



Asociación  
Concejo de la  
Mesta

## Transhumance and local breeds

Navarredonda de Gredos – Avila - Spain  
20 june 2024

# The UNESCO Declaration of Transhumance ICH

## IYRP International Year for Rangeland and Pastoralism

### **Francesca Pasetti**

*Co-chair RISG Europe (Regional IYRP Support Group)  
Focal Point Spain Nomination Transhumance UNESCO ICH  
Senior Project Manager Fundación Trashumancia y Naturaleza  
and Asociación Concejo de la Mesta*

*Email: [fpasettib@gmail.com](mailto:fpasettib@gmail.com)*

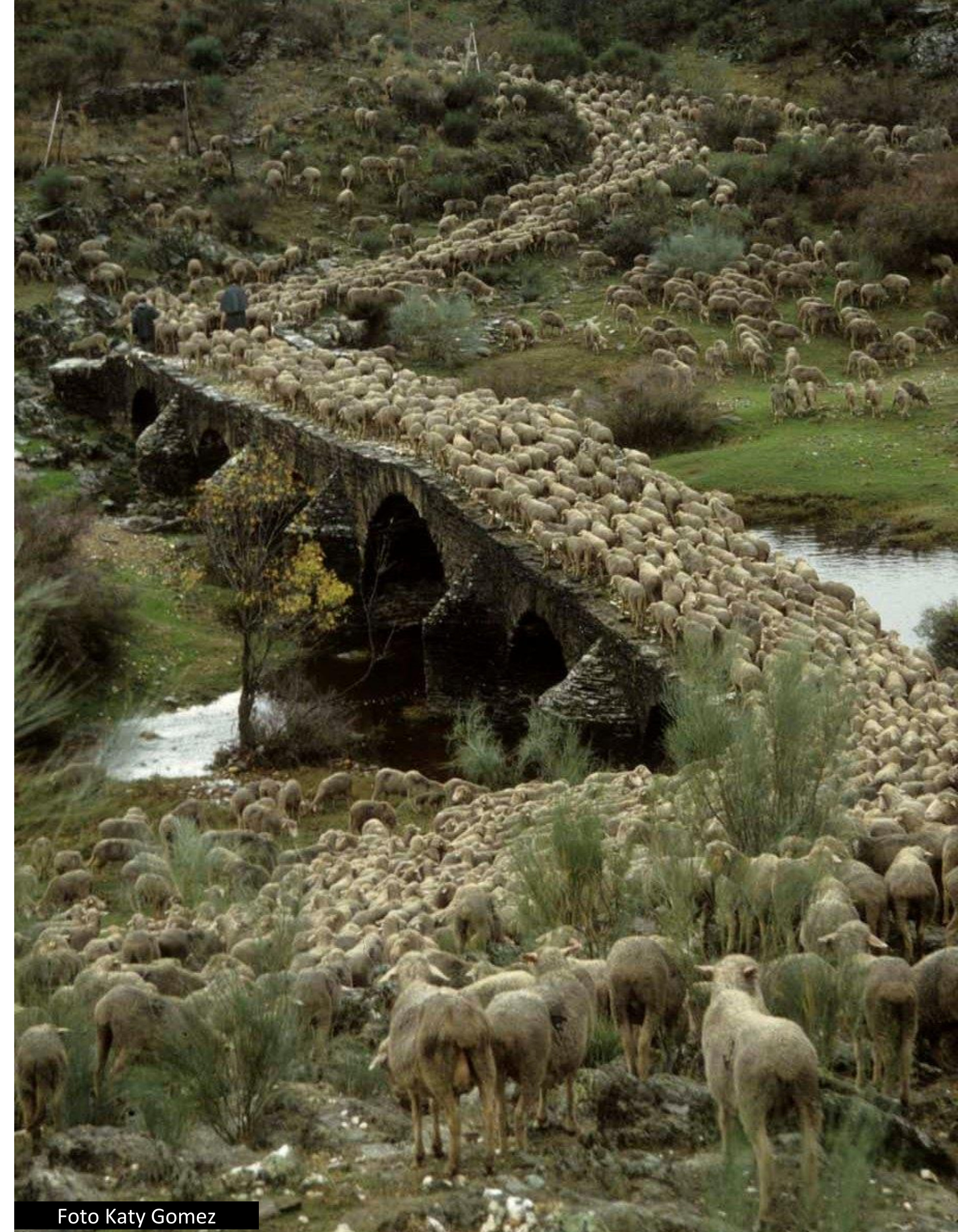


Foto Katy Gomez





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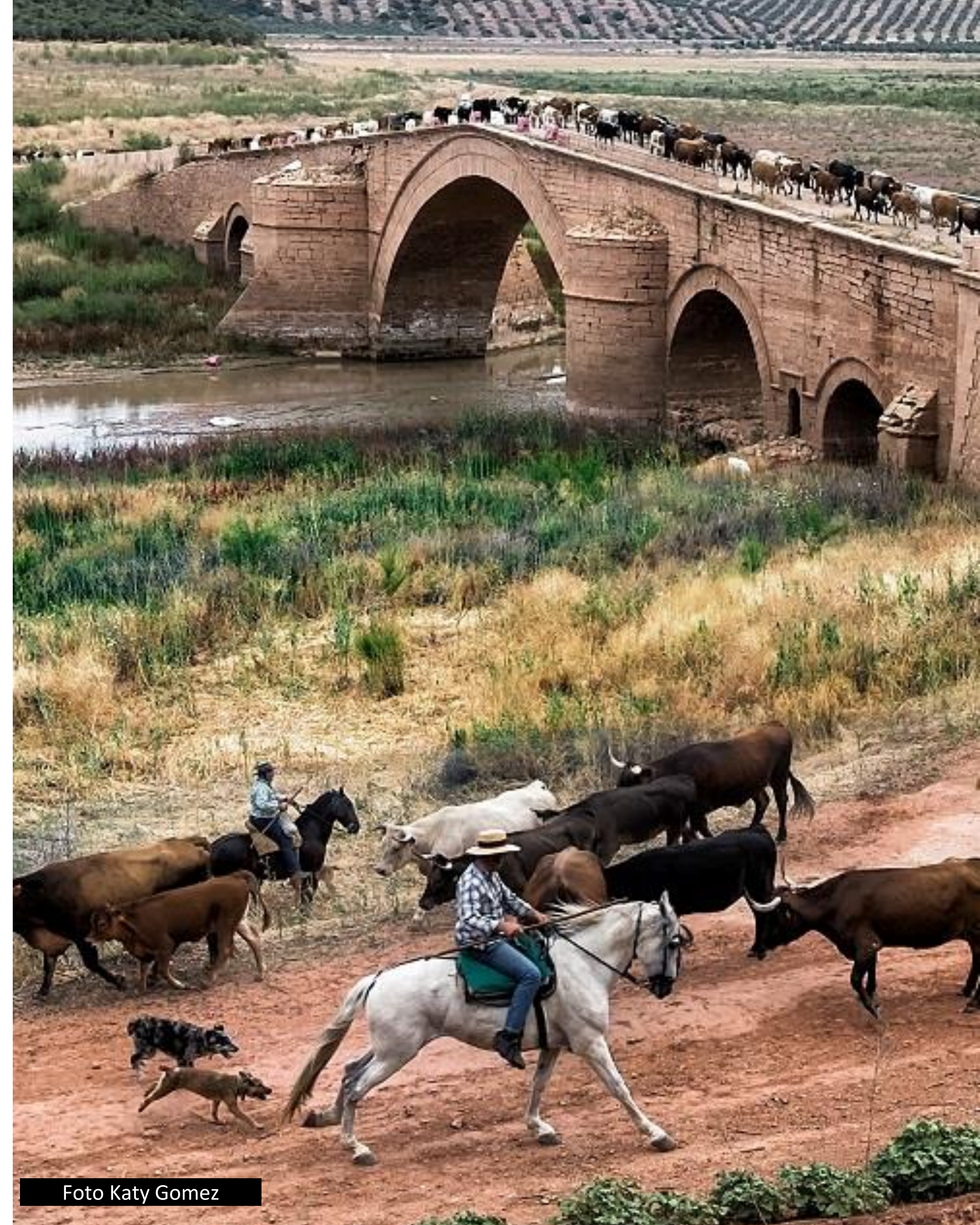


Foto Katy Gomez



# What is Intangible Cultural Heritage

A large flock of sheep is grazing on a hillside covered in green vegetation. The sheep are densely packed in some areas, particularly in the middle ground, and more spread out in others. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky with some clouds.

**Traditional, contemporary and living:** not only inherited traditions from the past but also contemporary rural and urban practices

**Inclusive:** contributes to social cohesion, encouraging a sense of identity and responsibility

**Community-based:** recognized as such by the communities, groups or individuals that create, maintain and transmit it

**Representative:** thrives on its basis in communities. Skills and customs are passed, from generation to generation,



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

- **1992: Concejo de la Mesta, Cantabria, Spain**, (In **1273** King Alfonso X, the Wise, created the first management entity. A cattle breeders' association, called **Honrado Concejo de la Mesta**, until 1836).
- **1992: League for Pastoral People and Endogenous Livestock Development, Germany**  
*“Pastoral peoples” are defined as people who depend for their living primarily on livestock and **usually do not own land**, but depend on access to “**common property resources**” for grazing. They inhabit those parts of the world where the **potential for crop cultivation is limited** due to lack of rainfall, steep terrain or extreme temperatures.*
- **1993-1996: First EU financed Life Project on Transhumance**, which helped the adoption of the law in **Spain**
- **1995: Transhumance Paths 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**
- **1997: Transhumancia y Naturaleza, Cantabria, Spain**
- **September 2006: Virtual Museum of European Transhumance**: Univ Chieti (Italy), Univ Valladolid (Spain), Univ Lubiana (Croatia), Univ Ca Foscari Venezia (Italy), Maison Transhumance (France)



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

**Transhumance 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 1996**



**1800 sheep and 200 goats, more than 500.000 people**  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50115974>





Foto Tato Moreno

