

# International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP)

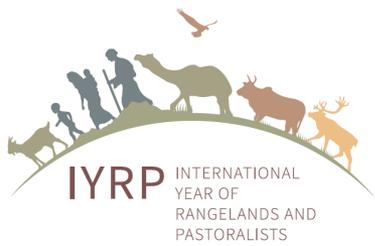
## History, Process, Priority Themes and Way Forward



**Joint IRC-IGC Congress**

**October 26, 2021**

- James T. O'Rourke, Rancher, Chadron, NE USA
- Maryam Niamir-Fuller (Retired Director of GEF at UNEP, Virginia, USA)
- Barbara Hutchinson (Rangelands Partnership, University of Arizona, USA)



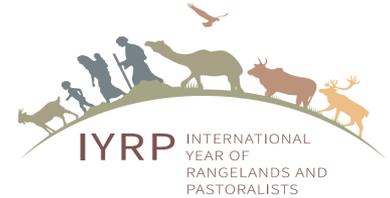
# Why an IYRP?

- **To increase worldwide understanding of importance of rangelands & pastoralists for food security and environmental services**
- **To inform decision-making at all levels, calling for enlightened policy to benefit current & future generations**
- **To mobilise people worldwide to address today's challenges and to grasp new opportunities in rangelands & pastoralism**
- **To boost efforts for creating new knowledge & sharing experiences and practices related to rangelands & pastoralism**

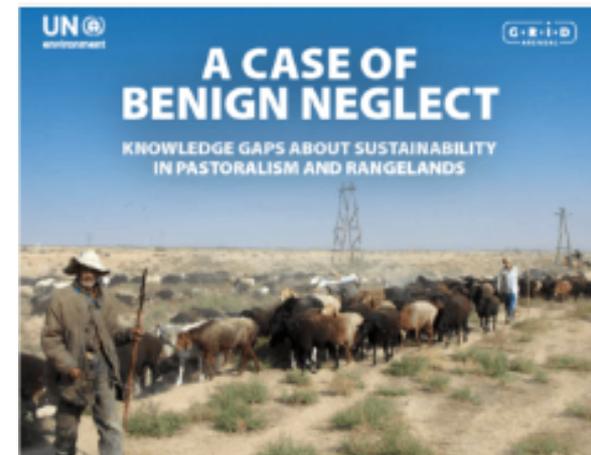
*Source: IYRP Global Flyer Nov 2020*



# Milestones passed on long road to IYRP



- **IRC/IGC 2008 Inner Mongolia, PRC:** Idea arose
- **IRC 2011 Argentina:** Resolutions calling for IY of Rangelands and Global Rangelands Assessment
- **SRM and Rangeland Partnership 2015:** Reinvigorated efforts for IYR&P
- **UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA-2) 2016:** Resolution on promoting rangelands & pastoralism (R&P) and call for gap analysis
- **IRC 2016 Canada:** Agreement on action plan to promote IYRP and form “International Steering Group” (ISG)
- **2018–19:** UNEP-funded R&P gap analysis
- **UNEA-4 2019:** Africa Group resolution for IYRP
- **Aug 2019:** Mongolian Government proposed IYRP to UN; ISG became “International Support Group” to Mongolian team





# Process for approval as United Nations International Year

- **Aug 2019:** Mongolian Government proposed IYRP to UN
- **Oct 2020:** FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) endorsed Mongolian Government's proposal for IYRP in 2026
- Proposal currently supported by over 160 organisations and over 50 national governments (letters and verbal support)
- **Dec 2020:** Proposal endorsed by FAO Council
- **June 2021:** Proposal endorsed by FAO Conference
- **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) ??? 2021**





# Newest Page: Conventions & Events



INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF  
RANGELANDS AND  
PASTORALISTS

IYRP 2026 endorsed by FAO Conference!

## Conventions & Events

[UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA\)](#)

[Joint International Grassland & Congress \(IGC/IRC\)](#)

[UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage \(UN-ICH\)](#)

[UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

[UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#)

[UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#)

[UN Decade of Family Farming \(UNDF\)](#)

[UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(UN-DETER\)](#)

[UN Convention on Biological Diversity \(UNCBD\)](#)

[Global Landscapes Forum \(GLF\)](#)

## UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF)



The UN Decade of Family Farming 2019–28 is highlighting the important contribution made by family farmers in ensuring food and nutrition security, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) coordinate the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with national governments and civil society organisations (CSOs). See the one-pager on the relationship between the UNDF and the IYRP - about pastoralists as family farmers - with embedded links to key documents online.

