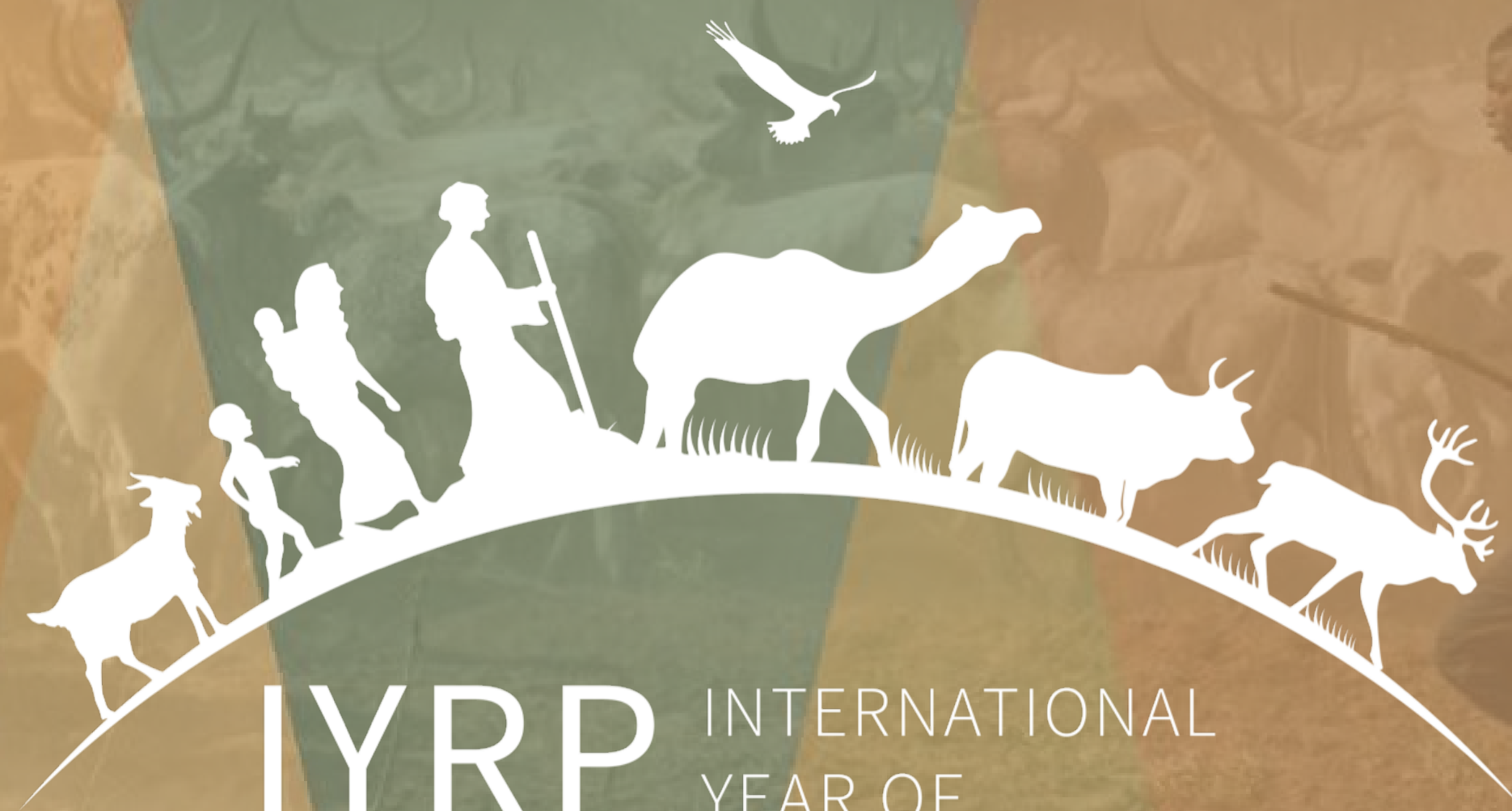


# Roadmap for IYRP 2026



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

IYRP Global Alliance  
Global Secretariat  
Updated Sept 2025



# Outline of the presentation

- Why do we need an International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists?
- Short history and structure of the IYRP Global Alliance
- Global Action Plan for IYRP 2026
- Road map 2025-2026
- Beyond 2026

