


25 June 2025







H.E. Mr. Enkhbayar Jamdamba
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)
13381 Governmental Building 9th, Peace Avenue 16a,
Bayanzurkh district, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
info@mofa.gov.mn

Dear Mr Jamdamba

The designation of 2026 as the International Year of Grasslands and Pastoralists (IYRP) is significant in raising awareness about a way of life centred on animal husbandry and pastoral landscapes, along with their unique characteristics and challenges. Now more than ever, it is essential to unite not only pastoralist communities but also everyone involved in academia and science to conserve these environments and ensure the well-being of the communities that depend on them.

 **VICAM:** Vicuñas, Camelids, and Environment, our Research Group, focuses on the Andean Altiplano in northwest Argentina, working primarily with camelids, particularly wild vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*). We also explore the ethnobiological aspects of llamas (*Lama glama*) and their relationship with indigenous people and local communities (IPLC). Our main concerns are the conservation and sustainability of the pastoral socioecosystem. Our core activities include researching the biological components of the vegetation system and developing education for sustainability and conservation policies.

Our Main Objectives:

-  **1. Conservation:** To conserve populations of Andean wild vicuñas (*Vicugna vicugna*) while promoting sustainable development of the Andean environments, considering both natural and cultural aspects through scientific research.
-  **2. Integration of Knowledge:** To incorporate traditional local knowledge into our research, facilitating a solid and culturally accepted transdisciplinary approach to science.
-  **3. Dissemination:** To share our knowledge and recommendations on environmental policies with the general public and decision-makers.
-  **4. Implementation:** To develop management plans and recommendations for the conservation and management of Andean biodiversity.
-  **5. Capacity Building:** To establish programs that enhance the capacity of local communities for the conservation and management of wild vicuñas.
-  **6. Equity Promotion:** To promote equitable access to information and research, addressing both cultural (indigenous) and gender (young women) aspects.

During the International Year of Camelids, we were very active, generating several specific projects funded by the SDM and the Satoyama Initiative, which has unfortunately ended. We have an excellent relationship with the llama herding communities of the Altiplano region, NW Argentina.

Activities for IYC 2024

Date	Location	Activity	Link FAO page
April 7 th -13 th 2024	Santa Catalina Jujuy	Workshop on the IYC with sixth and seventh form students at Santa Catalina Elementary School	https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/schoolchildren-and-camelids-in-santa-catalina-jujuy-argentina/en
April 17 th 2024	Buenos Aires city	Event at the CONICET stand in the National Book Fair	https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/celebrando-el-a%C3%B1o-internacional-de-los-cam%C3%A9lidos-vicu%C3%B1as-y-llamas-en-argentina/en
August 19 th -24 th 2024	Santa Catalina Jujuy	Workshop on the IYC in both the Elementary and High Schools of Santa Catalina.	https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/school-and-community-activitiesff66931b-174f-412e-b3af-4bb4b42e19e6/en
September 25 th -28 th 2024	Abrapampa Jujuy	Teacher training course "The Camelids"	https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/curso-de-capacitacion-para-docentes-los-camelidos-educators-capacity-course-camelids-177b6218-7b39-404f-9f0d-3c84b32fbbbd/en
October 21 st -27 th 2024	Santa Catalina Jujuy	Celebrations in the Community:	<p>Spinning contest: https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/santa-catalina-international-year-of-camelids-celebration--traditional-llama-fibre-spinning-contest/en</p> <p>Cooking exhibition with llama meat https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/santa-catalina-international-year-of-camelids-celebration--cooking-competition-of-traditional-dishes-using-llama-meat/en</p> <p>Making llama meat charcuterie https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/santa-catalina-international-year-of-camelids-celebration--training-workshop-on-the-production-of-llama-meat-sausages/en</p> <p>The MURAL https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/santa-catalina-</p>

			international-year-of-camelids-celebration--community-camelid-mural/en
Nov. 24 th 2024	Santa Catalina Jujuy	Ashka Llama fair	https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/santa-catalina-international-year-of-camelids-celebration--ashka-llama/en
March 14 th -19 th 2025	Santa Catalina Jujuy	Training Course for Local Women in Vicuña Fiber Spinning	https://www.fao.org/camelids-2024/events/event-detail/training-workshop-on-vicu%C3%B1a-fibre-spinning/en

We would like to introduce ourselves (www.vicam.org.ar) and offer our collaboration to generate activities related to the International Year of Pastoralism, as we are deeply committed to the Andean pastoral landscape and its animals and communities. Unfortunately, we lack funding due to a crisis in the scientific system of our country, which has resulted in significant budget cuts for environmental issues. We are especially interested in biodiversity and gender. We are also submitting our logo to be incorporated into the IYRP website.

Sincerely,



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