

27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members (English version)

4.4 FAO's work on Rangelands and Pastoralism, and Proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Member Name	Comments
<p>Dominican Republic (Tue 22/09/2020 18:52)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dominican Republic recognizes the work of FAO on rangelands and pastoralism, which addresses the challenges facing the sector, including the climate crisis, the sustainable management of rangelands, governance, data and knowledge generation and supporting pastoralists' advocacy. • Healthy and productive rangelands and pastoralism are key to supporting livelihoods, and food security and nutrition throughout the world; this area of work has great potential to contribute to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. • We also welcome the measures proposed in document COAG/2020/19 and we encourage FAO to continue to support its work on pastoralism and its progressive institutionalization, in cooperation with organizations within the international system and other strategic partners, and to integrate rangelands and pastoralism into its technical and regulatory programmes, to guarantee a systematic, coordinated and long-term approach for all Member Nations. • Our delegation supports the proposal of the Government of Mongolia to establish observance of the International year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (YIRP) in 2026, as agreed during the 26th Session of the COAG, and the draft Conference resolution attached. We hope that the celebration of the International Year will increase global awareness of the importance of rangelands and pastoralists to increase food supplies, combat all forms of malnutrition and protect ecosystems as well as many other aspects of sustainable development, contributing to the UN Decade on Family Farming. <p>República Dominicana reconoce la labor de la FAO en relación con los pastizales y el pastoreo, donde hace frente a los desafíos del sector, incluyendo la crisis del clima, la ordenación sostenible de los pastizales, la gobernanza y generación de datos y conocimientos, y el apoyo a iniciativas de promoción de los pastores.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los pastizales y el pastoreo saludables y productivos son clave para respaldar los medios de vida y la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en todo el mundo; este ámbito de trabajo tiene un gran potencial para contribuir a la implementación de la Agenda 2030 y el logro de los ODS. • Asimismo, acogemos con beneplácito las medidas propuestas en el documento COAG/2020/19 y alentamos a la FAO a que continúe su labor sobre pastoreo y su progresiva institucionalización, en colaboración con organismos del sistema internacional y otros asociados estratégicos, e integre los pastizales y el pastoreo en sus programas técnicos y normativos, para de este modo garantizar un enfoque sistemático, coordinado y a largo plazo para beneficio de todos los Estados miembros. • Con estos comentarios, nuestra delegación respalda la propuesta del Gobierno de Mongolia para la celebración del Año Internacional de los Pastizales y los Pastores en 2026, según fue acordado por el 26º período de sesiones del COAG, y el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia adjunto. Confiamos en que la celebración del Año Internacional aumentará la conciencia global sobre la importancia de los pastizales y los pastores para incrementar la oferta de alimentos, luchar contra todas las formas de malnutrición y proteger los ecosistemas, entre otras dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible, contribuyendo también a los pilares del Decenio de Acción sobre la Agricultura Familiar.
<p>Philippines (Fri 25/09/2020 11:44)</p>	<p>The Philippine supports the following suggested actions by the Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request FAO to mainstream rangelands and pastoralism to ensure their systematic consideration in technical and policy