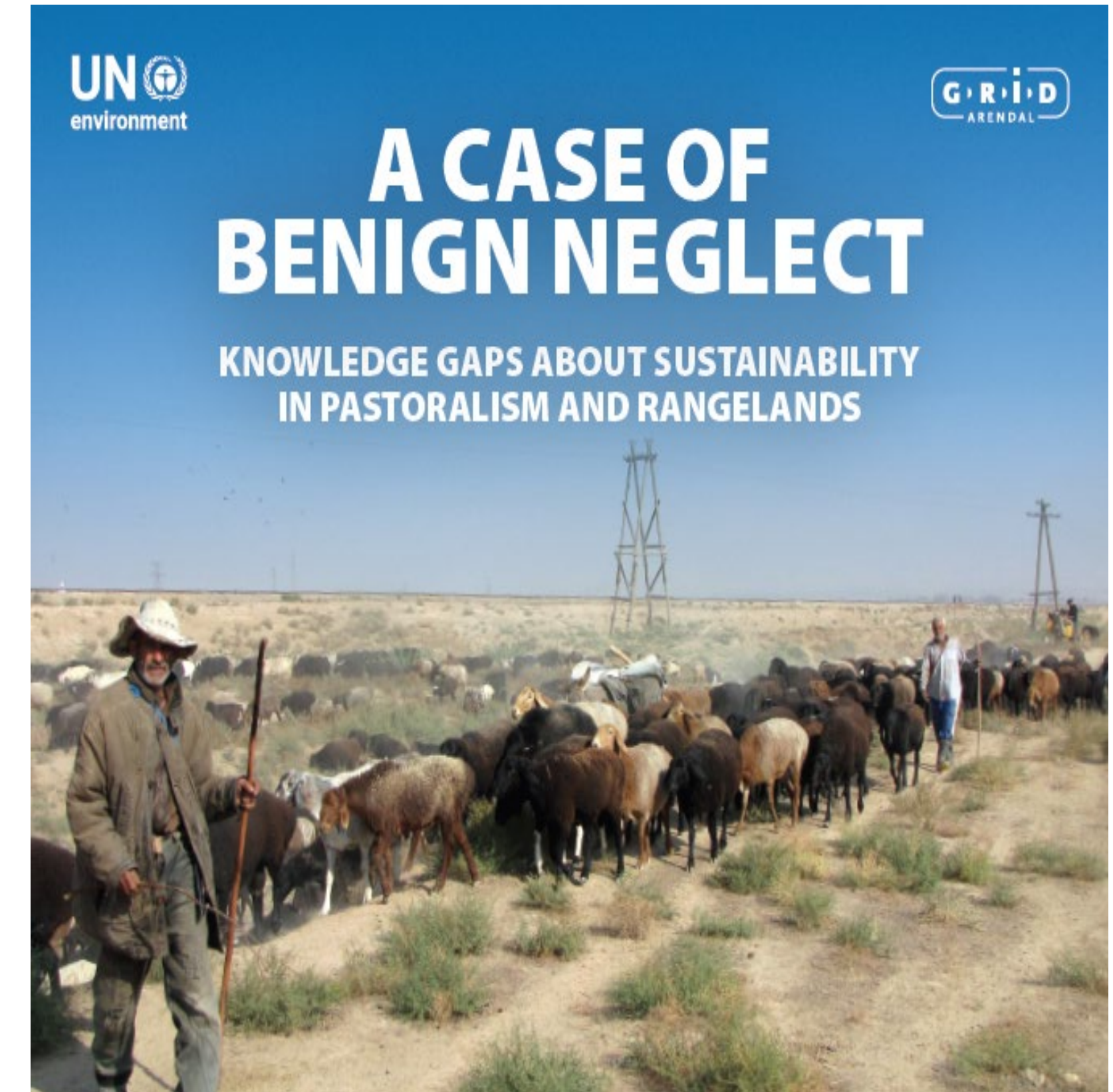




# Why an IYRP 2026?

- Reveal important contributions of rangelands & pastoralists for food security, the economy and the environment
- Break myths and misunderstandings and amplify the voices of pastoralists
- Fill knowledge gaps with more participatory research
- Promote informed, science-based policies and legislation throughout the world
- Increase sustainable and ethical funding and investment in rangelands and for pastoralists

*UNEP Gap Analysis Report:*





# Getting to sustainability

- Rangelands support livelihoods of 500 million people and another 2 billion people along the value chain
- Pastoralist livestock products have high-value protein and are rich in nutrients
- Carbon sinks can be significant in rangeland/pastoral systems
- Rangelands are global biodiversity hotspots and habitats for numerous endangered species and offer valuable grazing land for both livestock & wildlife
- Rangelands cover approximately half of the Earth's land surface

Pastoralism is the Future!

