



Global Alliance for the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026

Why an IYRP?

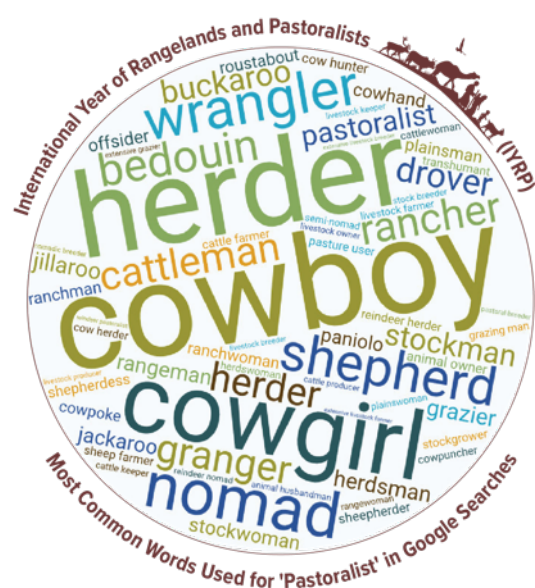
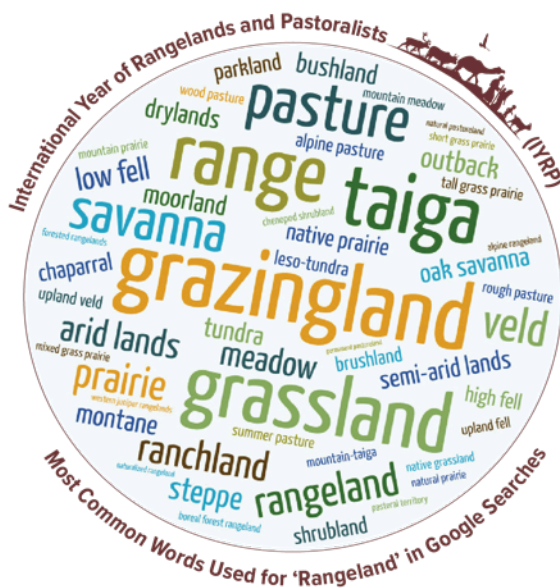
The UN General Assembly's declaration of 2026 as the IYRP highlights the global significance of rangelands and pastoralists. The initiative seeks to:

- Increase awareness of the value of rangelands and pastoralism for food security, the economy, the environment and cultural heritage
- Fill knowledge gaps through participatory research and strategic communication
- Advocate for policies supporting sustainable land use, livelihoods and biodiversity conservation through pastoralism
- Promote investment in rangelands and pastoralists as a climate solution.



Who are pastoralists? What are rangelands?

- **Pastoralists:** People whose primary livelihood revolves around raising animals that graze on rangelands. Their traditional knowledge and local innovation offer sustainable solutions to climate challenges.
- **Rangelands:** Diverse ecosystems – including grasslands, savannas, deserts and tundra – that support livestock and wildlife grazing.



Key activities of the IYRP Global Alliance

- Policy advocacy for sustainable rangeland management by pastoralists
- Participatory research and knowledge sharing
- Organising pastoralist gatherings, film festivals and photo exhibits
- Conducting international events, such as webinars and side events at global conferences, e.g. the upcoming **UNCCD COP16**.

Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

Multistakeholder RISGs have formed in 11 regions around the world – Arctic, Australasia, Central & West Africa, Central Asia & Mongolia, East Asia, Eastern & Southern Africa, Europe, Middle East & North Africa, North America, South America and South Asia – to generate partnerships and promote the IYRP. Several RISGs are co-chaired by pastoralist organisation representatives.

IYRP Working Groups

The IYRP Global Alliance has thematic Working Groups preparing for 2026 by collating and analysing existing research, identifying gaps in knowledge and information, analysing policy, identifying targets for advocacy and communication, and disseminating messages for public awareness of the value and importance of rangelands and pastoralists. The current WGs are focussing on:

- Afforestation in Rangelands
- Economics of Pastoralism
- Mountain Pastoralism
- Pastoralism & Gender
- Pastoralism & Land Rights
- Pastoralist Youth
- Pastoralists & Water
- Rangelands & Biodiversity
- Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality
- Rangelands, Pastoralists & Climate Change



Selling milk in Isiolo, Kenya (Credit: Tom Martin)

12 monthly themes for IYRP2026

The IYRP Global Alliance has proposed 12 global themes for 2026, to help focus worldwide awareness and recognition of the value and contributions of rangelands and pastoralists to global society and ecosystems. Each RISG interprets and implements these themes to address regional needs and priorities. The WGs contribute to several of these themes.



Join the Global Alliance

- **Be a Friend of IYRP:** Send your logo for www.iyrp.info/friends-of-iyrp
- **Contact us** at iyrp@iyrp.info for collaboration
- **Learn more:** visit www.iyrp.info