

# 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

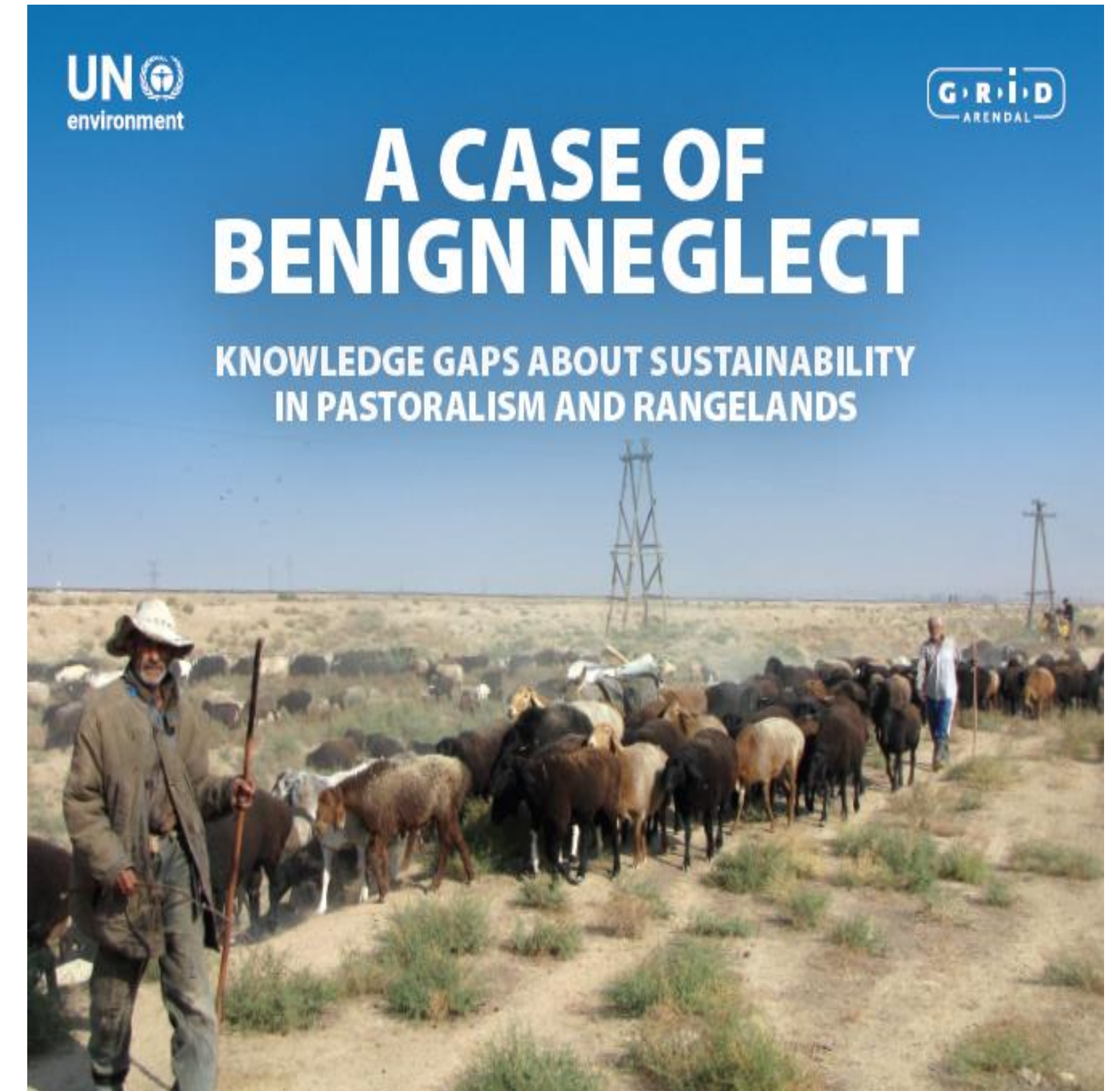




# Why an IYRP 2026?

- Reveal important contributions of rangelands & pastoralists for food security, the economy and the environment
- Break myths and misunderstandings about rangelands and pastoralists 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