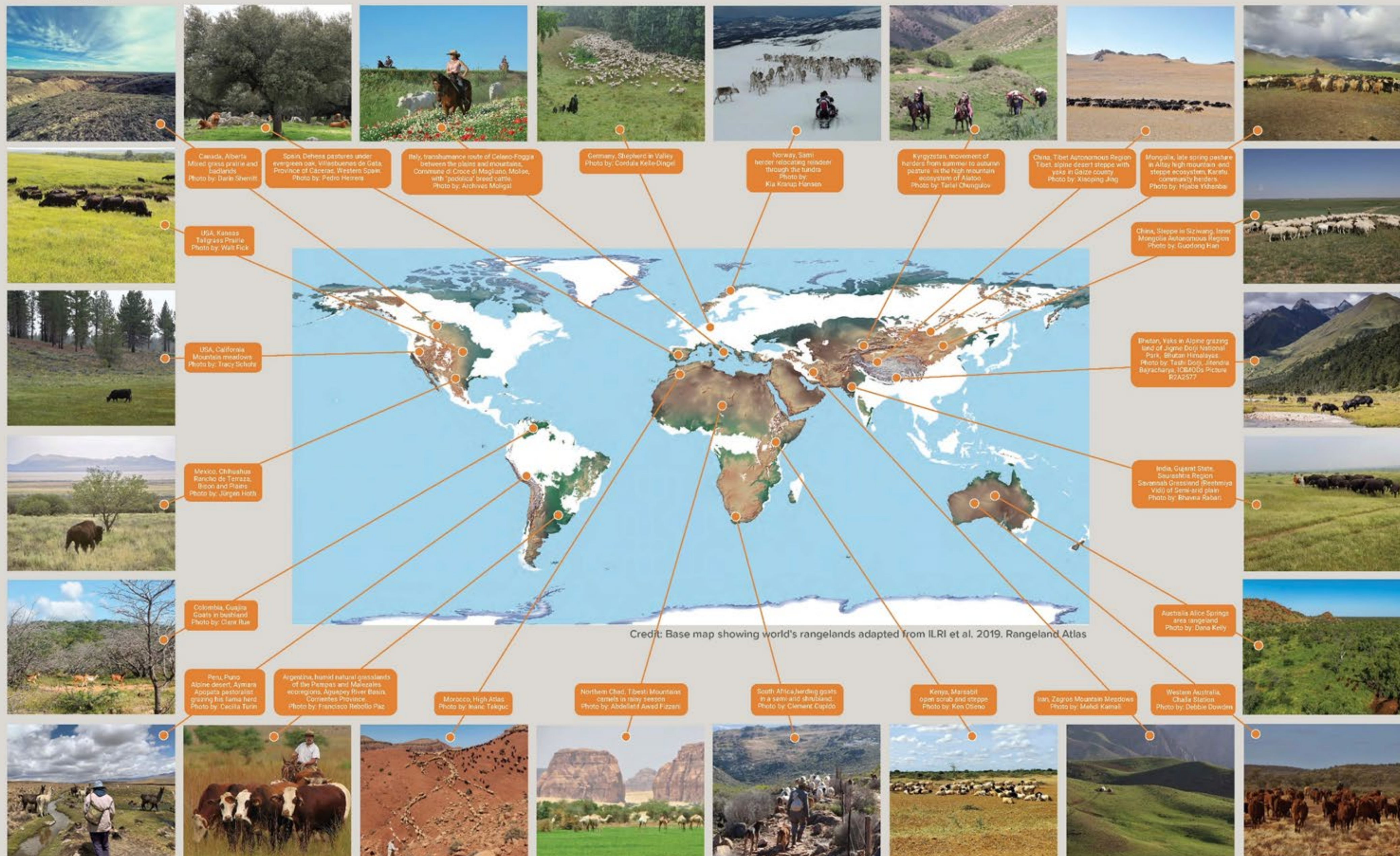
*Film on IYRP YouTube*



© Lawrence Hislop



# DIVERSITY OF RANGELANDS IN THE WORLD



Credit: Base map showing world's rangelands adapted from ILRI et al. 2019, Rangeland Atlas