	<p>programmes for their sustainable management and development.</p> <p>2. Review the proposal led by the Government of Mongolia and advocate for support of other Member Nations to establish the observance of an International Year on Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026, and provide guidance and follow-up actions as deemed appropriate.</p> <p>3. Review and revise, as needed, the Draft Conference Resolution to consider 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists presented in the Appendix, and submit it for the consideration of the 165th session of the Council for adoption by the 42nd Session of the Conference.</p> <p>The Philippines has 1.5 million hectares of grasslands most of which is part of the public domain and administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resource (DENR). Once there is an FAO approved technical and policy programmes for rangelands and pastoralism, these will be the bases for a collaborative work between the Department of Agriculture and DENR to develop and manage the grasslands which can be instrumental in improving also the livestock situation of the country.</p>
Australia Wed (23/09/2020 17:07)	<p>Australia supports the proposal to have an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists. We note that rangelands are of economic and environmental importance. The proposed International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists will help highlight the challenges facing management, sustainability and agricultural productivity, as well as the opportunities rangelands present for rural prosperity.</p>
Argentina (Wed 23/09/2020 23:05)	<p>1. Argentina recognizes the central importance of rangelands and pastoralism to guarantee the livelihoods and food security of millions of persons, along with the ecosystem services they provide and the positive effect that these systems have on the environment, in particular, by carbon sequestration in soils and plants.</p> <p>2. Accordingly, Argentina supports the proposal that 2026 be declared the “International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists”, as this initiative and the actions involved are aimed at promoting the sustainable use of rangelands.</p>
Canada (Thu 24/09/2020 14:43)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada recognizes the interlinkages between rangelands and pastoralists and the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including No Poverty (SDG 1), Zero Hunger (SDG 2) and others. • Rangeland ecosystems are critical not only for their cultural and economic value, but for the role they play in carbon sequestration. • An increased focus on rangeland management aligns with Canada’s sustainable agriculture and climate change goals.
Peru (Thu 24/09/2020 10:03)	<p>The agricultural sector in Peru employs 25 percent of the economically active population and provides approximately 70 percent of the food that is consumed in the country. In contrast the agricultural sector represents just 8 percent of GDP and has a productivity 4.3 times lower than the rest of the productive sectors. The fourth National Agricultural Census in 2012 (IV CENAGRO 2012), estimates that the number of national producers is 1.8 million, with 67 percent in the mountains and 20 percent in the forest.</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture statistics indicate that the population of beef cattle is 5.2 million, for sheep it is 9.5 million and for South American camelids it is 4.5 million, which are located mainly in the mountains and feed on rangelands, which form part of the pastoral system. In the case of South American camelids, 100 percent of them feed on natural grasslands.</p> <p>The same census (IV CENAGRO 2012) indicates that around 14 percent of the country’s surface area is covered in rangelands, which equates to almost 18,018,794.60 million hectares. Some 69.52 percent of this area belongs to rural communities and 27.9</p>

percent belongs to legal persons. The departments that form approximately 50 percent of the area of natural pastures are Puno, Cusco, Ayacucho, Apurímac and Arequipa.

In light of the above, we can clearly see that a major proportion of national livestock is fed using food from rangelands, which is largely managed by rural communities, many of them living in extreme poverty .

Environmentally, natural pastures that are well managed and in a good state can provide many benefits to society. The benefits of these “ecosystem services” are highlighted as follows:

- Carbon capture and sequestration, reducing the presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which are responsible for global climate change.
- Rainwater filtering and slow refill of aquifers, helping retain water availability for human and animal consumption as well as for irrigation.
- Providing space, refuge and food to wildlife species that can only live in that environment.
- Maintaining predator and pest control populations helping to prevent the use of contaminating chemical products.
- Maintaining ancestral landscapes interwoven with regional cultures and traditions.
- Safeguarding dormant seeds of valuable species for cattle fodder during critical times.
- Providing resistance to extreme climate events such as droughts and flooding, making livestock production more stable.

Nevertheless, it is also important to highlight the priority that should be given to adaptive measures in Peru to climate change, given the evidence of extreme vulnerability in the upper basins of the Andes to climate change, demonstrated in glacial melting and changes to rainfall patterns, as well as a greater prevalence of extreme climatic events.

This is important evidence to take into account when making national decisions and policies, which need to contribute towards the responsible conservation and use of rangelands, which in turn will guarantee the provision of ecosystem services to communities, helping to sustainably develop livestock activities with the consequent economic and social improvements for producers.

II. Policies, National Strategies and Guidelines on the Agricultural Sector:

1. DS (Supreme Decree) N° 054-2011-PCM (Presidency of the Council of Ministers). BICENTENNIAL PLAN. Peru by 2021

Strategic Pillar 6: Natural Resources and the Environment

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE: The conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity based on a holistic and ecosystemic approach and an environment that enables a good quality of life for people and the existence of long-term healthy, viable and functional ecosystems.

