

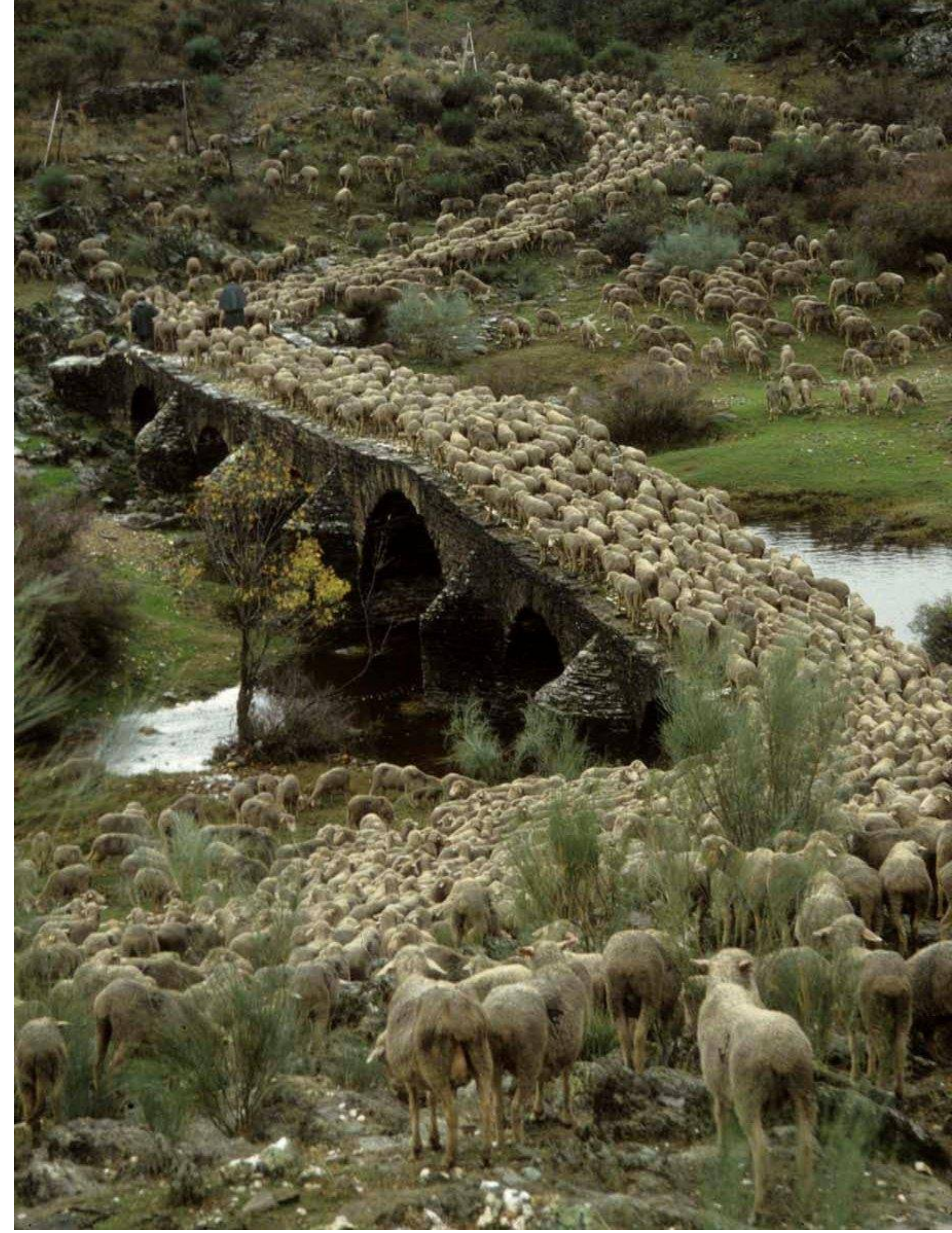
**ISIS Inspiring Rural Heritage**  
Kolasin 18-19 October 2023

**Francesca Pasetti**

Co-chair RISG Europe (Regional IYRP Support Group)  
Focal Point Spain Nomination Transhumance UNESCO ICH  
Member FAO Pastoralists Knowledge Hub, League for Pastoral People and  
Endogenous Livestock Development, Spanish Platform for Extensive Livestock  
and Pastoralism & Rete Appia – email: fpasettib@gmail.com

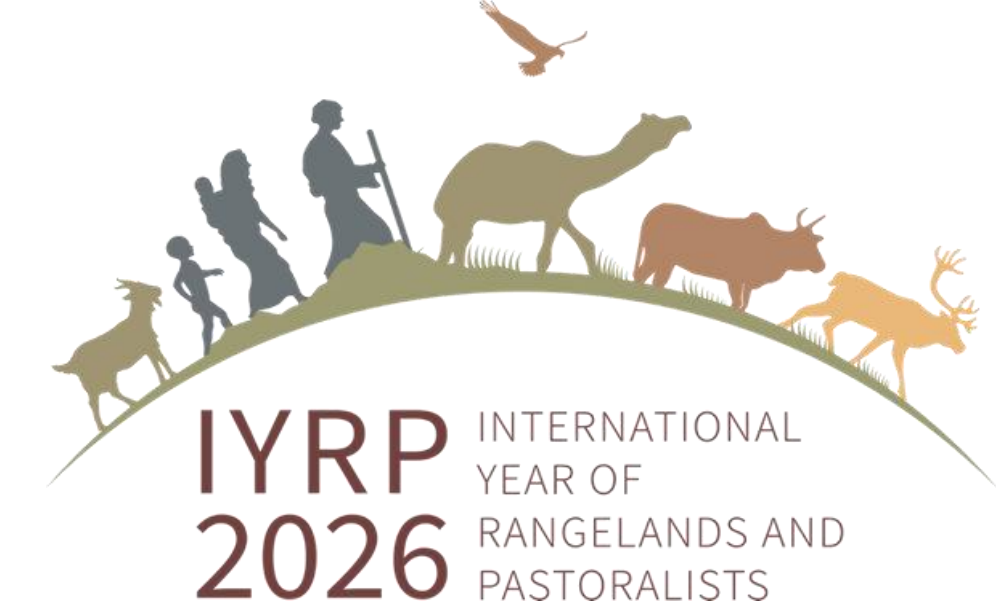


Asociación  
Concejo de la  
Mesta





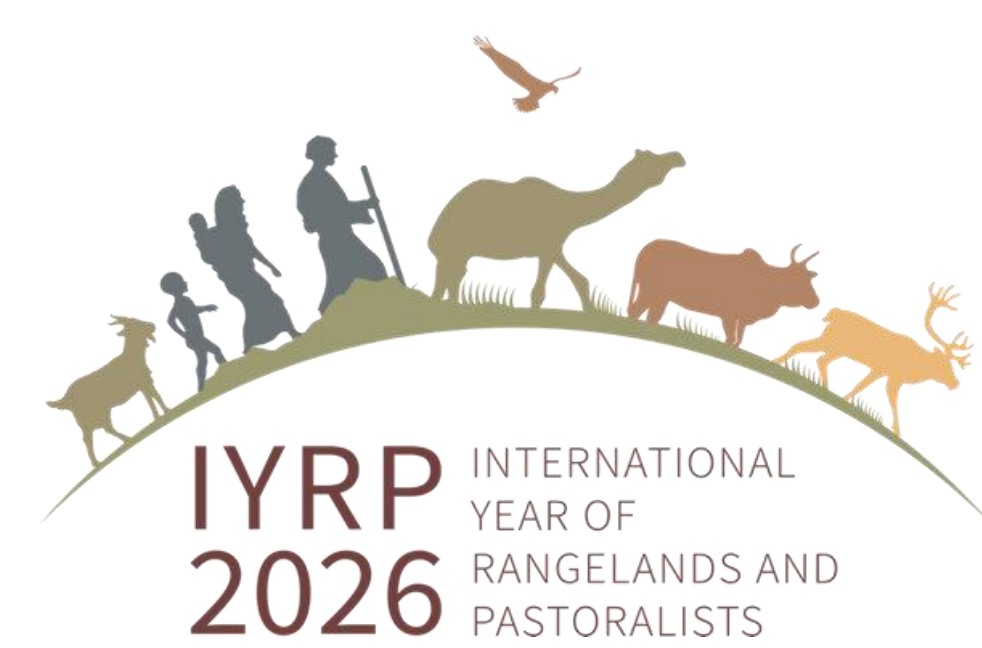
**15 MARCH 2022: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)  
Declared  
2026 as International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists**