## Fiesta de la Trashumancia of Madrid 2022

As you can appreciate in the pictures in this occasion there were about **1 million people along the 3 km** the sheep flock is walking between Casa de Campo and the Plaza de Cibeles,

It exploits a medieval rule which allows shepherds the right to cut through the city with their animals.

Every year, a nominal fee is paid in exchange for the safe passage of the animals, in a ceremony between the mayor and the chief herdsman at the city hall.

This honours a 1418 agreement with the city's council where the price of **50 *maravedís al millar*** (50 coins per thousand heads of livestock) was set for the animal traffic.



# 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"





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

- **2007 CORAM**, Association for the Development of Local Breeds in the main mountains of France (Alps, Pyrenees, Corsica...etc).
- **September 2007, Meyrueis, Lozère, France** Mediterranean agropastoral cultural landscapes, 44 participants, representing 9 countries of the Mediterranean basin, as well as UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN,
- **2008 Meeting of LAG** (Local Action Groups) **Italy, Albania, Austria, France, Greece, Portugal, Sweden.....**
- **November 2009 Tirana Albania.** Mediterranean Pastoralism: Cultural and landscape heritage and sustainable development, Mediterranean countries. UNESCO, ICOMOS
- **Oct 2012: Montpellier (France)** International Meeting on the Cultural Landscapes of Agropastoralism: Experiences of the Causses and the Cévennes and cooperation with the countries of the Mediterranean basin. UNESCO
- **Sept 2013:** Creation of **MedConsortium**, between **Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria**



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

- **2013: White Paper on Transhumance in Spain**
- **2013: Creation of the "Plataforma Ganadería Extensiva Española" (Spanish Extensive Livestock Platform)**
- **2015 European Shepherds Network – Declaration of Koblenz (Germany)**
- **Sept 2016 : Rencontre du Réseau Européen des Berger à Saint Flour**
- **Nov 2016: Creation of Ganaderas en Red**
- **2017 : Creation of Rete italiana della Pastorizia Appia**
- **March 2018: First presentation of a Dossier for Transhumance as UNESCO Inmaterial Cultural Heritage (Italy, Austria and Greece)**



# First major milestones to support Pastoralism and Transhumance Worldwide

11 Dicember 2019 in Bogotá:  
**Declaration of Transhumance "Intangible Cultural Heritage of  
Humanity" UNESCO**

(Countries: Austria, Greece and Italy)

5 Dic 2023 Kasane: **2nd Recognition** Transhumance UNESCO ICH:  
Albania, Andorra, Croatia, France, Luxembourg , Romania and Spain  
+ first three countries

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



# 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 with FAO and  
Mongolia



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



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

The inscription allows 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.







