



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**

2026

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Rangeland and Pastoralists*



IYRP definitions

- **Rangelands** are lands dominated by grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, shrubs and sometimes trees that are grazed or have the potential to be grazed by livestock and wildlife.
- **Pastoralists** are people whose livelihoods mainly rely on domesticated and semi-domesticated animals that graze and browse predominantly on rangelands with varying degrees of mobility.





Why an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists?

- **Pastoralism is a livestock production system** that exists in various forms in **75% of the world's countries.**
- **Pastoralism supports more than 200 million people globally** by sustaining livelihoods, particularly in the most remote areas of the planet.
- **Rangelands cover about half of the Earth's surface.**
- **Pastoralism generates a wide range of ecosystem services** (sequestration of up to 30% of soil organic carbon, fertilization, biodiversity and soil preservation, forest fire prevention, etc.).





Why an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists?

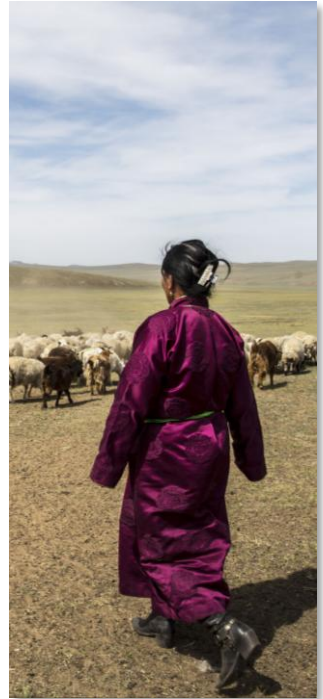
- However, **pastoral systems are under pressure** due to increased competition from other land uses.
- **The renewal of generations** is a challenge.
- **Land tenure insecurity** and **exclusion from decision-making**.
- **A lack of investment**, fuelled by a **lack of knowledge** of these systems.





IYRP objectives

1. **Raise awareness and visibility** of the importance of rangelands and pastoralism.
2. **Recognize sustainable pastoralism** as a livelihood working with nature, preserving traditional knowledge and contributing to rural economies.
3. **Encourage stakeholder action** to support sustainable rangeland management and pastoralist participation in policy processes.
4. **Promote responsible investment** in research and development for rangelands and the pastoral livestock sector.





IYRP key messages

1. **Pastoralists** work with nature to **produce food while preserving ecosystems**.
2. **Rangelands** cover around half of the world's surface, are home to **unique biodiversity**, and support **sustainable food systems and livelihoods**, yet they face severe land conversion.
3. **Legislation and policies** are essential to better support pastoralists' rights, recognize **Indigenous and local knowledge**, and promote inclusive community-based governance.
4. **Pastoral mobility** must be protected to preserve healthy rangelands and support pastoralists' resilience to climate change.
5. Existing data gaps on rangelands and pastoralists need to be filled to guide **better informed policy making and responsible investments**.
6. **Innovation, market integration and locally adapted services** can enhance decent rural employment and **support pastoralist youth and women**.



IYRP proclamation process

2008

The idea of an International Year emerged at the International Rangeland Convention (IRC).

2017

Creation of the IYRP Global Alliance

October 2020

Mongolia submitted the proposal to declare 2026 the IYRP at COAG27

June 2021

42nd FAO Conference adopted resolution 5/2021

March 2022

UNGA 76 proclaimed 2026 as the IYRP and called upon FAO to lead the implementation of the Year

2025

FAO appointed NSA to spearhead the process

- COAG: FAO's Committee on Agriculture
- UNGA: United Nations General Assembly
- NSA: FAO's Animal Production and Health Division



Governance of the International Year

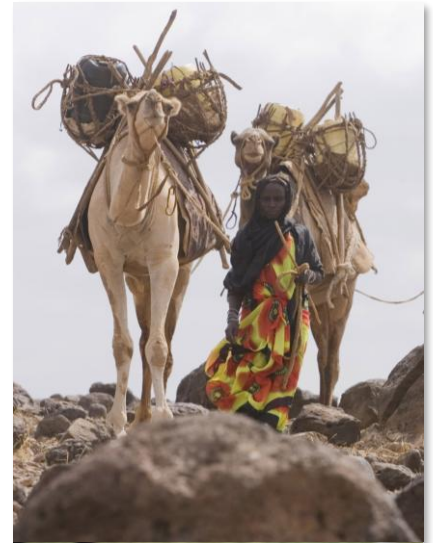
- **Secretariat**
 - Representatives of technical divisions at FAO headquarters.
 - Representatives of FAO regional offices.
- **International Steering Committee**
 - Representatives (State actors): Australia, Canada, Jordan, Mongolia, South Africa, Spain, Uruguay
 - Alternates (State actors): Kenya, Ireland, New Zealand, Sri Lanka





Governance of the International Year - Non-state actors

- **Producer organisations:** World Alliance of Mobile and Indigenous Peoples, World Reindeer Herders and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
- **Civil society organisations:** International Land Coalition (ILC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- **Private sector:** International Meat Secretariat (IMS)
- **International Organizations:** World Bank, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD),
- **Academia and research institutes:** CGIAR Centers (International Livestock Research Institute/International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas)
- **Observer:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)





Calendar of the main planned activities of the International Year



* Subject to funding availability.





Budget and implementation

Budget

- The **target budget** for implementing the above activities is **USD 1 million**.

Implementation

- The costs of all activities linked to the International Year must be covered entirely by **voluntary contributions**.
- These may be mobilized as part of a **multi-donor fund (MUL) project** OR specific agreements.





Launch ceremony and exhibit

- **Date:** Tuesday, 2 December - 12.30h (CET)
- **Location:** Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO HQ, Rome (Italy)
- **Featuring:**
 - Exhibition with booths for organizations held in the FAO atrium during the **FAO Council** (1 – 5 December 2025)
 - **High-level** remarks, **two panel** discussions and launch of the **promotional video**
 - **Pastoralist products and food tasting**
 - Mongolian **cultural performance** (traditional throatsinging/khöömii and horse-head fiddle/Morin khuur).





What can I do to support the International Year?

- **Appoint a focal point and set up a task force** for the implementation of the International Year within your organization/country.
- **Use of the visual identity** to promote the IYRP in events and other activities.
- **Support dissemination of IYRP activities and the communication materials** within your networks.
- **Integrate the themes of rangelands and pastoralists** into existing events and initiatives.
- **Share information** on forthcoming events with the IYRP Secretariat (send an email to IYRP@fao.org) and Global Alliance.
- **Join existing working groups and regional support groups** of the Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists
- **Support resource mobilization** efforts.
- **Participate in forthcoming events!**



Thank you!

Contact us at
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