### Websites

- [UN Decade of Family Farming](#)
- [FAO definition of family farming](#)
- [FAO Family Farming Knowledge Platform Pastoralism Theme](#)
- [Civil Society Mechanism of UN Committee on World Food Security](#)
- [World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [UN Declaration on Rights of Peasants & Other People Working in Rural Areas](#)

### Documents

- [Pastoralists as family farmers](#)
- [Les pasteurs des exploitations familiales.pdf](#)
- [Los pastores una forma de agricultura familiar.pdf](#)
- [Pastoralists-as-family-farmers-some-more-details.pdf](#)
- [UNDF and the IYRP](#)

# Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

## Multi-stakeholder RISGs implemented to generate more support and partnership:

- to expand network of supporting organisations and governments in 11+ regions of the world
- to work with Government of Mongolia, FAO and Support Groups to plan and implement IYRP activities in these regions

**Central role for rangelands & pastoralist organisations in these activities**



Photo: J.Dillan/MercyCorps

# Priority Actions = Global and RISGs to continue generating support

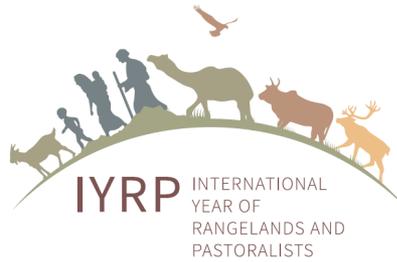
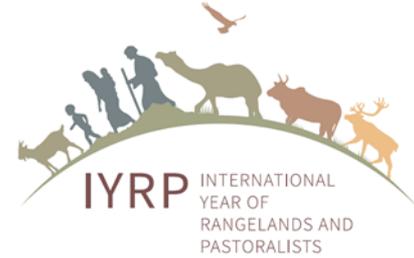


Photo: ILRI/Sarah Kasyoka

- ***Convince governments*** in your home countries and region to support IYRP
  - Approach Ministries of Agriculture (in time for FAO Conference) and Foreign Affairs (in time for UNGA)
  - Share IYRP Global Flyer
  - Invite governments to co-sponsor with Mongolia
- ***Raise awareness*** at international meetings, e.g. side events, ministerial breakfast meeting (hosted by ILRI at UNEA-4) and inserting R&P into official resolutions
- Continue to develop the “***online booth***” ([www.iyrp.info](http://www.iyrp.info)) and ***social media*** campaigns

