

**Burren Programme,  
Old Schoolhouse, Carron,  
Ennis, Co. Clare  
Ireland**



February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021

To: ***His Excellency Jambaldorj Tserendorj, Ambassador and Permanent Representative***

Excellency,

Greetings from Ireland.

I am writing to you today to express my strong support for the request from the Government of Mongolia for the proclamation of 2026 as the 'International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists' (IYRP).

I work with several hundred farm families here in the mid-west of Ireland in a region known as the Burren, a place where the history of pastoralism is known to extend almost 6,000 years. The legacy of this continuing tradition expresses itself in many forms – the region's rich rangeland biodiversity, the unique archaeological record created by generations of pastoralists, and the survival of unique farming traditions such as the reverse-transhumance practice known as 'Winterage'. The latter is celebrated annually by the herding of cattle onto the Burren's limestone hills, accompanied by thousands of people from all over Ireland and Europe (see image below).

We owe so much to our pastoral farmers and their families, but we often overlook their enormous contribution to society. At a time of biodiversity and climate crisis when their role is never more important, yet never more threatened, we feel that drawing attention to these amazing people and their traditions would be very welcome indeed and we join you in urging the United Nations to proclaim an IYRP. Our programme would be happy to contribute to the success of this initiative, should it proceed.

With best wishes,



Dr. Brendan Dunford [brendan@burrenlife.com](mailto:brendan@burrenlife.com)

Manger, Burren Programme.

Founder: Burrenbeo Trust, Farming for Nature Project

