



Update for IYRP general list – November 2021

Summary

The UN process in New York has kicked off to a great start with a speech from the Mongolian Ambassador to the UN. A total of 59 countries and 300 organizations now formally support the IYRP 2026. The IYRP was a major feature at the IRC/IGC 2021 and several pertinent resolutions were adopted. Pastoralists and other supporters of rangelands engaged with the UNFCCC COP to a degree never seen before, focusing for example on methane, afforestation in rangelands and indigenous knowledge. But many myths and misunderstandings still persist. Please double your efforts to convince more governments to support the IYRP 2026 at UNGA. Let's pass beyond 100 governments by the end of the year.

UN process for designation of IYRP

On 6 October 2021, the Mongolian Ambassador to the UN, Mr Enkhbold Vorshilov, made a [statement](#) to the UN Second Committee where he gave extensive information on the IYRP and appealed to Member States to support it when discussed in the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

The Government of Mongolia and FAO are working to introduce the IYRP resolution to the UNGA. The draft Resolution will be further amended by Mongolia with co-sponsors, for a submission to the UNGA hopefully by the first semester of 2022. So far **59 countries** have formally supported Mongolia. Please double your efforts so that we can reach 100 by the end of this year. In particular, it would be good to have more countries from West and Central Africa, Latin America and Arab States represented. The [IYRP website](#) has many promotional materials in French, Arabic and Spanish that can be downloaded easily for your use.

We also now have **300 partners** from civil society, pastoralist associations, businesses, and regional and international organizations, who have sent letters of support to the Government of Mongolia. Thank you all!

Joint International Grassland and International Rangeland Congress 2021

The IYRP was featured in several important sessions at the IRC/IGC 2021. At least 10 peer-reviewed scientific papers were specifically focused on priority actions for IYRP 2026. These and the Executive Summary of the IYRP Concurrent Sessions are available [here](#). We developed a special [Exhibition Booth](#) that provides excellent material for raising awareness.

Over 60% of all the scientific papers about rangelands submitted to the Congress focused on policy challenges for improved grazing land management, common-property oversight or socioeconomic welfare among pastoralists ([summary by Layne Coppock](#)). This is a significant increase compared to past Congresses and indicates that the world scientific community is already taking up the challenge of filling knowledge gaps on pastoralism. **The IYRP can build on this momentum.**

The Congress voted to approve several [Resolutions](#) directly pertinent to the IYRP, including establishment of an **IYRP Sub-Committee of the IRC Continuing Committee** that will focus on supporting the designation and implementation of priority actions for the IYRP, and the

establishment of a **Kenya National IYRP Committee**. We hope other supporting countries will now join Mongolia and Kenya in establishing national IYRP committees.

IYRP-related events at UNFCCC COP 26

Pastoralists and their supporters came out in full force at UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 26. Here are a few notable examples:

- ◇ Delegates from the **WAMIP** (World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples) attended the COP supported by IFAD, the Rangelands Initiative and the PASTRES (Pastoralism Uncertainty & Resilience) project. Delegates were pastoralists from Norway, Jordan, Mali, Chad, Mongolia, Uganda and Europe. Scottish shepherds paraded their sheep through the streets of Glasgow. WAMIP delegates also spoke at the Rally at the Glasgow Green and participated in several workshops and the side event organized by IFAD.
- ◇ The **Rangelands Initiative** was featured at the **IFAD** booth and held a side event on "[Mobile pastoralism for climate change mitigation, ecosystem restoration and resilient food systems](#)" on 6 November.
- ◇ A [photo exhibition](#) was organized by **PASTRES** and a discussion event was held at the Nourish Scotland's Food and Climate Hub on "[What is the role of animal livestock in the future of food systems?](#)" about living with cows in a net zero future.
- ◇ Badi Besbes, head of FAO's Animal Production and Genetics Unit of the Animal Production and Health Division, presented **FAO's** publication [Pastoralism, making variability work](#) and the Organization's commitment to pastoralism at the EU Side Event: "Achieving NDC commitments for climate action through transforming agri-food systems" on 8 November. The film "[Pastoralism is the future](#)" was also aired during the event to promote the IYRP.
- ◇ **WWF Brazil** and partners held a [panel discussion on grasslands and savannahs](#) on 9 November that highlighted the damage to rangelands from indiscriminate afforestation projects.

