

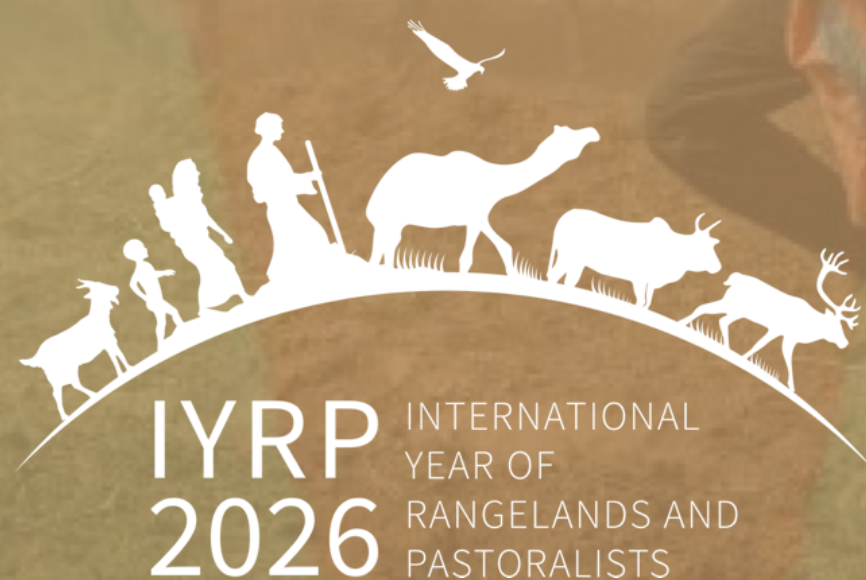
# UN International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists 2026

Ann Waters-Bayer

Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology

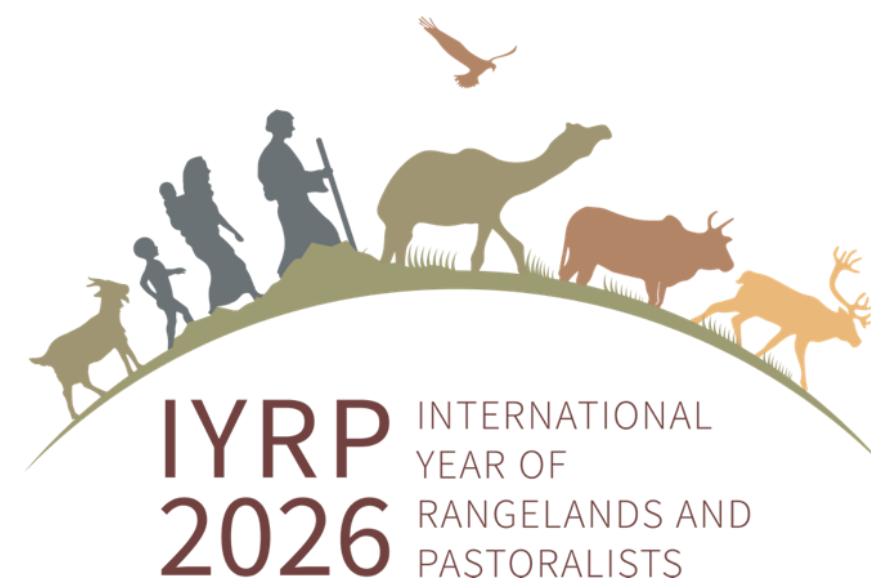
Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP)

INTPA InfoPoint Brussels, 7 December 2022



[www.iyrp.info](http://www.iyrp.info)