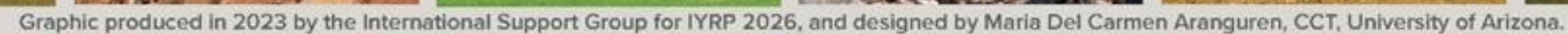
- Rangelands support livelihoods of 500 million people and another 2 billion people along the value chain
- Pastoralist livestock products have high-value protein and are rich in nutrients
- Carbon sinks can be significant in rangeland/pastoral systems
- Rangelands are global biodiversity hotspots and 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*







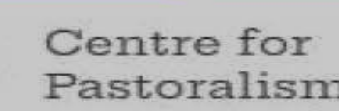
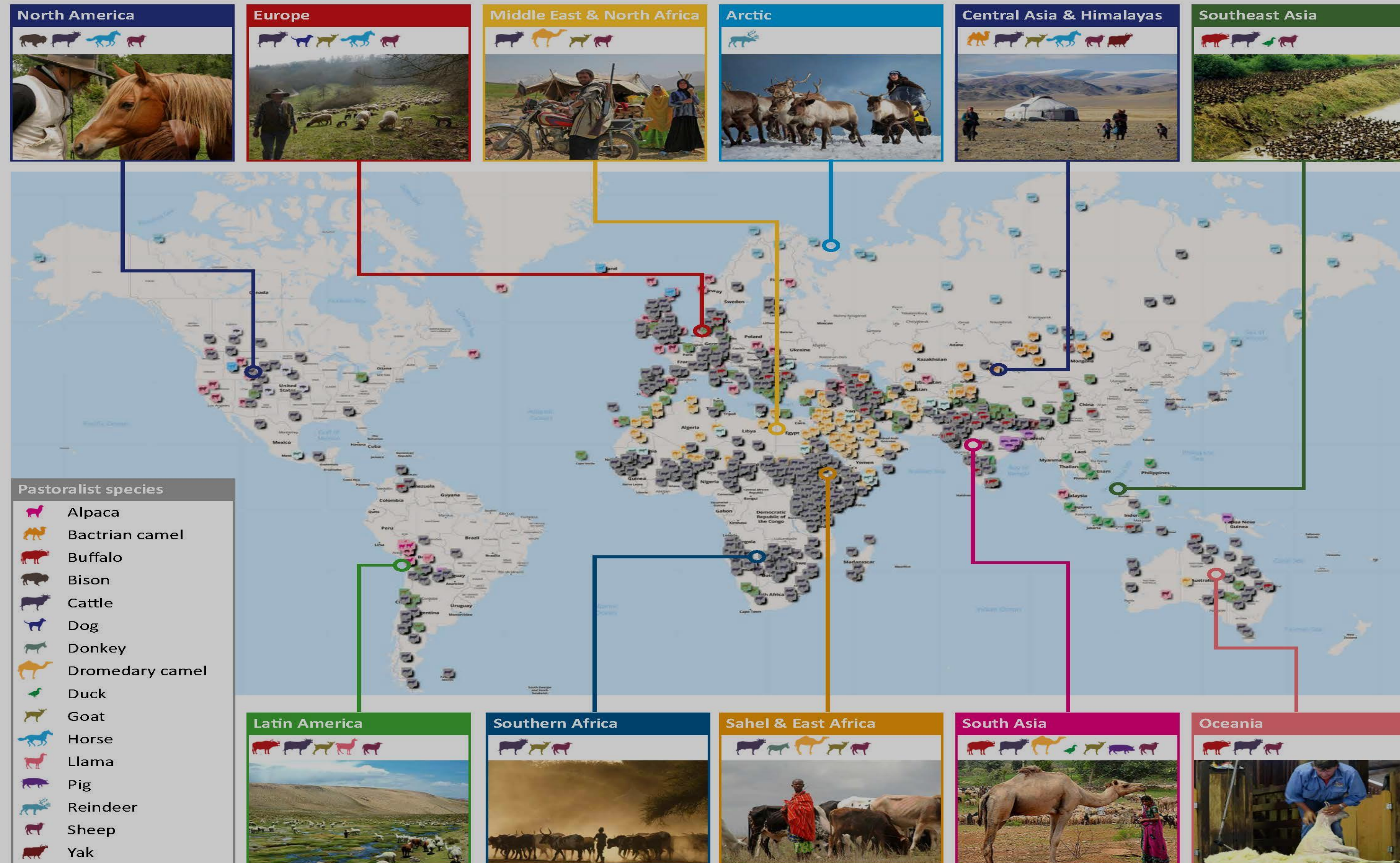


