



MINISTRY OF FOOD,
AGRICULTURE AND LIGHT
INDUSTRY



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
**RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS**
2026



GLOBAL PASTORALIST GATHERING AND CONFERENCE IN MONGOLIA

/PRE-READING DOCUMENT/

**09 AUGUST 2026: REGISTRATION,
10–15 AUGUST 2026: FIELD VISITS & CONFERENCE**



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BACKGROUND ON THE IYRP INITIATIVE

Beginning in early 2016, many organizations began working together to gain support for a United Nations designated International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). This led to the formalization of an IYRP Steering Committee, and after the Mongolian Government's formal IYRP proposal was submitted, to a renamed and reconfigured IYRP Support Group (ISG). The ISG has spearheaded this effort by actively engaging with colleagues and interested parties around the world. Most recently, the Mongolian Government presented the request for an IYRP designation at an open session of the October 2018 Committee on Agriculture (COAG) meeting in Rome and the proposal was approved without reservations by the 2020 COAG meeting representatives. The proposal has since been approved by the FAO Council and FAO Conference, and on March 15, 2022 by the UN General Assembly.

At the initiative of Mongolia, the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/76/253, proclaiming 2026 as the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026)¹.

INTRODUCTION

The International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026) aims to raise global awareness of the contribution of rangeland-based livestock production and mobile pastoralists to food security, ecosystem balance, climate change adaptation and mitigation, environmental sustainability, and rural sustainable development.

In 2026, many pastoralists' meetings and conferences are being held across regions worldwide. There is now a strong need to synthesize the outcomes and recommendations from these events and produce a unified global position and document. Therefore, Mongolia will host a Global Pastoralist

¹<https://rangelandsgateway.org/international-year-rangelands-and-pastoralists-initiative>

Gathering and Conference to consolidate and validate regional outcomes and elevate them to the global policy level.

In December 2025, Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh met with Dr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in Rome during the launch of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). During their meeting, they agreed to organize an international conference in Mongolia in 2026. This shared vision is now becoming a reality through the organization of the conference in conjunction with the Global Pastoralist Gathering—an initiative conceived approximately three years ago by the IYRP Global Alliance, now known as the Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists (GA4RP).

The **Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference** will be jointly organized by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI) and FAO, and will be held in Mongolia from **9 to 15 August 2026**.

OBJECTIVE OF THE GATHERING AND CONFERENCE

The objectives of the Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference are to:

- Consolidate and synthesize the outcomes of pastoralists' gatherings and dialogues held across world regions.
- Develop a joint declaration and recommendations that reflect the priorities of pastoralists, including women and youth
- Identify policy directions and cooperation mechanisms to support the sustainability of rangelands and pastoralism by governments and CSOs
- Present the consolidated document at the UNCCD COP 17, UNFCCC COP 31 and CBD COP17, and elsewhere globally within the framework of the celebration of IYRP 2026.

Participants:

- Approximately 240 international delegates from 102 countries, mostly pastoralists and pastoralist organizations, but also CSOs, universities, and governments.
- National participants: 100 pastoralists from Mongolia and 60 government officials / national representatives
- Approximately 400 participants in total, including international and national participants.

Dates:

1. Registration: 09 August 2026
2. Field visits and thematic discussions: 10–13 August 2026
3. Plenary sessions (Ulaanbaatar): 14–15 August 2026

PART I - FIELD VISITS AND THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

Expected Outcomes

1. Consolidated Outcome Document: A single validated document compiling key results from regional meetings, shared challenges, proposed solutions, commitments, and directions for cooperation.
2. Pastoralists' Joint Declaration (Women's, Youth's, and Other Pastoralists' Priorities): One unified declaration capturing the priorities, proposals, and commitments of pastoralists, with dedicated sections.
3. Supporting Declaration for Joint Action (CSOs, researchers/scientists, and governments): A complementary declaration with clear commitments to support implementation of pastoralist-led priorities through policy, research, financing, capacity building, and assistance in coordination at national and regional levels.
4. Policy Recommendations on Rangeland Management: A package of recommendations addressing rangeland degradation, climate adaptation, financing options for ecosystem services and restoration, and stronger linkages between traditional knowledge and science.
5. Cooperation Mechanism and Network: Agreement on a clear cooperation mechanism among participating countries' pastoralist organizations (e.g., a working group, coordination channel, and follow-up action plan).
6. Global Presentation and Dissemination (IYRP 2026 & COP17): The two declarations will be officially introduced in a COP17 plenary session. In addition, two dedicated COP17 side events will be organized to present and disseminate the consolidated outcome document and both declarations, to promote dialogue with Parties and partners, and to mobilize commitments for follow-up action through IYRP 2026 processes.

