

Roadmap for IYRP 2026

IYRP Global Alliance
Global Secretariat
Updated Sept 2025



IYRP
2026 INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS

Outline of the presentation

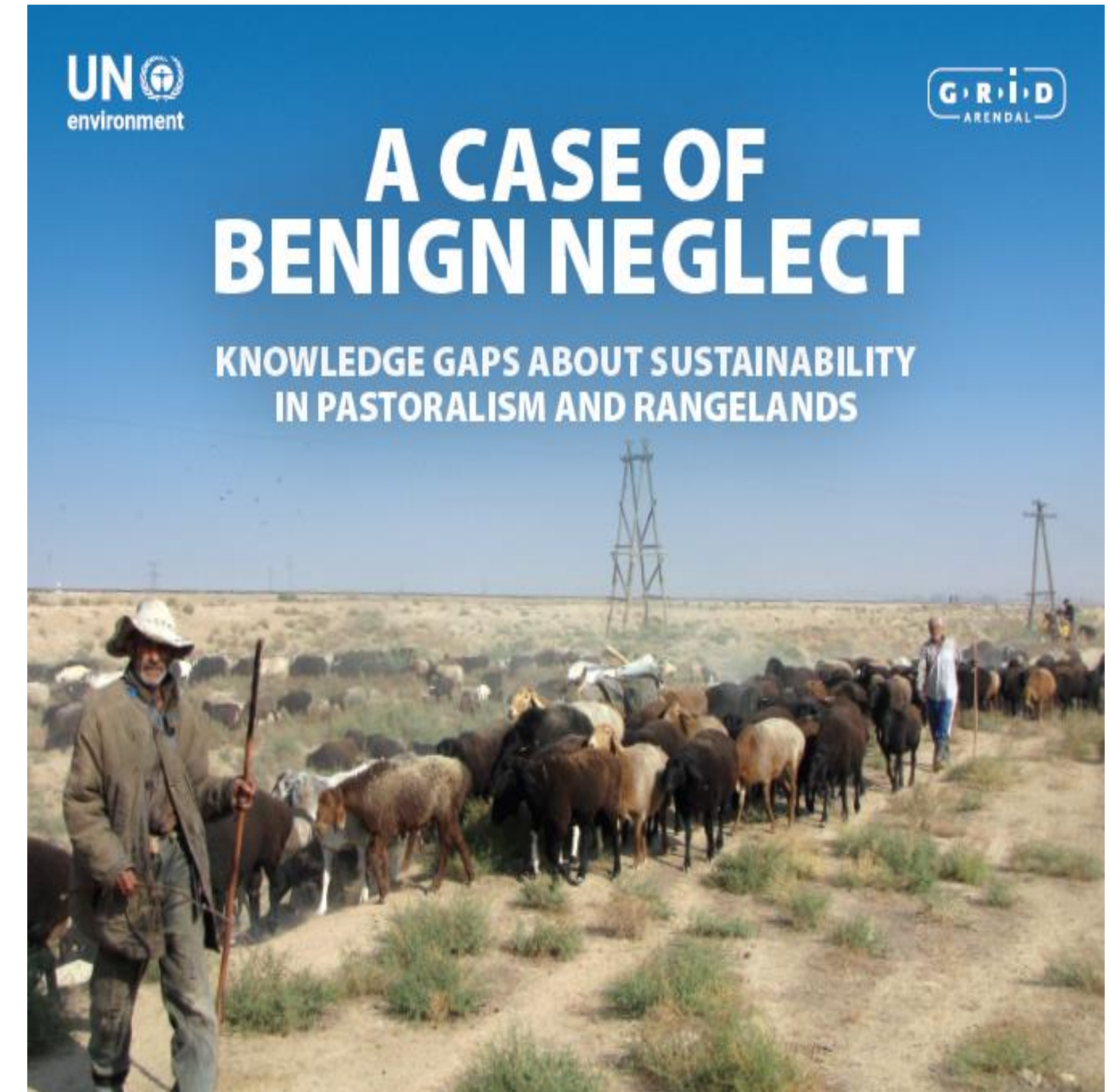
- Why do we need an International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists?
- Short history and structure of the IYRP Global Alliance
- Global Action Plan for IYRP 2026
- Road map 2025-2026
- Beyond 2026



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



DIVERSITY OF RANGELANDS IN THE WORLD

Canada, Alberta
 Mixed grass prairie and badlands
 Photo by: Darin Sherritt

Spain, Dehesa pastures under evergreen oak, Villabuena de Gata, Province of Cáceres, Western Spain
 Photo by: Pedro Herrera