- Movement grew since 2008 into global coalition of over 345 pastoralist & supporting organisations,
- including International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) & several UN agencies, 66 Research Institutes....etc
- Building on these efforts, Government of Mongolia proposed resolution to UNGA in 2019, supported by over 100 countries
- FAO facilitates implementation of IYRP 2026
- <https://iyrp.info/>







# What does the IYRP seek to achieve?

- **Create awareness** on the contributions of rangelands & pastoralists for biodiversity, food security, health, the economy, ecosystem services, climate change resilience & material and immaterial cultural heritage
- **Break myths** and misunderstandings on rangelands and pastoralism
- **Fill knowledge gaps** with more participatory research and engagements,
- **effective communication, monitoring, collaboration, and networking** among practitioners, naturalists, farmers, shepherds, and research institutions worldwide
- **Promote evidence-based policies and legislation** throughout the world in support of sustainable rangelands and pastoralism
- **Increase sustainable and ethical investment** in rangelands & pastoralist livelihoods

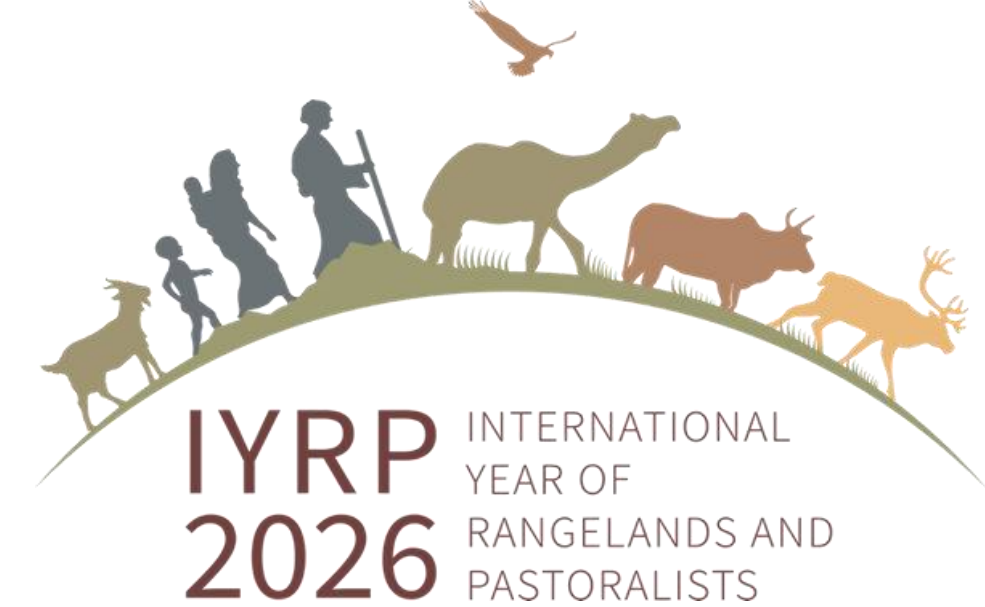




# Who is the IYRP?

Coalition of 345 organizations from around the world representing pastoralists, NGOs, academia, media, private sector, multinational organizations, etc.

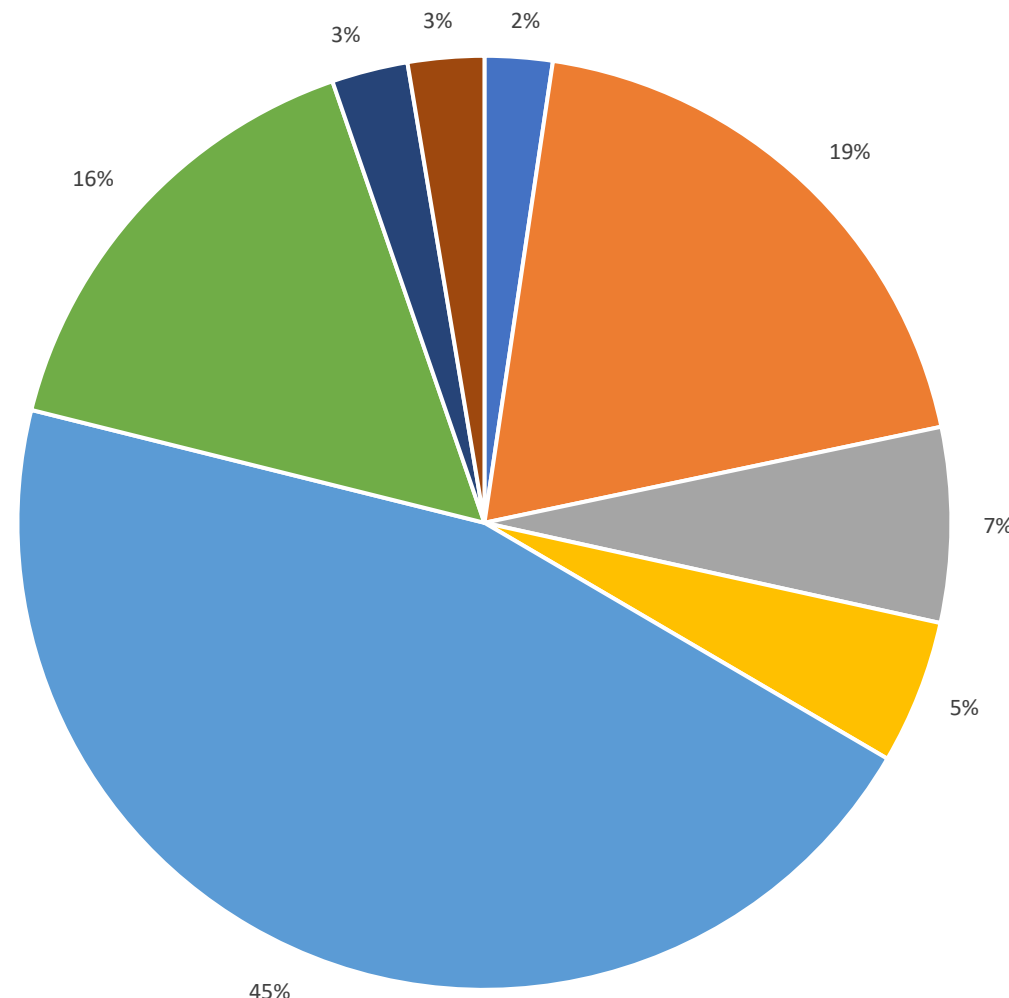
102 countries supporting  
345 Organisations