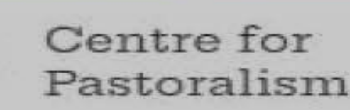
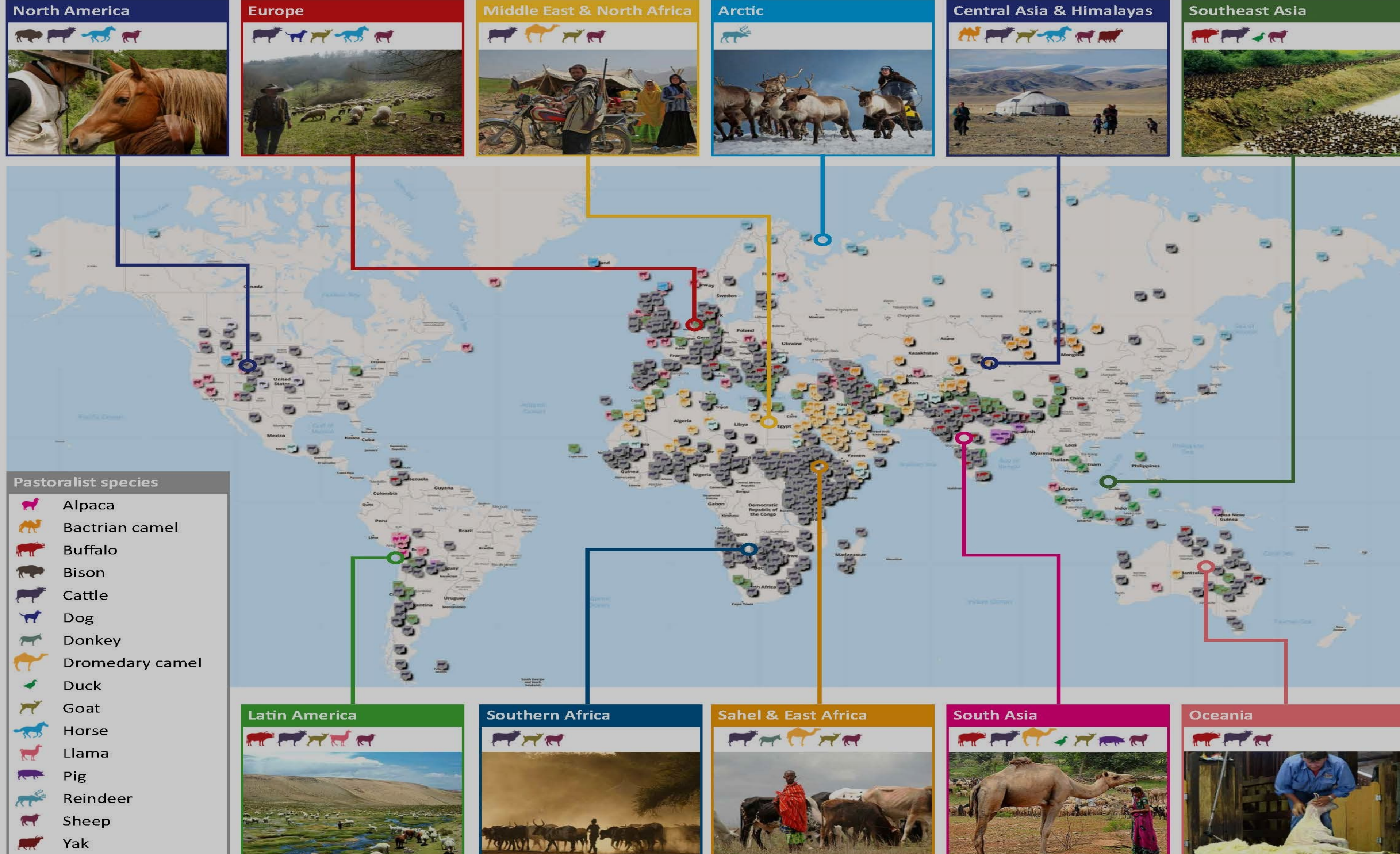


# World map of pastoralists



Paul Mundy, League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development, paul@mamud.com, August 2025

[www.pastoralpeoples.org/pastoralist-map/](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/pastoralist-map/)