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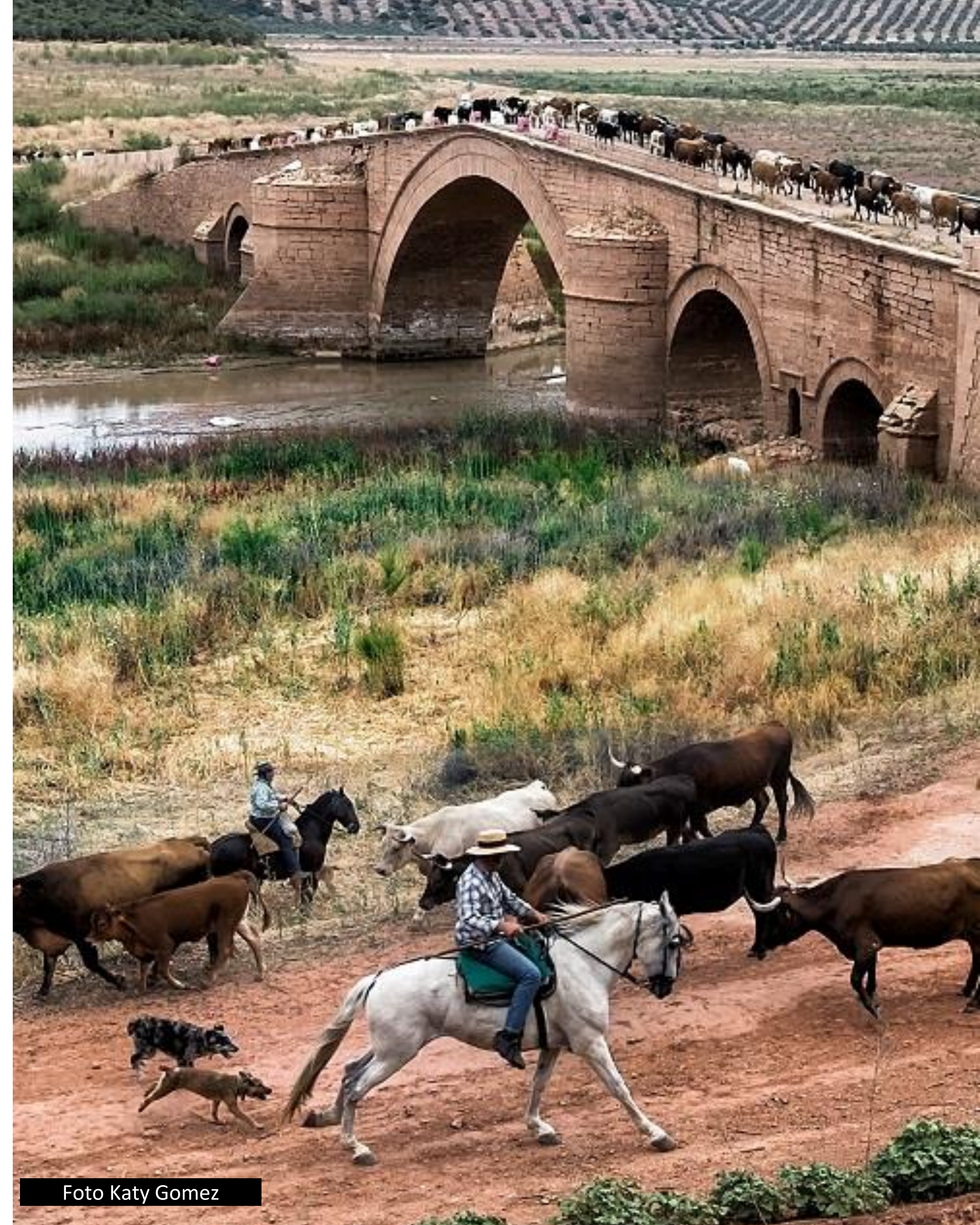
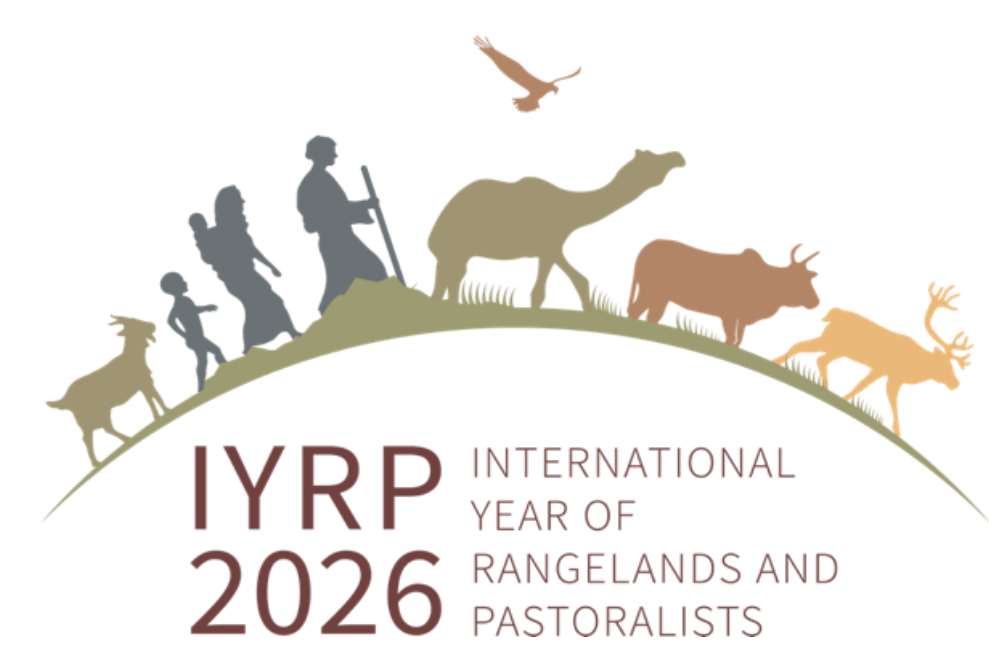