# World map of pastoralists



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



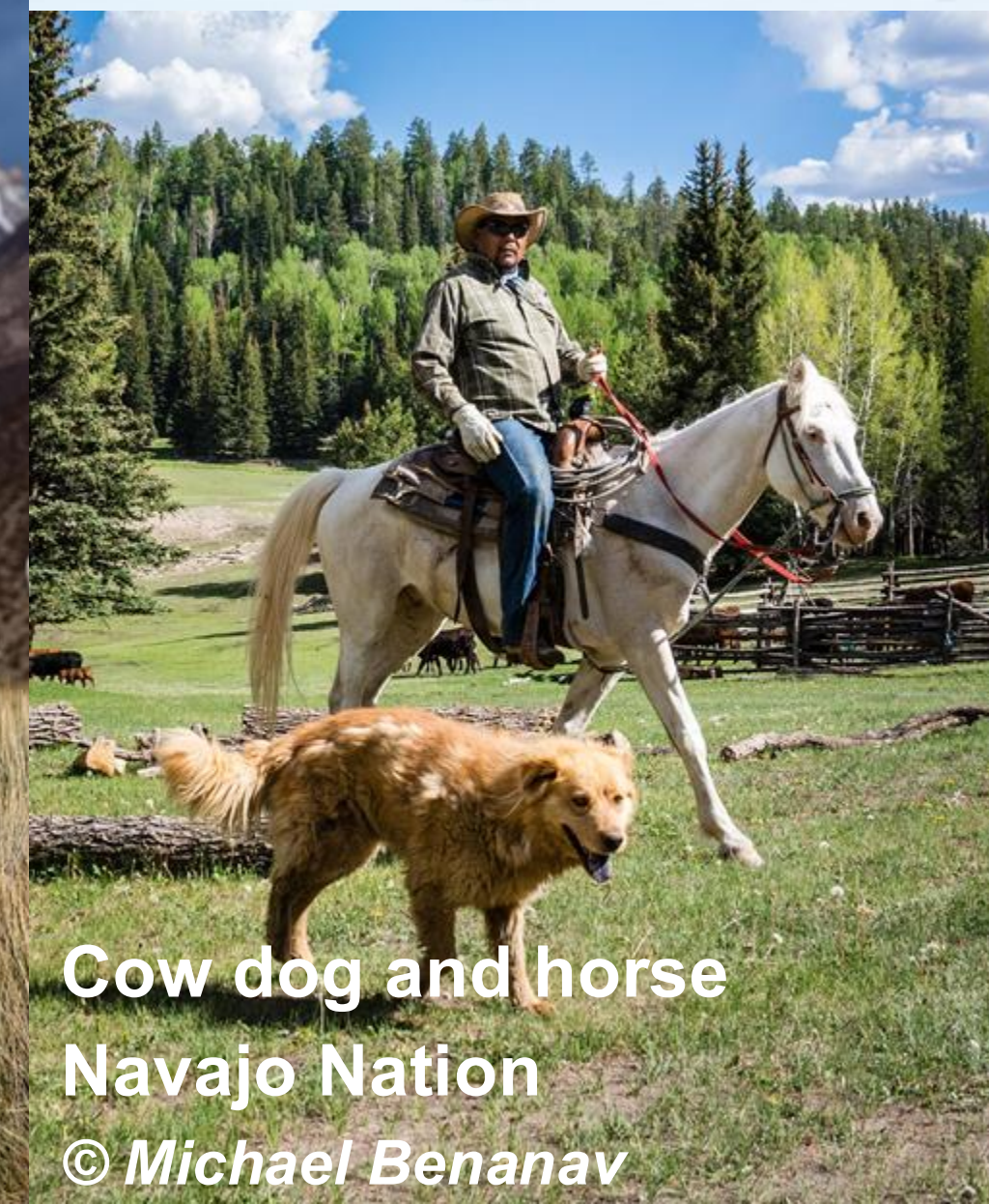
**Reindeer Norway**  
© Kia Krarup Hansen



