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Camí des Castell, 53  
07702 Maó – Menorca  
CIF G07089600

Tel. 971 35 07 62  
Fax 971 35 18 65

[www.gobmenorca.com](http://www.gobmenorca.com)  
[info@gobmenorca.com](mailto:info@gobmenorca.com)

Associació declarada  
d'Utilitat Pública

**The Honourable Mendsaikhan Zagdjav**  
**The Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia**  
**Ulaanbaatar MONGOLIA**  
[ariunbayar@mofa.gov.mn](mailto:ariunbayar@mofa.gov.mn)

**Subject: Designation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**

18/06/2021

Your Excellency,

We are glad to learn that the resolution proposal submitted by Government of Mongolia with other supporting countries in support of the designation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) has been endorsed by the FAO Conference.

Local communities all over the Mediterranean basin still engage in many traditional cultural practices, which together with mobile pastoralism contribute to the ecological integrity and diversity of Mediterranean landscapes. However, the threats of modern era that these communities are facing today challenge their capability to maintain their traditional lifestyles. Abandonment of pastoralism as a beneficial land use practice that have shaped the landscapes of the world, its food and its culture as a whole for thousands years of interaction, can result in massive biodiversity loss, particularly in rangelands. This calls for urgent action.

In order to conserve such traditional cultural practices in the Mediterranean Basin, we have joined forces as 13 organisations at landscape and regional levels under the umbrella of the Alliance for Mediterranean Nature and Culture, which has the support of MAVA Foundation. Pastoralism being present in all the landscapes identified within this Alliance, there are many activities we conduct for:

- Enhancing and demonstrating the links between pastoralism and biodiversity in Mediterranean cultural landscapes.
- Promoting the use of rangelands for cattle grazing.
- Assessing and demonstrating the benefits of pastoralism for the human well-being of communities living in the Mediterranean basin.
- Ensuring economic and financial sustainability of pastoral economies.
- Advocating policies that support pastoralism.

As an organisation that works for halting the loss of such beneficial traditional land use practices and demonstrates their valuable role supporting both biodiversity conservation and welfare of communities, we firmly believe that designation of IYRP will be very critical towards addressing this urgent call.

Yours sincerely,

**Carlos Coll Pons**  
*President*