



H.E. Mr Enkhbayar Jamdamba

Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)
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C/c:

- Munkhnasan Tsevegmed – MoFALI & IYRP Mongolia Task Force
- Gregorio Velasco-Gil – FAO
- Igshaan Samuels – Co-Chair IYRP Global Alliance

Subject: Letter of Support and Commitment to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)

Excellency,

On behalf of the **Hospital Veterinário Muralha de Évora (HVME)**, located in Évora, Portugal, we are honoured to express our strong support for the designation of **2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)**.

a) Importance of IYRP

The Hospital Veterinário Muralha de Évora is dedicated to promoting animal health and providing veterinary services across the southern region of Portugal. We acknowledge the essential role of rangelands and pastoralists in sustaining biodiversity, ensuring animal health and welfare, preserving traditional knowledge, and supporting extensive livestock systems that are vital for rural communities and national food security.

b) Planned activities

Every year, our institution organises the **International Conference of the Hospital Veterinário Muralha de Évora**, the largest Iberian congress dedicated to extensive livestock farming. In **2026, on 13–14 March, at the 17th edition of our conference, the central theme will be “Rangelands and Pastoralists”**.

Through this event, we will:

- Promote national-level discussion on policies and best practices related to the importance of rangelands and pastoralists in Portugal.
- Host a **National Shepherds’ Meeting**, providing a platform for pastoralists to exchange experiences and highlight their role in sustainable livestock production.
- Launch a new **National Pastoralism Award**, open to applications from across the country, to recognise excellence and innovation in shepherding and rangeland management.



c) Contribution and commitment

While our contribution will be non-monetary, we are firmly committed to advancing technical knowledge on Portuguese pastoralism by bringing together experts, researchers, producers, and policymakers at our congress. In this way, we will contribute to raising awareness and fostering practical solutions for the sustainable management of rangelands and the recognition of pastoralists' value.

We look forward to actively collaborating with the Government of Mongolia, the FAO, and the Global Alliance for the IYRP to ensure the success of this international initiative.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nuno Prates".

Nuno Prates

Hospital Veterinário Muralha de Évora