Italy, transhumance route of Celero-Foggia between the plains and mountains, Comune di Croce di Magliano, Molise, with "paolina" breed cattle
 Photo by: Archives Moligi

Germany, Shepherd in Valley
 Photo by: Coelina Kelle-Dingel

Norway, Sami herder relocating reindeer through the tundra
 Photo by: Kå Kristof Hansen

Kyrgyzstan, reindeer of herders from summer to autumn pasture in the high mountain ecosystem of Alatau
 Photo by: Taniel Changalov

China, Tibet-Autonomous Region Tibet, alpine desert steppe with yaks in Gaize county
 Photo by: Xiaoping Jing

Mongolia, late spring pasture in Altay high mountain and steppe ecosystem, Karshu community herders
 Photo by: Hijahe Ykhanba

USA, Kansas Tallgrass Prairie
 Photo by: Walt Fick

USA, California Mountain meadows
 Photo by: Tracy Scholz

Mexico, Chihuahuan Rangeland de Tornata, Bacon and Plains
 Photo by: Jürgen Hoth

Colombia, Guajira Goats in bushland
 Photo by: Clara Ruiz

Peru, Puno Alpine desert, Aymara Acopiya pastorals grazing his lama herd
 Photo by: Cecilia Torre

Argentina, humid natural grasslands of the Parana and Misiones ecotones, Aquapey River Basin, Corrientes Province
 Photo by: Francisco Rebollo Paz

Morocco, High Atlas
 Photo by: Inane Telgic

Northern Chad, Tibesti Mountains camels in rainy season
 Photo by: Abdeljelil Awad Fazzari

South Africa, herding goats in a semi-arid shrubland
 Photo by: Clement Cupido

Kenya, Maasai open scrub and steppe
 Photo by: Ken Otieno

Iran, Zagros Mountains Meadows
 Photo by: Mahdi Karaki

Western Australia, Chilla Station
 Photo by: Debbie Dowden

Australia Alice Springs area rangeland
 Photo by: Dana Kelly

India, Gujarat State, Saurashtra Region Savanna Grassland (Reetmiva Vidi) of Semi-arid plain
 Photo by: Bhavini Rabari

Bhutan, Yaks in Alpine grazing land of Jigme Dorji National Park, Gasa, Himalayas
 Photo by: Tashi Dorji, Jigme Bayracharya, ICBAD's Picare R2A3577

China, Steppe in Sichuan, Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region
 Photo by: Guofeng Han

