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13th of April 2021

To: H.E. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia
13381 Zasglingazriin IX bair
Enkhtaivniiurgunchuluu 16a Bayanzurkhduureg.
Ulaanbaatar MONGOLIA
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RE: SUPPORT FOR IYRP

Dear Minister Zagdjav,

1. On behalf of the Federal University of São João del-Rei (UFSJ), located in the state of Minas Gerais, in Brazil, we are glad to present UFSJ's strong and enthusiastic support to the establishment of an International Year of Grasslands and Herders (IYRP). As you are aware, grasslands and savannas face one of the fastest and highest rates of conversion and degradation of any biome, and are critical ecosystems for climate mitigation, maintenance of freshwater resources, and habitat for some of the last great herds of wildlife on the planet and other endemic and threatened species. In addition, they have the capacity to ensure food security, supporting livelihoods and maintaining the cultural identity of millions of rural and indigenous people. A key problem is the lack of awareness of its values, and we do believe the IYRP is a historic opportunity to enhance the importance of such issues on a global scale.
2. Regarding UFSJ, it is important to mention that our institution is being actively working on several research projects on sustainable livestock system, including silvopastoral systems and the use/evaluation of native grasses and shrubs for ruminant nutrition in Brazil. UFSJ also holds both: an Undergrad and a Graduate Program in which this important theme has been discussed through the development of several research projects in collaboration with other national and international institutions and research centres. We are also very proud to mention that our institution is a member of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), an international partnership established among the livestock sector stakeholders, committed to the sustainable development of the sector. At GASL, one of UFSJ faculty has been a lecturer, working directly on several actions including Academia and Research cluster and Restoring value to grassland and Closing the efficiency gap action networks.
3. Therefore, based on facts mentioned above, I reaffirm the institutional support to the IYRP, acknowledging that The Federal University of São João del-Rei could potentially contribute to future IYRP activities.

Sincerely yours,


Marcelo Pereira de Andrade- President
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