## Governments supporting Mongolia's proposal for IYRP – 24 March 2022

Government support letters to Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolia	Governments that spoke in favor at FAO COAG and FAO Conference (2021)	Governments that co-sponsored the UNGA Resolution on IYRP, including Mongolia (15 March 2022)
1. Afghanistan	1. Argentina	1. Andorra
2. Australia	2. China	2. Angola
3. Bhutan	3. Cuba	3. Argentina
4. Burkina Faso	4. Dominican Republic	4. Armenia
5. Canada	5. Egypt	5. Azerbaijan
6. Ethiopia	6. Republic of Korea	6. Bangladesh
7. Finland	7. Mali	7. Bolivia
8. France	8. Mexico	8. Botswana
9. Hungary	9. Mongolia	9. Burkina Faso
10. India	10. Myanmar	10. Central African Republic
11. Iran	11. Peru	11. Chad
12. Italy	12. Philippines	12. China
13. Jordan	13. Saudi Arabia	13. Costa Rica
14. Kenya	14. Thailand	14. Cuba
15. Kyrgyzstan	15. Turkey	15. Djibouti
16. Russian Federation	EU on behalf of 27 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden)	16. DPR Korea
17. Serbia		17. Ecuador
18. Somalia		18. Egypt
19. Spain		19. El Salvador
20. Sudan		20. Fiji
21. Uganda		21. Ghana
22. USA (USDA letter to Society for Range Management)		22. Guatemala
		23. Guyana
		24. India
		25. Iraq
		26. Japan

## Multistakeholder Support to IYRP-Oct 2023



- 8 UN / multi-/international / intergovernmental organisations
- 66 Research institutes/prof. societies (any scale)
- 23 Global NGOs
- 17 Regional (supranational) NGOs
- 157 National NGOs
- 54 Pastoralist organisations (any scale)
- 9 Business / Private Sector
- 9 Local, State, Provincial or Regional Governments



Asociación  
Concejo de la  
Mesta



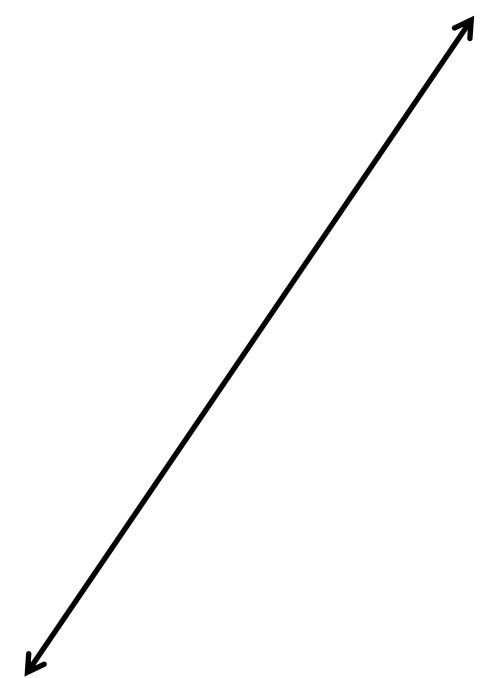
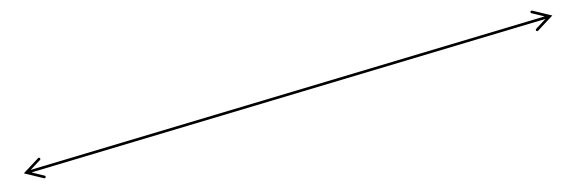


# Structure of IYRP 2026 coalition

## International Support Group (ISG)

Friends of IYRP & 2 co-chairs

**Global  
Communications  
Team**



### Africa

- Eastern-Southern
- North Africa & Middle East
- West & Central Africa

### Asia

- Centrak Asia & Mongolia
- East Asia
- South Asia

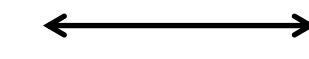
### America

- North America
- South America

### Australia

### Arctic

### Europe



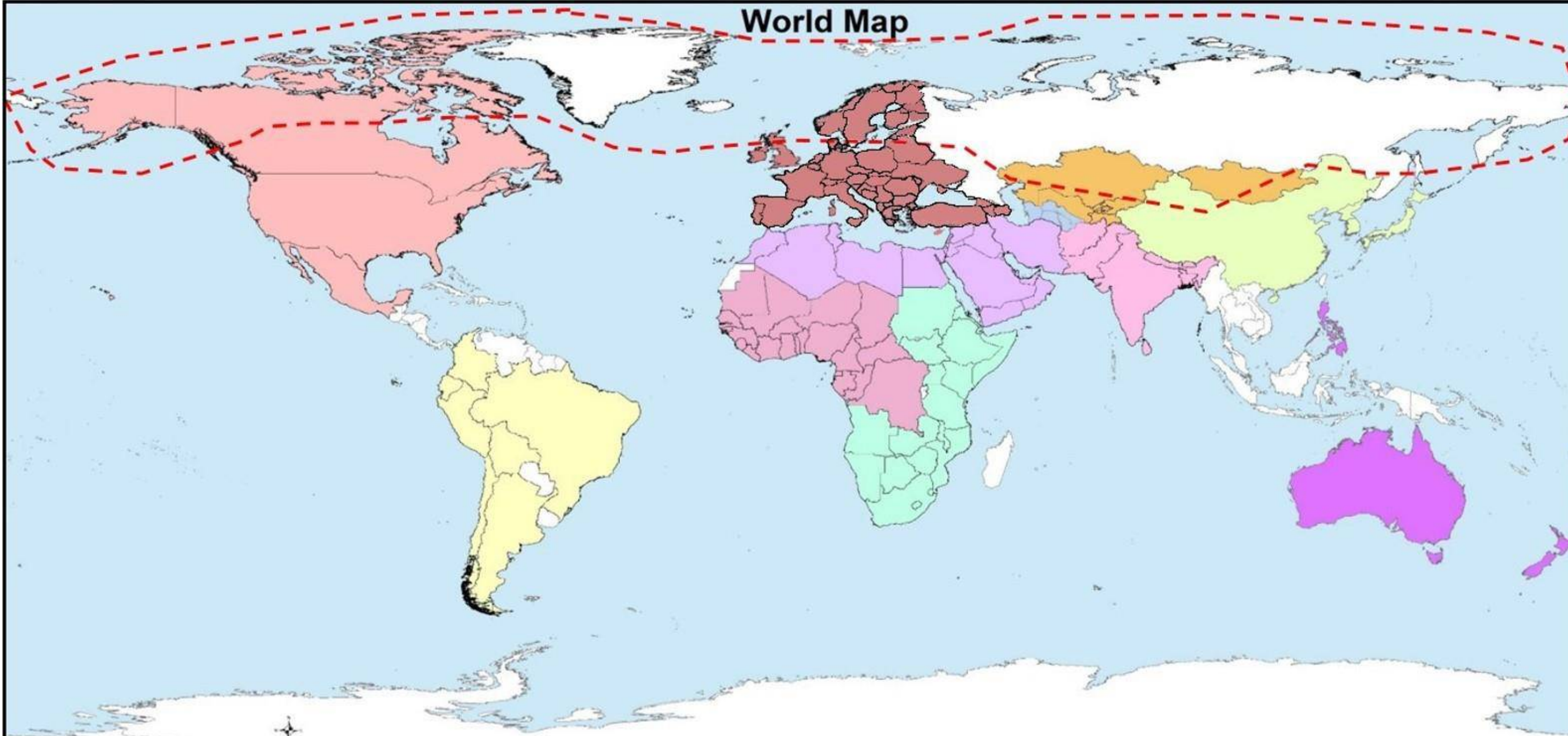
**11 Regional  
IYRP Support  
Groups  
(RISGs)**

