



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

Your Excellency Mr. Bolorchuluun Khayangaa,

Minister of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)

On behalf of the **Romanian Mountain Forum** – officially recognized public utility NGO promoting sustainable and integrated development of the mountain areas in Romania, established in 2004, we are pleased to express our full support and commitment to the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026 (IYRP 2026)**, as proclaimed by the **United Nations General Assembly**.

a) Importance of IYRP 2026 for our organization and territory

The Romanian Mountain Forum (FMR) has been actively engaged over the last 20 years in promoting sustainable mountain development, agropastoral systems, and the recognition of traditional knowledge in mountain and rangeland territories.

The IYRP 2026 is of particular importance for Romania's Carpathian region, where extensive livestock farming, seasonal pastoralism (transhumance), and multifunctional grassland management remain key pillars of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and landscape resilience. Supporting the IYRP 2026 aligns directly with Romania's national commitments under the **Carpathian Convention**, the **EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, and the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, especially SDGs 2, 12, 13, and 15.

b) Planned activities before and during IYRP 2026

FMR intends to contribute to the IYRP 2026 through the following activities:

- Organizing a **calendar of national and regional events to celebrate the IYRP 2026 (conferences, scientific events, workshops etc.)** on the role of rangelands and pastoral systems in sustainable mountain economies (in collaboration with the Romanian Academy - Mountain Economy Center "CE-MONT Vatra Dornei"; Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences ASAS – Commission for Montology and Mountain Economy; Research and Development Institute for Grasslands Brasov; Montology Insitute Cristian – Sibiu; Euromontana – European Association of Mountain Areas and it's Romanian members: RoMontana – National Association for Mountains and Rural Development; Mountain Farmers Federation "Dorna", OpenFields Foundation, Highclere Consulting, Maramureş county council and other institutional, non-governmental and private partners);

- Supporting **awareness campaigns** highlighting traditional pastoral practices, mountain product value chains, and the socio-cultural heritage of shepherding communities in the Carpathians;
- Contributing to **scientific publications and policy briefs** on the socio-economic value of rangelands and their role in ecosystem services, resilience, and climate adaptation;
- Participating in the **XIV European Mountain Convention 2026 (9-11 June, Sallanches – Haute Savoie, France)**, which will also be dedicated to extensive livestock farming and pastoralism;
- Supporting the dissemination of IYRP 2026 communication materials in Romanian language at the national level.

c) Indicative financial commitment and funding strategy

The Romanian Mountain Forum intends to contribute to IYRP 2026 activities primarily through in-kind support for coordination, communication - dissemination, and expert contributions. In addition, we will actively seek for public co-funding opportunities at the national, regional and local level and also for private funds within our partnership network committed to pastoral livelihoods and rangeland sustainability.

We reaffirm our strong interest in collaborating with the global IYRP 2026 network and contributing to a common vision for the recognition and revitalization of pastoral systems worldwide.

Yours sincerely,

Radu-Adrian Rey
President
Romanian Mountain Forum (Forumul Montan din Romania)

Signed at: Vatra Dornei, Suceava county, Romania
Date: 11'th of December, 2025

