



Ref.: 4/2019

Athens, 10 June 2019

**From:**

Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA)  
23 Voukourestiou str.  
106 71 Athens, Greece  
Email: [info@med-ina.org](mailto:info@med-ina.org)

**To:**

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)

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

Dear Madams/Sirs,

The Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos (MedINA) presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. MedINA has the honour of writing in support of the request of the Government of Mongolia for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Rangelands and migration routes that pastoralists have managed over millennia, support protection of threatened species and habitats and maintain areas of importance for ecological connectivity, ensuring ecological integrity of landscapes and supporting critical ecosystem functions such as carbon storage. Mobility feature of pastoralism also has direct benefits for water cycle regulation, requires the least fossil fuel energy, and reduces incidence of pollution and reliance on veterinary products.

Yet pastoralists have also been a usual subject of adverse policies, in many cases justified with ill-informed argumentations. Particularly in the last century they have suffered from historic injustices such as restrictions to mobility and reduced access to their traditional lands and natural resources. These growing pressures often surpass the capability of pastoralists to maintain their traditional practices, leading to abandonment of this lifestyle all over the world.

We believe that there is urgent need for global action to conserve rangelands and traditional pastoral practices. In this spirit, designation of an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists would provide an opportunity to raise the profile and support for rangelands and pastoral issues both globally

MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTE FOR NATURE AND ANTHROPOS

23 Voukourestiou Street, 106 71 Athens, Greece  
T:+30 210 3600711 F:+30 210 3629338 E: [info@med-ina.org](mailto:info@med-ina.org) [www.med-ina.org](http://www.med-ina.org)



and nationally, helping to improve understanding of challenges and opportunities faced by rangelands and pastoralists, and to direct increased attention and resources to this traditional cultural practice that benefits biodiversity.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thymio Papayannis".

Thymio Papayannis  
Director of MedINA

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Dimitropoulos".

George Dimitropoulos  
Member of Scientific Secretariat,  
Terra Lemnia Project Manager