### 9 Working Groups:

- Afforestation
- Biodiversity
- Gender
- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)
  - Mountains
- Pastoral economy
  - Water
  - Youth
  - Commons



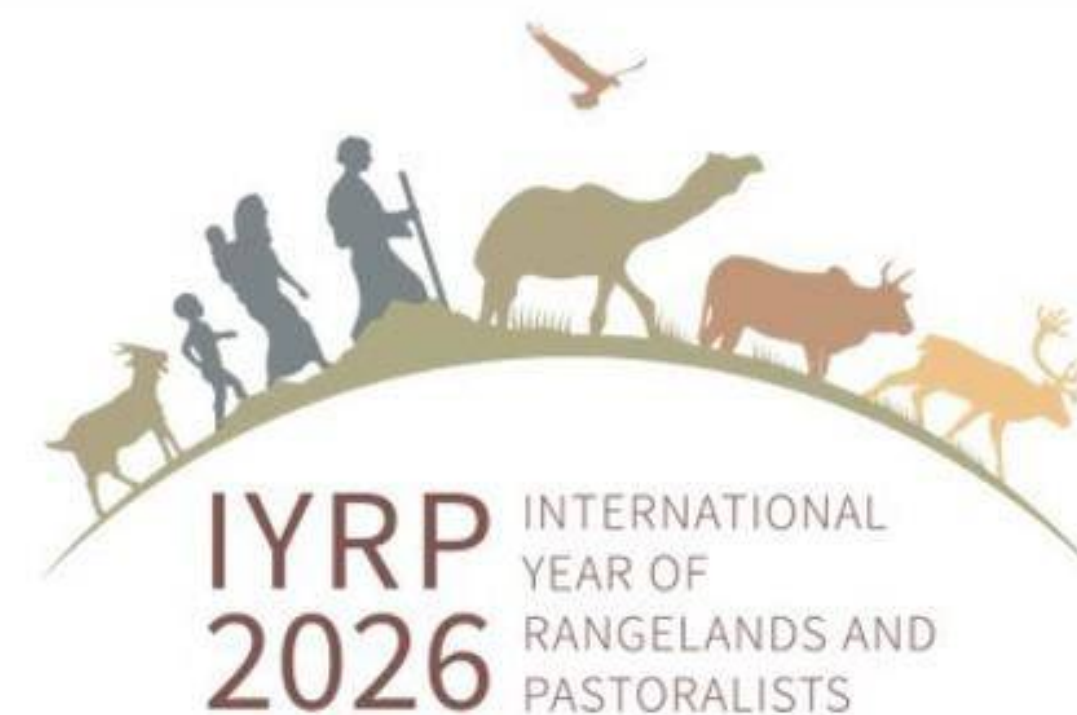
# World Map



## Legend

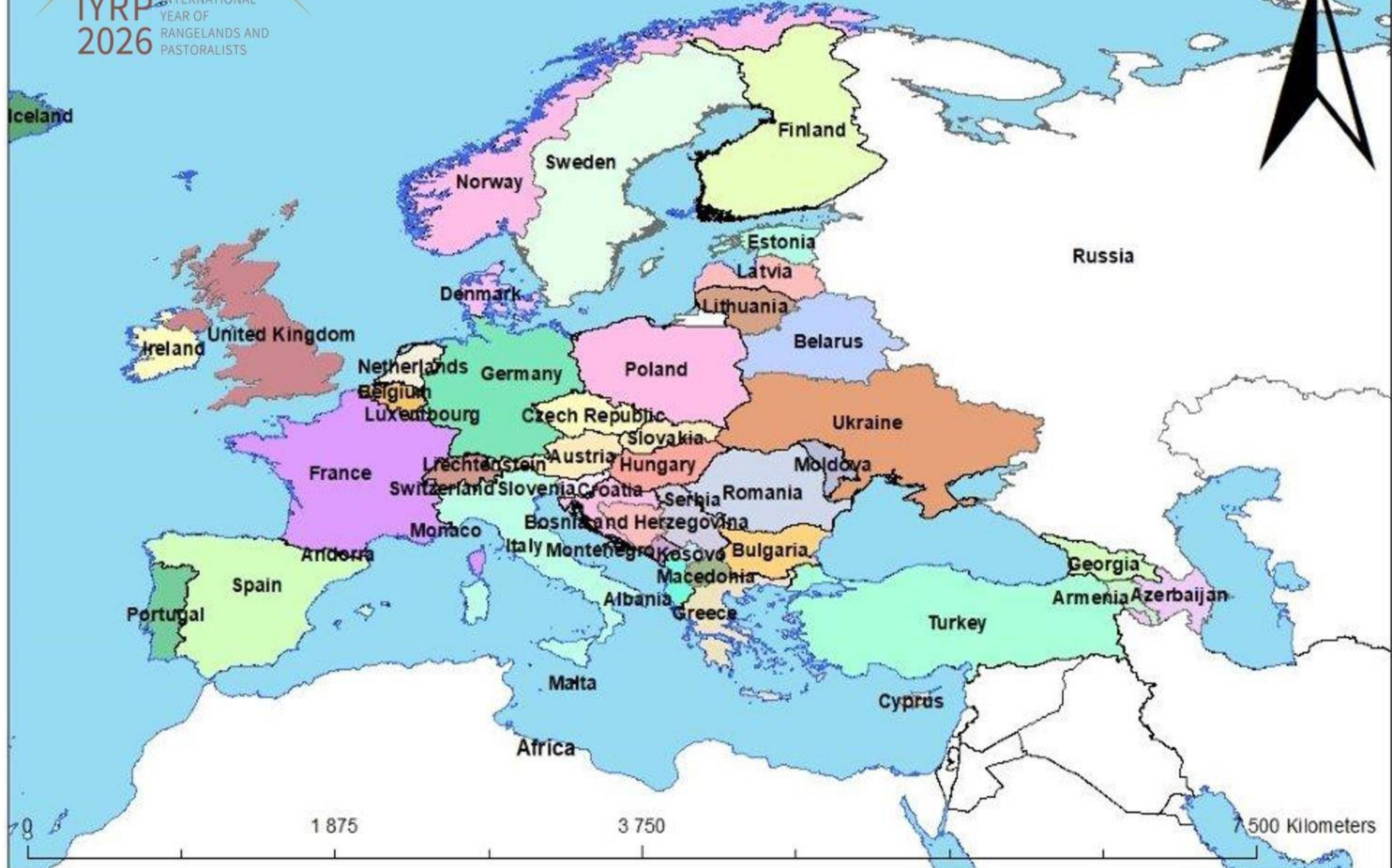
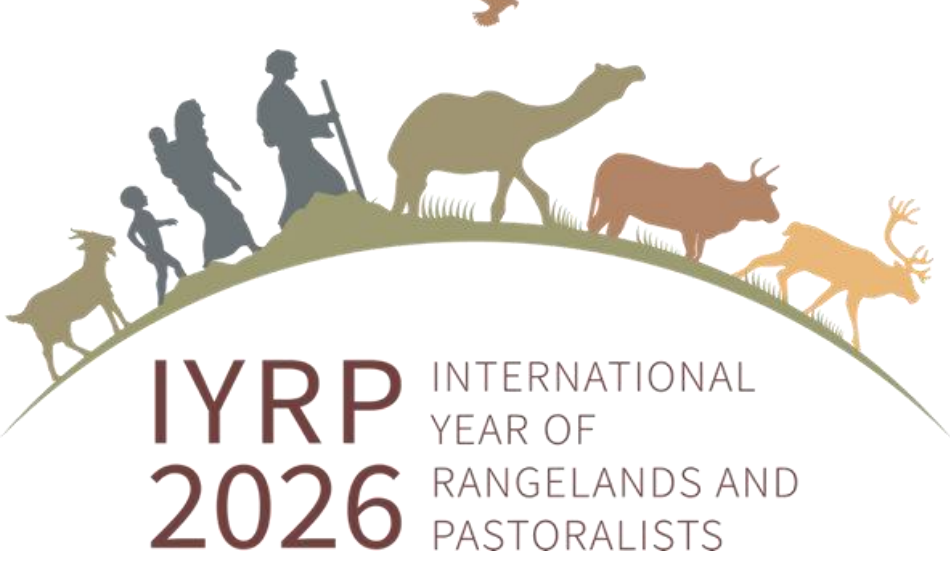
- Arctic Regional Support Group
- East Asia Regional Support Group
- South Asia Regional Support Group
- South America Regional Support Group
- Europe Regional Support Group
- Australasia Regional Support Group
- Central Asia & Mongolia Regional Support Group
- Central and West Africa Regional Support Group
- Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Support Group
- Middle East and North Africa Regional Support Group
- North America Regional Support Group