Figure 1. Field trip zone

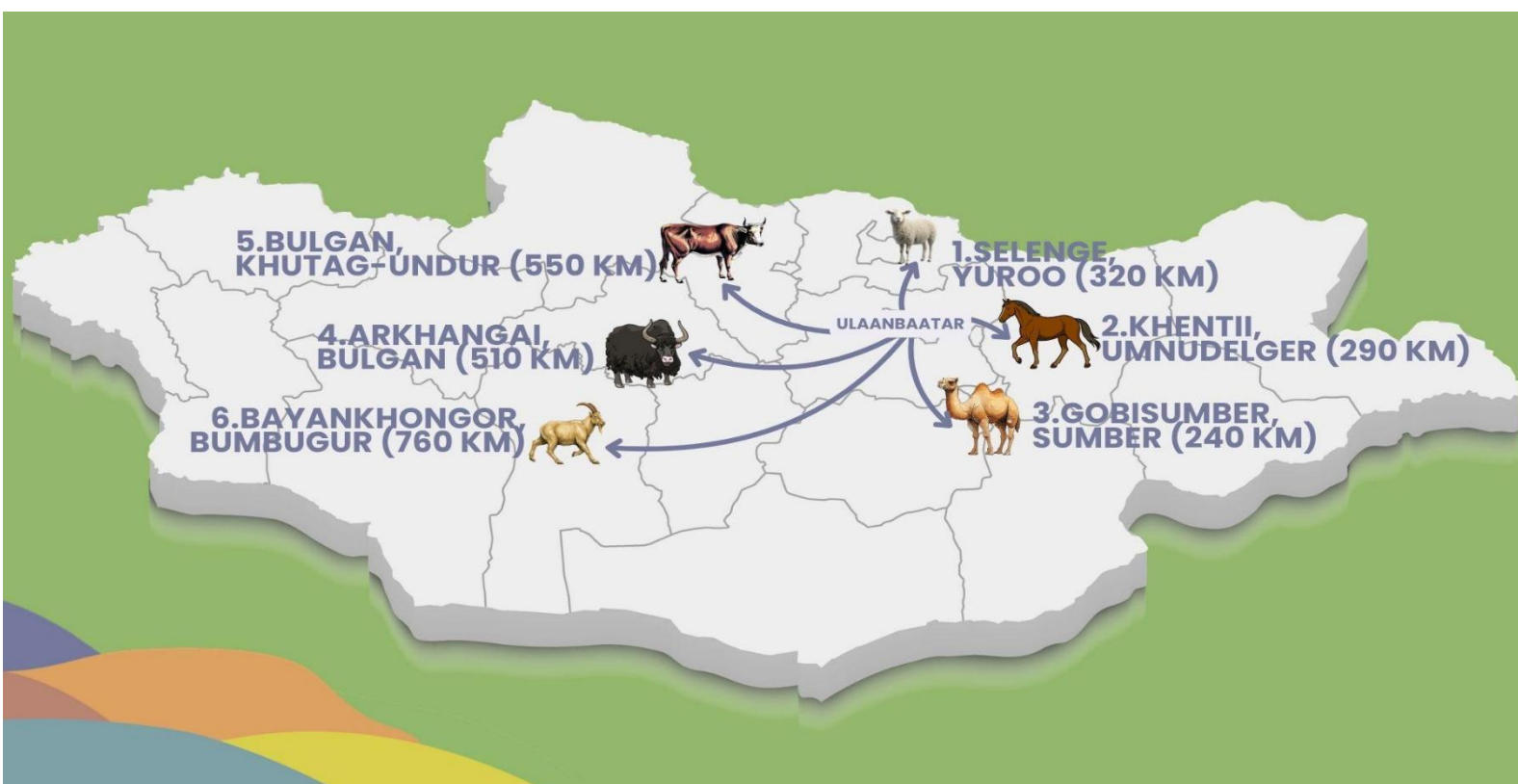


Table 1. Field Visit Coordination Teams

Aimag	Soum	Leader from MN	Supporting Project / Donor	MOFALI	Volunteer supporting team
Khentii	Umnudelger	G.Gankhulug	FAO	R.Bulgantamir	
Gobisumber	Sumber	S.Jigjidpurev	FAO	E.Ariunzaya	L.Gantsogt
Bayankhongor	Bumbugur	B.Altantsetseg	AVSF	O.Nominbolor	J.Tserendolgor
Arkhangai	Bulgan	Kh.Altynbek	WCS	J.Tsogtbaatar	D.Burmaa
Bulgan	Khutag-Undur	P.Byambadorj	ECCO-FARM	B.Gantulga	D.Bulgamaa
Selenge	Yoroo	G.Enkhbaatar	FAO	P.Tumenbayar	B.Odonchimeg

***Costs for the field visit and the two-day conference will be covered by the Government of Mongolia.*

Each field visit destination is supported by a dedicated coordination team consisting of a Mongolian lead representative, partner projects or donor organizations, specialists from the Green Gold Mongolian Rangeland Research Center (GGMRRRC), and representatives from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry (MOFALI).

These teams are responsible for coordinating logistics, facilitating discussions with local communities and pastoralists, supporting thematic sessions, and ensuring effective communication between participants and local stakeholders throughout the field visits.

Participants are encouraged to contact their designated coordination team for logistical arrangements, field visit information, and support during their stay in the respective provinces and soums.

Table 2. General field visit agenda

Date	Time	Activity
9 August	All day	Registration at the FAO Mongolia Office
10 August	08:00–18:00	Departure from Ulaanbaatar to field visit destinations
	09:00–13:00	Discussion on the Women Pastoralists' Declaration
11 August	13:00–14:00	Lunch
	14:00–18:00	Discussion on the Young Pastoralists' Declaration
	09:00–13:00	Discussion on the General Pastoralists' Declaration
12 August	13:00–14:00	Lunch
	14:00–15:00	Wrap-up and consolidation of all declarations
	15:00–18:00	Cultural activities
13 August	08:00–18:00	Return to Ulaanbaatar

*** Detailed field visit agendas are listed in Annexes below.*

Field visits and thematic discussions will take place from 10–13 August 2026 in selected pastoral areas across Mongolia. During the visits, participants will contribute to discussions and drafting processes for the Women Pastoralists' Declaration, Young Pastoralists' Declaration, and General Pastoralists' Declaration.

