

ITG International Takhi Group
Freunde des Wildpferdes

H.E. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
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Sihlwald, September 22, 2020

Letter of support to the designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

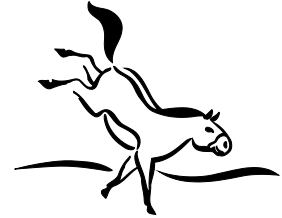
Dear Mr Mendsaikhan Zagdjav

We, the International Takhi Group (ITG), are hereby expressing our support for the designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists proposed by the Mongolian government in 2019. As the proposal will be discussed by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) by the end of September 2020, we are herewith expressing our support for this initiative and are assuring our active participation in the preparation and implementation of the IYRP.

ITG is a non-governmental organisation based in Switzerland and Mongolia with the aim to protect the environment of the Great Gobi "B" Strictly Protected Area (GGBSPA) in the South-west of Mongolia on a scientific basis. The GGBSPA is covering an area of approx. 18.000 km² inhabited by a viable wildlife population with the Przewalski's Horse (in Mongolian "Takhi") as flagship species. ITG has a Mandate of the Mongolian Nation to support the conservation activities in and around the GGBSPA in close cooperation with the director and the administration of the Strictly Protected Area. ITG's science based approach is integrating local pastoralists, farmers and cooperatives in the surrounding of the park area in co-management activities and socio-economic issues. Furthermore, ITG collaborates with the administrations of the local Soums and Bags, as well as with the regional Aimags.

The Takhi project is sensibly embedded into the overall development of the region and improves the knowledge about the Przewalski's Horse within the Mongolian population. The project's goal is to establish and maintain a viable population of wild horses on the long-term while stabilising the intensity of habitat-use through wildlife and local pastoralists to maintain healthy rangelands.

Since more than 25 years ITG is supporting the conservation activities in and around the GGBSPA, supporting scientific studies and is keeping close ties to the local nomadic population. Through workshops and conferences local pastoralists are regularly involved in ITG's activities and close cooperation between the GGBSPA administration, the local population and ITG is ensured.



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Therefore, ITG is strongly supporting the idea of an IYRP by the Mongolian government and hopes for an implementation of this initiative by the UN. ITG together with the administration of the GGBSPA will commit to an active participation in an IYRP.

Sincerely yours
ITG - International Takhi Group

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