



Beirut, 24 May 2019

**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**

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

Dear Madams/Sirs,

Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon-SPNL presents its sincere greetings to you and your esteemed office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. SPNL, 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 pastoralists have managed over millennia to protect threatened species and habitats, ensure ecological integrity of landscapes and support ecological processes, maintain areas of importance for ecological connectivity, and have 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, reduces incidence of pollution and reliance on veterinary products.

Yet pastoralists have been also 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 to access their traditional lands and natural resources etc. The threats of modern era they are facing are beyond their capability to maintain the same state which leads to abandonment of this lifestyle and calls for an urgent action.

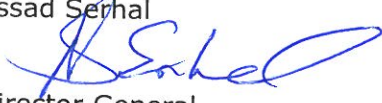
Despite this need to conserve the practice and rangelands is among the most pressing needs at global level, it has not been paid attention enough by the global community.

Accordingly we firmly 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 this traditional cultural practice that benefits biodiversity.

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,

Assad Serhal



Director General

جمعية حماية الطبيعة والموارد الطبيعية في لبنان
SPNL - Society for the Protection of
Nature in Lebanon