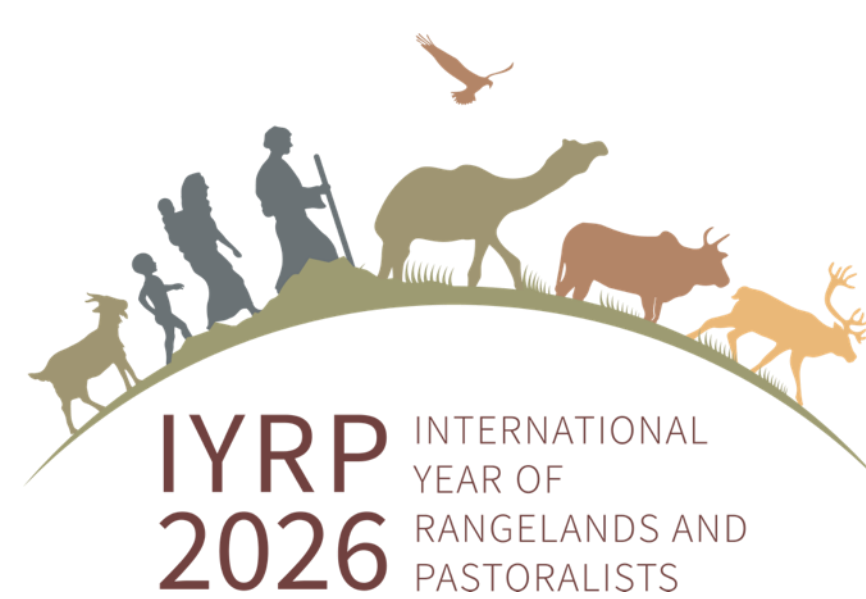
15 MARCH 2022:  
United Nations General  
Assembly (UNGA) declared  
2026 as International Year  
of Rangelands & Pastoralists



- Movement grew since 2008 into global coalition of over 300 pastoralist & supporting organisations, including International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) & several UN agencies
- Building on these efforts, Government of Mongolia proposed resolution to UNGA in 2019, supported by over 100 countries
- Approved unanimously by UNGA in 2022
- FAO to facilitate implementation of IYRP 2026



# Why an IYRP?



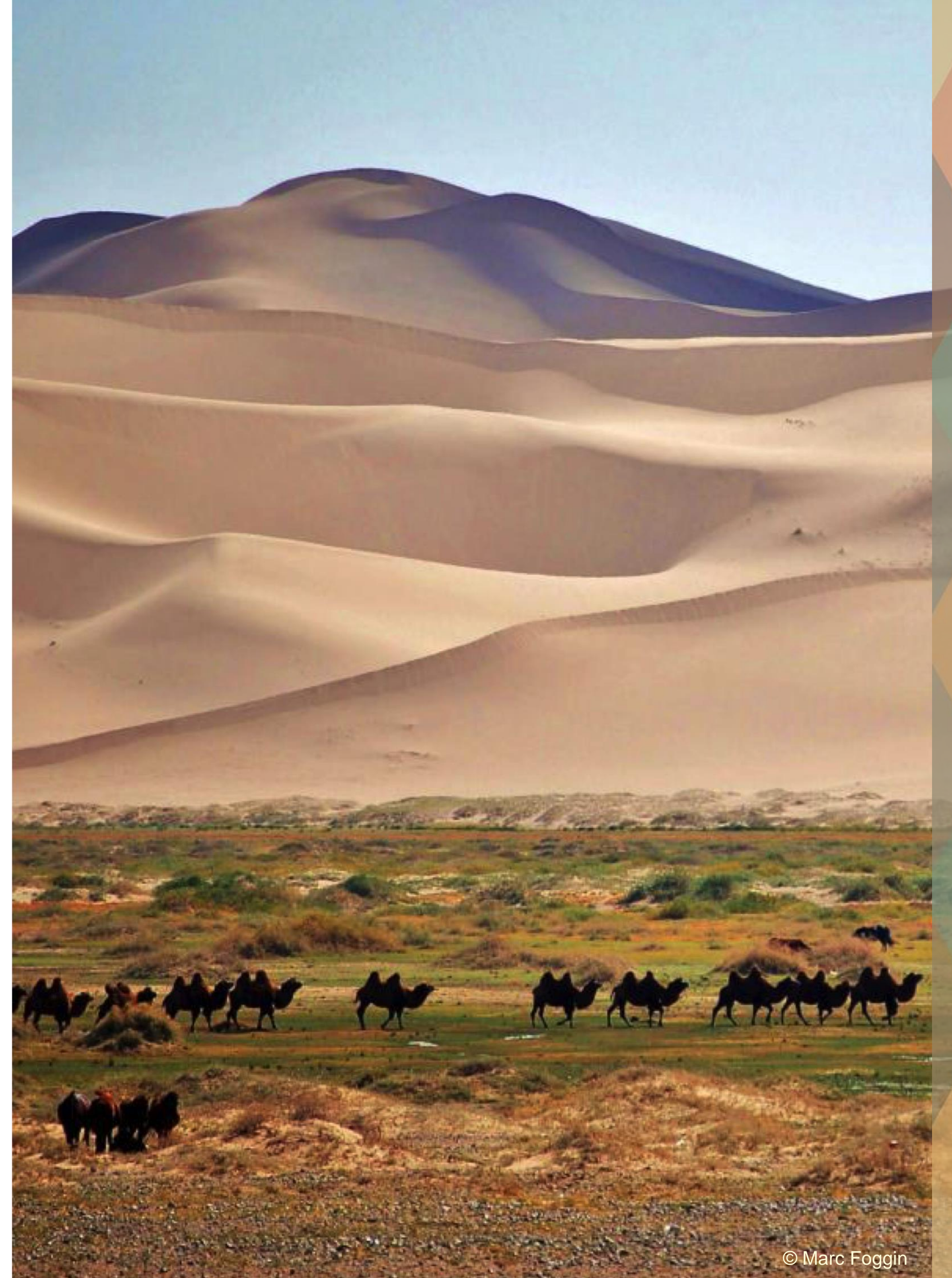
- To reveal critical contributions of rangelands & pastoralists for food security, economy, ecosystem services, climate resilience & culture
- To promote informed, science-based policy & legislation for current & future generations
- To mobilise people worldwide to grasp new opportunities in rangelands & pastoralism
- To increase sustainable and ethical investment in rangelands & pastoralist livelihoods