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

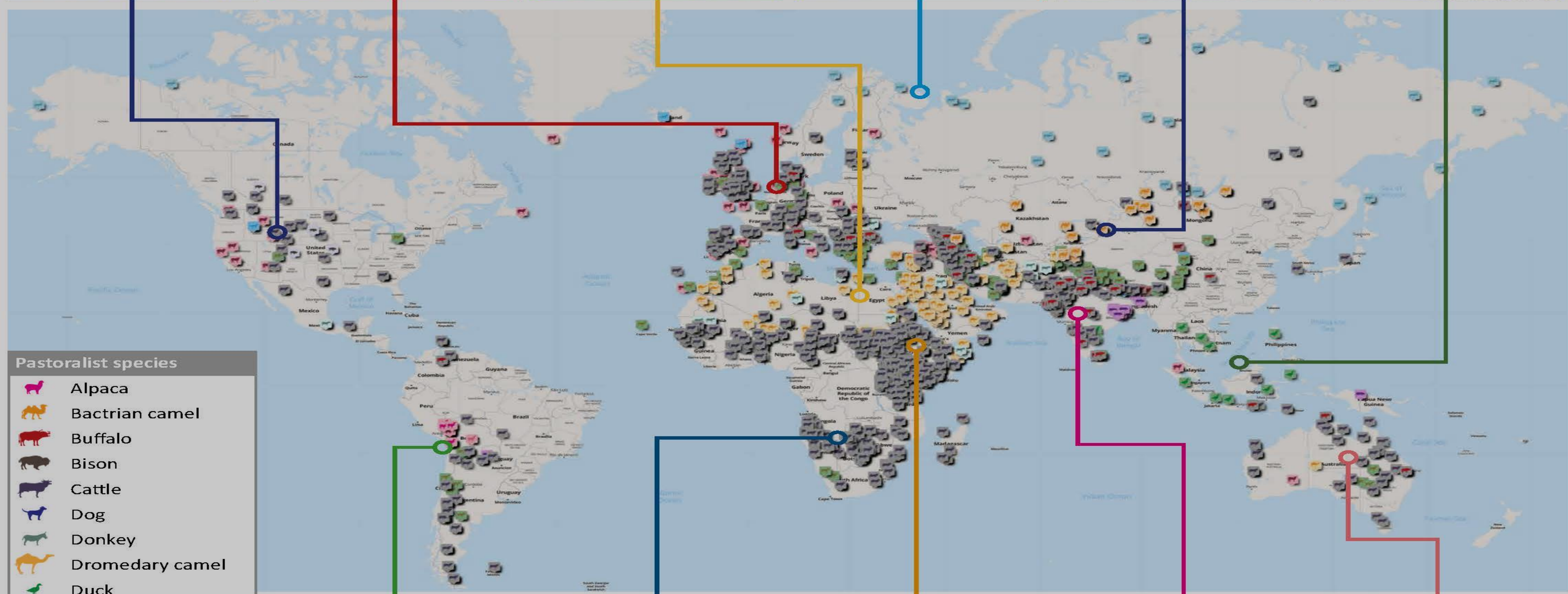
World map of pastoralists



LEAGUE FOR PASTORAL PEOPLES AND ENDOGENOUS LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

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

www.pastoralpeoples.org/pastoralist-map/



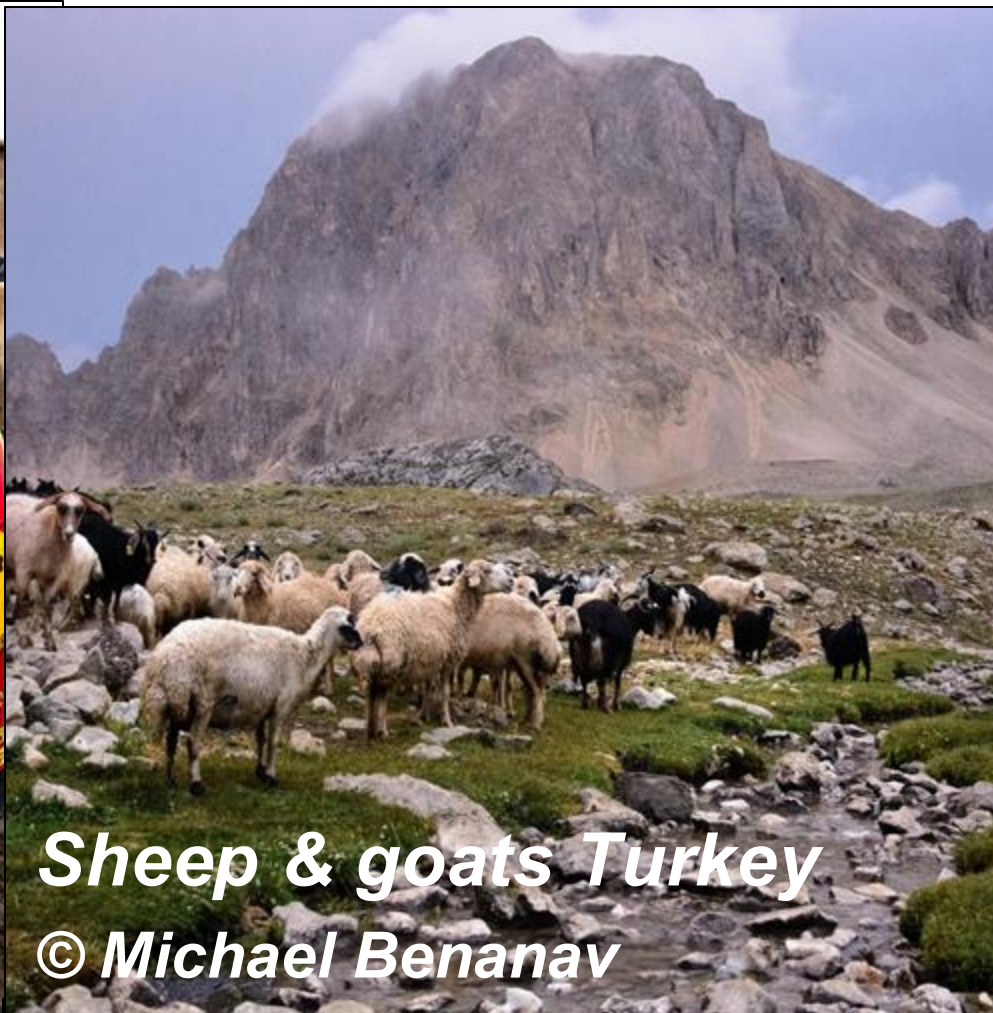
- Pastoralist species**
- Alpaca
 - Bactrian camel
 - Buffalo
 - Bison
 - Cattle
 - Dog
 - Donkey
 - Dromedary camel
 - Duck
 - Goat
 - Horse
 - Llama
 - Pig
 - Reindeer
 - Sheep
 - Yak



