



UPDATE

Events and activities in support of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

December 2025

This newsletter provides an update for the general IYRP audience on the key activities, milestones, and upcoming events of the IYRP Global Alliance over the past three months, and outlines what lies ahead as we move into the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026.

Festive Season Greetings

As we approach the close of the year, the Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists extends warm festive season's greetings to all pastoralist communities, partners, researchers, civil society organisations, policymakers, and supporters around the world.

This has been a historic year of collective effort, marked by the official launch of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026). We are deeply grateful for your continued collaboration, solidarity, and commitment to advancing sustainable rangelands and pastoral livelihoods. May this festive season bring you peace, health, and renewed energy. We look forward to working together in 2026 to ensure that the International Year delivers lasting impact well beyond the year itself.

Transition and Identity of the Global Alliance

The global movement that led to the proclamation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists began in 2016. Over nearly a decade, this coalition of pastoralists, civil society organisations, researchers, and supporters evolved into what became known as the IYRP Global Alliance. Before successfully mobilising support for the UN General Assembly resolution to proclaim an IYRP, the Alliance had already demonstrated its value as a platform for fostering much-needed collaboration between pastoral communities and supporting organisations.

The Global Alliance developed its own governance system and branding, including a logo. With minor revisions over time, this logo has been in use since the early 2020s to promote the International Year (prior to its formal launch on 02 Dec 2025). Some members have also adapted this logo for regional and national use.

Following the official launch of IYRP 2026 by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and in line with UN practice for International Years, an official IYRP 2026 logo has been introduced by FAO. To avoid confusion and to reflect its continued mandate beyond 2026, the Alliance has adapted its name to the Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists and has introduced a complementary Alliance logo suitable for long-term use.

We encourage the Global Alliance partners to use both logos as visual identity in communication materials to demonstrate their support for the official IYRP process led by FAO and to show further support to the Global Alliance. Similarly, many of the Regional Support Groups have put major efforts into creating regional logos. A suggested format is Regional logo, Global Alliance logo and FAO logo from left to right. This ensures that the importance of local to global is preserved. Guides for use in materials like social media posts will be coming out at the start of 2026 and will be posted on the <https://iyrp.info> website and the IYRP YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@internationalyearofrangela7201>.



The official FAO logo developed for the IYRP can be used for visibility and communications directly related to the International Year. However, this logo will expire at the end of the celebration of the Year (around March 2027). You may also wish to consult the FAO [IYRP Communications Handbook](#) to learn more about how to get involved and promote IYRP 2026. Other FAO IYRP materials in support of the campaign, such as the [visual identity library](#), [official posters](#), [branded merchandise](#), [promotional video](#), [social media assets](#) and more are available on the FAO [International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists website](#) and the [IYRP Digital Media Hub](#).



Furthermore, we would like to inform you that the IYRP Global Alliance has adapted its name to **Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists**. This name will still be used after the International Year to continue the work to achieve sustainable rangelands and pastoralists.

Highlights from the Past Three Months

Official Launch of IYRP 2026 – Rome, Italy

On 02 December 2025, the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists was officially launched at FAO headquarters in Rome. This milestone event marked the culmination of nearly ten years of advocacy and coordination by the Global Alliance and its partners. During the launch, Igshaan Samuels on behalf of the Global Alliance and as its Co-Chair reflected on the depth of Alliance and their contribution to the IYRP over the last decade. He highlighted its growth to over 409 organisations and more than 1,000 individual members globally. Similarly, representatives from pastoralist communities who are members of the Global Alliance also spoke including Anders Oskal (International Center for Reindeer Husbandry, Norway), Tezera Getahun (Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, Ethiopia), Munkhtsetseg Tserenbaatar (independent pastoralist woman, Mongolia), and Bhavana Rabari Desai (MARAG, India). They highlighted the importance of supporting pastoral people and ensuring that their voices are elevated and heard.

A key message shared at the launch: *Awareness must now be translated into coordinated action and meaningful investment for rangelands and the pastoralists who steward them.*



IYRP Global Action Plan Workshop – IFAD, Rome 3 December 2025

The day after the launch, partners convened at IFAD for a dedicated strategy workshop to finalise the IYRP Global Action Plan. Discussions focused on:

- Reviewing the draft Global Action Plan of the Global Alliance
- Mapping regional and global activities
- Aligning communication strategies and key messages amongst partners
- Identifying priority outputs and legacy actions
- Strengthening coordination across partners and regions.



A special highlight was the presentation of the Mongolia Action Plan, which will take place ahead of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Convention of Parties (COP-17) to be held in August 2026. The plan includes a four-day field journey (10-14 Aug 2026) across six ecological zones, followed by a synthesis forum in Ulaanbaatar—an important platform for pastoralist women, youth, governance, and rangeland management dialogue.

Regional and Thematic Gatherings

Over the past quarter, the Global Alliance supported and engaged in multiple regional and thematic gatherings, including:

- The East Africa Pastoralist Youth Gathering in Moroto, Uganda (20–21 Nov 2025), advancing youth voices on peace, climate justice, and resilience.



- The Asian Pastoralist Women Gathering (10–12 Dec 2025, Gujarat, India), focused on revisiting and updating the Mera Declaration fifteen years after its adoption.



- Engagement at UNEA-7 in Nairobi (8–12 Dec 2025), highlighting rangeland solutions in climate and biodiversity action.