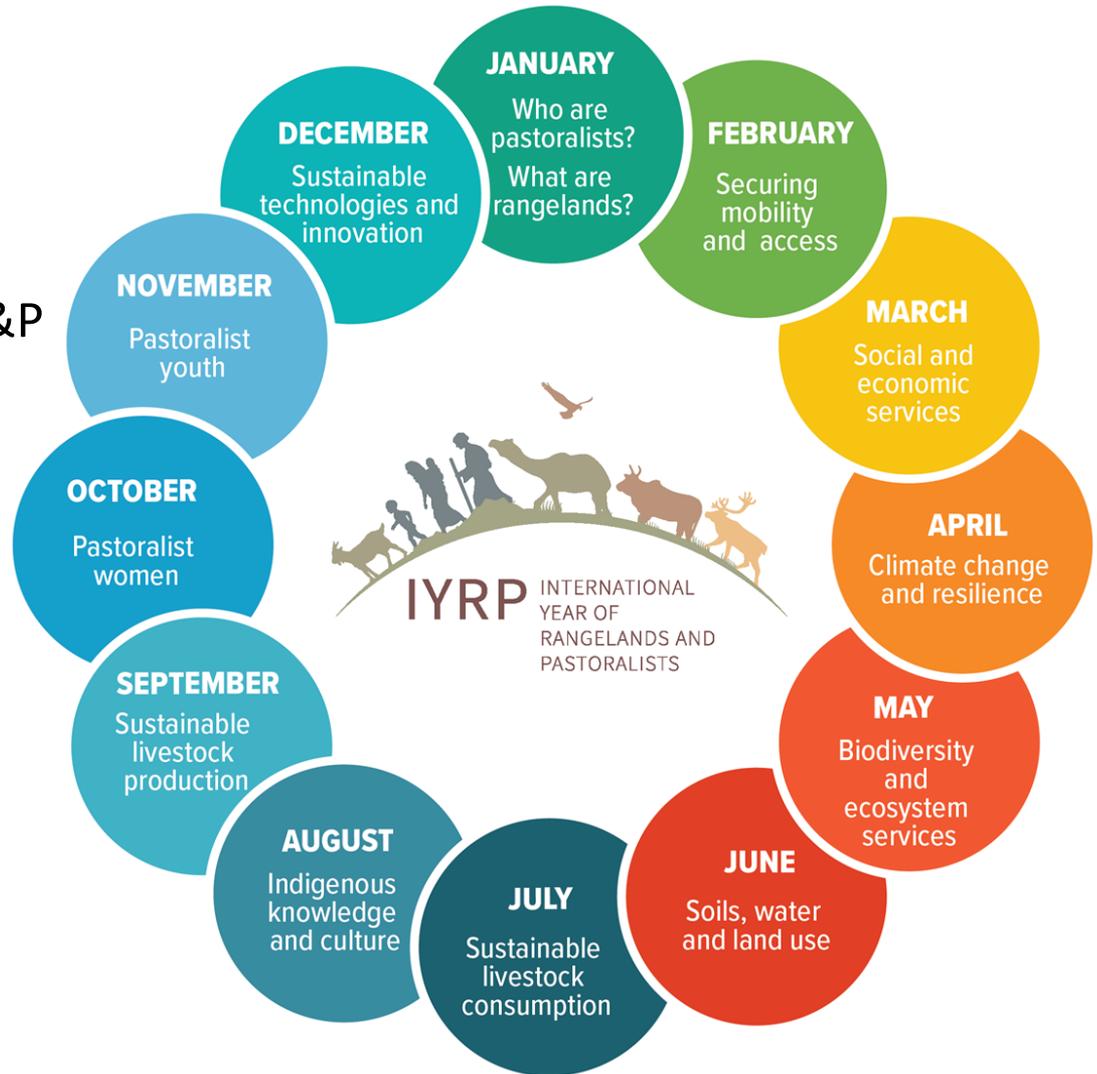
# Rationale & Outreach Plans



- Rationale for an IYRP
  - To **increase worldwide understanding** of the importance of rangelands and pastoralists for global food security and environmental services
  - To call attention to the **need for sustainable management and enlightened policy** to benefit current and future generations
- Expected Outreach Outcomes (for example)
  - **Country and local levels:** expos, awards, fairs, educational materials, video documentaries, social media campaigns...
  - **Global level:** action statements, new partnerships, policy changes, increased development resources...
  - **International organizations:** hosting a theme, articles in research journals and popular press

## Possible monthly themes in each region

- Expanding awareness of complexity & diversity of R&P
- Revealing new insights
- Highlighting priority issues of pastoralists
- Balancing coverage of environmental, social, economic & policy issues



*...to be refined and finalised in consultation with RISGs & at SRM 2022*

# IYRP Support Group Contacts



- **ISG Chair:** Jim O'Rourke ([jorourke@csc.edu](mailto:jorourke@csc.edu))
- **ISG Vice-Chair:** Maryam Niamir-Fuller ([mniafull2@gmail.com](mailto:mniafull2@gmail.com))
- **Members of the ISG Communications Team:**
  - Barbara Hutchinson ([barbarah@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:barbarah@cals.arizona.edu))
  - Ann Waters-Bayer ([waters-bayer@web.de](mailto:waters-bayer@web.de))
  - Engin Yilmaz ([engin@bican.net](mailto:engin@bican.net))
- **IYRP archives:**  
<https://globalrangelands.org/international-year-rangelands-and-pastoralists-initiative>
- **IYRP online booth:** [www.iyrp.info](http://www.iyrp.info)