## Regional Support Groups of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists



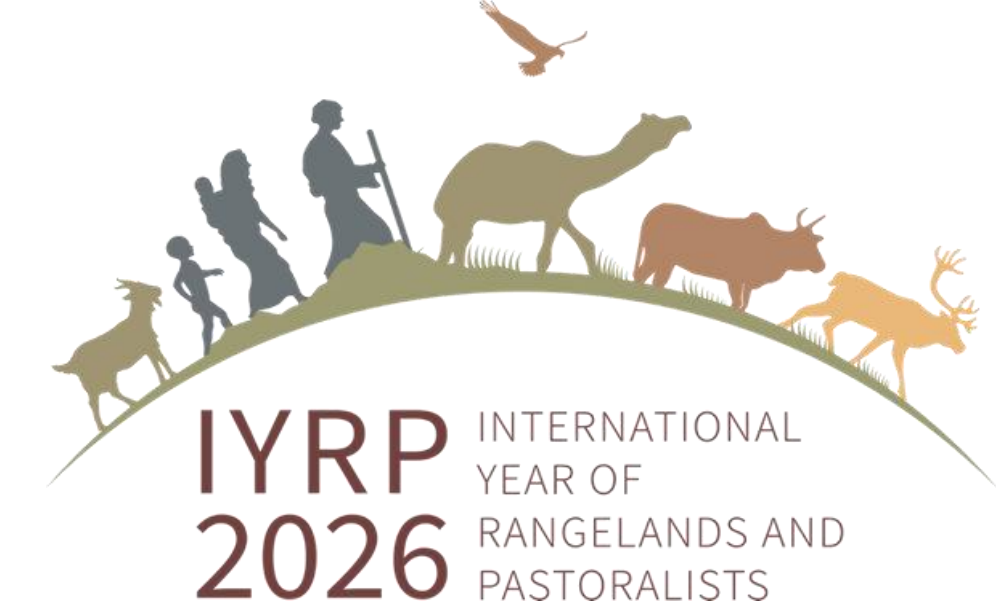


# Europe Regional IYRP Support Group





# IYRP International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists



**Despite existing for millenniums, little is known about pastoralist societies** and the interlinkages between their practices and the rangelands on which these depend.

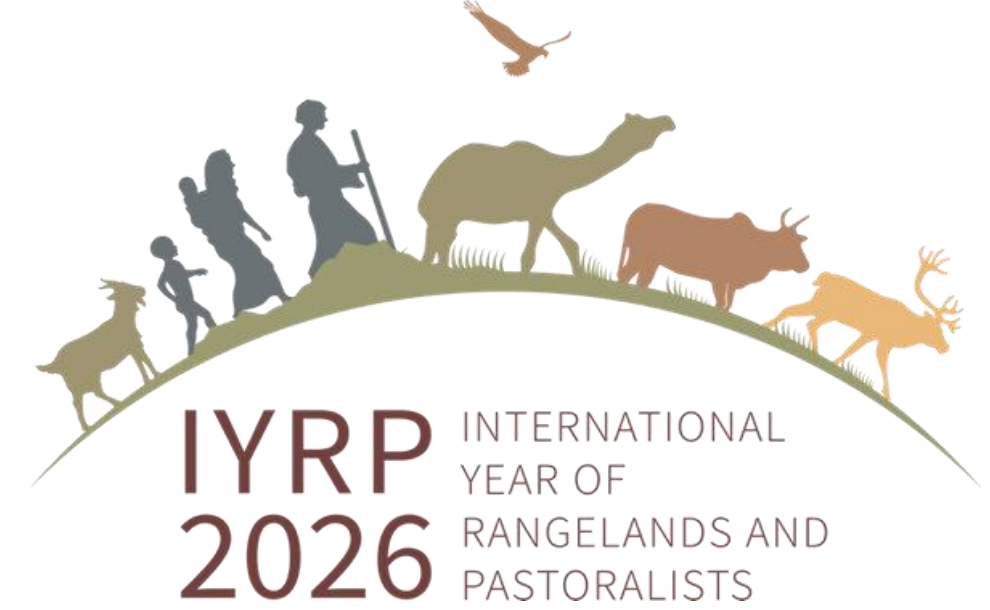
Due to widespread gaps in understanding pastoralists and rangelands, there are many questions that currently cannot be answered with confidence concerning

- **who pastoralists** are,
- **where** their **natural rangelands** are located, (interactive **Pastoralist Map** currently has information on 800+ groups of pastoralists worldwide <http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/pastoralist-map/>)
- how **land-use policy** is affecting their land, (written and non written traditional land use policy)
- what effect climate change is having on their land and lifestyles,
- **Role of ruminants for climate change mitigation**
- how the international community can best support and promote sustainable rangeland management and pastoral livelihoods. (video: role of ruminants on climate change mitigation)

Finding answers to such questions is paramount, since these will have profound implications for national and international policy and thus influence how climate change is addressed



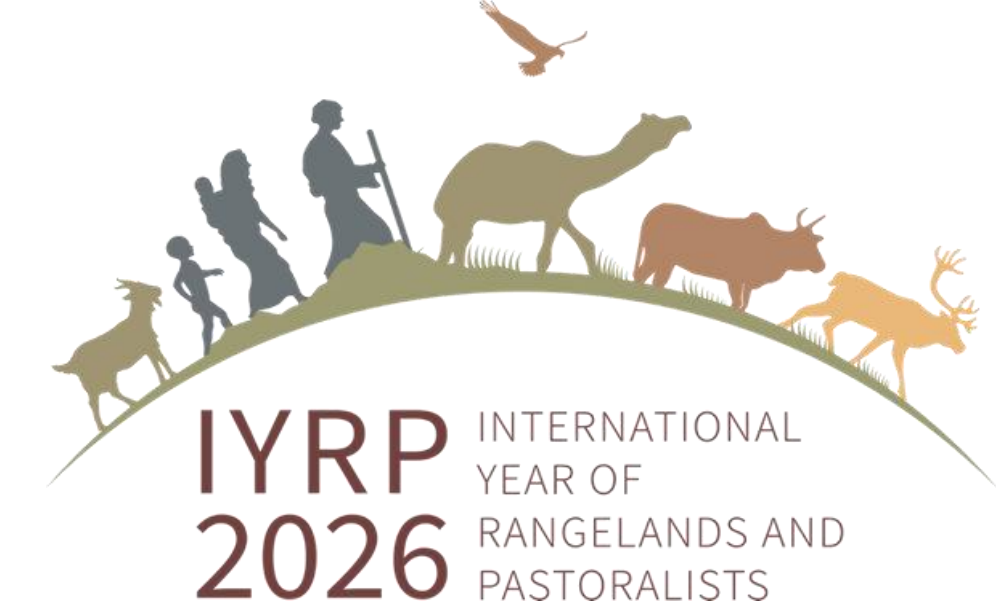
# What pastoralists can teach us



- **Humanity's herding heritage** is a fount of **wisdom** for achieving **food production and nature conservation**
- In **pastoralists areas** nature is often best preserved, and these areas host a panoply of **wildlife because of traditional herding practices**
- **We need nature based solutions** to food production, and the future lies in an integrated approach, in coaxing nature and arranging cycles so that she can feed us all
- If we want animals to provide us with **healthy food**, they themselves need to be healthy, and preferably happy as well
- Pastoralists provide the environment for animals **combining care with challenges**
- Skilfully managed planet's grassland is "**one health**" **approach**, that keeps not only ecosystems healthy, but also animals and humans