Foto Katy Gomez





# What does the IYRP seek to achieve?

- **Create awareness** on the contributions of rangelands & pastoralists for food security, the economy ecosystem services, climate resilience & culture
- **Break myths** and misunderstandings on rangelands and pastoralism
- **Fill knowledge gaps** with more participatory research and engagements
- **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



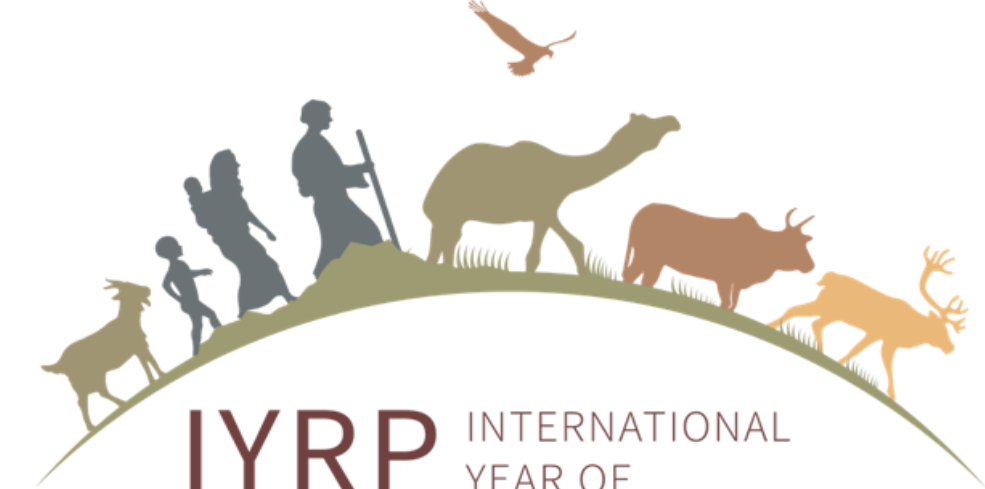


# Who is the IYRP?

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

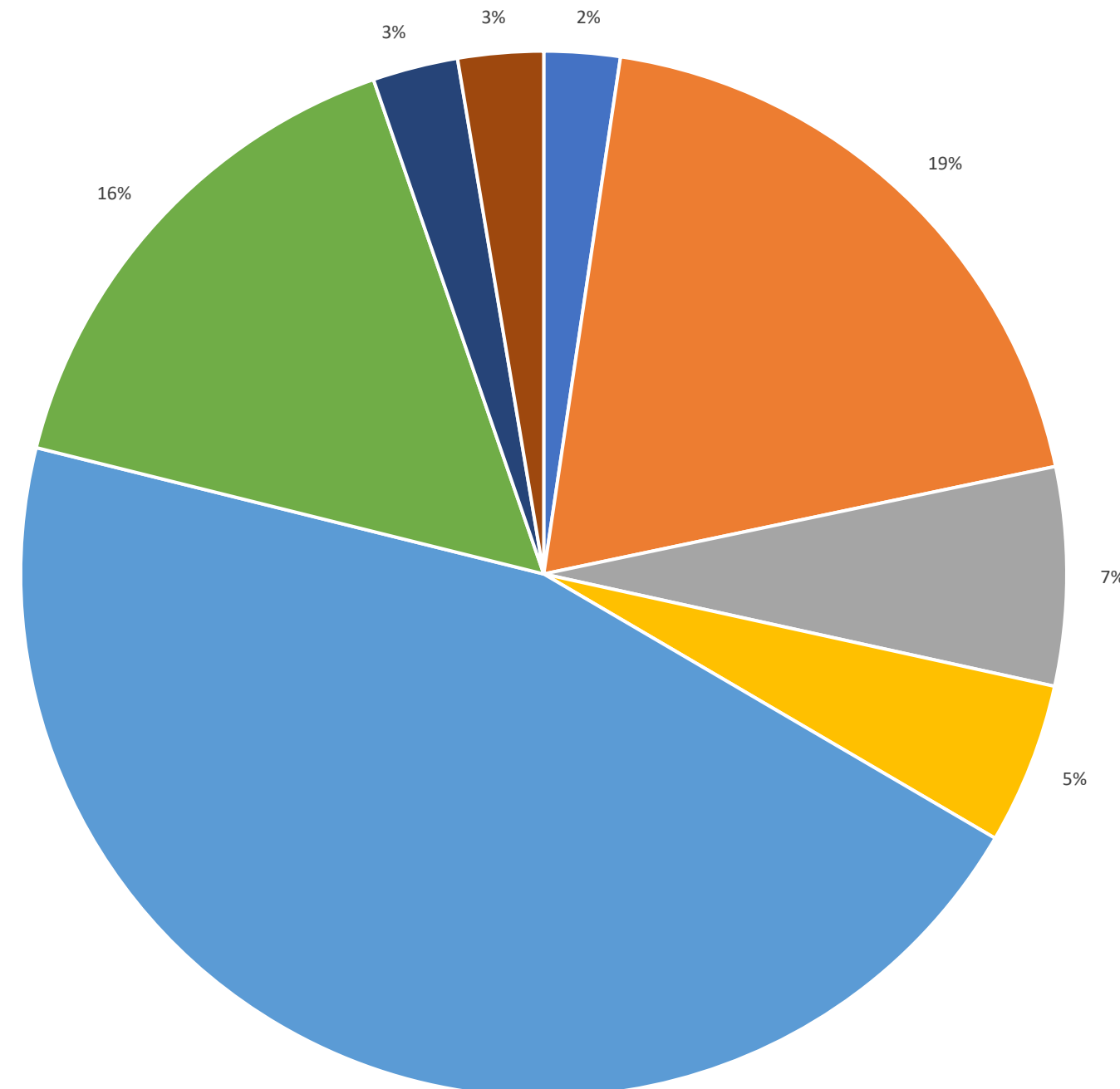


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IYRP  
2026 INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF  
RANGELANDS AND  
PASTORALISTS