The program also includes opportunities for exchange with local pastoralist communities, cultural activities, and learning about Mongolia's pastoral heritage and rangeland management practices.

Participants will return to Ulaanbaatar on 13 August 2026 for the plenary sessions of the Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference.

PART II - PLENARY SESSIONS (ULAANBAATAR)

The plenary sessions will bring together pastoralists, policymakers, researchers, international organizations, civil society representatives, and development partners to exchange experiences, discuss common challenges and opportunities, and finalize key declarations emerging from regional and thematic pastoralist gatherings held during the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).

The sessions will focus on:

- Sharing experiences and lessons learned from pastoralist communities worldwide;
- Highlighting the importance of rangelands and pastoralism for food security, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable livelihoods;
- Discussing common challenges and future opportunities for pastoralist communities;
- Finalizing and adopting the Pastoralists', Women's Pastoralists', and Youth Pastoralists' Declarations;
- Strengthening collaboration among pastoralists, governments, researchers, civil society organizations, and international partners in preparation for COP17.

Objectives of the Plenary Sessions:

- Provide a global platform for pastoralist voices and experiences;
- Foster dialogue between pastoralists and decision-makers;
- Build consensus on priorities and policy recommendations;
- Adopt a unified set of declarations and messages to be presented at COP17;
- Strengthen partnerships for sustainable rangeland management and pastoral development.

Expected Outputs:

By the conclusion of the plenary sessions, participants are expected to have:

- Adopted the Global Pastoralists' Declaration;
- Adopted the Women's Pastoralists' Declaration;
- Adopted the Youth Pastoralists' Declaration;
- Endorsed supporting statement from civil society organizations and partners;
- Identified key messages and spokespersons for engagement during COP17;
- Strengthened international cooperation and networking among pastoralist communities and partners.