# Diversity of animals on rangelands



Maasai cattle Kenya  
© Michael Benanav



Sheep & goats Turkey  
© Michael Benanav



Wildlife Australia  
© Caroline Jones



Camels and donkey Niger  
© Tim Dirven



Bison USA © David Restivo



Yak Mongolia © Rita Willaert



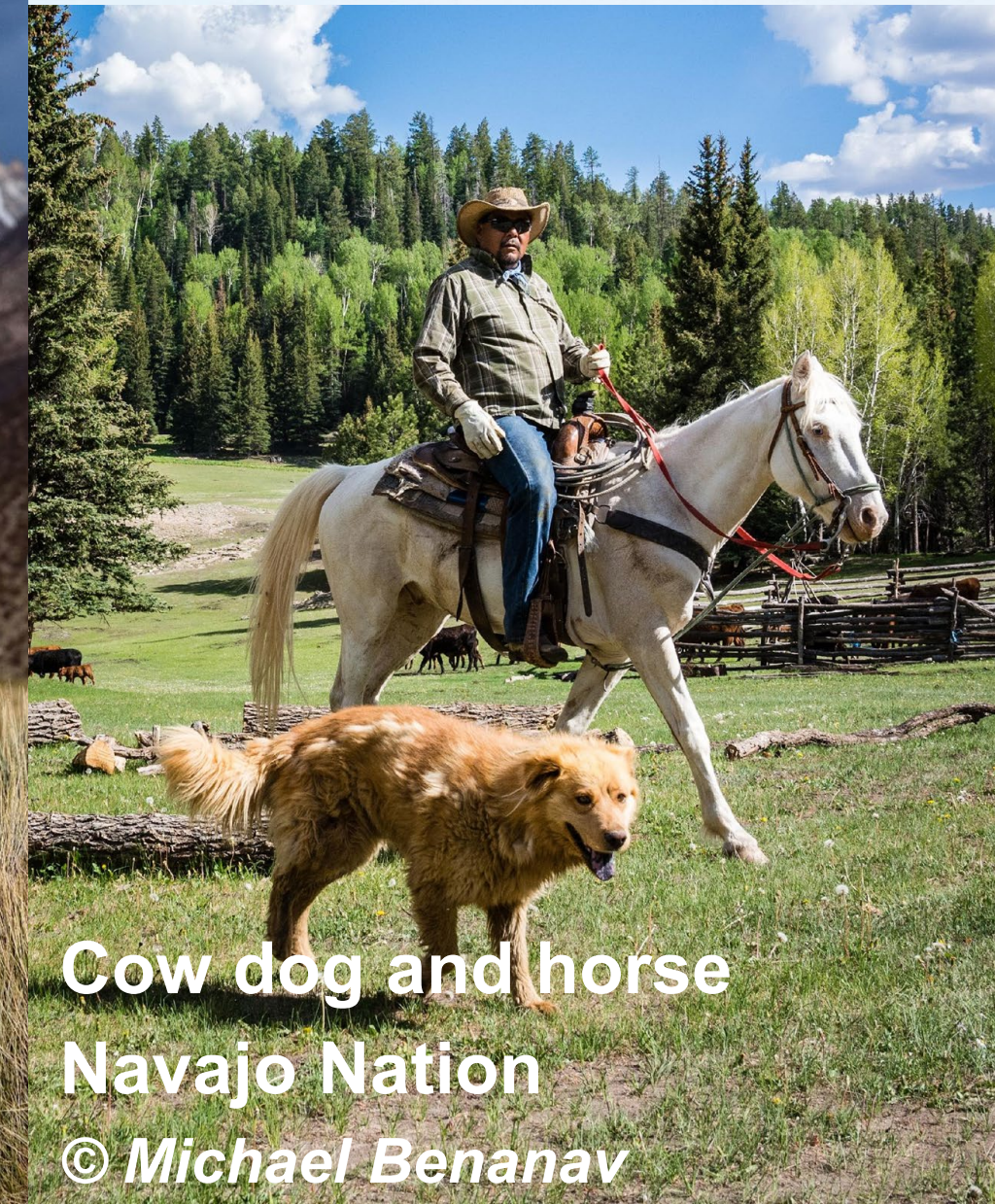
Reindeer Norway  
© Kia Krarup Hansen



Duck India  
© Mr. Vinodh



Llamas Bolivia  
© Michael Benanav



Cow dog and horse  
Navajo Nation  
© Michael Benanav



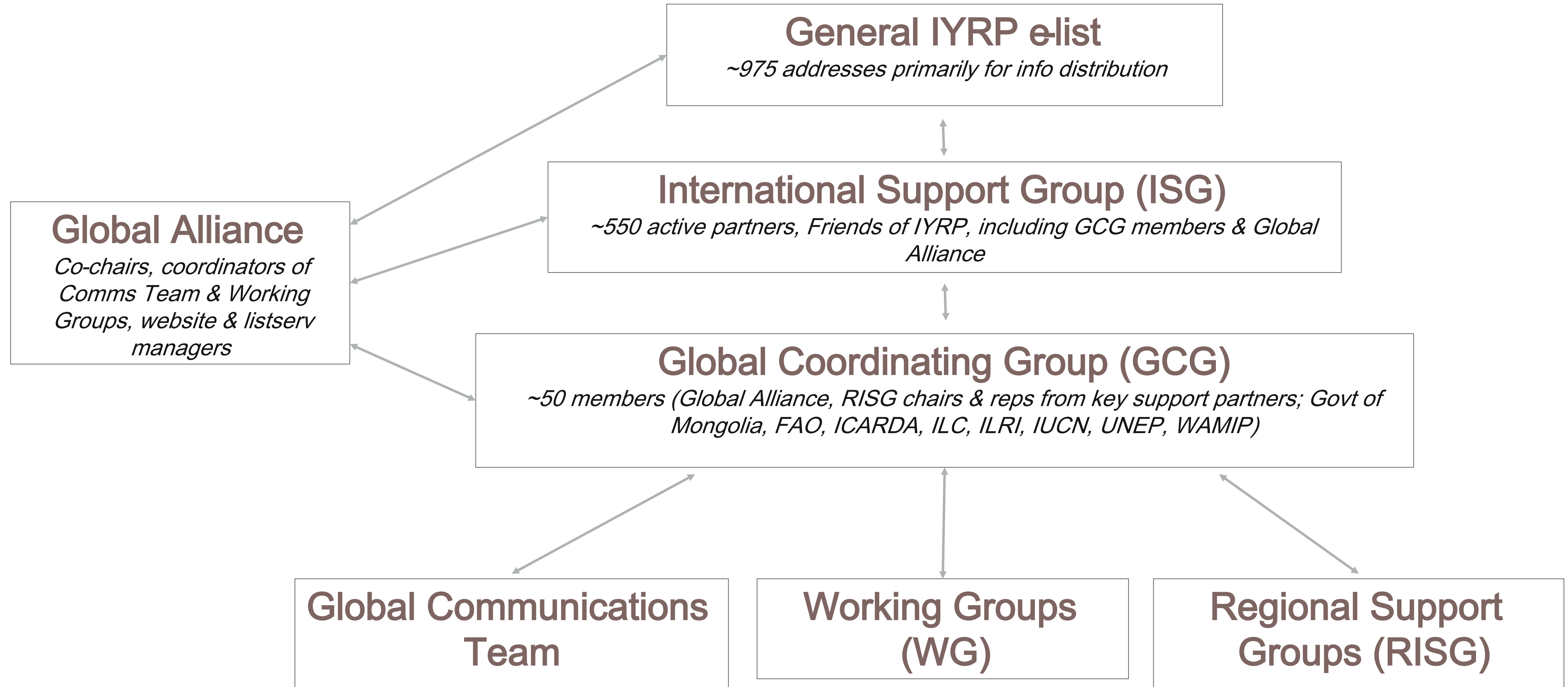
# Short history of the IYRP 2026

- International Rangeland Congress 2008
- IYRP Support Group established in 2016
- In 2022, UN General Assembly declares 2026 as IYRP
- FAO as Lead UN agency
- IYRP Global Alliance— renamed 2024





# Structure of the IYRP coalition





# Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

*Arctic*

*East Asia*

*South Asia*

*Central Asia &  
Mongolia*

*Australasia*

*North Africa & Middle  
East*

*Eastern & Southern  
Africa*

*West & Central Africa*

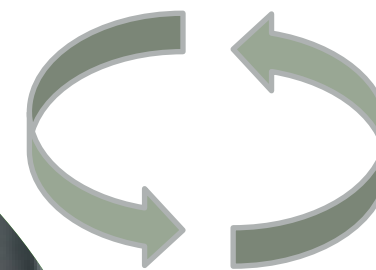
*Europe*

*North America*

*South America*



Impact at  
local level:  
*Promoting  
pastoralist  
organizations &  
their activities*





# IYRP Global Action Plan 2025-2026

## Strategy 1: Multistakeholder Coalition Building

## Strategy 2: Knowledge Generation

## Strategy 3: Celebration & Awareness Raising

## Strategy 4: Policy Advocacy over the next decade

## Strategy 5: Appropriate Investment for rangelands and pastoralists



# IYRP Global Action Plan 20252026

<https://iyrp.info/iyrp-2026-global-action-plan>



# Knowledge generation through thematic Working Groups

## Objectives of Working Groups:

- Greater awareness in science & society about how rangelands & pastoralists contribute to food security, economy, environment & cultural heritage
- Foster changes in national, regional & global policies
- Increase sustainable & ethical investment in rangelands & pastoralist livelihoods

## Tasks of Working Groups:

- Collate and analyse existing research results (science review)
- Stimulate and engage in participatory research to fill gaps and explore opportunities
- Science- and experience-based advocacy with key messages for the public, international bodies, local communities, etc.





