



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Office of the Vice Chancellor

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29th September, 2020

**H.E. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav,
Mongolian Minister of Food,
Agriculture and Light Industry
(ariunbayar@mofa.gov.mn)**

SUPPORT FOR DECLARATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS BY THE UNITED NATIONS.

Rangelands cover more than 40% of the global landscape, between 60 and 70% of the total land area in sub-Saharan Africa, and support over 200 million people (most of them pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities). In Kenya, rangelands comprise 89% of the land surface and support 14 million people (90% of the population inhabiting the drylands), and 70% of the total country's livestock. These ecosystems embody social, cultural, spiritual, ecological and economic values of local, national and international significance. They are a source of various plant and animal resources, and provide various ecosystem services including water catchment, carbon sequestration, sites of spiritual and cultural values, and habitat for wildlife that form the basis of ecotourism.

Sustainable rangelands and pastoralism is therefore not only crucial in securing livelihoods of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, but also attainment of national and global food security, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. This calls for concerted efforts by all stakeholders to enhance resilience of rangelands and pastoral systems.

The University of Nairobi (UoN), as a leading institution of training and research in Rangeland Management in sub-Saharan Africa, wish to support the world initiative to observe the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) by the United Nations. This initiative will not only provide a platform to create awareness and understanding about the importance of rangelands, but also promote integration of rangelands and pastoralist issues in national, regional and international development agenda.

The initiative is relevant to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 15) on promotion of sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); African Union policy framework on pastoralism; Aspiration 1 of African Union Agenda



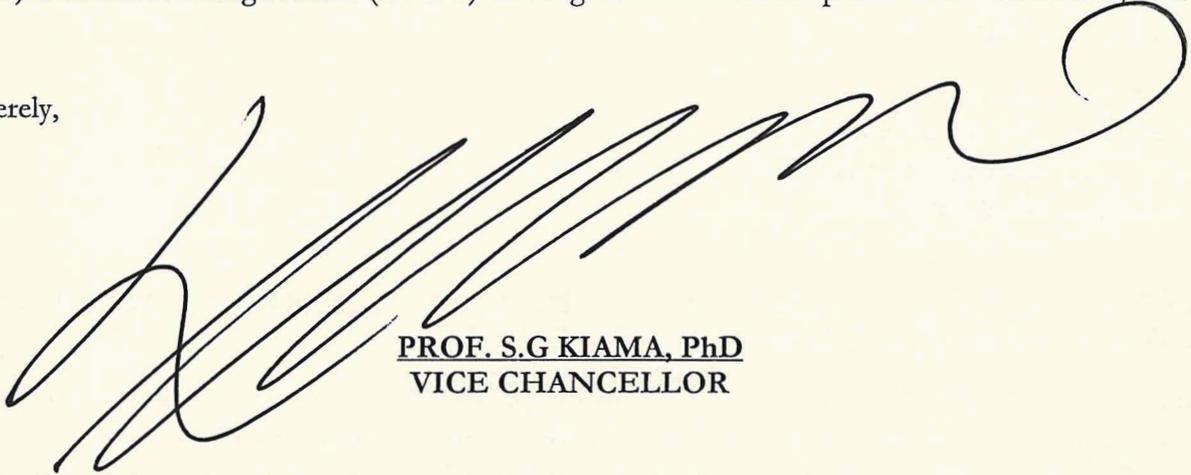
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2063 on ensuring the preservation of healthy environment and ecosystems, and climate resilient economies and communities; Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) regional rangeland management strategic framework; Kenya's National Policy for the Sustainable Development of Arid and Semi-Arid Lands; and Kenya's draft Rangeland Management and Pastoralism Strategic Plan for 2020-2022.

The purpose of this letter is therefore to add our voice to the global quest for declaration of IYRP by the UN; and specifically declare our support to the upcoming Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Committee on Agriculture (COAG) meeting that will be held September 28 – October 2, 2020.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sweeping, overlapping loops and lines, extending from the left side of the page towards the right.

PROF. S.G KIAMA, PhD
VICE CHANCELLOR