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



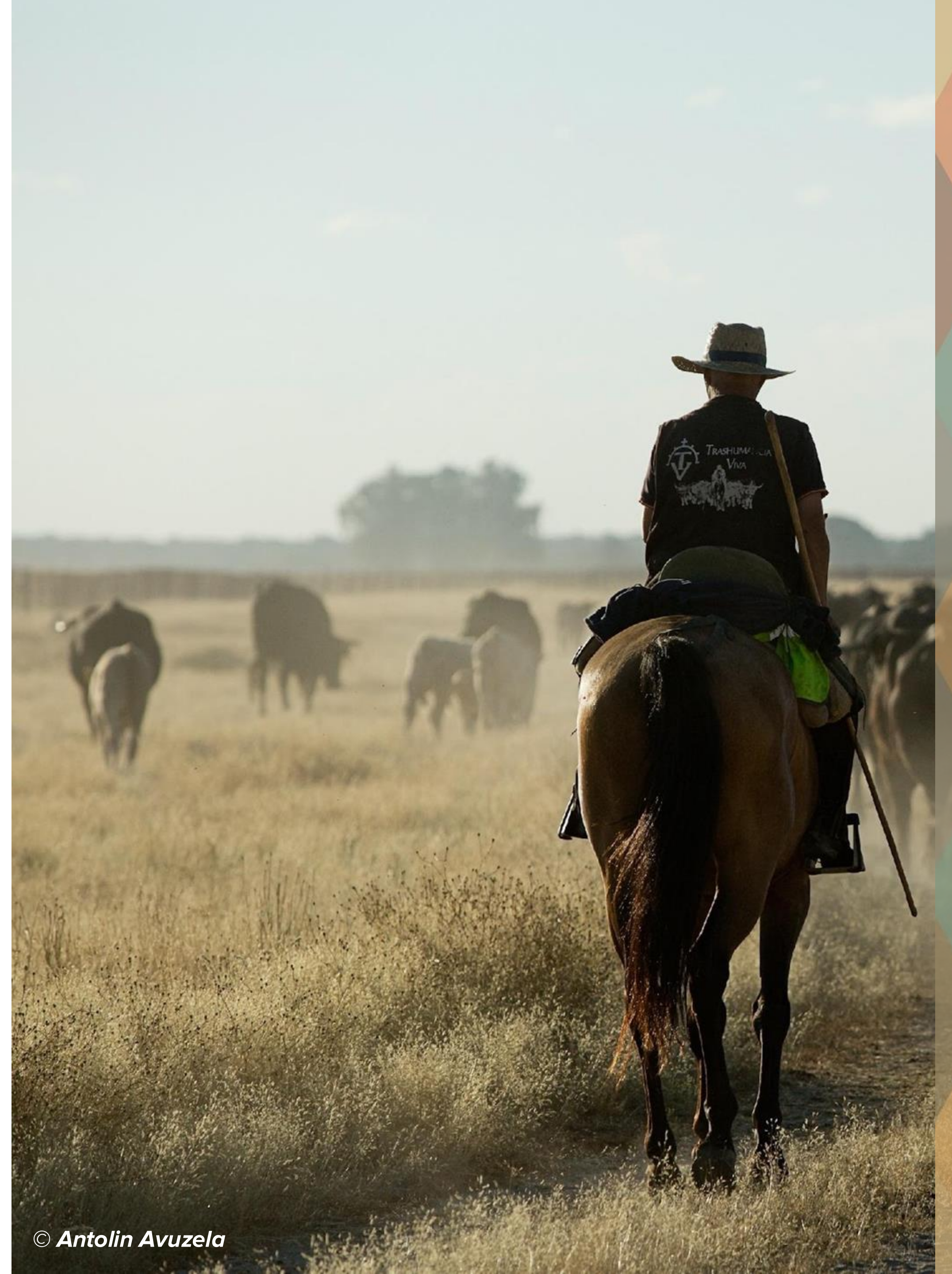
Llamas Bolivia