Despite all these great efforts, several opinion pieces or blogs written by IYRP partners attending the COP highlight that we are still far from correcting myths and abolishing misperceptions, and therefore how important it is for IYRP 2026 to be approved:

- Ian Scoones (PASTRES) points out in "[Cows and cars should not be conflated in climate change debates](#)" that a simplistic 'all livestock are bad' narrative is promoted by campaigners, celebrities, philanthropists and policymakers alike. A much more sophisticated debate is needed and this did NOT happen at COP 26, as he explains in "[Two worlds talked past each other or never even met](#)". He also notes that the huge afforestation efforts being proposed at COP 26 potentially cause real problems for pastoralists. This is because large areas of open rangelands might be earmarked for tree planting and biodiversity protection through exclusion of grazing. Destruction of rangeland/grassland ecosystems will only lead to harm to both climate and biodiversity. Similarly, the huge reductions in emissions proposed under the Global Methane Pledge have major implications for livestock production. The only technical solutions discussed at the COP were feed additives, methane-reducing inhibitors and vaccines, seaweed supplements, even facemasks for cows.
- Polly Ericksen and Laura Cramer of ILRI point out in "[Climate change is already hitting Africa's livestock](#)" how wrong it is to throw all livestock systems into one bag. They draw

on FAO's Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM) to show that emissions from livestock come primarily from regions with heavy reliance on confined production. They also analyse the adaptation needs of pastoralists.

- Fernando Garcia-Dory and others from WAMIP also point out in "[Why mainstream narratives on climate and livestock create multiple injustices](#)" that discussions on climate justice did not get far. Anders Oscar who is also Chair of the Arctic IYRP reminded delegates that sustainable [sustainable pastoralism](#) generates wealth at the cost of none and to the benefit of all. Recognizing the value of livestock mobility is essential to maintain healthy rangelands, and resilience of both livelihoods and ecosystems in the face of climate change and disasters.

The prospects of planting trees in rangelands generated a good discussion on the IYRP Support Group network. This highlights one of the many reasons why we need the IYRP to be designated so that more work can be done to fill knowledge gaps and raise awareness about rangelands and pastoralism. The Government of Mongolia's leadership has been instrumental in achieving great progress in bringing the IYRP proposal through the FAO approval process and now to the UN General Assembly.

Call for films for the second edition of the Pastoralism Film Festival

Films are being sought that:

- are made by individuals or groups who identify themselves as pastoralist, and/or
- bring pastoralists' (women's, men's and/or youth's) perspectives and/or
- sensitively portray issues faced by pastoralists and/or
- address issues faced in regions where pastoralism is practised and/or
- reflect the role of mobility in pastoralism.

See more information here: <https://filmfreeway.com/PerspectivesonPastoralismFilmFestival>

New publications of note

- PASTRES released its major scientific report on climate & livestock in advance of COP 26 (https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/16839/Climate-livestock_full_report_%28EN%29_web.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y)
- FAO "[Seven reasons why pastoralism supports a better future](#)"
- Ilse Koehler-Rollefson: "[Livestock for a small planet](#)"; the recording of the book launch can be watched on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbafiEquctc>

Upcoming event

L'UMR Selmet du CIRAD co-organise avec les UMRs Innovation et Agir le webinaire suivant dans le cadre du séminaire permanent INRAE-CIRAD « Quels avenir pour les activités d'élevage »

Thème : [Pastoralisme ou rewilding : Quelle place pour les animaux d'élevage dans les espaces naturels « ré-ensauvagés » ?](#)

Date : 30 novembre 2021 : 14 h 00 – 17 h 00

Lieu : Montpellier/Agropolis International (et en visio)