

TO:

H.E. Mr. Enkhbayar Jamdamba

Minister of Food, Agriculture
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CC:

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SUBJECT: Letter of support and commitment for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026) – Project "Vita da capre"

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of **Abibook Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus**, I am writing to express our formal support for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026), officially designated by the United Nations and led by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) alongside the Government of Mongolia.

In accordance with the guidelines for IYRP support letters, we hereby outline the importance of this initiative to our organization, the specific project activities we will execute in alignment with IYRP 2026, and the financial commitment dedicated to this effort.

a) Importance of IYRP 2026 to our Organisation

Our organization, in partnership with local authorities, public libraries, and agricultural entities in Lombardy (Italy), is actively engaged in the preservation and promotion of alpine herding and intangible cultural heritage. In our territory - specifically in Valle Sabbia and Alto Garda Bresciano - semi-extensive goat herding, transhumance, and traditional mountain pasture management (*alpeggio*) represent vital social, ecological, and economic practices.

These pastoral traditions manage biodiversity, prevent land abandonment, preserve unique landscapes, and foster climate resilience. The IYRP 2026 framework provides a fundamental global platform to highlight the crucial role of pastoralists as custodians of alpine ecosystems and intangible cultural heritage, combining traditional approaches with forward-thinking sustainable frameworks.

b) Activities to be carried out in the framework of IYRP 2026

To celebrate IYRP 2026, Abibook and its local network are implementing the dedicated initiative titled **"VITA DA CAPRE. Il ciclo delle stagioni e della vita negli alpeggi della**

Valle Sabbia e dell'Alto Garda Bresciano nell'Anno Internazionale dei Pascoli e dei Pastori" (running from April 2026 to March 2027).

This project has been submitted under the official call for proposals funded by **Regione Lombardia** (Regional Government of Lombardy) for cultural projects for the year 2026, embedding alpine pastoralism into regional cultural and environmental policies.

The project encompasses three key operational pillars:

1. Ethnographic and archival research:

- Conducting in-depth biographical and thematic video-interviews with traditional semi-extensive goat herders across key mountain pastures.
- Documenting traditional pastoral knowledge, vocal/gestural communication techniques with herds, and transhumance routes.
- Populating the Lombardy Region's *Intangible Search* digital platform with curated ethnographic files.
- Researching the historical legacy of the *Istituto Pastorizio Vesio* (founded in 1893) and its archives.

2. Heritage enhancement and educational activities:

- **Artistic photo campaign:** photographers will capture the seasonal life cycle of goat herding across the four seasons.
- **Guided mountain excursions:** organised hikes led by alpine guides to local pastures, featuring milking demonstrations, visits to farmsteads, and direct interaction with herders.
- **Inclusive educational workshops:** educational activities linking archive materials, storytelling, and nature observation for schools, young adults, and vulnerable groups, leveraging public libraries as accessible community hubs.

3. Communication, dissemination, and community outreach

- **Official IYRP alignment:** promoting and reporting project progress directly through the official IYRP global platform ([<https://iyrp.info/>])(<https://iyrp.info/>)).
- **Exhibitions & publications:** producing an itinerant photo exhibition across regional libraries, a 12-month photographic catalog detailing the

biological/pastoral cycle, and a historical booklet on local pastoral institutions.

c) Financing and resource allocation

The total budget and implementation framework for the "Vita da capre" project is co-financed by regional/local funds and internal resources. Abibook has committed a **direct co-financing share of 32.69%** of the total project cost to ensure high-quality execution, long-term sustainability, and community impact. All public events, exhibitions, and educational workshops generated by this initiative will be offered free of charge to the public.

We fully endorse the mission of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 and look forward to contributing actively to its global success.

Sincerely,

Brescia (Italy), September 22, 2026.

ABIBOOK
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