

31 January 2023

H.E. Mr. Mendsaikhan Zagdjav
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)
13381 Governmental Building 9th, Peace Avenue 16a,
Bayanzurkh district, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Re: Commitment/support for IYRP 2026 from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to present our compliments to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia and to take this opportunity to convey our commitment and support to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026.

As an inter-governmental regional organization working in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is committed to the HKH mountains, its environmental health, its people, and their prosperity. Our eight member countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, where tens of millions of people depend directly on rangeland resources. In fact, rangelands account for nearly 60% of the total area of HKH region and are crucial to the livelihoods of HKH people. Furthermore, the environmental services the region's rangelands provide in terms of water capture and regulation and carbon sequestration are of great global significance.

For ICIMOD, rangeland restoration is a major action area in our Strategy 2030. The 2026 IYRP provides an important opportunity to highlight the importance of rangelands and amplify the voices of pastoralists from the HKH. We look forward to sharing our experiences with international counterparts and to building networks for regional and international collaboration on the sustainability of rangeland ecosystems and pastoral societies.

We will be active participants and contributors to the IYRP 2026. Some of our planned activities for the year include – documentation of regional cases of pastoral resilience and transformation; establishment of an HKH-level regional network of pastoralists; and the inauguration of an HKH rangeland society to coincide with IYRP. We wish to cooperate with our regional member countries to organize a parallel event on rangelands management and pastoral development in the era of climate crisis, globalization, and digital technology.

We look forward to Your Excellency's support and guidance and to work closely with the organizing team and would like to assure you of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pema Gyamtsho', with a small horizontal line above the first letter.

Pema Gyamtsho Ph.D.
Director General

CC:

1. Munkhnasan Tsevegmed, Officer at MoFALI, and Secretary of Mongolia National task force for the IYRP: (munkhnasan@mofa.gov.mn, munkhnasan2025@gmail.com)
2. Gregorio Velasco-Gil, AGAG, FAO (gregorio.velascogil@fao.org)
3. Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Vice-Chair ISG for the IYRP (mniafull2@gmail.com)