

H.E. Mr Bolorchuluun Khayangaa
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)
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Bayanzurkh District
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
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Bern, 13.03.2026

**SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS
(IYRP 2026)
Expression of Support**

Your Excellency,

The Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern is pleased to express its support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026).

Established in 2020 as a public-private alliance between the Wyss Foundation, the Canton of Bern, and the University of Bern, the Wyss Academy works to foster a just and mutually beneficial relationship between people and nature. Through our Solutionscape approach, we collaborate with communities, public authorities, research institutions, and private sector partners to develop locally grounded and evidence-based responses to climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and livelihood vulnerability.

We recognize the critical ecological and socio-economic importance of rangelands and pastoralist systems, particularly in dryland regions facing increasing climate pressures. Addressing these challenges requires integrated and systemic approaches that combine ecosystem restoration, inclusive governance, and respect for local knowledge.

In Northern Kenya, our Hub East Africa works with community conservancies and governmental and civil society partners to restore degraded rangelands, support participatory land-use planning, safeguard wildlife and community corridors, and contribute to evidence-informed policy dialogue in arid and semi-arid landscapes. As part of our 2026–2030 strategy, we aim to synthesize lessons learned from this collaborative work to inform broader discussions on sustainable rangeland management and pastoralist systems.

In the context of IYRP 2026, the Wyss Academy stands ready to share experience and engage in relevant knowledge exchanges that advance the objectives of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism 2026.

We commend the leadership of Mongolia in advancing this initiative and look forward to contributing to collective efforts to enhance the recognition and sustainable management of rangelands globally.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Messerli', written in a cursive style.

Peter Messerli
Director Wyss Academy for Nature, Professor for Sustainable Development

Cc:

Munkhnasan Tsevegmed, Officer, MoFALI, and Secretary of Mongolia National Task Force for the IYRP

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