



Hon. H.E. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia
13381 Zasglin gazriin IX bair
Enkhtaivnii urgun chuluu 16a Bayanzurkh duureg.
Ulaanbaatar MONGOLIA

Subject: Letter of support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Honorable Minister,

The Global Change and Conservation Lab of the University of Helsinki, affiliated to the Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science, would like to express its support to the declaration of 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists by the United Nations.

Our group is currently developing integrative research on diverse pastoralist systems. Thanks to the support of IUBS (the International Union of Biological Sciences), we are coordinating and implementing the Global Integrated Pastoralist Project, whose aim is to better understand the sustainability and resilience of pastoralist systems worldwide. The advances that we are fostering should be a valuable contribution to IYRP activities.

Our major contributions include analyzing pastoralism mobility types and patterns globally, as well as addressing the status and adaptive role of pastoralism traditional knowledge, together with the development of a comprehensive global database on pastoralism, which will result in reliable estimates on the extent and importance of the livelihood. Our research is bonded with co-production approaches that value their empowerment and we therefore believe this long-term effort will greatly contribute to the interest of other IYRP partners. We continue fundraising to extend our effort.

With our best regards,

Dr. Mar Cabeza
Principal Investigator, Global Change and Conservation Lab

Helsinki, 30.09.2020