## Multistakeholder Support to IYRP-Oct 2023

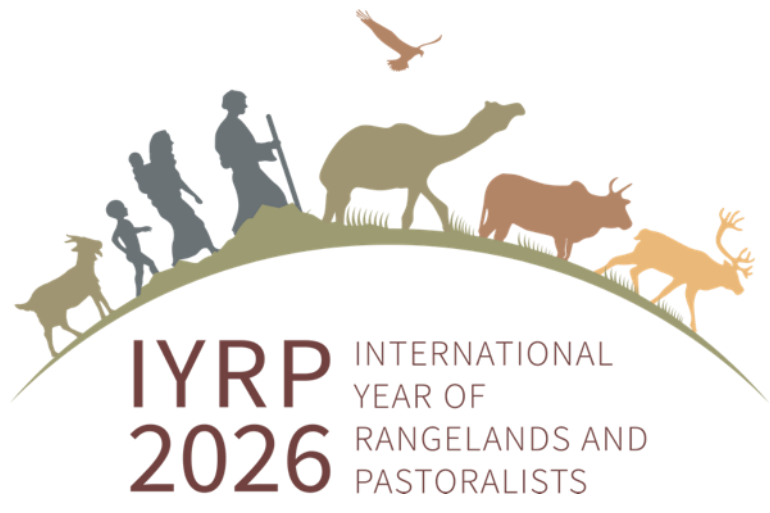


- 8 UN / multi-/international / intergovernmental organisations
- 66 Research institutes/prof. societies (any scale)
- 23 Global NGOs
- 17 Regional (supranational) NGOs
- 157 National NGOs
- 54 Pastoralist organisations (any scale)
- 9 Business / Private Sector
- 9 Local, State, Provincial or Regional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

## 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)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Afghanistan</li> <li>2. Australia</li> <li>3. Bhutan</li> <li>4. Burkina Faso</li> <li>5. Canada</li> <li>6. Ethiopia</li> <li>7. Finland</li> <li>8. France</li> <li>9. Hungary</li> <li>10. India</li> <li>11. Iran</li> <li>12. Italy</li> <li>13. Jordan</li> <li>14. Kenya</li> <li>15. Kyrgyzstan</li> <li>16. Russian Federation</li> <li>17. Serbia</li> <li>18. Somalia</li> <li>19. Spain</li> <li>20. Sudan</li> <li>21. Uganda</li> <li>22. USA (USDA letter to Society for Range Management)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Argentina</li> <li>2. China</li> <li>3. Cuba</li> <li>4. Dominican Republic</li> <li>5. Egypt</li> <li>6. Republic of Korea</li> <li>7. Mali</li> <li>8. Mexico</li> <li>9. Mongolia</li> <li>10. Myanmar</li> <li>11. Peru</li> <li>12. Philippines</li> <li>13. Saudi Arabia</li> <li>14. Thailand</li> <li>15. Turkey</li> <li>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)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Andorra</li> <li>2. Angola</li> <li>3. Argentina</li> <li>4. Armenia</li> <li>5. Azerbaijan</li> <li>6. Bangladesh</li> <li>7. Bolivia</li> <li>8. Botswana</li> <li>9. Burkina Faso</li> <li>10. Central African Republic</li> <li>11. Chad</li> <li>12. China</li> <li>13. Costa Rica</li> <li>14. Cuba</li> <li>15. Djibouti</li> <li>16. DPR Korea</li> <li>17. Ecuador</li> <li>18. Egypt</li> <li>19. El Salvador</li> <li>20. Fiji</li> <li>21. Ghana</li> <li>22. Guatemala</li> <li>23. Guyana</li> <li>24. India</li> <li>25. Iraq</li> <li>26. Japan</li> </ol>





# Structure of IYRP 2026 coalition

## General IYRP e-list

~800 addresses mostly for info only

## International Support Group (ISG)

~450 active partners, Friends of IYRP, including GCG members & 3 co-chairs

## Global Coordinating Group (GCG)

~50 members (ISG co-chairs, Comms + WG coordinators, RISG chairs & reps from key supporting partners: FAO, Govt of Mongolia, ILRI, IUCN, UNEP, WAMIP)

**Global  
Communications  
Team**

### 10 Working Groups:

1. Afforestation
2. Biodiversity
3. Climate Change
4. Commons
5. Gender
6. Land Degradation Neutrality
7. Mountains
8. Pastoral economy
9. Water
10. Youth