Policy guidelines:

Natural resources

(3) Promote the conservation and sustainable use of the country’s natural heritage effectively, equitably and for social wellbeing, helping to protect biodiversity, control the loss of forests and ecosystems, guarantee the sustainability of fisheries, preserve the indigenous genetic heritage and re-evaluate traditional knowledge.

(4) Promote research on natural heritage and traditional practices on the management of resources and the reduction of vulnerabilities.

(9) Promote the adoption of mitigation strategies and adaptation to climate change through the three levels of government, based on scientific studies and research with a preventative approach.

(13) Prevent, control and reverse desertification and soil degradation, and mitigate the effects of drought.

(14) Recognize the contributions of ecosystemic services and other products (not only wood) to the national economy.

Priorities

(1) Use and sustainable management of natural resources.

(4) Country adaptation to climate change.

Strategic programmes:

(1) Inventory and valuation of national natural resources with an estimated investment of 2,347 million soles (PEN).

(4) Biological diversity conservation programme and its sustainable use with an estimated investment of 5,000 million soles (PEN).

2. Law N° 30754, Framework Law on Climate Change

Article 19. Research, technology and innovation

19.1. The competent public bodies working on scientific research, technological development and innovation, assigned to the sectoral authorities, to create and manage understanding on climate change and the conservation of biological diversity.

3. Law N° 29763, Forestry and Woodland Fauna Law

TITLE II. Promotion, funding, certification and investment in forest and woodland fauna

Article 131. Promoting forestry and woodland fauna activities

The promotional activities take the following into account:

(h) The sustainable management of natural pastures and other wild plants.

4. DS N° 009-2014-MINAM (Ministry of Environment), National Strategy on Biological Diversity by 2021

OE1 (Strategic Objective). Improve the state of biodiversity and maintain the integrity of ecosystemic services provided. By 2021, the level of conservation of biological biodiversity in Peru to improve, be maintained and preserved, guaranteeing the provision of goods and services that are provided to all Peruvians.

OE2. Increase the contribution of biodiversity in national development improving national competitiveness and the equitable distribution of benefits. This objective seeks to substantially increase the contribution of biological development to national development.

OE5. Improve understanding and technologies for the sustainable use of biodiversity as well as the re-evaluation of traditional knowledge on the biodiversity of indigenous communities. This objective recognizes the importance of science and technology for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Goals are therefore being set to promote the development of scientific information and the strengthening of information systems, to improve knowledge of biodiversity components in order to make more informed decisions.

5. Multi-annual Sectoral Strategic Plan 2015-2021

Strategic Objective 1. Manage natural resources and biological biodiversity relating to the agricultural sector in a sustainable manner.

Strategic Action 9. Strengthen adaptation and mitigation measures to combat climate change in the agricultural sector.