Notes for Participants:

- The programme is subject to minor changes as speakers and logistical arrangements are finalized.
- Simultaneous interpretation services will be available during plenary sessions.
- Presentation materials will be shared electronically where possible.
- Participants are encouraged to actively engage in discussions and breakout sessions.
- Networking opportunities will be provided throughout the event, including refreshment breaks and the reception dinner.

Table 3. Programme of the plenary sessions

TIME	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITIES
FIRST DAY (14 th August 2026)		
09:00 – 09:20	Registration	Organizing team
09:20 – 09:30	Short video	
09:30 – 09:35	Opening speeches MC: Ms Misheel Altan-erdene	
09:35 – 09:45	Opening	H.E Khurelsukh Ukhnaa , President of Mongolia
09:45 – 09:50		Dr. Yasmine Fouad , Executive secretary, UNCCD
09:50 – 09:55		H.E Iderbat Tsagaankhuu The minister of food, agriculture and light industry
09:55 – 10:00		Mr. Thanawat Tiensin , Assistant Director-General, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division (NSA) at UN FAO
10:00 – 10:05		H.E Battsetseg Batmunkh The minister of Foreign affairs of Mongolia
10:05 – 10:10		Mr. Jaap Van Hierden United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mongolia
10:10 – 10:20	Traditional cultural performance welcoming	
10:20 – 10:30	Remark	- Dr. Lauren Svejcar , Research ecologist, Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists
10:30 – 10:40		- Mr. Enkhtaivan Buuveibaatar , Pastoralist, Uvurkhagai aimag, Bayangol soum - Mr. Jacob Lekaitogo , Coordinator of IYRP Young Pastoralists Working Group, President of Pastoralist Youth Alliance- Africa
10:40 – 11:00	Refreshments	
PLENARY SESSION 1		
11:00 – 11:20	Joint keynote speech on IYR&P – 2026 - Dr. Igshaan Samuels, Co-chair of GA4RP and Mr. Gregorio Velasco, Secretariat of the IYRP Steering committee	
11:20 – 11:40	Green economy as a future opportunity for pastoralists - Dr. Jonathan Davies, Coordinator of the Working Groups of the Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists	
11:40 – 12:00	Rangeland map - Dr. Fiona Flintan, Senior Scientist Rangelands and Pastoralism, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)	
12:00 – 12:20	Nomadic culture – Pastoralism - Dr. Dulam BUM-OCHIR, Member of Parliament and Chair of Scientific Committee for International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations of UNESCO	
12:20 – 13:30	Lunch	
PANEL DISCUSSION 1: Common challenges for rangeland and pastoralists		
13:30 – 14:15	Moderator: Dr. Natasha Kirit Maru , Focal point for Rangelands and Pastoralists, International Land Coalition (ILC) - Mr. Anders Oskal , Secretary General, World Reindeer Herders (WRH) and Co-Chair of the IYRP International Steering Committee (ISC) - Ms. Maya Sherpa , Pastoralist, Nepal - Dr. Engin Yilmaz , Executive Director, Yolda Initiative & AMNC - Dr. Dana Kelly , Secretariat of the International Rangelands Continuing Committee	
PANEL DISCUSSION 2: Future opportunities for rangeland, pastoralists		
14:15 – 15:00	Moderator: Mr. Gregorio Juan VelascoGil , Regional Project Coordinator of FAO - Mr. Lkhasuren Choi-Ish , Director General of the Department of Animal Husbandry Policy Implementation, MoFALI - Dr. Long Ruijun , Professor at Lanzhou University of China - Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim , President, Association for Fulani Women and Indigenous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) - Dr. Maria Fernandez-Gimenez Coordinator of the GA4RP Working Group on Gender and Pastoralism and Senior Research Scholar at Colorado State University.	
15:00 – 15:30	Refreshments	
BREAKOUT SESSIONS		