# IYRP International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists



## Importance of pastoralism for human health

- Grassfed animal's meat is very rich in **Omega 3**
- Herded animals eat some hundred different plants, rich in **micronutrients** (absence of micronutrients → obese)
- Grassfed animals contain more **metabolites**, which work as **antioxidants** ( ↘ Risk of cancer and heart disease)
- **Phytochemicals** are the secret sauce to keep humans (and animals) healthy, and are the indicator of the quality of the soils on which food is produced
- Pastoralism helps to maintain **soils alive and fertile** → high presence of phytochemicals
- Transhumance and extensive grazing can **enhance habitat connectivity** and create diverse landscapes, benefiting plants, insects, and birds (transport of seeds.....)



# The Nomination of Transhumance as UNESCO ICH

- **History of the Nomination**
- **How does Nomination help pastoralists**
  - **How is the process of Nomination**

---
- **How to give Visibility to Transhumance**
  - **Safeguard Plan**



# The long journey towards the first declaration of Transhumance as a World Intangible Cultural Heritage Site

**Selection of a few of the initiatives, in many countries, which often did not know about each other:**

- **1992: Concejo de la Mesta**, Cantabria, Spain, (In 1273 King Alfonso X, the Wise, created the first livestock breeders' association, called *Honrado Concejo de la Mesta*, protecting also transhumance livestock trails)
- **1992: League for Pastoral People** and endogenous livestock development, Germany
- **1993-1996: First EU financed Life Project on Transhumance**, which helped the adoption of the law
- **1995: Livestock Trails Law, Spain:** The Drovers are public properties of the Autonomous Communities and consequently: *inalienable, imprescriptible and non-seizable*.
- **1997: Maison de la Transhumance**, Merle - Provence, France
- **2008 Meeting of LAG** (Local Action Groups), Rometta Romea-Sicily Italy, Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Sweden.....
- **Nov 2009 Mediterranean Pastoralism:** Cultural and Landscape Heritage and Sustainable Development, Mediterranean Countries. UNESCO, ICOMOS. Tirana - Albania
- **2013: White Paper on Transhumance in Spain**, detailed proposal for improvements and actions to support herd movements
- **Sept 2013: Creation of MedConsortium**, research on nomadic and transhumant pastoralists in Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, photographic exhibition titled 'On the Move'
- **2015 European Shepherds Network – Declaration of Koblenz (Germany)**
- **March 2018: First presentation of an International Nomination File for Transhumance UNESCO ICH (Italy, Austria and Greece)**





**First major milestone to support Pastoralism and Transhumance  
Worldwide**

**11 December 2019 in Bogotá:  
Declaration of Transhumance "Intangible Cultural  
Heritage of Humanity" UNESCO  
(Countries: Austria, Greece and Italy)**

**Dic 2023 2nd wave Transhumance UNESCO ICH:  
Albania, Andorra, Croatia, France, Luxembourg , Romania and  
Spain**

**This enlargement is the undeniable proof illustrating the encouraging and multiplying effect of the first inscription. In less than two years, it encouraged numerous States Parties to identify Transhumance as a part of their cultural heritage**



**The nomination is not a goal, it's a beginning**

**The inscription will allow coordination between universities, research institutes, associations and professional schools, interdisciplinary programs and exchanges on Transhumance:**

**It represents a valuable capital for future that transcends nomination and inscription: The Safeguarding Plan, to promote concrete, effective and lasting commitments and actions.**





# **The Nomination of Transhumance as UNESCO ICH**

- **How does Nomination help  
pastoralists**



# Impact of inscription for communities and States?

The inscription of the element Transhumance has helped to

- **bring visibility:** the pastoral community become **part of wider societal debates.**
- to broaden the **understanding of Immaterial Cultural Heritage** in a rural context
- enhance the **regional and global cooperation**, given the important role of the ICH in sustainable development
- **promote dialogue among different communities regarding the agropastoral life**, such as landscape, crafts, food, traditional assignment of grazing areas, history and culture
- popularize the concept at all level, specially
  - **government level**, (who have to take responsibility and put resources for its **safeguarding plan**)
  - **consumer on products quality** and its importance at environmental level
  - **collaboration between bearers** at national and international level



**Spain  
1930**



# Challenges of Transhumants in some countries of Europe



**No longer being able to use pastoral routes, their ancestors have used for centuries**

**(South Italy)**

**The Colantuono Family has to do the first 35 km of their traditional transhumance (250 km long) only on asphalt.**



# Well known problems for mobile herding world wide

Asia  
Afghan Kochis,  
between  
Pakistan and  
Afghanistan

Arctic Europe  
Sami and the  
mining

Latin America  
Pastoralists  
conflict with  
mining

Eastern  
Africa,  
pastoralists  
directly  
involved in  
violent  
conflicts

Transregional or  
Cross-border  
mobile pastoralism

While the **ecological changes**  
they're facing may be hard to  
reverse, **man-made borders or**  
**other constraints can be**  
**adjusted.**

**World Recognition of Transhumance and Nomadism, and collaboration between countries for common safeguard measures is urgent**



# **The Nomination of Transhumance as UNESCO ICH**

- **How is the process of Nomination**



# **Steps for Nomination UNESCO ICH**

## **What do we need at National Level:**

- 1) Be a Country that has signed the UNESCO ICH Convention 2003**
- 2) Have both the Ministry of Culture, and the Bearing Communities willing to work together, and create a Common National Steering Committee responsible for**
- 3) Nomination of Transhumance National Intangible Heritage (required time: more or less one year)**



# UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage - October 2003

- (a) to **safeguard** the intangible cultural heritage;
- (b) to **ensure respect** for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned;
- (c) to **raise awareness** at the local, national and international levels of the importance of the intangible cultural heritage, and of ensuring mutual appreciation thereof;
- (d) to provide for **international cooperation** and assistance.