# Current Working Groups

1. Afforestation in Rangelands
2. Mountain Pastoralism
3. Pastoralism & Gender
4. Pastoralism & Water
5. Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality
6. Rangelands & Biodiversity
7. Economics of Pastoralism
8. Pastoralist Youth
9. Animal Fibre
10. Pastoralism and climate change





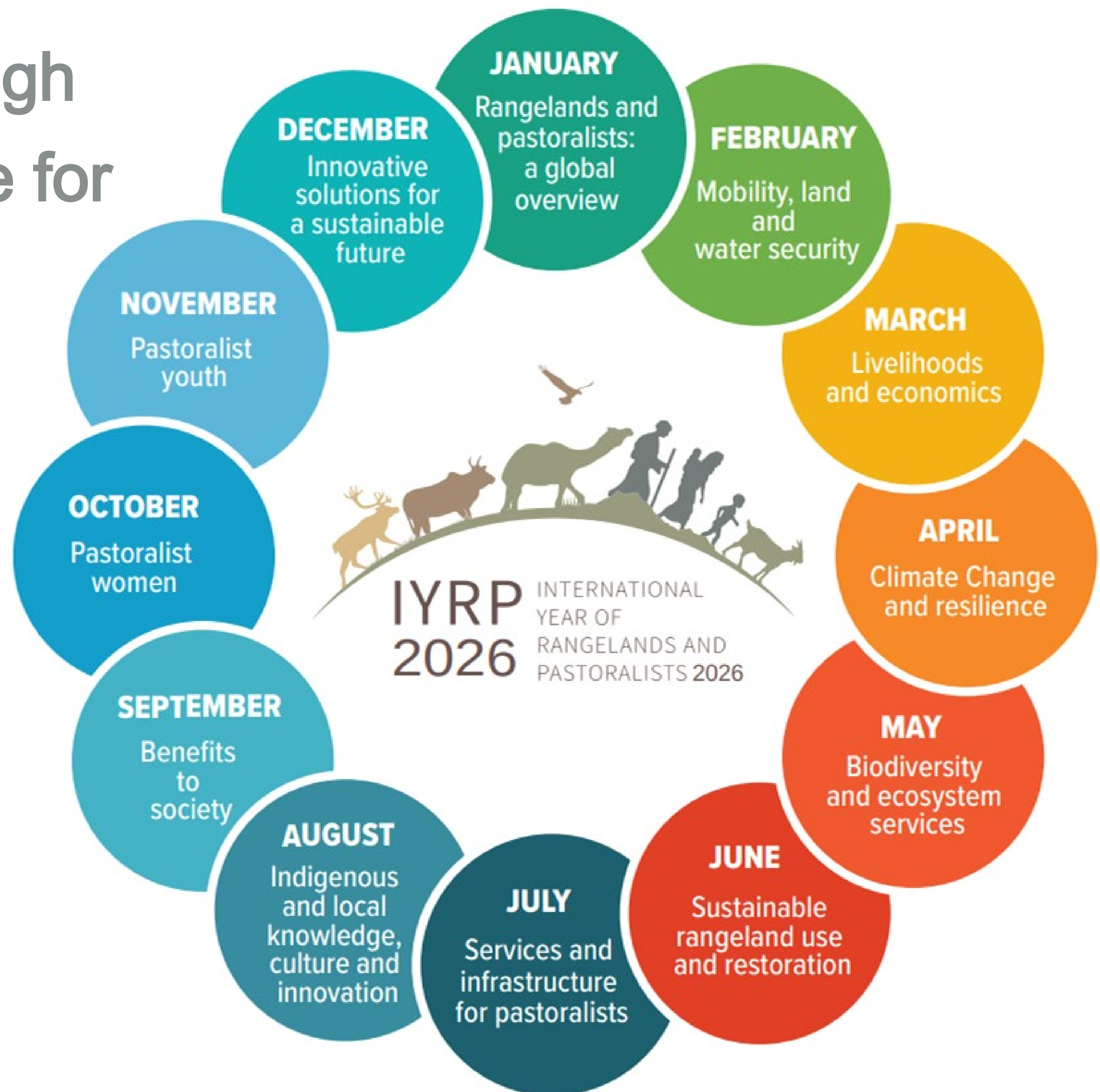
# Raise awareness through 12 global themes ~ one for each month of 2026

## Also showcasing:

- One animal per month
- One pastoralist community per month

Key messages based on findings  
of IYRP Working Groups

Each RISG interprets & implements  
these themes to address regional  
needs & priorities





# Celebrate and raise awareness at all levels

## *Local/National examples:*

- Naadam, Mongolian traditional festival of pastoralists, June every year
- Transhumance: when thousands of sheep walk through Madrid– Oct every year
- Annual Aadi Kidai Pongal Festival, organized by the Tamil Nadu Federation of Pastoral Peoples Sangams (TFPPS)