15:30 – 16:30	Main pastoralists’ declaration: - Moderator: Mr. Malih Ole Kaunga, - Co moderator Mr. Anders Oskal, - Finalization, - Selection of spokesperson	Women pastoralists’ Declaration: - Moderator: Ms. Bhavana Rabari, - Co moderator: Dr. Maria Fernandez-Gimenez - Finalization, - Selection of spokesperson	Young pastoralists’ Declaration: - Moderator: Mr. Bayarsaikhan Ulziibayar, - Co moderator: Ms. Francesca Pasetti Bombardella - Finalization, - Selection of spokesperson	Review of CSO Statement - Moderator: Dr. Igshaan Samuels, - Co moderator: Dr. Dashbal Burmaa, - Finalization, - Adopting
PLENARY SESSION 2				
16:30 – 17:00	All pastoralist spokespersons present their statements: Pastoralists’ spokesperson Women Pastoralists’ spokesperson Youth pastoralists’ spokesperson			Selected pastoralist speakers of breakout sessions
17:00 – 17:10	Conclusion and Guidance			MC
17:10 – 18:10	Launch ceremony of Global Handbook on Pastoralism			Book editors and authors
18:10 – 21:00	Reception dinner (via separate agenda)			MoFALI & FAO
SECOND DAY (15 th August 2026)				
09:00 – 09:15	Wrap up of the first day			MC
09:15 – 11:15	Discussions on finalized versions of the declarations: <i>(each declaration presentation takes 15’ and followed by 25’ Q&A session)</i> General Pastoralists’ Declaration, Women Pastoralists’ Declaration, Youth Pastoralists’ Declaration.			
11:15 – 12:00	Presentation of adopted support statement by CSOs			
12:00 – 12:30	General Q&A session			
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 – 15:30	Adoption of the final declarations: General pastoralists’ declaration, Women pastoralists’ declaration, Youth pastoralists’ declaration.			
15:30 – 16:00	Refreshments			
16:00 – 16:20	Handout of adopted declarations to be delivered at COP17 General pastoralist’s declaration to the H.E Tsagaankhuu IDERBAT (MoFALI) by speaker person, Women pastoralist’s declaration to the H.E Jessica Alupo (the vice president of Uganda) by speaker person, Youth Pastoralists’ Declaration to speaker person			
16:20 – 16:40	Closing remarks (Updating and interlinking with COP17)		Mr. Shureenchuluun BATBAYAR, State Secretary, MECC, Mongolia	
16:40 – 16:50	Conclusion of gathering		Dr. Tumur-Uya JAMBALTSEREN, State secretary of MoFALI, Mongolia	
16:50 – 19:00	Social networking and refreshment time			

Programme of the plenary sessions of the Global Pastoralist Gathering held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 14–15 August 2026, including keynote speeches, panel discussions, declaration finalization sessions, and preparations for engagement at COP17.

VENUE INFORMATION: Blue Sky Hotel & Tower

The plenary sessions of the Global Pastoralist Gathering & Conference will take place at Blue Sky Hotel & Tower, located in the heart of Ulaanbaatar and overlooking the historic Sukhbaatar Square. As one of Mongolia's leading conference venues, the hotel provides a central and accessible location for dialogue and exchange among pastoralists, researchers, civil society organizations, government representatives, and international partners from around the world.

Situated within walking distance of major government institutions, museums, restaurants, and cultural attractions, the venue offers participants an opportunity to experience the political and cultural center of Mongolia while attending the conference.

The conference facilities include modern meeting halls, simultaneous interpretation services during plenary sessions, complimentary Wi-Fi, and a range of amenities to support networking and collaboration throughout the event.

Venue Address:

- Blue Sky Hotel & Tower, Peace Avenue 17, Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar 14240, Mongolia

Figure 2. Conference Venue



Participants are requested to complete registration at the conference reception desk upon arrival and to wear their conference badges throughout the event. Additional assistance and information will be available at the Information Desk located near the registration area.