**Signed by 173 State parties**, except (august 2021): Australia, Canada, Guyana, Holy See, Israel, Liberia, Libia Lichtenstein, New Zealand, Niue, Russian Federation, San Marino, Sierra Leone, South Africa, UK, USA



# Steps for Nomination UNESCO ICH

- **Selection of countries who will participate (Commitment, Motivation, National Nomination), with a team leading country**
  - **Select 2 National focal points per country for the International Steering Committee**
    - **1 Focal Point representing the Ministry of Culture**
    - **1 Focal Point representing the Bearers Community**
- **Regular meetings of the International Steering Committee to work together on the Nomination File**
- **Preparation of a common film, required as part of the nomination dossier**
- **Required time minimum 2-3 years, (depending on the number of participating countries, and the capability of the International Steering Committee to collaborate)**



# Steps for Nomination UNESCO ICH

## Next Steps for Nomination, at International Level:

- 1) Nomination of Transhumance as **Intangible** Cultural Heritage at World level
- 2) Nomination of Transhumance as **Tangible** Cultural Heritage



# Intangible Cultural Heritage of Transhumance

- **Handycrafts** linked to transhumance (skills leather, wood, metal..... knives, bells, chairs, necklaces, instruments for cheese making, sticks...).
- **Traditional festivals**
- **Markets and bartering**
- **Local terminology**
- **Toponymy**
- **Gastronomy**



Shepherd's stick -Greece



Shepherd market in Spain



Cow of Vosges-France

## Organization of Transhumance

- **Shepherds hierarchy:** (Mayoral, rabadán, zagal)
- **Dates** of departure and return
- Identification and **marking** of the animals
- **Ritual** of setting the **animal bells**
- **Dogs** (protection and guarding)
- **The leading animals** “mansos” and “cabestros” used to lead the flock
- **Horses/donkeys** for transport



# Tangible Cultural Heritage of Transhumance



Menhir da Meada - Portugal  
7,5 m  
Highest of Iberian Peninsula

## All the architecture related to the Transhumance

- Drovers
- Water points
- Old and modern signposting
- Chapels
- Monasteries
- Huts along the way
- Mountain shelters
- Megalithic constructions



Stopover chapel for Transhumants, San Marco in Lamis - Gargano - Italy



Shepherds' Hut  
Abruzzo-Italy



Signposting Cañada Real in Madrid - Spain



Attilia Saepinum - Roman city, where the transhumance still occurs – Molise - Italia



Porta Boviarum – Attilia Saepinum- Molise - Italia



## National and International Safeguard Plan for Transhumance

- **Documentation:**
  - Scientific research on social and cultural functions of Transhumance
  - Documenting and mapping the routes of transhumant pastoralists
- **Transmission:**
  - *Educational projects*, school children participating in transhumance, women saveguard skills about wool,.....
  - *Festivities*
  - Implementation of awareness-raising and information activities
- **Promotion:**
  - Supporting the continuity of local events and processes
  - Creating a network of Transhumance museums
  - Temporary and/or itinerant exhibitions
  - International day of Transhumance
- **International Partnership**
  - International collaborations for exchanging good practices
  - Coordination meeting of the communities (what is already happening FAO PKH and IYRP)



# **The Nomination of Transhumance as UNESCO ICH**

- **Visibility of Transhumance at International Level**



**Spain: Since 1994 flocks walk again on the “Cañada Real” of Madrid**

Trashumance passing through the very centre of Madrid 2019

Raising awareness of the importance of Transhumance

Cantabrian herders, in their regional costume, with their local Tudanca breed cattle

1800 sheep and 200 goats, more than 500.000 people  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-5011597>





# September 2007 the 1st World Meeting of Nomadic and Transhumant Shepherds (Segovia-Spain)

Representatives of WAMIP (World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples) from all over the world came to Madrid- SPAIN, in occasion of the COP 8 "Convention Against Desertification"





**Paris March 2022, on the occasion of the International Agriculture Fair**

**In the fair Meeting of the  
International Steering Committee  
for Nomination of Transhumance  
UNESCO ICH**



**For the first  
time a sheep  
flock  
transhuming on  
the Champs  
Élysées**

**Shepherd  
Olivier Maurin  
(centre) has  
brought his  
Flock through  
Paris**

**Great mediatic impact**



**Grazie**

**Hvala**

**Gracias**

**Merci**

**Thank you**





**Thank you**

**Merci**

**Muchas  
gracias**

**For more information:**

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*Focal Point Spain Nomination Transhumance UNESCO ICH  
International Project Manager - Concejo de la Mesta - Spain*



A large flock of sheep is moving through a hilly landscape. The sheep are densely packed in a line, winding through the terrain. The landscape features dry, golden-brown grass on the left and lush green vegetation with bright yellow flowers on the right. A person is visible in the distance, herding the sheep. The scene is captured from an elevated perspective, showing the scale of the flock.

**Thank you**

**Merci**

**Muchas  
gracias**

**For more information:**

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**Spain has  
125.000 km of  
protected**