© Michael Benanav



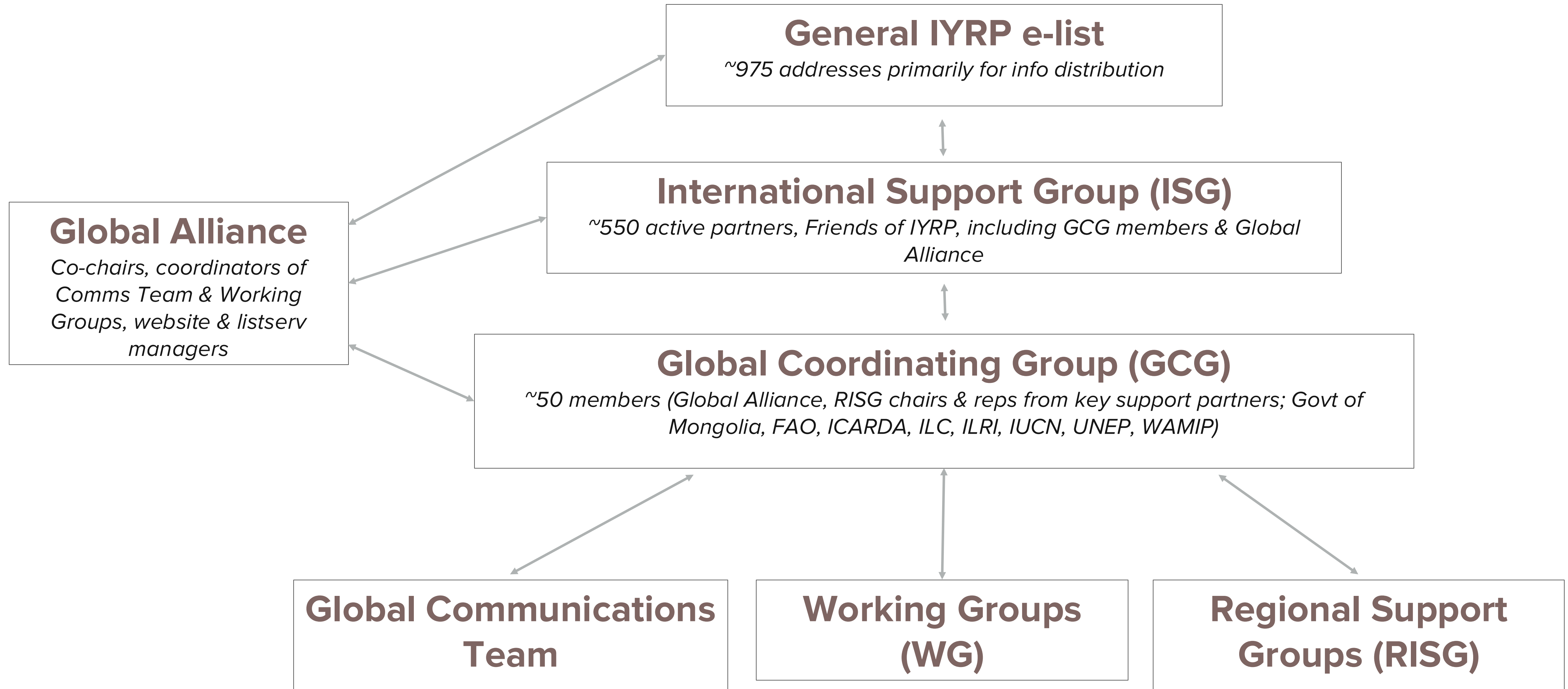
Cow dog and horse
Navajo Nation
© Michael Benanav