### 11 Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

#### Africa

- South Eats Africa
- North Africa & Middle East
- West & Central Africa

#### Asia

- Central Asia & Mongolia
- East Asia
- South Asia

#### America

- North America
- South America

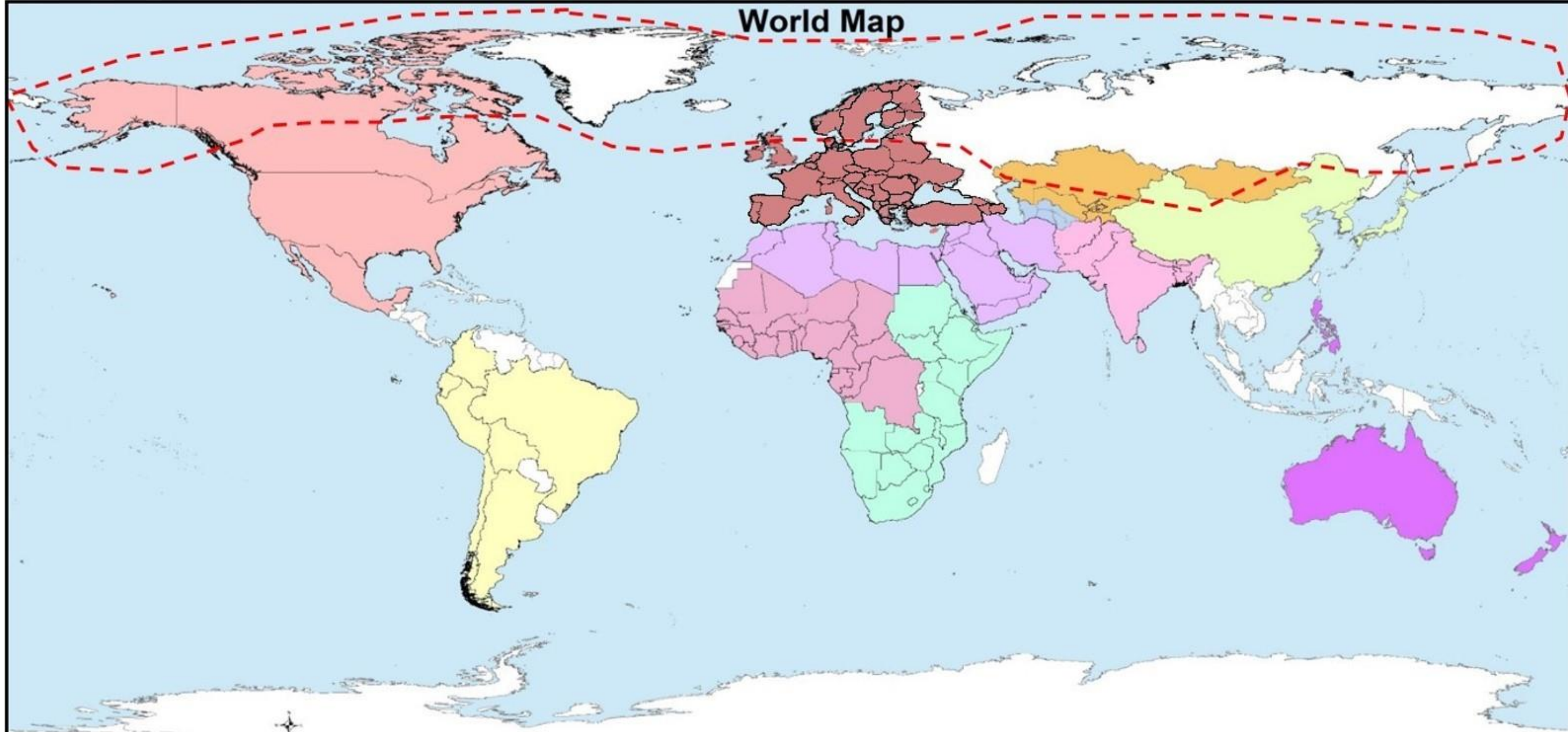
#### Australia

#### Ártic Region

#### Europe



# World Map



## Legend

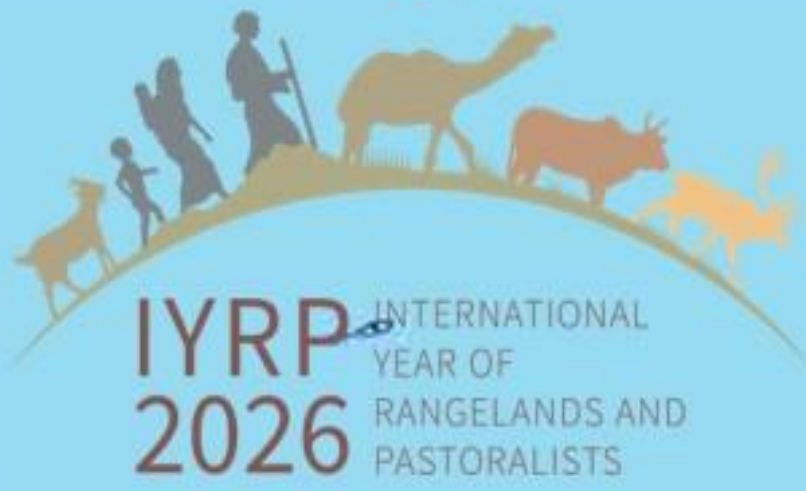
- Arctic Regional Support Group
- East Asia Regional Support Group
- South Asia Regional Support Group
- South America Regional Support Group
- Europe Regional Support Group
- Australasia Regional Support Group
- Central Asia & Mongolia Regional Support Group
- Central and West Africa Regional Support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

