



RESOLUTIONS OF THE XVII INTERNATIONAL RANGELAND CONGRESS

Message from the President

I commend these actions to guide global rangeland investment, policy, science, communication, and management for the coming years.

The 729 members of the Congress from 46 nations affirmed by a **PROCLAMATION OF VALUES** that we are representatives of the global rangeland and pastoralist community. We are scientists, communicators, herders, pastoralists, natural area managers, decision makers and investors. We undertake to lead and contribute to global conversations to benefit the peoples, livelihoods, natural lands and waters, wildlife, livestock, cultural practices, and knowledge of the world's rangelands.

A total of 24 resolutions were presented to the membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress for endorsement, the largest number of any Congress. All resolutions were passed by an overwhelming majority and thus represent strong recommendations from the global rangeland community.

Through these resolutions, the international rangeland community calls for governments, organisations and companies globally to:

- Invest in long-term and transdisciplinary science under **ADVOCATING FOR GLOBAL ACTION**
- Support the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 and beyond under **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS**
- Value and respect all knowledge systems, co-develop respectful consultation processes and embed First Nations, Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Custodians in Congress under **INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURES**.

On behalf of the International Rangeland Congress Continuing Committee, I express gratitude to members of the Congress for your meaningful resolutions.



Professor David Phelps

President (2021-2025), International Rangeland Congress Continuing Committee



RESOLUTION 1: PROCLAMATION OF VALUES

We, the 729 members of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress from 46 nations, are representatives of the global rangeland and pastoralist community. We are scientists, communicators, herders, pastoralists, natural area managers, decision makers and investors - and much more.

We affirm that we respect and advocate for inclusiveness across all knowledge systems, peoples, and livelihoods.

As members of rangelands communities globally, we recognise that what we do to rangelands we do to ourselves. Only by nurturing the rangelands, can we nurture ourselves, and by healing them we heal ourselves.

We will lead and contribute to global conversations to benefit the peoples, livelihoods, natural lands and waters, wildlife, livestock, cultural practices, and knowledge of the world's rangelands.

RESOLUTION 2: ADVOCATING FOR GLOBAL ACTION

Resolution 2.1: Science led policy

In recognition that effective policy is driven by scientific knowledge, the membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress encourages all science professionals to proactively contribute to global policy discussions through effective communication, advocacy and connections.

We call for the special issue of The Rangeland Journal derived from the XIIth International Rangeland Congress to push the agenda forward through the synthesis of key themes.

Resolution 2.2: Investing in the future of rangelands

We, as representatives of the global rangeland community, invite governments across the world to invest in a vibrant future for rangelands, their peoples and natural assets by resourcing policy, science, traditional knowledge and action that improves their sustainable use and resilience.

Resolution 2.3: Importance of long-term science

In recognition of the crucial need to understand and manage for the future, the membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress encourages the international rangeland community to advocate for long-term science to be supported through policy, resourcing and capability.

Resolution 2.4: Interdisciplinary research

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress invites the Continuing Committee and delegates to encourage further interdisciplinary research, including research on social, economic and cultural issues related to rangelands.

Resolution 2.5: Maintaining focus on biodiversity

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress encourages the international rangeland community to maintain focus on restoring and sustainably using rangeland biodiversity. This is essential for providing ecosystem services, especially through the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Local communities.

Resolution 2.6: Global Rangelands Flagship Program

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress welcomes efforts by civil society and multilateral organizations to support healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism and particularly welcomes the newly anticipated UNCCD Global Rangelands Flagship Program. We, the delegates, will advocate for a significant increase in the scale, scope, operation and coordination of projects, programs, policies and investments that directly benefit sustainable pastoralism and healthy rangelands.

Resolution 2.7: A global rangeland products standard

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress welcomes efforts to co-create a global, holistic standard for rangelands that promotes best-practice, encourages investment and strengthens producer agency.

RESOLUTION 3: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS (IYRP)

Resolution 3.1: Support local to global pastoral coalitions and promote the co-production of knowledge

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress invites delegates to leverage the success of IYRP 2026, by promulgating new coalitions, multi-stakeholder partnerships, co-production and co-publication of knowledge, programs and policy recommendations for continued long-term action and impact beyond 2026. The Continuing Committee will prepare a report on achievements and emerging action pathways for the IRC 2029.

Resolution 3.2: IYRP continued action and impact beyond 2026

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress recommends that the IYRP Global Coordinating Group and the IRC Continuing Committee form a long-term working group in 2025 to plan for the continuation of the exceptional work of the IYRP beyond 2026. This group could consider the structure of a joint venture between these two groups post-2026 to strengthen global support to rangelands and pastoral people through awareness, advocacy, science, policy and practice.

Resolution 3.3: Awareness of heritage of Rangelands and Pastoralists by the United Nations beyond 2026

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress endorses an International day, week or month to raise awareness of the global value of rangelands and sustainable pastoralism beyond 2026, and invites IRC delegates and the IRC Continuing Committee to collaborate with the IYRP Global Alliance to gain country-level commitments to support the designation of a United Nations International day, week or month of Rangelands and Pastoralists, through letters and other acknowledgements submitted to the FAO, until such time as the UN General Assembly designates it.

