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Date 23/07/2021

The Honourable Mendsaikhan Zagdjav

The Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar MONGOLIA

Subject: Designation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)

Your Excellency,

We are happy to learn that an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism has been finally endorsed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. We extend our deepest gratitude with regard to the work you have been done for making this happen.

As we perfectly know, changes in the traditional pastoralism practices have caused a great biodiversity loss around the globe. Our organization, Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (PPNEA), over the years has implemented many projects that have tried to tackle the abandonment of pastoralism, a practice that for centuries has sculpted the landscapes of the world.

In order to preserve traditional pastoralism, we have gathered stories of young and experienced livestock keepers around the Korab-Koritnik / Sharr region, which were integrated into a detailed book that was broadly promoted in the rural areas as well as the general population in Albania.

In the near future, we are planning to further help preserving traditional pastoralism, by:

- Financially supporting three mountain huts;
- Cleaning potential pastures in the Korab-Koritnik region;
- Creating two reservoirs, which will be used by pastoralists and their livestock in the Korab-Koritnik region.

Isolated initiatives can be a great starting point for tackling this phenomenon. But, in order to make a difference, we believe that cooperation among different countries and their respective entities is crucially needed for achieving sustainable results. That is why we believe that the designation of IYRP will constitute the right path for making this happen.

Through this letter, we express our commitment to continue the work we have started and, furthermore, extend our support to this wonderful initiative which will soon be the main driving force of the revival of traditional pastoralism.

Sincerely,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Aleksander Trajce