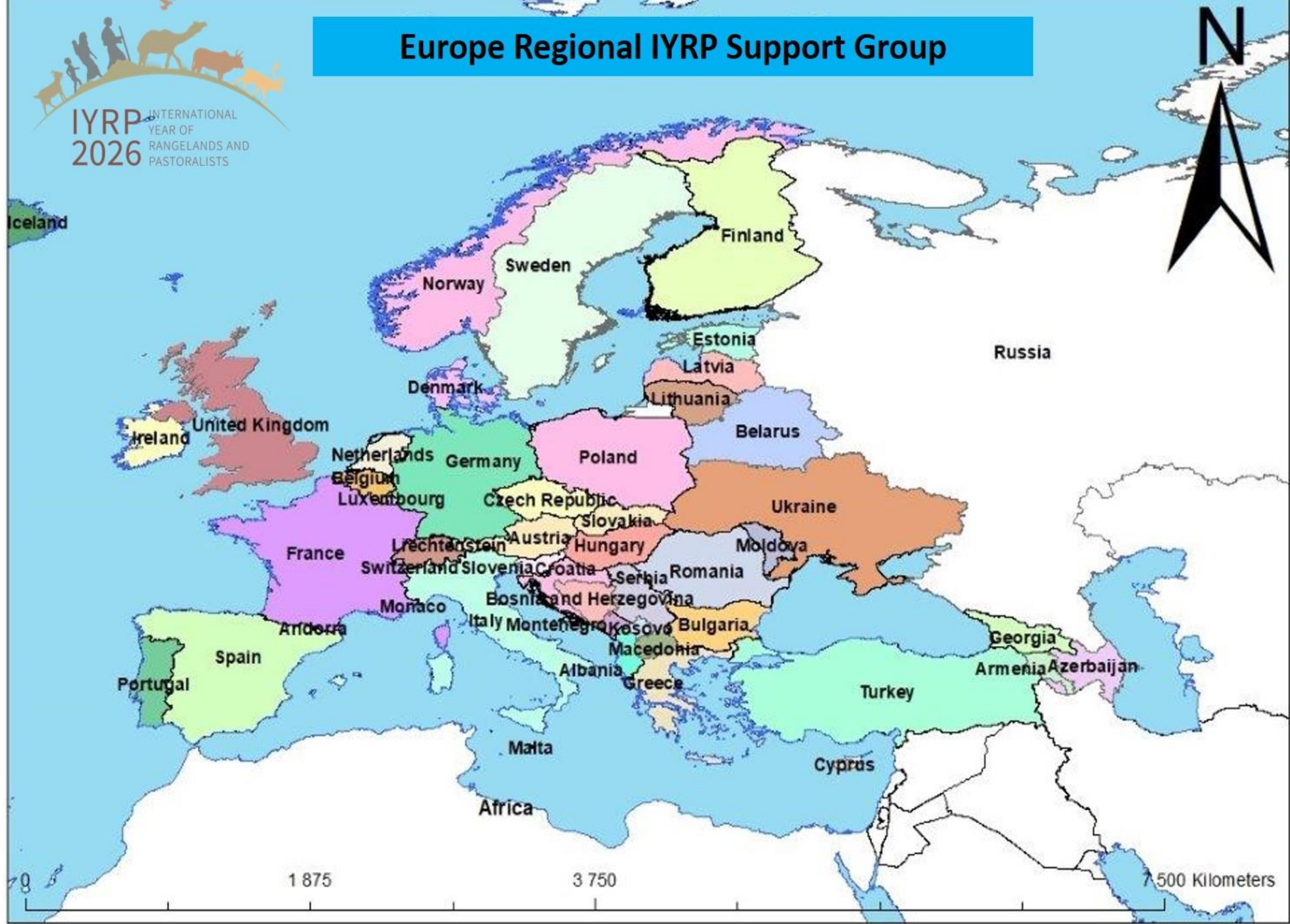
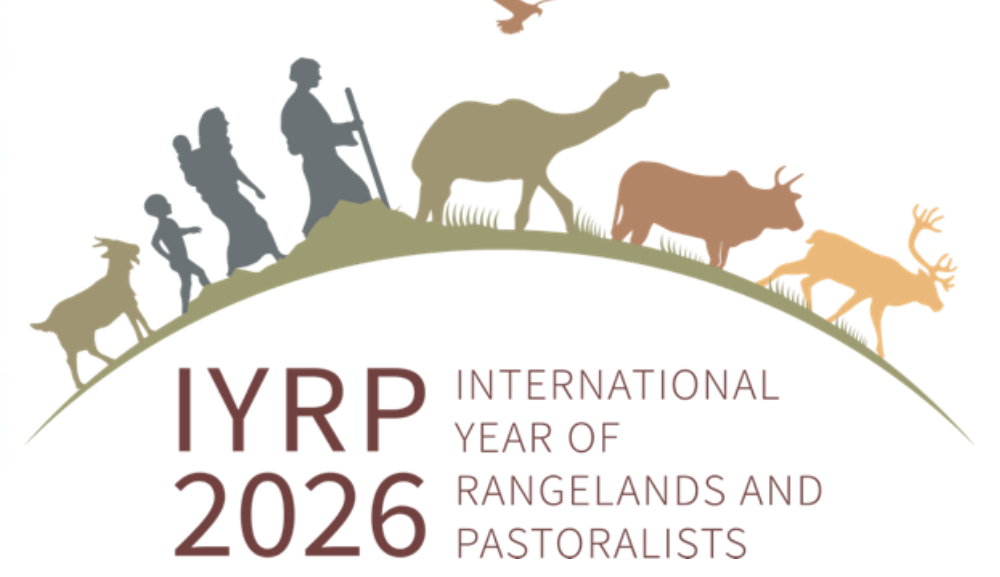


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# Europe Regional IYRP Support Group



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## **10 Working Groups:**

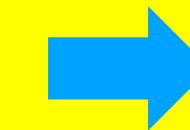
- **Afforestation**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Commons**
- **Climate Change**
- **Gender**
- **Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)**
  - **Mountains**
- **Pastoral economy**
  - **Water**
  - **Youth**

- All Working Groups  
webpage: [www.IYRP.info](http://www.IYRP.info)



concept note,

- Gender Working Group  
on films



sub-working Group

2 lists of Films

- ☐ On camelids (IYC 2024) Tropentage Vienna 10-13 September 2024
- ☐ On Pastoralism & Gender, and Pastoralism general (National and International fairs & festivals)







# Activities up to & during IYRP 2026 on various themes

- Joint research & publishing
- Policy briefs / statements
- Pastoralist gatherings
- Social media campaigns
- Films / Photo exhibits
- Pastoralist innovation fairs
- Side events
- Conferences / Webinars ... etc





# What does the IYRP initiative seek to achieve through the Working Groups?

- ✓ Greater awareness in science & society about how rangelands & pastoralists contribute to food security, economy, environment & cultural heritage
- ✓ Resolutions taken by UN and other international entities in support of rangelands & pastoralists
- ✓ Changes in national, regional & global policies in favour of sustainable management of rangeland resources by pastoralists & other stakeholders
- ✓ Increase sustainable & ethical investment in rangelands & pastoralist livelihoods



# Possible tasks of Working Groups related to their respective themes:



- **Collate and analyse existing research results (science review)**
- **Identify knowledge & information gaps – and new opportunities**
- **Stimulate and engage in participatory research to fill gaps and explore opportunities**
- **Analyse existing international policy related to the theme**
- **Identify “targets” (international bodies, conventions, events etc) for science- and experience-based advocacy**
- **Strategize on right messages for these targets, including identification of spokespersons or “ambassadors” to bring them across**
- **Engage with pastoralists and others in IYRP network (including other WGs) in disseminating these messages, also for public awareness**



Official launching of IYRP  
in Valencia- Spain  
September 2023







THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTING TO  
THE WORKING GROUPS,  
ESSENTIAL FOR UNDERPINNING &  
SHARING MAIN MESSAGES FOR  
IYRP 2026 !



