



Die, 15 November 2020

From:

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To the:

Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
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Re: Support to the request from the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

The Association Française de Pastoralisme (AFP – French Association of Pastoralism) is writing to you as an expression of our support for the request being made by the Government of Mongolia to designate an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

AFP is a network of breeders, shepherds, technical specialists in pastoralist development, researchers, professors, land agents, administrators, elected representatives of local and regional collectivities. We are working in partnership with pastoral French and francophones stakeholders in France and cross-border countries. Our mission is to promote pastoralism and its modernity in its scientific and technical dimensions. We collaborate with public institutions as French government and regional councils to bring a collective expertise in order to recognise and support pastoralism and pastoralists in France.

To achieve this objective, we organise yearly a national meeting of pastoralism stakeholders which aims to present local development actions and share field visits as a stimulus for debate on pastoral issues at a national level. We also promote a scientific approach of pastoralism by organizing workshops and seminars in partnership with national research institutes. Simultaneously, we are involved into the constitution of a national data base on

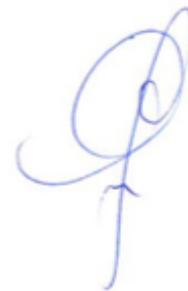
pastoralism, as it none actually exists: pastoralism is always included in the global data on agriculture and livestock in France. All these tools, data and the force of our network can be made available to the IYRP here in France.

We truly believe that pastoralism is part of a sustainable agriculture tomorrow thanks to its inherent capacity to adapt to uncertainties. Pastoralists and pastoralism have the keys to contribute to a better quality of living for society even though they have to face great challenges, such as climate change mitigation, food sovereignty, generational renewal, preservation of agro-ecosystems and more broadly relations between humans, nature and wildlife (predation, tourism, multipurpose land use, etc.).

In France, rangelands represent 1/5 of the land dedicated to agriculture and breeding and they represent about half of the Earth's land surface. We are glad to join an international gathering for a greater recognition of these surfaces, their value, their potential and the work doing by pastoralists to maintain them healthy around the globe. This IYRP is an opportunity to draw attention to the importance of this surface and their contribution to the global challenges mentioned previously. We hope this enlightenment will permit to an evolution in public policies in favour of sustainable use of rangelands and good condition of living and working for pastoralists.

The AFP therefore strongly supports the initiative of the Government of Mongolia in its call for an IYRP in 2026 and hope that the United Nations will proclaim this as soon as possible.

Bruno Caraguel
President of the French
Association of Pastoralism (AFP)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Caraguel', with a stylized flourish at the end.