



August 5, 2020

H.E. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia
13381 Zasglin gazriin IX bair
Enkhtaivnii urgun chuluu 16a Bayanzurkh duureg.
Ulaanbaatar MONGOLIA
ariunbayar@mofa.gov.mn

Dear Mr. Zagdjav:

Re: Letter of commitment for the Government of the Mongolia's proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

On behalf of the Rangelands Partnership, I am writing to present our members' sincere regards and to enthusiastically express our support of and commitment to the Mongolian Government's proposal to officially designate an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

Our Partnership, a nearly 20-year collaboration of 19 land-grant universities and affiliated organizations in the United States, has been engaged in the effort to gain an IYRP for the past few years. To this end, the Partnership has served as the Secretariat for the International Support Group (ISG) for the IYRP and maintains an IYRP web page with considerable relevant and related resources:

<https://globalrangelands.org/international-year-rangelands-and-pastoralists-initiative>. As the Secretariat, members of the Partnership organize ISG meetings, take and distribute minutes, and contribute to preparation of background materials and status reports.

In addition, the Partnership has committed and will continue to commit funding and in-kind support for outreach and educational activities in the years preceding a designation as well as during the proposed 2026 IYRP. To date, this has included organizing symposia and meetings, and developing posters and banners for use at special events and to display at conferences around the world. Currently, the Partnership's graphic designer is developing customized IYRP graphics that can be used in social media posts as well as on websites and in marketing materials. The Partnership also is facilitating the development of a status paper on North American rangelands to complement the UNEP "Gap Analysis" report.

An IYRP will be a unique opportunity to raise the profile and support for critical rangelands and pastoral issues globally and nationally. The Rangelands Partnership is willing and able to provide modest financial as well as considerable in-kind personnel support for IYRP activities.

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The Rangelands Partnership is extremely gratified to be affiliated with this important initiative and we congratulate the Mongolian Government on the progress it has made in the effort to date. We are committed to doing all we can to help ensure a successful outcome in this process.

Yours sincerely,



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Copies to:

- Dr. Batmunkh Damdindorj, Director of Livestock Department, MoFALI , Mongolia, and Chair of the National Support Group of the IYRP, (batmunkhdamdindorj@yahoo.com)
- Mr. Ganbayar G., Permanent Representative to FAO, Mongolian Embassy in Rome (ganbayar_2005@yahoo.com and rome@mfa.gov.mn)
- Gregorio VelascoGil, AGAG, FAO (gregorio.velascogil@fao.org)
- Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Vice-Chair ISG for the IYRP (mniafull2@gmail.com)