- Participation in UNCCD CRIC 23 in Panama (1–5 Dec 2025), reinforcing the need to translate recognition into action.



More information on these events can be found at: <https://iyrp.info>

Key Policy Milestones

A major milestone was achieved at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, where members approved the resolution on the conservation and sustainable management of rangelands and pastoralism. The resolution formally aligns IUCN with the objectives of IYRP 2026 and calls for stronger protection of pastoralist rights.

You can access the full text of the resolution here:

https://yolda.org.tr/content/IUCN_WCC25_Resolution_Conservation-and-sustainable-management-of-rangelands-and-pastoralism-EN.pdf

Looking Ahead: Upcoming IYRP Events

NENA Regional IYRP Conference, 26–28 Jan 2026, Hammamet, Tunisia

This regional conference will officially launch the IYRP 2026 in the Near East and North Africa region and establish the NENA IYRP Consortium and its Joint Action Agenda. The event brings together governments, pastoralist organisations, research institutions, UN agencies, and civil society to address rangeland governance, land rights, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and innovation. It includes high-level policy dialogue, technical sessions, peer learning, and a field visit to Tunisian rangeland sites. The conference will culminate in the IYRP-2026 NENA Communiqué, articulating shared regional priorities and commitments.

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Society for Range Management (SRM) Annual Meeting

Date: 07–11 February 2026, Monterey, California, USA

The theme for the annual SRM meeting is “Herd ‘round the World” and is celebrating the IYRP with numerous events. The North America Women Pastoralist Gathering will take place Feb 7th. The conference programme then kicks off with symposia, workshops, posters, two film events, an ignite session and two plenaries all focused on IYRP related topics. It provides a platform for scientists, pastoralists, practitioners, and policymakers to exchange practical lessons, innovative management approaches, and policy-relevant knowledge supporting biodiversity, livelihoods and climate resilience.

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GLF Africa: Rangelands 2026 Hybrid Conference, 06–07 May 2026, Nairobi, Kenya and online

This hybrid conference will elevate rangelands and pastoralists within regional and global development agendas. It will highlight the contribution of pastoral systems to food security, livelihoods, biodiversity, and climate action, while addressing challenges such as land degradation, conflict, exclusion, and policy neglect. The conference aims to generate commitments, partnerships, and investment pathways aligned with UNCCD COP 17 and IYRP 2026 legacy goals.

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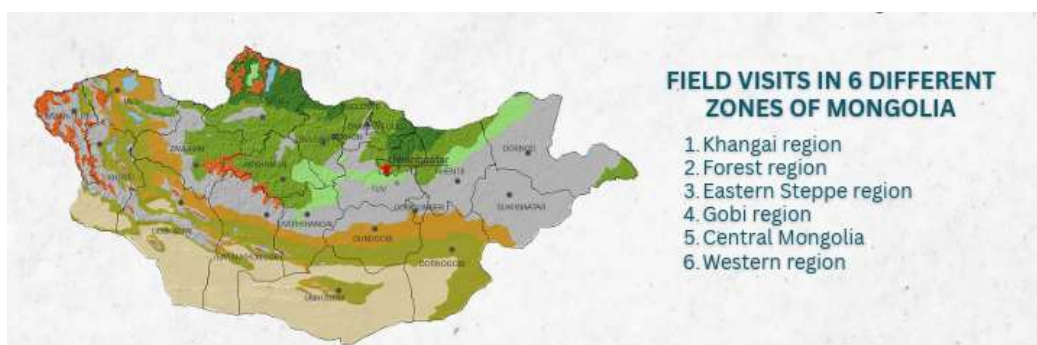
Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, 26–29 May 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal

This global gathering recognises the central role of pastoralist women in sustaining resilient rangelands and livelihoods. The event will facilitate knowledge sharing, mutual learning, network-building, and advocacy. Participants will share challenges, innovations, and solutions, revise and develop a shared policy agenda, and strengthen global solidarity to ensure women's voices inform decision-making from local to international levels.

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Global Pastoralist Gathering, 10–17 August 2026

Venue: Field journey across six ecological zones and synthesis forum in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Hosted as part of IYRP 2026, this gathering is designed as a mobile 'Caravan' experience rather than a conventional conference. Participants will spend four days travelling through pastoral landscapes, observing rangeland management, mobility systems, and cultural heritage. The field journey will

be followed by a synthesis forum to translate shared learning into policy priorities and long-term actions. Dedicated thematic dialogues will focus on pastoralist youth, women, governance, and rangeland management.

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Note on Additional Events

Further regional gatherings, policy dialogues, and awareness events including those in South Asia, East Asia, Latin America, the Western Balkans, and Africa are continuously updated on the official IYRP calendar (<https://iyrp.info/calendar>). Members are encouraged to submit activities to ensure visibility, coordination, and alignment with the IYRP Global Action Plan (please email: iyrp2026@gmail.com, and fill out our form [HERE](#)).

Looking Ahead: A Legacy Beyond the International Year

IYRP 2026 is not an endpoint, but a catalyst. The Global Alliance calls on all members to actively engage, share events, amplify monthly themes, and help ensure that the International Year leads to long-term policy change, investment, and resilience for rangelands and pastoralist communities worldwide.

Visit <https://iyrp.info> for resources, monthly themes, and the global events calendar.