

Marsabit, 26 June 2021

H.E. Mr. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)
13381 Governmental Building 9th, Peace Avenue 16a
Bayanzurkh District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
(info@mofa.gov.mn)

**Letter of support for the Mongolian Government's proposal for an
International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**

On behalf of the Center for Research and Development in Drylands (CRDD), I am writing to express our support to the Government of Mongolia's initiative for the declaration of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

CRDD is a Kenya-based non-profit organisation that promotes people-centred research and development. It is a pastoralist-led organisation that aspires to improve conditions for pastoralists' livelihoods and production.

To this end, CRDD promotes evidence-based approaches to address the complex situations in dryland development, with emphasis on integrating knowledge from academic and local communities to co-develop and implement innovative solutions. Thus, it places the local communities at the centre in developing and implementing contextualised and holistic solutions to address local challenges. This is a departure from practices where the role of local communities has remained peripheral, mostly as information providers. It is our firm belief that having an International Year dedicated to rangelands and pastoralism is an opportunity to enhance our approach to rangeland and pastoralist development.

CRDD is therefore in full support of the Government of Mongolia's proposal for designation of the IYRP to bring attention to the potential and value of the pastoral livestock production systems on the rangelands. This is also anticipated to increase recognition and political willingness by various governments to support pastoralists so that they can continue to make important contributions to food systems through sustainable livestock husbandry, while strengthening their voices as citizens and improving their living conditions on the rangelands.

Being a grass root organization and pastoralists led, CRDD has the capacity to play vital role in disseminating information to communities through hosting local events in the coming years (and



especially in 2026). Also the organization, will focus on research documentation and dissemination of accurate information on rangelands and pastoralism through print and non-print media.

Yours sincerely,



Hussein T Wario
Executive Director
CRDD

cc:

- Dr. Batmunkh Damdindorj, Director of Livestock Policy Implementation & Coordination Department, MoFALI, and Chair of the Mongolian National Task Force for the IYRP (batmunh@mofa.gov.mn)
- Mr. Ganzorig, Director of International Cooperation Division, MoFALI (ganzorig@mofa.gov.mn)
- Dr. Munkhnasan Tsevegmed, Officer at MoFALI and Secretary of Mongolian National Task Force for IYRP (munkhnasan@mofa.gov.mn, munkhnasan2025@gmail.com)
- Gregorio Velasco-Gil, AGAG, FAO (gregorio.velascogil@fao.org)
- Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Vice-Chair, International Support Group for IYRP (mniafull2@gmail.com)

