

UN International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026

Overview of IYRP Working Groups: March 2024



IYRP INTERNATIONAL
2026 YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS

www.iyrp.info

Working groups agreed to date

1. Afforestation in Rangelands
2. Mountain Pastoralism (awaiting reconfirmation)
3. Pastoralism & Gender
4. Pastoralists & Water
5. Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality
6. Rangelands & Biodiversity
7. Economics of Pastoralism
8. Pastoralist Youth
9. Pastoralism & Land
10. Pastoralism & Climate Change



Afforestation in Rangelands (status: work plan implemented)

Coordinators: David Briske (Texas A&M University, USA) and Susi Vetter (Rhodes University, South Africa)

- **Outputs**
 - Brief for IYRP WG on Afforestation in Rangelands
 - Rangeland afforestation is not a viable CC mitigation strategy (2-page brief in English and Russian)
 - State-of-the-science evidence-based paper submitted for publication
- **Communications**
 - Trees won't save us (YouTube video)
 - Scrutinizing the Benefits of Rangeland Afforestation as a Natural Climate Solution (YouTube video)
- **Headline message**
 - Rangelands are valuable ecosystems, and afforestation efforts – driven by a climate change mitigation agenda – present a serious risk

Pastoralism & Gender (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinator: Nitya Ghotge (ANTHRA, India)

- Outputs

- Concept note available on website
- Films on women pastoralists selected for the film festival on & about pastoralist women
- Key Messages document brought out, translated into several languages and posted on IYRP website
- Mera Declaration 2010 being revisited and translated into different languages

- Communications

- Small videos being prepared for Women's Days
- Policy brief being prepared

- Headline message

The future of pastoralism depends on:

- A deeper understanding of gender in pastoralism
- Equitable & inalienable rights to access & use land, pastoralist resources, biodiversity, knowledge & information
- Enhanced & equitable participation of women in research, policymaking & governance related to pastoralism & rangelands

Pastoralists & Water (status: early stage of formation, meet every 2 months)

Coordinators: Adrian Cullis & Kerstin Danert

- Outputs
 - Concept note available on website – group members were asked for comments again
- Communications
 - Nothing specific planned yet but group will engage with pastoralists to understand rangeland health, history of water resource development, water governance & livelihood outcomes and identify water interests
 - Develop blogs and guidelines
- Headline messages
 - Rangeland health – balancing ecological processes in the rangelands
 - Water governance – decision-making about access to, distribution & use of water
 - Water resource development – repair and construction of infrastructure

Rangelands & Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinators: Bora Masumbuko (IUCN) & Mounir Louhaichi (ICARDA)

- Outputs
 - Science review full document on “Global action for sustainable rangelands and pastoralism to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality” (undergoing final editing)
 - Call for Action technical brief (based on executive summary of the full document)
 - Science review paper (under review for submission to a journal for publication)
- Communications
 - *Call for Action* tweets for social media channels (draft version)
- Headline messages
 - The value of rangelands and pastoralism
 - Conversion of rangelands
 - Rangelands and pastoralism: a sustainable solution to achieve LDN

Rangelands & Biodiversity (status: implementing work plan)

Coordinators: Rashmi Singh & Matthew Luizza

- Outputs
 - Concept note complete and posted online
 - 2 global reviews for peer review publication in pipeline
- Communications
 - Policy brief to be developed (based on headline messages)
 - Presentation of messages at dryland farming event in India (Feb 2024)
 - Looking for opportunities to present messages at CBD events and other conventions
- Headline messages
 - 4 headline messages developed by the group – to be elaborated, approved & shared in near future

Economics of Pastoralism (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinator: Serena Ferrari (CIRAD, Senegal)

- **Outputs**
 - Concept note available on website
 - Literature review on the different approaches used to analyse the pastoralist economy (in French, to be translated into English)
 - List of researchers & institutions working on economics of pastoralism from all around the world (coming)
- **Communications**
 - Key messages on false myths and new narratives around the pastoralist economy (being planned)
- **Headline messages**
 - Pastoralism is a livelihood system that is key in creating added value, ensuring food security for urban and rural households, and creating jobs.

Pastoralist Youth (status: developing work plan)

Coordinator: Caroline Ruto (Kansas State University)

- Outputs
 - Concept note available on the website
 - 2024 activities strategy has been developed
- Communications
 - Key messages developed by the group will be available June 2024
- Headline message
 - Being prepared

Pastoralism & Land (status: implementing workplan)

Coordinator: Natasha Maru (International Land Coalition)

- Outputs
 - Position paper on pastoralism and land
 - Policy recommendations for safeguarding pastoralists' use of, access to and rights to land
 - Archive of case studies
 - Toolkit for CSOs on how to secure pastoralists' land rights
- Communications
 - Messaging supporting ongoing campaigns for defending pastoralist's rights to land/ against eviction & appropriation
 - Videos & social media messages
 - Presentations in policy forums
- Headline message
 - Land access, use & tenure security is critical to safeguard pastoralists' livelihoods & custodianship.

Pastoralism & Climate Change (status: developing work plan)

Coordinators: Meenal Tatapati and Nick Sharpe

- **Outputs**
 - Concept note being finalised
- **Communications**
 - None to date
- **Headline message**
 - WG is seeking to bring to light the misleading communications, methodologies and injustices inherent in the narrative that currently exists around GHG emissions stemming from rangelands and extensively kept livestock, to better inform policymakers, researchers, producers and advocacy groups.

Thank you