# Significance of rangelands & pastoralism

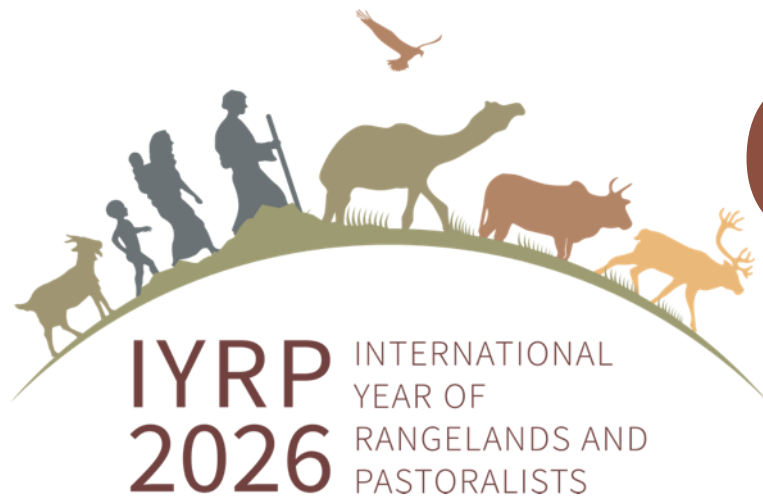
- ◆ Rangelands cover over half of the Earth's land – yet most endangered & least protected ecosystem
- ◆ They support livelihoods of 500 million people plus another 2 billion people along value chains.
- ◆ Pastoralists use livestock to convert short-lived vegetation that cannot be consumed by humans into food rich in nutrients and high-value protein.



# Yet they are ignored or underestimated

- ◆ Pastoralists are dispossessed of their traditional pastures & their migration routes are blocked.
- ◆ This disrupts their herd movements to make optimal use of land & endangers their continued contribution to nutrition & food security.
- ◆ Little awareness of pastoralists' & rangeland's vital role in maintaining biodiversity & providing ecosystem services, e.g. carbon sequestration:
  - Carbon sinks can be significant in rangelands.
  - Rangelands are global biodiversity hotspots & habitats for numerous endangered species while being grazed by livestock & wildlife.





# Collaborating in IYRP 2026 initiative

## General IYRP e-list

~700 addresses mostly for info only

## International Support Group (ISG)

~380 addresses of active partners, including GCG members & 2 co-chairs

## Global Coordinating Group (GCG)

~40 members (co-chairs, comms team, RISG chairs & reps from key supporting partners (FAO, Govt of Mongolia, ILRI, IUCN, UNEP, WAMIP))