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

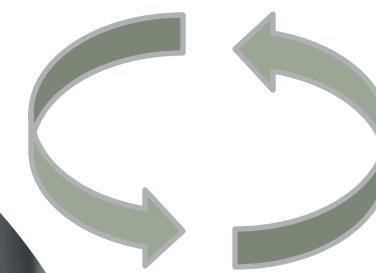
Europe

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>

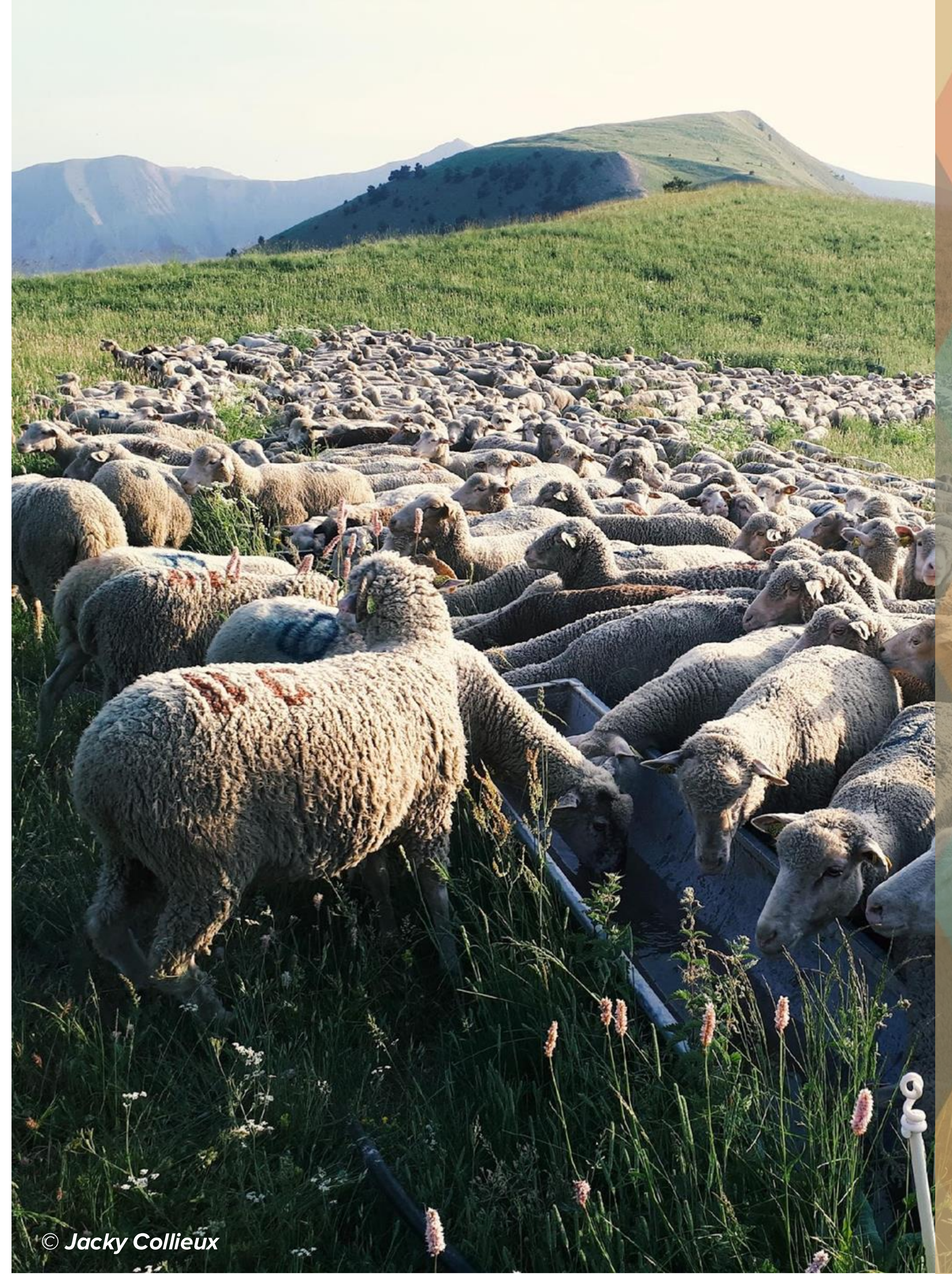
Knowledge generation through thematic Working Groups

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 60th 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