**Duck India**  
© Mr. Vinodh



**Llamas Bolivia**  
© Michael Benanav



**Cow dog and horse Navajo Nation**  
© Michael Benanav



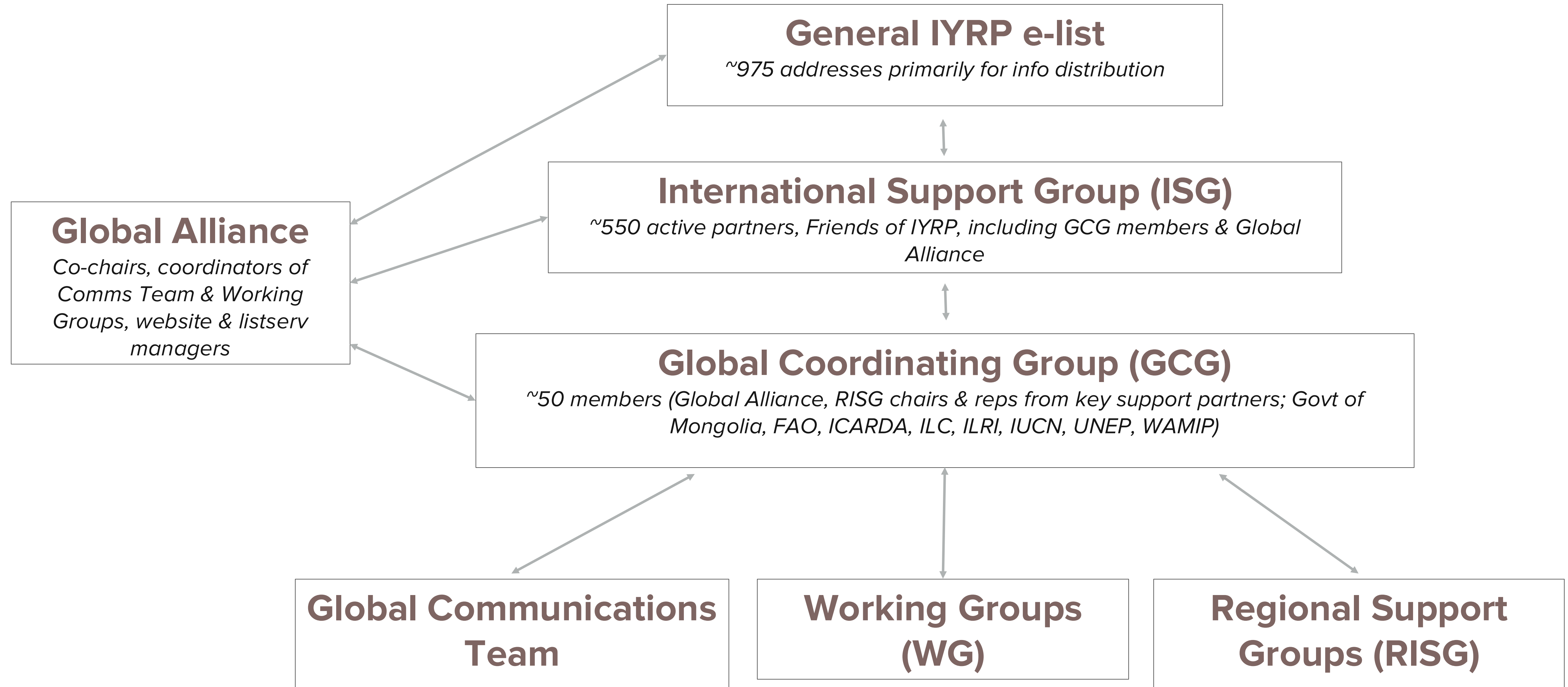
# Short history of the IYRP 2026

- 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***

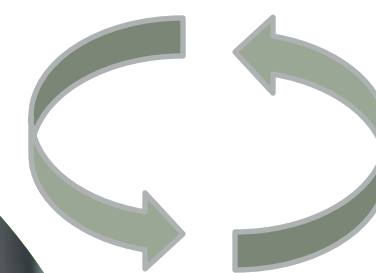
***Europe***

***North America***

***South America***



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





# IYRP Global Action Plan 2025-2026

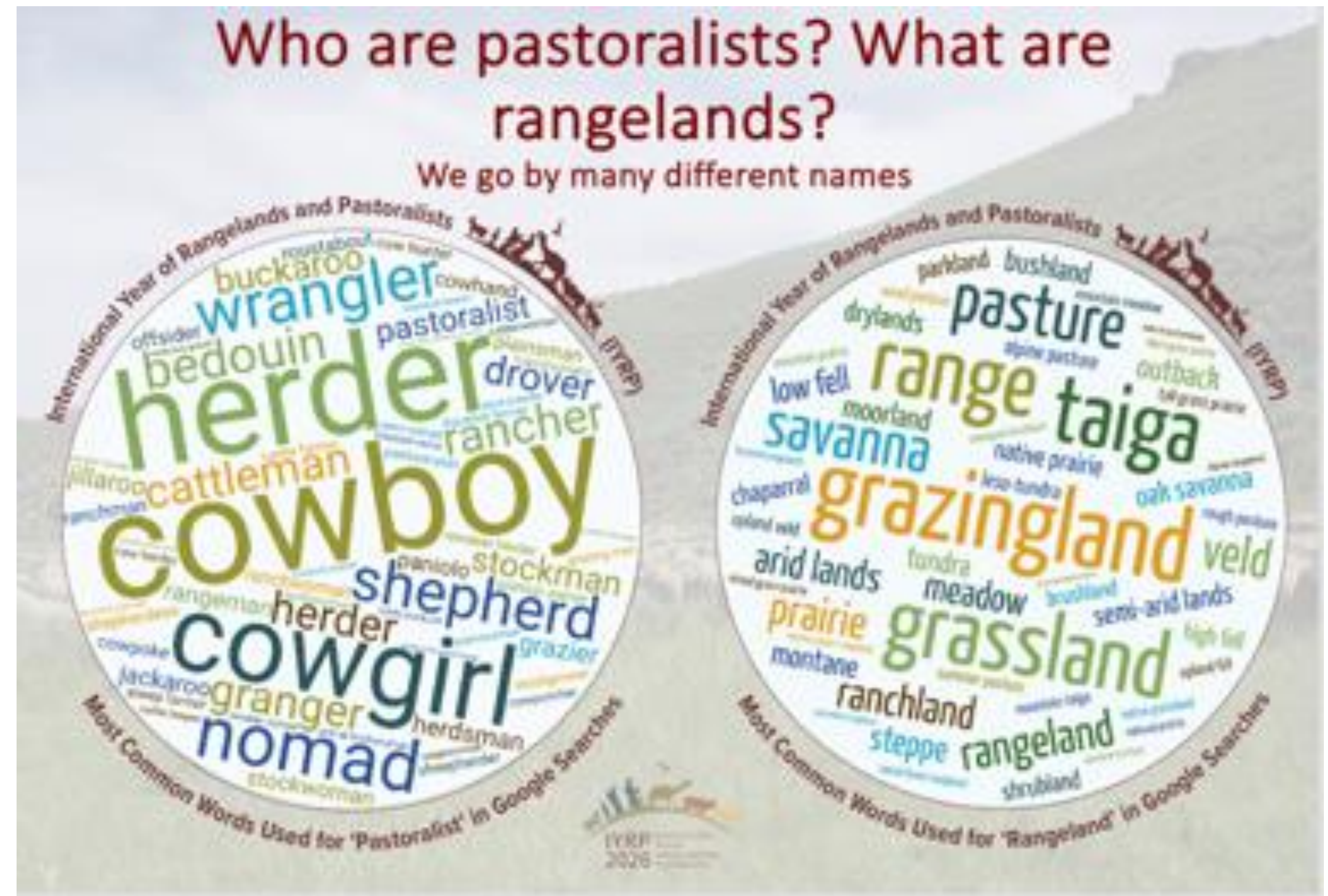
Strategy 1: Multi-stakeholder  
Coalition Building

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 2025-2026

<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. Pastoralism & Gender
3. Pastoralism & Water
4. Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality
5. Rangelands & Biodiversity
6. Economics of Pastoralism
7. Pastoralist Youth
8. Pastoralism and land rights
9. Pastoralism and climate change
10. Carbon markets
11. Pastoralist Fibre





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



# IYRP Pastoralist Gatherings 2025-2026





# 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





# Join us for the IYRP!

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