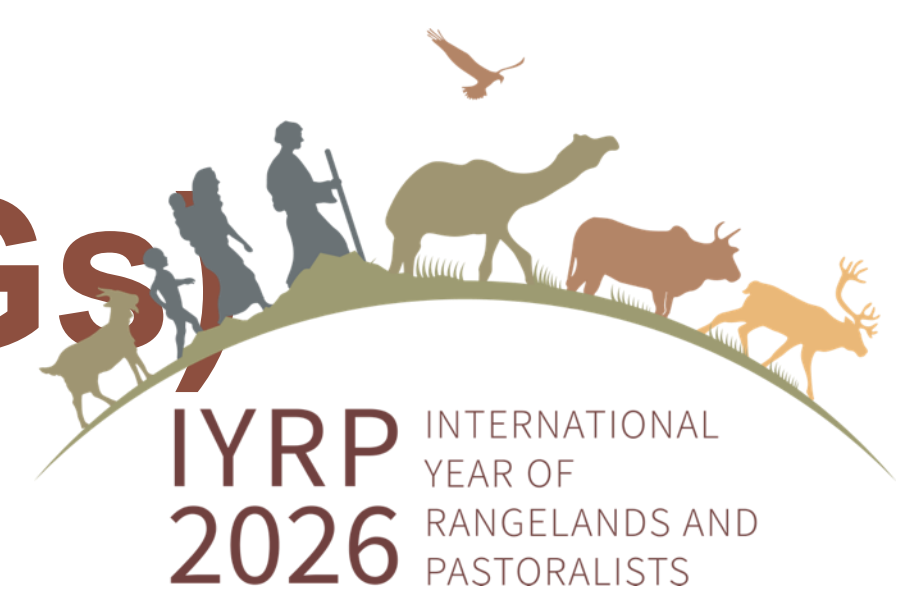
**Global  
Communications  
Team**

### Working Groups:

- Afforestation
- Desertification & Land Degradation
- Mountains
- Water

**Regional IYRP  
Support Groups  
(RISGs)**

# Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)



**Arctic**  
**East Asia**  
**South Asia**  
**Central Asia & Mongolia**  
**Australasia**  
**North Africa & Middle East**  
**Eastern & Southern Africa**  
**West & Central Africa**  
**Europe**  
**North America**  
**South America**

Multi-stakeholder RISGs formed to generate more support & partnership:

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

Central role for pastoralist organisations in RISG planning & activities





# Activities up to & during IYRP 2026

- Joint research
- Policy briefs / statements
- Pastoralist gatherings
- Social media campaigns
- Films / photo exhibits
- Pastoralist innovation fairs
- Side events
- Conferences / webinars ... etc



# JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO CELEBRATE RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS IN IYRP 2026 !

Contact: [iyrp@iyrp.info](mailto:iyrp@iyrp.info)



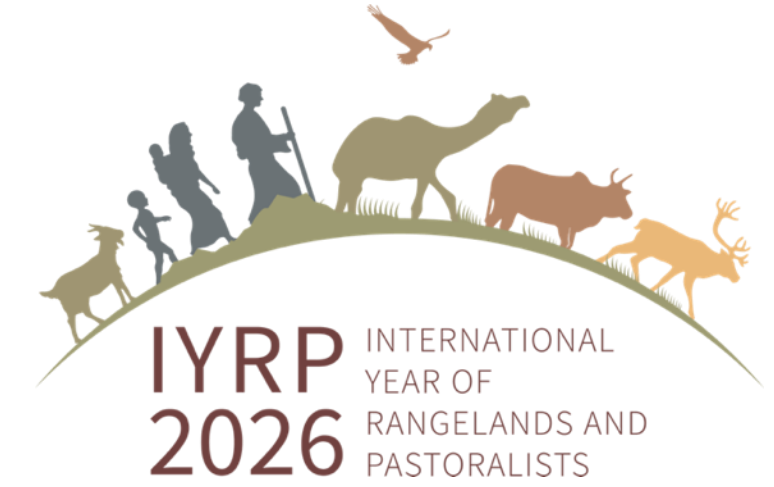
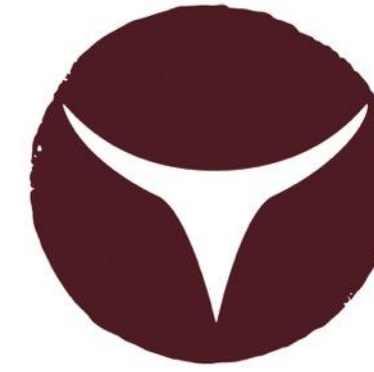
**IYRP** INTERNATIONAL  
**2026** YEAR OF  
RANGELANDS AND  
PASTORALISTS

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**MISEREOR**  
IHR HILFSWERK



Vétérinaires  
Sans Frontières  
Dierenartsen  
Zonder Grenzen



**WATCH THESE FILMS !**

**Pastoralism is the future !**  
**Pastoralists**

**International Year of Rangelands &**

8 DECEMBER 2022 - 18h00  
**CINÉMA GALERIES**

**PERSPECTIVES ON PASTORALISM**  
FILM FESTIVAL

**AN UNCERTAIN WORLD**  
PHOTO EXHIBITION



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