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Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture
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Gland, 28 September 2020

RE: SUPPORT TO THE REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MONGOLIA FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) fully support the initiative of Mongolia to declare 2026 the “International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists”.

IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,200 Member organisations and the input of more than 17,000 experts. This diversity and vast expertise makes IUCN the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. IUCN has observer status to the United Nations.

IUCN has been working for more than two decades to restore, sustainably manage and protect rangeland ecosystems for multiple environmental, economic and social benefits. This work has supported sustainable pastoralism through policies that empower pastoral communities, improve governance in rangelands and strengthening local institutions within pastoral communities.

Through the “Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development” (HERD) initiative, IUCN continues to support a growing portfolio of more than 10 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America to sustainably manage and restore rangelands with a goal to improve both conservation and human development outcomes. Protection and improvement of rangeland health and sustainable pastoralism approaches remain a global challenge in the current context due to limited and often inappropriate actions stemming from weak policies among other things.

The IYRP will catalyse the interest and appropriate action leading to greater global commitment to addressing issues of food and water security, land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. IUCN will continue to support action to achieve rangeland improvement through the HERD initiative and support rangeland and pastoralists in countries to strive towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart Maginnis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stewart Maginnis
Global Director Nature-based Solutions Group