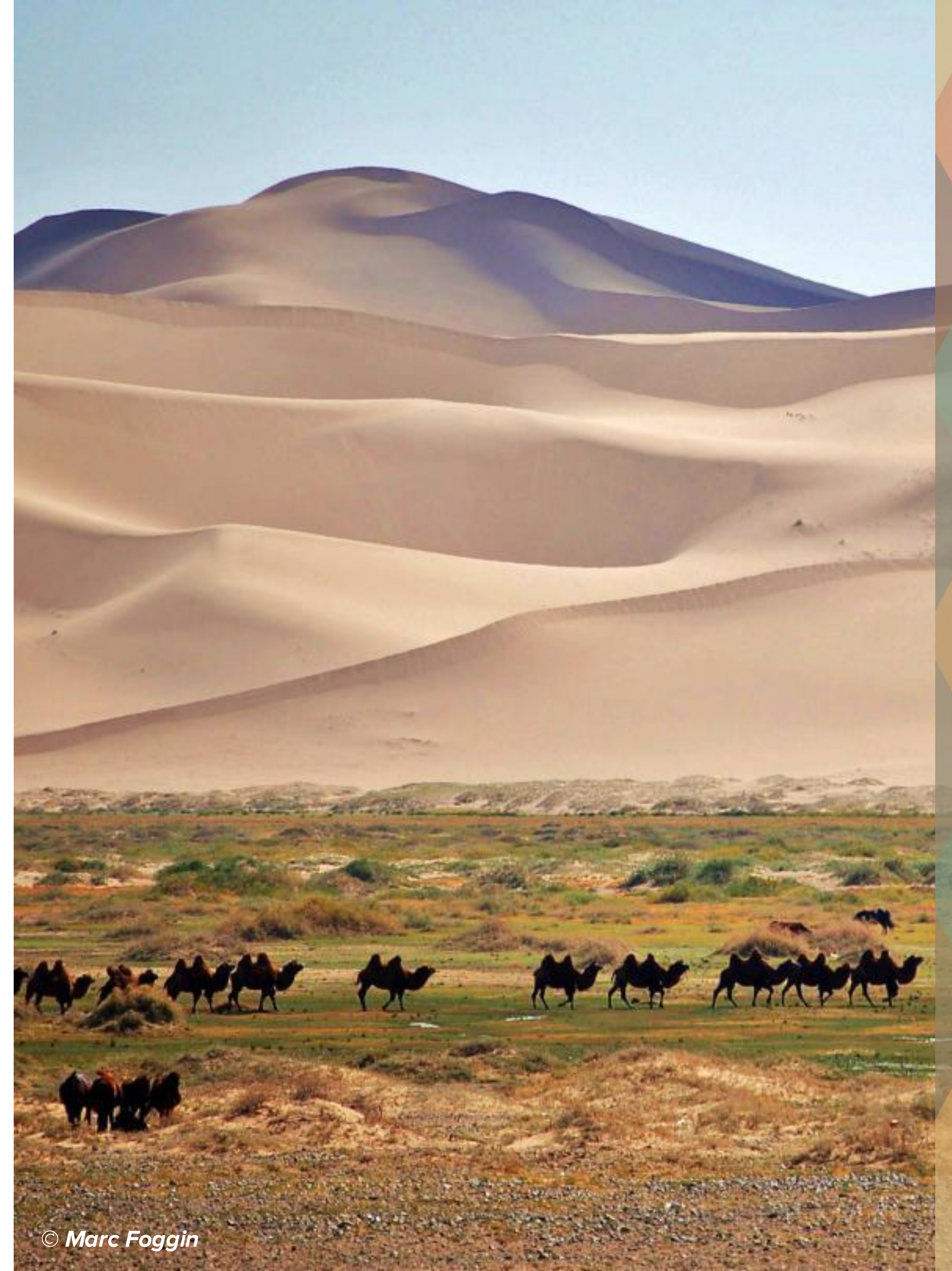
Advocacy for global policy change

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 ~ a few highlights

(more achievements available at: <https://iyrp.info/calendar>)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 and beyond
Raise Awareness & Build Coalitions	IRC 2016	SRM		First Tropentag Annual Film Festival	IYRP ISG has 155 members	South Asia RISG Awards	Dana + 20	Trans-humance expanded in UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage		IYRP Global Alliance has 550 members	Gatherings of pastoralists at national, regional & global levels	Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists
	IYRP Support Group	2017	IYRP ISG (35 NGO + 12 PO)	UNESCO Transhumance Declaration	RISGs	CELEP Film: Pastoralism is the future	IY of Mountains	GLF Africa	IY of Camelids	IRC 2025		International Day of Rangelands and Pastoralists
Build knowledge	WISP-NET	IYRP 12 themes	ILC Report: Making rangelands more secure	GASL 2019	IRC/IGC Joint Congress	LPPS 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		UNEP Benign Neglect Report			ILRI et al. Range-land Atlas		ILC Rangeland Tenure Security indicators	RSC standards launched		Global rangelands database
Change Policy & Investments	UNEA-2, Res. L.24	Mongolia National Comm.	WB Land & Poverty Conf.	Mongolia Gov. proposal to FAO COAG	IUCN WCC endorses IYRP	FAO Conference Resolution	UNGA declares IYRP 2026	Participatory grazing guideline for Namaqualand South Africa	UNCCD COP 16 resolution	UNCCD Sec launches Rangeland Flagship program	Events at:	SDG Post 2030 agenda
	CBD COP 13 Side Event	AMCEN Resolution		UNEA-4 Resolution		EU Comm. Of the Regions			South Africa Policy on conversion		UNCCD CBD CMS UNFCCC	Increased funding for rangeland and pastoralist projects

