

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 8th NATIONAL RANGELAND FORUM ON "ENSURING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH HERDERS"

In recent years, the availability of rangeland resources basic foundation for the sustainable development of nomadic livestock husbandry have been deteriorating. As a result, the habitats of native livestock breeds, plant species, and wildlife that have evolved and adapted over thousands of years to Mongolia's harsh continental climate through natural selection are shrinking. This has led to a decline in biodiversity and emerging signs of ecological imbalance. According to research conducted over the past decade, approximately 65% of the steppe region approximately 72 million hectares has been degraded; however, its natural capacity for regeneration remains intact. If the grazing pressure is reduced and livestock numbers are gradually adjusted to match the carrying capacity of the rangeland through a step-by-step policy implementation, nature has the potential to regenerate on its own.

The 8th National Rangeland Forum of Mongolia under the theme "The Participation of Women and Youth Herders in Ensuring the Sustainable Development of the Livestock Sector" was held on September 23–24, 2025, at the Cultural Center of Uguumur Hot Spring Sanatorium, Taragt Soum, Uvurkhangai Province. The 8th National Forum brought together over 140 participants, including representatives from Mongolia's central government authorities, international projects and programs, local administrations, herders from various provinces, primary herder household associations, herder cooperatives, provincial and soum-level herder and pasture user groups, as well as domestic and international NGOs. During the forum, more than 20 presentations and informational reports were discussed, over 10 poster presentations were displayed, and four group discussions were organized.

At this year's Rangeland Forum, two women herders were selected to represent Mongolia at the upcoming Asian Regional Conference of Women Herders.

Based on these, the following recommendations were developed.

To the Government of Mongolia and the Central Administrative Authorities Responsible for Agriculture and for Labor and Social Protection:

1. Create a policy and legal framework that integrates both the rights and responsibilities of herders in the usage, restoration, improvement, and protection of rangelands. This will enable herders to better adapt to climate change and the ongoing changes in rangeland use, while also ensuring the future sustainability of Mongolia's pastoral livestock sector and strengthening national food security by improving the condition of rangelands to an adequate level.
2. As natural ecosystems function as an integrated whole that supports our living environment, their continuous and stable operation must be maintained. To prevent degradation and loss of rangeland quality, it is essential to urgently establish and implement legal mechanisms that enable contract-based rangeland usage through primary herder household associations.
3. To enhance and activate the participation of women herders and youth in the sustainable and intensive development of livestock husbandry, develop and implement a policy based on a gender assessment of the agricultural sector that ensures gender equality within the sector.
4. Establish a sustainable system of support and incentives from the government to ensure the succession of young herders and to create favorable living and working conditions for youth herders in rural areas.
5. Conduct baseline studies on inbreeding among rural herders and on social health with the support of state health administration, and develop and implement long- and medium-term strategic plans, policies, and programs based on these studies.
6. To ensure the sustainable development of livestock husbandry, provide financial support from the government to breeding and technology units that directly carry out the raising of nucleus breeding herds using improved livestock breeds suited to the regional characteristics.
7. Develop and implement a policy to establish a traceability system for animal-origin products based on a unified livestock registration system by tagging all types of livestock with ear tags, chips, and codes, thereby ensuring food safety and security.
8. To implement Clause 3.5.2.2 of the National Security Concept of Mongolia, which states: "Establish the legal framework for imposing rangeland use fees, granting possession rights, ensuring protection, and enforcing responsibilities for restoration; and based on

the current condition and future trends of rangelands, revise the carrying capacity for each region to ensure an appropriate balance in livestock numbers, species, and herd structure.”

9. Urgently develop and implement a strategic plan of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 5.28 million tons in the agricultural sector by 2030, in line with Mongolia’s nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, ratified by the State Great Khural of Mongolia and approved by the Government of Mongolia. Additionally, expand the domestic carbon market to fulfill the country's commitments.
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11. Since the livestock head tax is set differently across localities and the categories for the use of collected taxes are overly broad, which undermines the fundamental principles established by Mongolia’s General Tax Law—namely clarity, necessity, and fairness—a draft law proposing amendments and additions should be developed and submitted to the State Great Khural for deliberation.
12. Within the framework of the Year of Rangeland and Nomadic Livestock Herders in 2026, promote the unique characteristics of Mongolia’s rangeland livestock sector internationally, and organize broad-based social discussions to identify and address urgent issues threatening nomadic livestock husbandry, while determining solutions.

To Local Citizen's Representative Khurala and Governors at all levels:

1. Pay special attention to creating a favorable conditions for young herders to work and live in the local area, and focus on developing policies and practical incentive mechanisms that encourage and support the youth and women enterprenuership.
2. Organize public consultations at the local level on issues such as the adequacy of herders and gender concerns, identify pressing problems, and incorporate them into the soum governor’s action plan and the soum’s medium- and long-term development plans for implementation.
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5. To support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improvement of livestock feed resources, and enhancement of livestock breeds, local self-governing and administrative organizations shall promote and support the introduction to herder household associations and cooperatives of innovative practices and technologies such as producing nutritious grass pellets and silage, improving haymaking fields, providing supplementary feeding for pregnant and lactating animals, processing and utilizing livestock manure, as well as applying artificial insemination and embryo transfer.
6. Increase the funding sources for green loans provided to herders and other agricultural producers, and focus on developing a system to account for, report, and verify the private sector’s contributions to green development and climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.
7. Collaborate with local banks, financial institutions, and professional educational organizations to improve herders’ financial literacy, and focus on implementing skills-based educational programs in areas such as tourism, handicrafts, product development, and product marketing.
8. Develop and implement locally tailored regulations and incentives that support the stable settlement and active participation of young herders in the area. Pay special attention to providing initial financial and material assistance to young herders affected by disasters such as dzud (severe winter conditions) to help them rebuild their herds.

To Primary Herder Household Associations and Participants in Herder Self-Governance Organizations:

1. Implement the MNS:6891:2025 “Responsible Nomad” Good practice standards for sustainable rangeland livestock practices in Mongolia to increase competitiveness of nomadic herders in both domestic and international markets.

2. Promote to other herders the example of primary herder household associations and cooperatives that sell traceable animal raw materials at incentivized prices, and assist members in adopting standards for the preparation of animal-origin raw materials.
3. To secure customary rights to grazing land, primary herder household associations should promptly organize and lead the process of long-term contractual use of pastures by their member herders within the framework of laws and regulations.
4. Within their legal authority, herder household associations should protect the rights and interests of their members, support the youth and women entrepreneurship, facilitate the marketing and sale of members' animal-origin products, and, in cooperation with local government and non-governmental organizations, organize initiatives to adapt to and mitigate climate change—such as collecting snow and rainwater, creating wetlands and ponds, maintaining snow cover on hayfields, breaking ice, and preparing hay and feed.
5. Local herder self-governance organizations should actively work to maintain the current carbon sequestration capacity of pastures and soils, actively utilize mechanisms to receive incentives from the carbon market, initiate projects and programs, and collaborate with professional organizations.

In connection with the Paris Agreement to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Mongolia's commitment to implement its nationally determined contributions within the targeted timeframe, and in recognition of the UN General Assembly's declaration of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Nomadic Livestock Herders, the participants of the National VIII Rangeland Forum unanimously support and call for active and leading participation in all activities organized to reduce the impacts of climate change, implement the global sustainable development goals, and preserve and pass on to future generations the rich heritage of nomadic culture and environmentally friendly traditions of rangeland livestock herding.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE NATIONAL RANGELAND FORUM

23 September 2025

Uvurkhangai Province, Taragt soum, Uguumur Hot Spring Resort