## *Regional examples:*

- West Africa (agro)pastoralism conference– November 2024 in Senegal
- Southern Africa 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Grassland Society Conf.– July 2025 South Africa
- Regional and global Gatherings of Pastoralists: events focused on herders and cultures, youth and women

## *Global examples:*

- Sámi Mobile Food Lab at World Food Forum-
- International Rangeland Congress IRC 2025– Adelaide, Australia; June 2025
- Global Landscape Forum/ Rangelands- June 2026 in Kenya



Transhumance celebrations, Madrid 2007



# Advocacy for global policy change

*AMCEN (African Ministerial Conference on the Environment) 2017*

*UN Environment Assembly, UNEA4 (March 2019),*

*UNCCD COP 16 (December 2024),*

CMS COP 15 (March 2026), Campo Grande, Brazil





# Equitable investments in rangelands and for pastoralists

Leverage more investment and funding for:

- Pastoralist development programs
- Rangeland restoration
- Protection from conversion

Ensure compliance with ethical and equitable standards





Journey to IYRP 2026 and beyond ~ notable highlights

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 and beyond
IRC 2016	SRM 2017	IYRP ISG (35 NGO + 12 PA)	Tropentag Film Festival	IYRP ISG has 155 members	South Asia RISG Awards	Dana + 20	Trans-humance in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage	IY of Camelids	IYRP ISG has 550 members	Gatherings of pastoralists at national, regional & global levels	Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists
IYRP Steering Comm.	World Reindeer Congress			RISGs	Film: Pastoralists are the future	IY of Mountains	GLF Africa		IRC 2025		International Day of Rangelands and Pastoralists
WISP-NET	IYRP 12 themes	ILC (Tenure)	GASL 2019	IRC/IGC Joint Congress	LPP launches World Map of Pastoralists	PASTRES Briefs	FAO Drylands Summer Schools launched	Rangeland Stewardship Council established	ILRI's STELARR		RSC standards finalized
FAO-PKH	GSSA 2017	CELEP General Mtg	UNEP Benign Neglect Report			Range-land Atlas		ILC Rangeland Tenure Security indicators	RSC standards launched		Global rangelands database
UNEA-2, Res. L.24	Mongolia National Comm.	WB Land & Poverty Conf.	UNEA-4 Res.	IUCN WCG endorses IYRP	UNFSS	UNGA declares IYRP 2026	Participatory grazing guideline Namaqua land, South Africa	UNCCD COP 16 resolution	UNCCD Sec launches Rangeland Flagship program	Events at:	SDG Post 2030 agenda
CBD COP 13 Side Event	AMCEN Resolutn				EU Comm. Of the Regions			South Africa Policy on conversio		UNCCD	Increased funding for rangeland and pastoralist projects
										CBD	
										CMS	
										UNFCCC	



# Road Map 2025-2026: key global points

- *July 2025:* FAO establishes official IYRP Steering Committee
- *July 2025 to May 2026:* Regional pastoralist, women's and youth women gatherings
  - Each will give inputs to the Global Pastoralist Gathering in Mongolia August 2026
- *December 2025:* FAO officially launches the IYRP
- *January 2026:* Start of celebrations and launch of first monthly theme of IYRP
  - Social media, webinars, film festivals and YouTube videos for every month of 2026
- *June 2026:* Global Landscape Forum/Rangelands in Kenya
- *August 2026:* Global Pastoralist Gatherings and other activities at UNCCD COP 17 in Mongolia
- *October 2026:* Global Alliance Gathering at CBD COP 17 in Armenia
- *December 2026:* Closing ceremony of IYRP 2026 and final reporting



# Beyond 2026: calling for a decade of action

- Changes in national, regional, global policies promoting the protection and sustainability of rangelands and pastoralists, fair and equitable benefits and upliftment
- Creation of a Pastoralist Caucus at UNCCD
- Strengthening of the Rangelands and Pastoralists Global Alliance
- Rangeland Stewardship Council and standards for certification of pastoralist products
- Lobbying for an International Day of Rangelands and Pastoralists
- Increased funding and investment for pastoralist-led programmes
- Global data base of rangelands and pastoralists





A large flock of sheep, mostly white with some black, is moving through a mountain valley. They are walking along a path that runs alongside a river. In the background, there are steep, rocky mountains and snow-capped peaks under a cloudy sky. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the path where the sheep are moving.

# Join us for the IYRP!

<https://iyrp.info/>  
[iyrp2026@gmail.com](mailto:iyrp2026@gmail.com)