

Proceedings of UNCCD COP 17 Side Event
Rangeland Restoration Awards 2026–
Best Practices in Rangeland Management and Pastoralism



As part of the COP 17 of UNCCD Side Event on Rangeland Restoration Awards - Best Practices in Rangeland Management and Pastoralism has been organized on 18th August 2026 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. More than hundred participants from different countries have participated in this side event. The event has been organized by SEVA in partnership with ILRI, Foundation of Ecological Security, Dhan Foundation and FAO. It has been explained how rangeland champions and awardees were selected from around the world out of 90 entries received from many countries. This event is to celebrate UN Year of International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists 2026. Nominations opened on 1 April 2026 and closed 31 May 2026, drawing entries submitted by applicants themselves or by nominating institutions and agencies. seven members steering committee, drawing on representatives from FAO, ILRI, and IYRP Regional Support Group experts, reviewed submissions against criteria including measurable impact on extend of land restored, livestock and livestock keepers benefitted, biodiversity outcomes, and the strength of the underlying practice, policy, or community action. Twenty awardees were selected globally and certificates distributed.

The awardee are Sumer Singh Bhati, India Dr. Prafulla Kalokar, India, Trachung Palzang, China, Zhang Kabilan Yingjun, China, K, Kabilan, India, Shahid Saleem, India, Hashu Karma Choskhas, China , Narayan Bharthi, India ,Rajendra Singh Chundawat , India, Loupa Pius, Uganda, Paulina Peter Ngurumwa, Tanzania, GANKHUYAG Nyam-Ochir, Mongolia, Saina Kutit, Kenya, Charagah Vikas Samiti, Thana, India , Khansoy Abdi Noor Ali, Kenya,Dr.



The cross section of best practices include :Awareness and advocacy on bringing out lands for recording them in formal system or classification and retrieved from diversion for other purpose, exploring ongoing schemes converged with peoples participation on focussing on rangelands, local breeds for livelihood improvement, experimenting with low cost solutions for removal

of encroachments by exotic species or private interests, youth continuing family profession of pastoralist life even after good education and finding out options to meet their modest income and secured life, application of good soil and water conservation practices and involving communities using local knowledge or innovations through motivation and overcoming constraints of funds, focussing on women and using their strength of participation for revival and management of resources with rules or regulations and strengthening their capacity with traditional wisdom, underlying the importance of new approaches, regulations and innovations through slogans which are much relevant viz. grass banks, 5 percent reduction of livestock for rangeland health, coexistence with wild life, virtual fencing, Responsible Nomads Code of Practice, summer enclosure- winter grazing, herder photography group, grass guards, rangeland doctor, nomadic schools, livestock operator to grassland stewards, traditional manuring system with digital tool, digital traceability for transparency, ban afforestation in migratory routes and local breeds for sustainable grazing.

Certificates and award money has been distributed by Fiona of ILRI. Database on practices and innovation developed by the awardee has been launched by Gregario of FAO. Certificates and Award money have been distributed by Ben Clement Inspector general of forest, Ministry of Environment and Forest Government of India. Mr. Igshaan Samuel of Global Alliance of



Rangeland and Pastoralists explained the significance of IYRP and how recognition of individuals and community promote sustainable management of rangeland, commons and grasslands. The awardees spoke about motivation behind their innovation and practices and proposed how such a practice can be scaled up through new policy, legislation and mainstreaming in the government schemes. The entire side event has been moderated by Dharitry Borah ILARI and concluding session has been facilitated by Anuja Malhotra of ATREE.

Their posters about brief summary of awardees can be seen in the link : https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_MEkaUVnk2ICMB_OCY4Vv1XliB0W8BpJ?usp=drive_link

Their profiles and best practices can be seen in the link below : <https://gian.org/rangeland-innovations-and-best-practices/>

Rangeland Restoration Awards 2026

AWARDEES 2026

Recognising exceptional individuals, communities and organisations who are restoring rangelands, strengthening pastoral livelihoods and building a sustainable future for all.



Mr. Shahid Saleem

INDIA



Mr. Rajendra Singh Chundawat

INDIA



Mr. Sumer Singh Bhati

INDIA



Mr. Pushpendra Rana

INDIA



Mr. Joe Condon, Ms. Eileen & Mr. William Condon

IRELAND



Ms. Kali Devi Balai

INDIA



Mr. Narayan Bharthi

INDIA



Mr. Prafulla Kalokar

INDIA



Mr. GANKHUYAG Nyam-Ochir

MONGOLIA



Mr. P.Kabilan

INDIA



Tungalag tamirijn khuyuu-Primary Herders Association

MONGOLIA



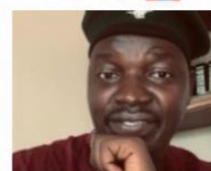
Mr. Bold-Erdene Punsaldeg

MONGOLIA



Charagah Vikas Samiti, Thana

INDIA



Mr. Loupa Pius

UGANDA



Mr. Hashu Karma Choskhas

CHINA



Mr. Trachung Palzang

CHINA



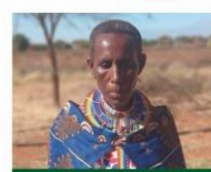
Mr. Zhang Yingjun

CHINA



Mr. Khasoy Abdi Noor Ali

KENYA



Ms. Saina Kutit

KENYA



Ms. Paulina Peter Ngurumwa

TANZANIA



"Honey Bee Network has been documenting traditional knowledge and grassroots innovations for the last four decades. We feel proud of launching a database of practices and innovations on Rangeland Management developed by individuals or community from across the world on the occasion of COP 17 of UNCCD at Ulaanbaatar Mongolia. I congratulate all the awardees and also appreciate the efforts of organisers viz. SEVA in association with ILRI, FES, DHAN Foundation, GIAN, IYRP Global Alliance, FAO, ATREE in the process of this database creation.

Prof. Anil Gupta,
Founder Honey Bee Network,
SRISTI, GIAN & NIF and of IIMA
12 August 2026

The profiles of awardees visit : <https://gian.org/rangeland-innovations-and-best-practices/>

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SIDE EVENT OF



UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION



COP17
ULAANBAATAR 2026
MONGOLIA



THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS
2026

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