Resolution 3.4: Proactively implement the IYRP 2026 Action Plan

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress invites delegates to proactively implement the Action Plan of IYRP 2026 in collaboration with the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists (IYRP) Global Alliance (IYRP Global Alliance) and the FAO International Steering Committee of IYRP to raise awareness, build coalitions, mobilize resources, disseminate best practices, influence national and international policies and investments and generate new knowledge documenting the global value of sustainable pastoralism and healthy rangelands. This could be achieved through the IRC Continuing Committee inviting past and present members onto a special committee to collaborate in the proactive implementation of the Action Plan of IYRP 2026 and monitoring of its achievements.

RESOLUTION 4: INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURES

Resolution 4.1: Valuing and respecting all knowledge systems

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress invites delegates to identify, treat, promote and value all knowledge systems with equal respect, and commit to inclusive knowledge co-production that upholds Indigenous and Traditional Peoples' right to self-determination. To effectively bridge the knowledge gap about rangelands and pastoralism, knowledge production shall recognize Indigenous and Traditional Peoples as the custodians of their knowledge and ensure their equal participation, leadership and ownership in all stages of the process. The Continuing Committee will allow for delegates to report back during future Congresses until 2035.

Resolution 4.2: Co-develop a respectful consultation process

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress recommends that the Continuing Committee and IYRP work together with people who attended the Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Forum in Adelaide to develop a process to consult with the First Nations / Indigenous peoples about their involvement.

The Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Forum was held prior to the XIIth IRC. Over subsequent days, several First Nations people who attended this forum have met to discuss what they would like to see as Indigenous engagement in IRC.

Resolution 4.3: Embedding First Nations, Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Custodians in Congress

The Global First Nations, Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the member countries that make up the International Rangelands Congress endorse and confirm that the Continuing Committee:

- a) Includes two representatives from each Region which will include, One Male and One Female that are either First Nations, Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Custodians as representatives on the Continuing Committee of the IRC.
- b) Agree to establish a 'Global Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Custodians Congress that is led by Cultural Knowledge Holders.
- c) Advocate for the resources to support the establishment of the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples within the eight Regions to ensure an empowered Cultural Governance Framework.

RESOLUTION 5: OPERATION OF THE CONTINUING COMMITTEE AND CONGRESSES

Resolution 5.1: Scholarships for rancher and Indigenous participation

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress strongly encourage the Continuing Committee to implement scholarships to each International Rangelands Congress from sponsorship funds, as follows:

- a) One scholarship for a rancher or producer to cover registration, costs of travel and accommodation; in memory of the late Jim O'Rourke who provided global rangeland leadership over many decades.
- b) One scholarship for an Indigenous pastoralist or Indigenous land manager to cover registration, costs of travel and accommodation - dedicated to Ann Waters-Bayer for her contribution to Indigenous pastoralists in rangelands.

Resolution 5.2: Establish global rangeland communities of practice

In recognition of the success of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress, and the importance of Rangelands and Pastoralists globally, the membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress strongly encourages the Continuing Committee to establish global Communities of Practice to continue the discussions from the 2025 Congress.



Resolution 5.3: The Continuing Committee as global leaders

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress encourages each member of the Continuing Committee to show strong leadership at the international level during the term, raising the profile of global issues, and creating strong alliances with global pastoral and rangeland organizations.

Resolution 5.4: Formalize Continuing Committee operations

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress encourage the Continuing Committee to formalize more of its operations. This should include developing a 4-year activity and fund-raising plan and a budget, completing regular annual activity and financial reports, establishing sub-committees for action as needed, renewing the website and contact list, and digitizing and posting more of past congress proceedings. To resource this process the Continuing Committee is encouraged to develop a budget and consider all options to raise funds including reviewing registration fees and the delegate levy.

Resolution 5.5: Inclusion of OneHealth as a future congress theme.

The Local Organizing Committee of the XIIIth IRC is encouraged to consider the important links between rangelands, pastoralism and human nutrition and metabolic health for inclusion into the Congress program and identify key disciplinary specialists to contribute to the design of this theme.

RESOLUTION 6: CONGRATULATIONS AND CELEBRATION

Resolution 6.1: Vote of gratitude to the Australian Organising Committee

The membership of the XIIth International Rangeland Congress and the Continuing Committee congratulate the Australian Organizing Committee of IRC2025 for a successful congress, especially the respectful inclusion of Indigenous perspectives, Traditional Knowledge, the structure of congress sessions, the program and superb organisation. We do this by acclamation.

Resolution 6.2: Gratitude for the Welcome to Country

We are deeply grateful to the Kaurna people for welcoming the International Rangelands Congress to their Country. We send our deep respect to Kaurna elders and the ancestors of the Kaurna people. We have learned a great deal from your teachings and generosity during this Congress.

Resolution 6.3: Thank you to sponsors and delegates

The Australian Organising Committee thank the sponsors and delegates for your contribution to a successful IRC2025.

Resolution 6.4: Congratulations to Mongolia

The Continuing Committee celebrates that Mongolia has been designated to host the International Rangeland Congress in 2029 and welcomes all delegates at the XIIth International Rangeland Congress to attend and contribute in four years' time.