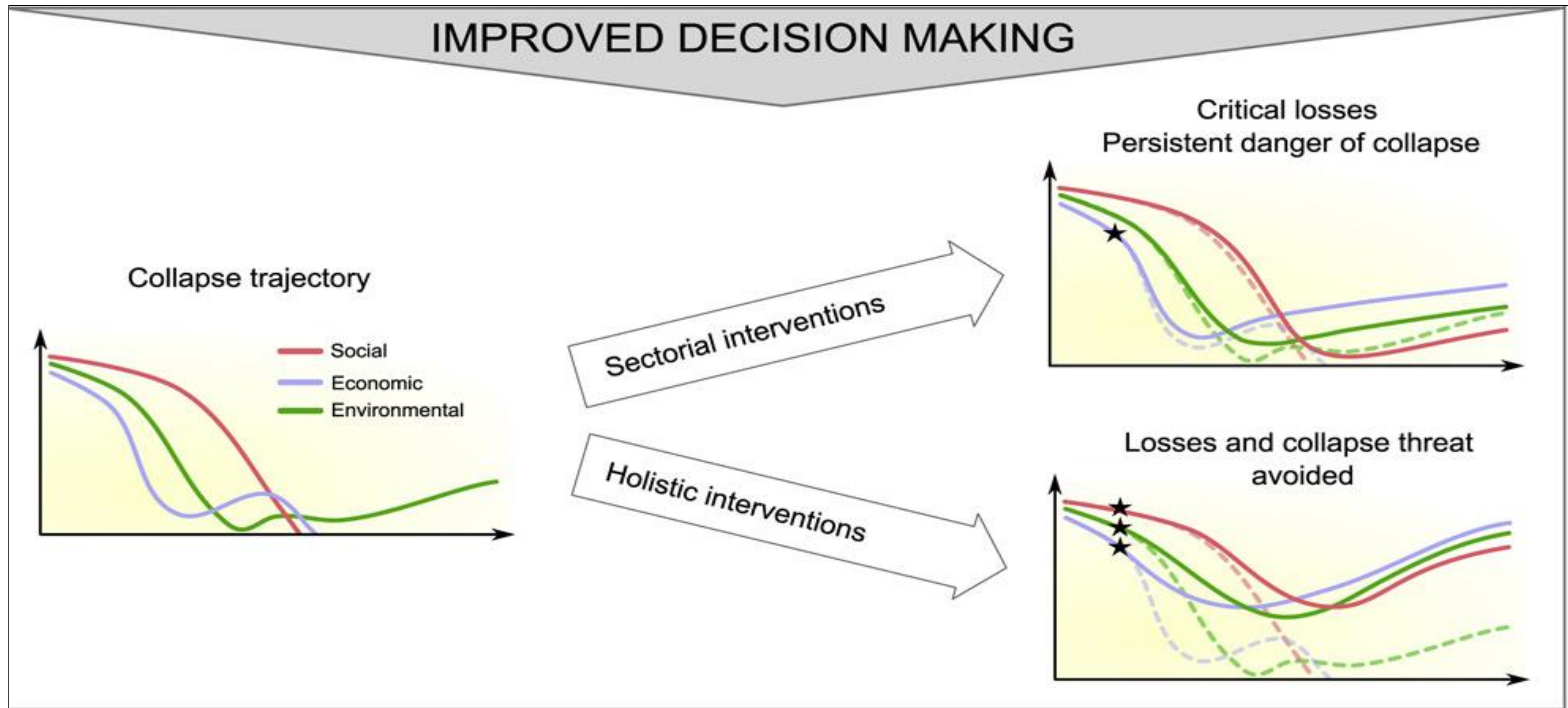
[www.iyrp.info](http://www.iyrp.info)



# Toward a holistic understanding of pastoralism

Pablo Manzano, Daniel Burgas, Luis Cadahía, Jussi T. Eronen, Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares, Slimane Bencherif, Øystein Holand, Oula Seitsonen, Bayarmaa Byambaa, Mikael Fortelius, María E. Fernández-Giménez, Kathleen A. Galvin, Mar Cabeza, Nils Chr. Stenseth

*One Earth*  
Volume 4 Issue 5 Pages 651-665 (May 2021)  
DOI: 10.1016/j.oneear.2021.04.012





## Herding knowledge versus Animal Science

Ilse Köhler, 2022, Hoofprints on the Land, Chelsea Green

	Herding Knowledge	Animal Science
<b>Focus</b>	The whole herd, from a long-term <b>intergenerational perspective</b>	<b>Individual animal</b> and its performance during his life time
<b>Content</b>	<b>Animals</b> are managed as <b>part of the environment</b> taking advantage of its variability	<b>Animals seen in isolation</b> from natural and social environment, and kept in controlled and uniform environment
<b>Goal</b>	Keeping animal numbers <b>in balance with availability of forage</b> , never exceeding for long	Maximising individual performance <b>without concern for where and how</b> the feed is produced
<b>Method</b>	Letting animals <b>walk to their feed</b> , so they can compose their own seasonal menus based on local resources	<b>Maximising</b> performance and efficiency by <b>immobilising</b> animals and feeding them with calculated and <b>standardised</b> rations
<b>Value System</b>	Respect for all life and regard for animals as partners	<b>Maximising profitability</b> and more recently, minimising the emissions of GHGs (Greenhouse gases) per unit of product
<b>Effect</b>	Livestock population <b>in tune with natural resources availability</b> and planetary boundaries, mimicking ecological role of wild herbivores	<b>Exponential growth</b> of the global livestock population, <b>at the expenses of tropical forests and natural grasslands</b>







Grazie

Hvala

Gracias

Merci

Thank you







## 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 safeguard 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)



In Facebook:

International Year of Rangeland and  
Pastoralism:

Global action for sustainable rangeland LDN  
(Land Degradation Neutrality)

For example:

- **Stop indiscriminate conversion of rangeland**  
(into croplands, tree plantations, forests, mining areas, land for generating renewable energy, infrastructure and human settlements)
- **Innovate and implement beneficial economic policies and technologies** Replace subsidies for supplemental feed, that lead to rangeland degradation with economic alternatives, such as support for ecotourism and environmental services, livestock insurance and mobile abattoirs. Lift market barriers, encourage animal diversity, livestock health and locally adapted breeds



A large flock of sheep is moving through a hilly landscape. The sheep are white and woolly, and they are moving in a line down a slope. The landscape is covered with dry, yellowish-brown grass and some green shrubs. There are many yellow flowering trees on the right side of the image. A person is visible in the distance, riding a horse and herding the sheep. The overall scene is a pastoral landscape.

**Thank you**

**Merci**

**Muchas  
gracias**

For more information:  
Francesca Pasetti [fpasettib@gmail.com](mailto:fpasettib@gmail.com)