists as agents of change, custodians of traditional knowledge, and innovators capable of blending indigenous

practices with modern science and technology for sustainable rangeland management.

Declare the following:

- **We** formally launch the GCSAYN “Road to IYRP 2026” global consultation process (November 2025 – December 2026), structured at national, regional, and community levels, mobilizing our entire network of 88 Centers of Excellence across 178 countries to amplify the voices of pastoralists and rangeland-dependent communities.
- **We** commit to fully integrate the objectives of IYRP 2026 into GCSAYN’s core programs for 2026–2030, ensuring that youth-led climate-smart solutions, gender equity, and pastoralist innovation remain central pillars of our work.
- **We** pledge to appoint IYRP Focal Points in every GCSAYN Centre of Excellence and to establish a robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework that documents and shares best practices in sustainable rangeland management worldwide.
- **We** call for strengthened North–South and South–South cooperation between academia, research institutions, practitioners, and pastoralist communities, with particular emphasis on co-producing localized, demand-driven research that respects and integrates traditional and indigenous knowledge systems.

Collaborating and urge governments, international organizations, and donors to:

- **Recognize** and secure customary and community-based rangeland tenure systems.
- **Remove** policy barriers that restrict pastoral mobility and destocking mandates that undermine resilience.

- **Prioritize** investments in youth- and women-led pastoral enterprises, digital extension services, early-warning systems, and climate-resilient fodder and water infrastructure.
- **Ensure** meaningful representation of pastoralist youth and women in all decision-making forums related to rangelands, climate change, and food security.
- **We** commit to join and actively contribute to the IYRP International Support Group (ISG) and to collaborate with all regional and global IYRP working groups to ensure that the voices of young pastoralists and women are heard throughout 2026 and beyond.
- **We** envision a future where pastoralism is celebrated as a viable, modern, and profitable livelihood; where young women and men pastoralists have equal access to land, finance, education, technology, and markets; and where rangelands are restored and managed sustainably for people, livestock, wildlife, and the planet.

With unwavering determination and collective energy, we — the youth and women of GCSAYN and our partners — claim our space and accept our responsibility to make the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 a turning point for recognition, investment, and transformation.

Together, we will walk the Road to IYRP 2026 and beyond, ensuring that no pastoralist voice is left unheard and no rangeland is left behind.

Adopted unanimously on 21 November 2025

On behalf of the Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network Global (GCSAYN)

Signed (virtually):

Divine Ntiokam, USA

Founder & Executive Director, GCSAYN

Rumaila Nuru Tahir, Nigeria

On behalf of all GCSAYN Cohort 4 Interns & Mentees

Rahab Swatchet Makama, Nigeria

Kaduna State University, GCSAYN Road to the IYRP 2026 Secretariat

Irene Kimani Njoki, Kenya

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And all participants of the Official Launch of the GCSAYN Road to IYRP 2026 Consultations

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