



Alberta Wilderness Association
"Defending Wild Alberta through Awareness and Action"

March 2, 2020

Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
Email: fao-hq@fao.org

Dear Sirs/Madams:

**Re: Support for the request from the Government of the Mongolia
for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**

The Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) sends our warm greetings to the Food and Agriculture Organization and is writing to express its support for the request by the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

For more than 40 years AWA, as an environmental charity, has promoted the sustainable use and conservation of grasslands and other rangelands through awareness and action. We co-manage a grassland protected area, including grazing, with the local community in southeastern Alberta.

We recognize that a majority of land on earth is classified as rangeland and that these are critical to the well-being of hundreds of millions of pastoralists around the world. Healthy grasslands and other rangelands contribute economically, socially and environmentally through water flow regulation, soil stabilization, biodiversity protection, carbon sequestration, while supporting tourism, other ecosystem goods and services and vibrant cultures. Grasslands and other rangelands face increasing threats around the world, including degradation, loss of biodiversity, increasing vulnerability to climate change; land tenure insecurity; insufficient investment; inequitable development; and lack of access to adequate and relevant education and technology as well as social and extension services.

Please accept AWA's complete support for the Government of Mongolia's request for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. We recently expressed our support for Motion 10 to the World Conservation Congress to be held in Marseilles, France in June 2020. This motion and its amendments include a similar call for the IYRP.

Sincerely,
ALBERTA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

Christyann Olson,
Executive Director

Cc: Barbara Hutchinson, The Rangelands Partnership, School of Natural Resources & the Environment,
College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona USA 85721