IYRP Pastoralist Gatherings 2025-2026

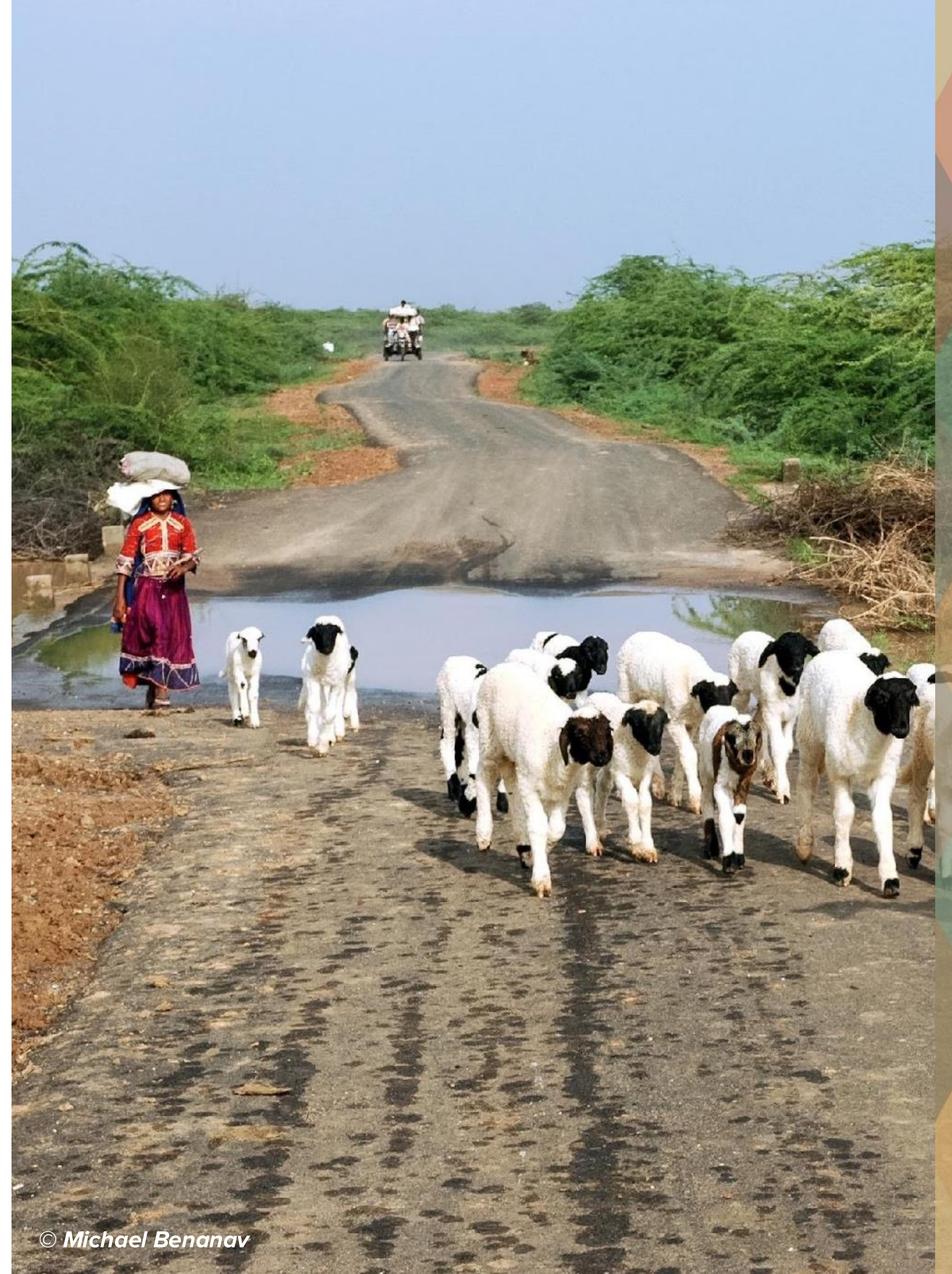


Road Map 2025-2026: key global points

- **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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