



# Society for Range Management

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Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy  
Email: [fao-hq@fao.org](mailto:fao-hq@fao.org)

June 17, 2019

Dear Sirs/Madams:

**Re: Support for the request from the Government of the Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)**

The Society for Range Management (SRM) presents its sincere greetings to you and your office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. SRM writes to express its support of the request by the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

Paraphrasing the Mongolian IYRP Proposal, *"More than half of the Earth's land surface is classified as rangeland, those lands on which the indigenous vegetation is predominantly grasses, forbs or shrubs that are or can be grazed, and which are used in this natural state for grazing livestock and wildlife conservation. The health, productivity and environmental sustainability of these lands are directly critical to the livelihoods and cultures of more than 500 million pastoralists, including agro-pastoralists, rangers, and animal keepers around the world."*

For more than 70 years, SRM as an international professional Society, has promoted the wise use, management, and conservation of rangelands through the application of professional knowledge and experience based on sound scientific principles. SRM has been a perennial leader in providing science-based education across the globe for managers, pastoralists, ranchers, and the general public about the importance of sound use and stewardship of rangelands. SRM believes that the designation of IYRP would provide an opportunity to raise the profile and support for rangelands and pastoral issues globally and nationally, improve understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by the rangeland ecosystem and pastoralists, and direct increased attention and resources to rangelands and those who manage them.

With this in mind, please accept SRM's full support for the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Clayton B. Marlow  
President, The Society for Range Management

**MISSION:** Providing leadership for the Stewardship of Rangelands based on sound ecological principles.

**VISION:** A well-trained and highly motivated group of professionals and rangeland users working with productive, sustainable rangeland ecosystems