***“Royal Livestock  
Trails”***

***“Cañadas  
Reales”***

**up to 1.290 km  
long**

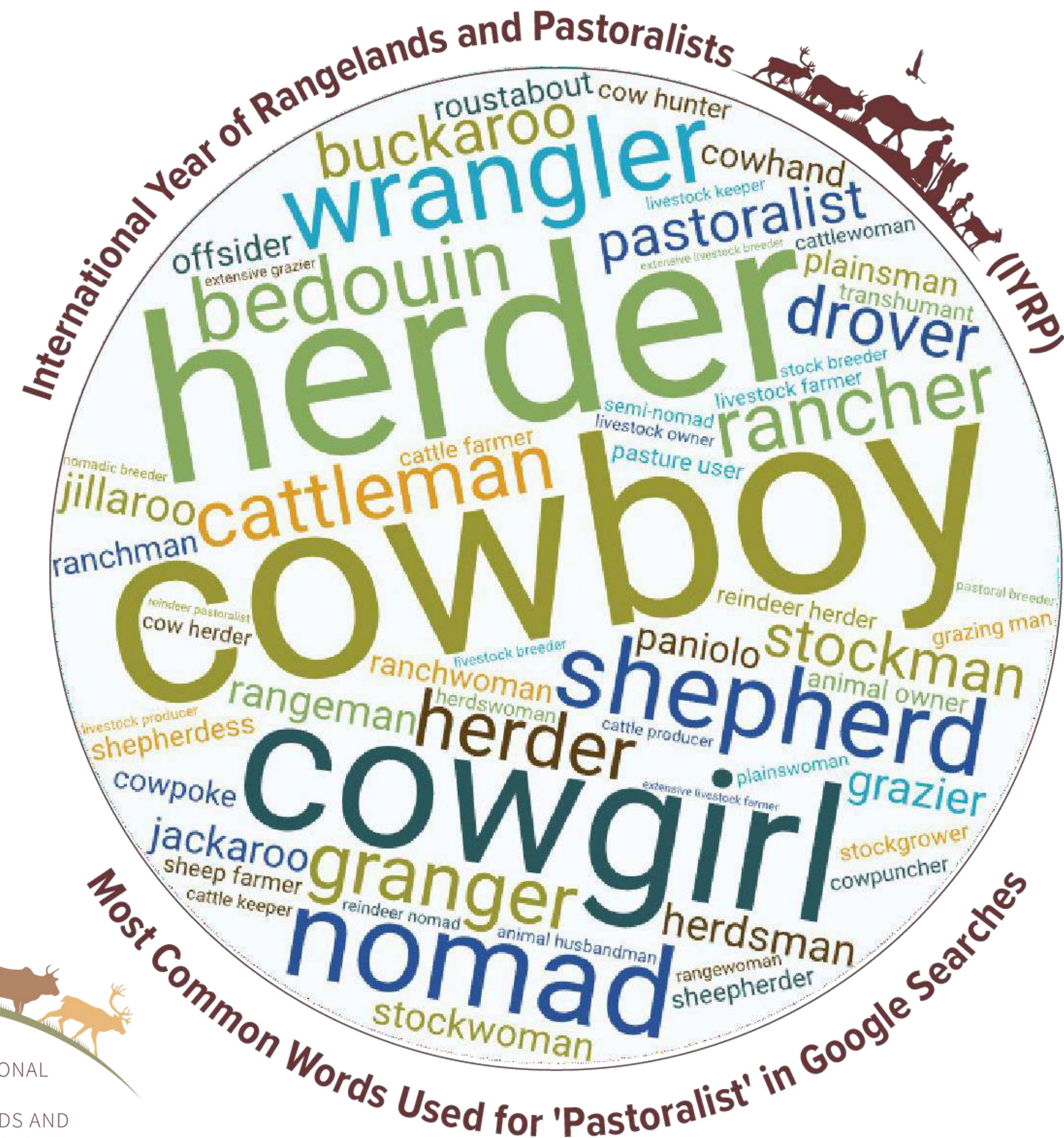
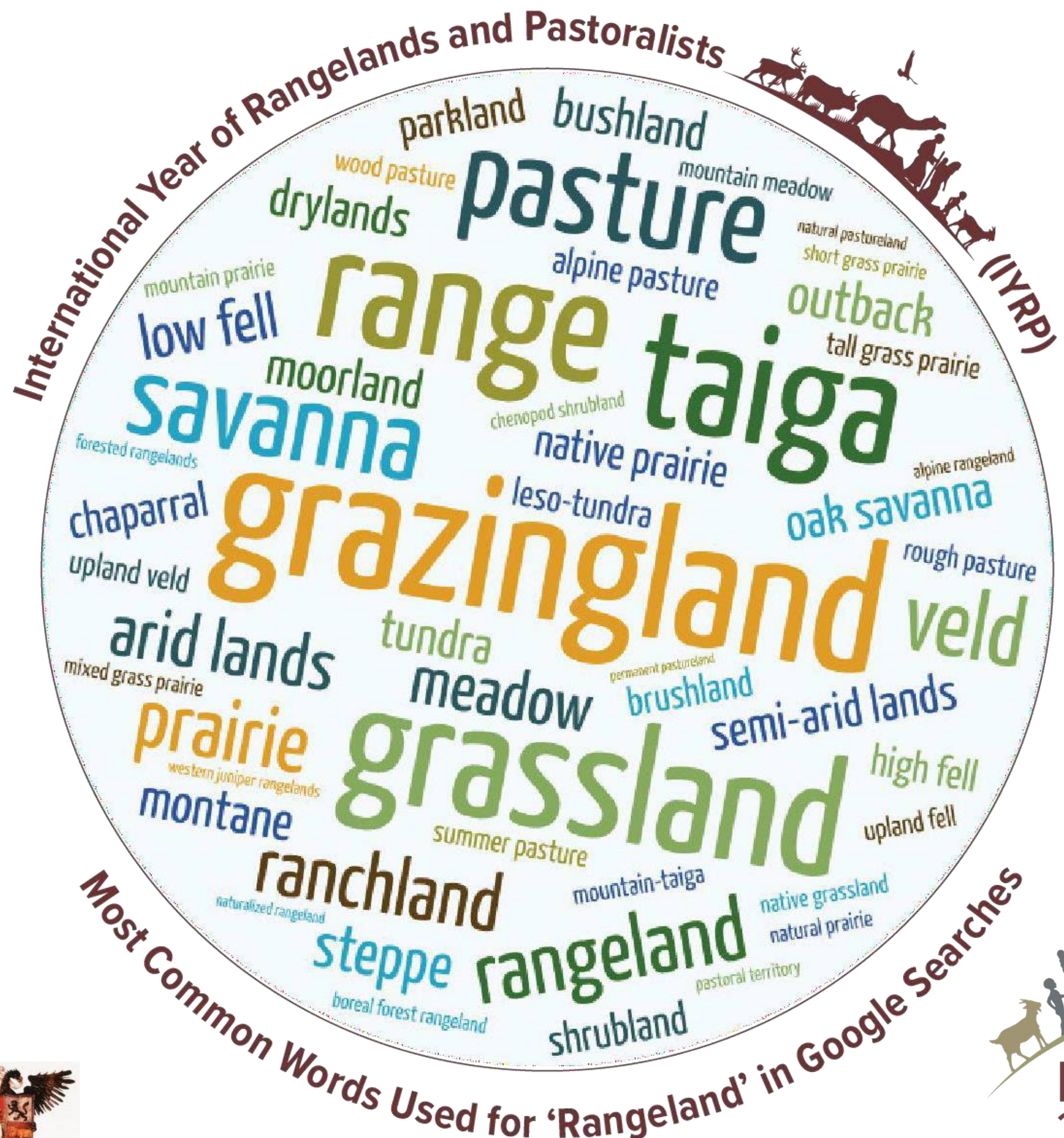
**protected since  
year 1273**

- VIAS PECUARIAS PRINCIPALES**
- A. Cañada Real Burgalesa
  - B. Cañada Real Soriana Occidental
  - C. Cañada Real Leonesa Occidental
  - D. Cañada Real de la Plata
  - E. Cañada Real Leonesa Oriental
  - F. Cañada Real Segoviana
  - G. Cañada Real Riojana
  - H. Cañada Real Soriana Oriental
  - I. Cañada Real Conquense



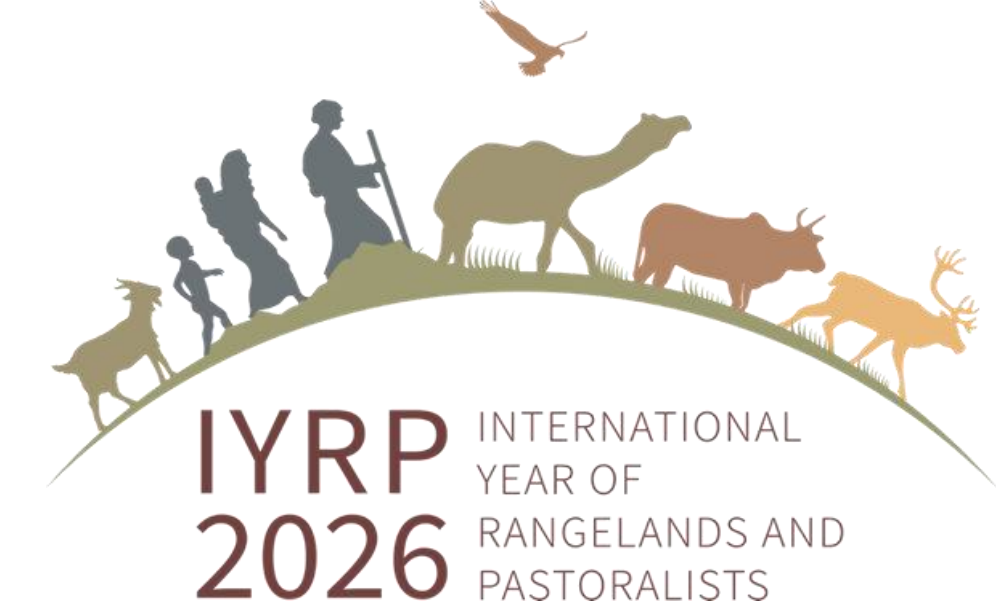
# What are rangelands?

# Who are pastoralists?





# IYRP International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists



- the importance of appropriate management practices, with moderate grazing intensity proving beneficial for species diversity and habitat conservation
- the conservation of semi-natural grasslands can effectively preserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem functions, and support sustainable agriculture
- Transhumance and extensive grazing can enhance habitat connectivity and create diverse landscapes, benefiting plants, insects, and birds.
- IYRP allows effective communication, monitoring, collaboration, and networking among practitioners, naturalists, farmers, shepherds, and research institutions which are all crucial for managing livestock to promote biodiversity.