



**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**

Dear Madams/Sirs,

**Subject: Support to the request from the Government of the Mongolia for an  
International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**

The Eastern and Southern African Pastoralist Network (ESAPN) presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. ESAPN has the honour of writing in support of the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

We believe that the designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 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 rangelands and pastoralists, and direct increased attention and resources to them.

The rangelands of Eastern and Southern Africa host the highest number of livestock that provide almost 90% of employment and form the basis of livelihoods and production for pastoralists. Pastoralism also contributes in a big way to national GDPs while at the same time ensuring the existence of wild fauna and flora that form the foundation of the regions wildlife based tourism. Further, pastoralism provides a cultural identity to the region in addition to ensuring ecological integrity in the rangelands.

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

Yours sincerely,

Michael Santeto Ole Tiampati

**CHAIR: EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN PASTORALIST NETWORK**