6. Duties and responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) bodies

	<p>National Livestock Development Plan 2017-2027. The National Livestock Development Plan 2017-2027 was approved via RM (Ministerial Resolution) N° 0297-2017-MINAGRI, with the aim of “Improving competition in the livestock subsector, in particular small and medium livestock farming, promoting the sustainable productive and commercial development of products derived from livestock activities</p> <p>Specific Objective 1. Properly manage natural resources guaranteeing the sustainability of livestock production systems and reducing vulnerabilities caused by adverse climate events.</p> <p>Strategic Action 2. Promote the management and conservation of natural grasslands, soil and water.</p> <p>In light of the above we conclude that it is necessary to support the proposal of the Government of Mongolia for observance of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026 and to play an active role which is necessary to create awareness on the importance of rangelands and pastoralists in livelihoods, healthy ecosystems and other relevant aspects to develop sustainability, and to also propose as a matter of priority action in the Andean highlands, helping to promote the resilience of livestock producers.</p>
<p>China (Thu 24/09/2020 17:32)</p>	<p>China is rich in rangeland resources. According to a survey, China's grassland area is about 6 billion mu, accounting for 41.7% of the country's land area. In 2019, 17.488 million people (including the population of pastoral and semi-pastoral areas) were engaged in pastoralism. With its long history and splendid culture, pastoralism has been the basic and leading industry of grassland pastoral areas, and has played an important role in the production of green products, the continuity of grassland culture, ecological protection and the stability of border areas.</p> <p>In the past, China's grasslands and rangelands also faced the problems of overgrazing, reclamation for arable land, degradation, desertification, salinization, etc., resulting in a more visible contradiction between grassland and livestock. The Chinese government has always strived to improve the situation by adhering to the principles of sustainable development. The switch from primarily developing and utilizing grasslands to attaching equal importance on production and ecology had been made. We implemented the return of grazing lands to grasslands, the Beijing and Tianjin sandstorm source control project, and the grassland ecological assistance and reward policy, all serve to align forage production and herbivorous livestock and poultry production, help pastoralists extend the industrial chain, and improve added value of products. By 2014, the deterioration of grassland ecology in China had been curbed, and gradually developed in a direction more conducive to ecological protection and the improvement of the lives of pastoralists.</p> <p>The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other UN agencies have achieved much in the field of rangelands and pastoralism. They have established various partnerships, set up relevant working groups, provided technical support and services, carried out data collection and analysis, and jointly promoted the work of rangelands and pastoralism around the world. The establishment of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists will help raise awareness of the importance of improving livelihoods, maintaining healthy ecosystems and promoting other aspects of sustainable development for rangelands and pastoralists. Furthermore, it will lay the foundation for subsequent technical and policy initiatives in the field of rangelands and pastoralism.</p>
<p>Mexico (Thu 24/09/2020 14:31)</p>	<p>Mexico expresses its support for FAO to incorporate rangelands and pastoralism in technical and policy programmes with a view to their sustainable development and management, so that they are given systematic consideration.</p> <p>Approximately half the land surface of Mexico is classified as rangelands and natural scrubland suitable for livestock production. A large number of persons depend on these ecosystems for their subsistence and have a key role in the management</p>

	<p>and conservation of this land. Pastoralists, transhumant herders and other persons who earn their living from rangelands are, in turn, users and environmental guardians of these systems.</p> <p>These landscapes and lifestyles are characteristic mainly of the drylands of Mexico and require immediate attention given increasingly erratic climatic conditions due to prolonged droughts, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity and pollution of water resources, among other things. The degradation of this natural and cultural system generates agonizing migrations, as well as changes that are very difficult to reverse in soil use.</p> <p>Within this framework, an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists can help to increase the visibility of these lands and lifestyles, along with their importance in the continuity of ecosystem services and food security.</p>
<p>Thailand (24/09/2020 23:20)</p>	<p>Thailand endorses the proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 as per draft Resolution contained in Appendix A of the related document. Thailand requests that FAO's work on Rangelands and Pastoralism be further mainstreamed.</p>
<p>EU (Thu 24/09/2020 19:00)</p>	<p>Before commenting on the proposal before us, we would like to recall that the UN ECOSOC has adopted criteria for the proclamation of International Years and that, in 2013, the FAO Conference adopted its own policy lines on the proclamation and implementation of international years. We urge FAO to present a careful assessment against this framework in the text of any future proposals.</p> <p>3. We acknowledge the important role that FAO plays by supporting pastoralists and pastoral organizations by implementing knowledge, tools and guidelines. We recognize FAO's initiatives in sustainable management and the restoration of dryland forests and rangelands. We appreciate FAO's initiatives in the provision for women's empowerment in the pastoralist context, as well as its role in facilitating the participation of indigenous pastoralists in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.</p> <p>4. We also acknowledge that rangelands and pastoralism support the livelihoods, food security and nutrition of millions of people, and have a great potential to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially to reducing poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2), as well as the conservation of biodiversity (SDG 15).</p> <p>5. Based on the above, we can agree to the submission of the related Draft Resolution to the FAO Council for further consideration.</p>