

Courtesy translation

Mr. Ulaan Chultem
minister

Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia

Ulanbaatar

13381 Zasgiin gaziin IX bair,
Enkhtaivnii urgun chuluu 15a, Bayanzurkh duureg
Mongolia

Subject: Initiative on the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (2026)

Excellency,

I welcomed with pleasure and agreement the initiative of Mongolia that urges to declare the year 2026 the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

We are proud of our heritage, which is partly common with yours: in our country, grazing farming, having a tradition of thousands of years, was a stable source and key of richness of the livelihood of market towns, the agrobiodiversity and the preservation of our landscape heritage.

The richness of Hungary's natural values is reflected in the fact that more than two million hectares of Hungary's territory are under the European Union's or national nature protection. These areas are associated with immeasurable natural diversity and innumerable natural values that would not have survived without the people living in the landscape, the pastoral traditions and the extensive pastoral livestock farming. All this is a huge value in our countries. I have always respected the attachment that binds the Mongol people to their land and way of life.

Today, the landscape of the Carpathian Basin has undergone changes: grazing systems, which are the basis of nutrition, have been significantly transformed as a result of large-scale farming and the effects of industrialization in recent decades. Despite all these processes, tens of thousands of hectares in the country are still grazed by shepherds and pastoral families who have gained their knowledge from older shepherds, produce significant quantities and high-quality animals and other products, and contribute to the preservation of natural and cultural, gastronomic and agricultural values.

One of the uniqueness of the herding systems traditional in Hungary is that the areas and pastoral cultures of the eastern steppes and the forest grazing systems of Central Europe meet here and are still organically intertwined today. It is one of the important threads that connect our peoples.

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According to your proposal, the planned international year draws attention to the importance of animal husbandry that is in harmony with the landscape and nature, to the importance of sustainable farming and the preservation of the related traditions. With this, not only the commitment to our environment and the need to preserve our native animal species would get attention, but also the need of maintaining the cultural heritage of a unique and special social group. As we know, the unique methods of animal husbandry typical of Mongolian agriculture also have a positive impact on food security and biodiversity.

Herewith I assure you, Mr. Minister that Hungary will definitely support Mongolia dedicating 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in FAO. We consider it vital to preserve our pastoral traditions and pastoral animal husbandry and to pass this heritage as knowledge on to nations and generations, in agreement with you, deepening further our strengthening relations.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Budapest, ” “ September 2020

Dr. István Nagy
Minister