Nearby Accommodation Options:

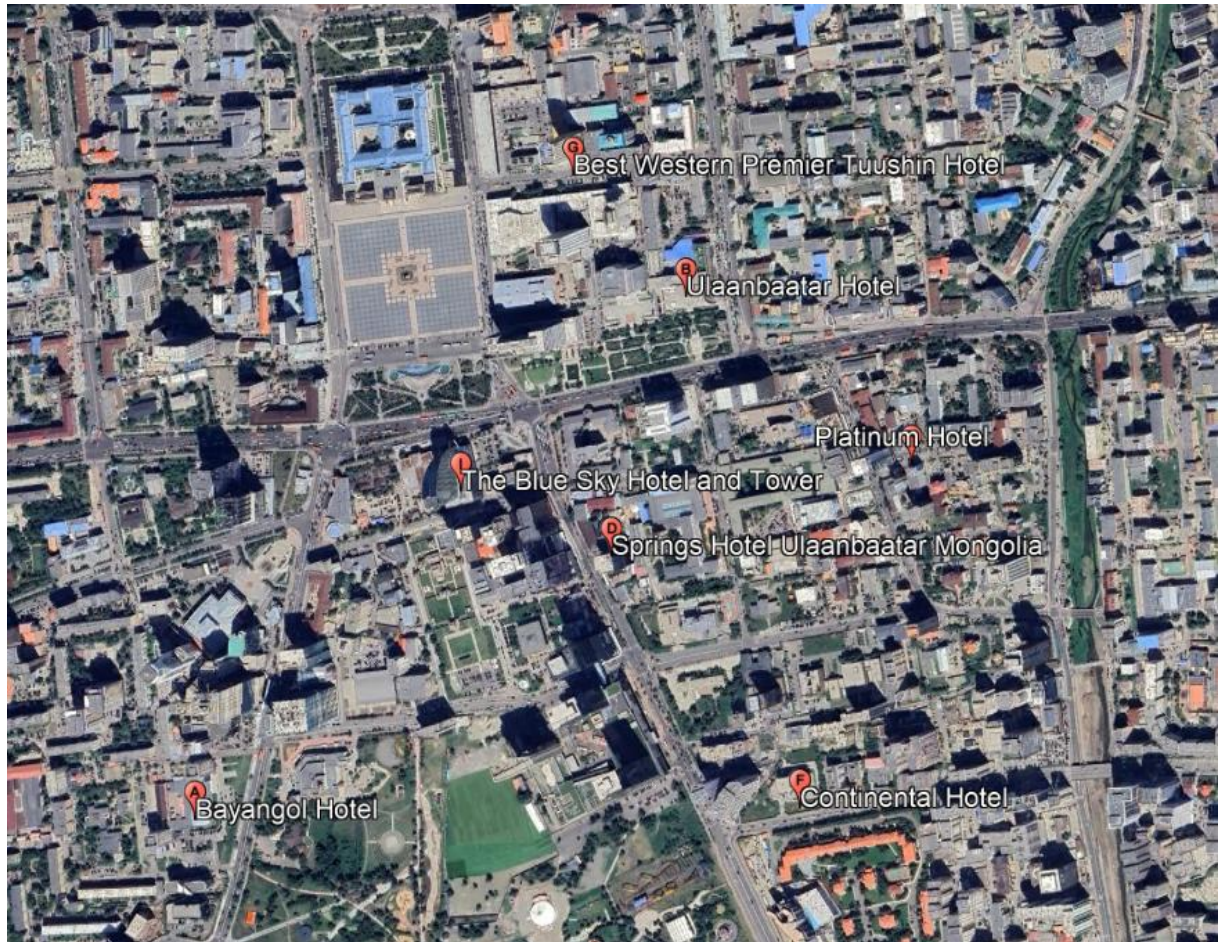


Figure 3. Locations of nearby hotels

For participants wishing to arrange their own accommodation, a number of hotels are available within walking distance or a short drive from the conference venue, Blue Sky Hotel & Tower, located near Sükhbaatar Square in central Ulaanbaatar.

Suggested nearby accommodation options include:

- Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel – Located directly on Sükhbaatar Square, approximately 3–5 minutes' walk from the conference venue.
- Shangri-La Ulaanbaatar – Approximately 5–10 minutes' walk from the venue, with direct access to shopping and dining facilities.
- Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace – Approximately 10–15 minutes by car from the conference venue.
- Continental Hotel – Approximately 10 minutes' walk from the venue and close to major city attractions.
- Novotel Ulaanbaatar – Approximately 15 minutes' walk from the conference venue.

Participants are encouraged to make accommodation arrangements early, as August is a busy travel season in Mongolia and hotel availability may be limited.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RANGELANDS & PASTORALISTS

PASTORALIST-LED EVENTS PRIOR TO COP 17

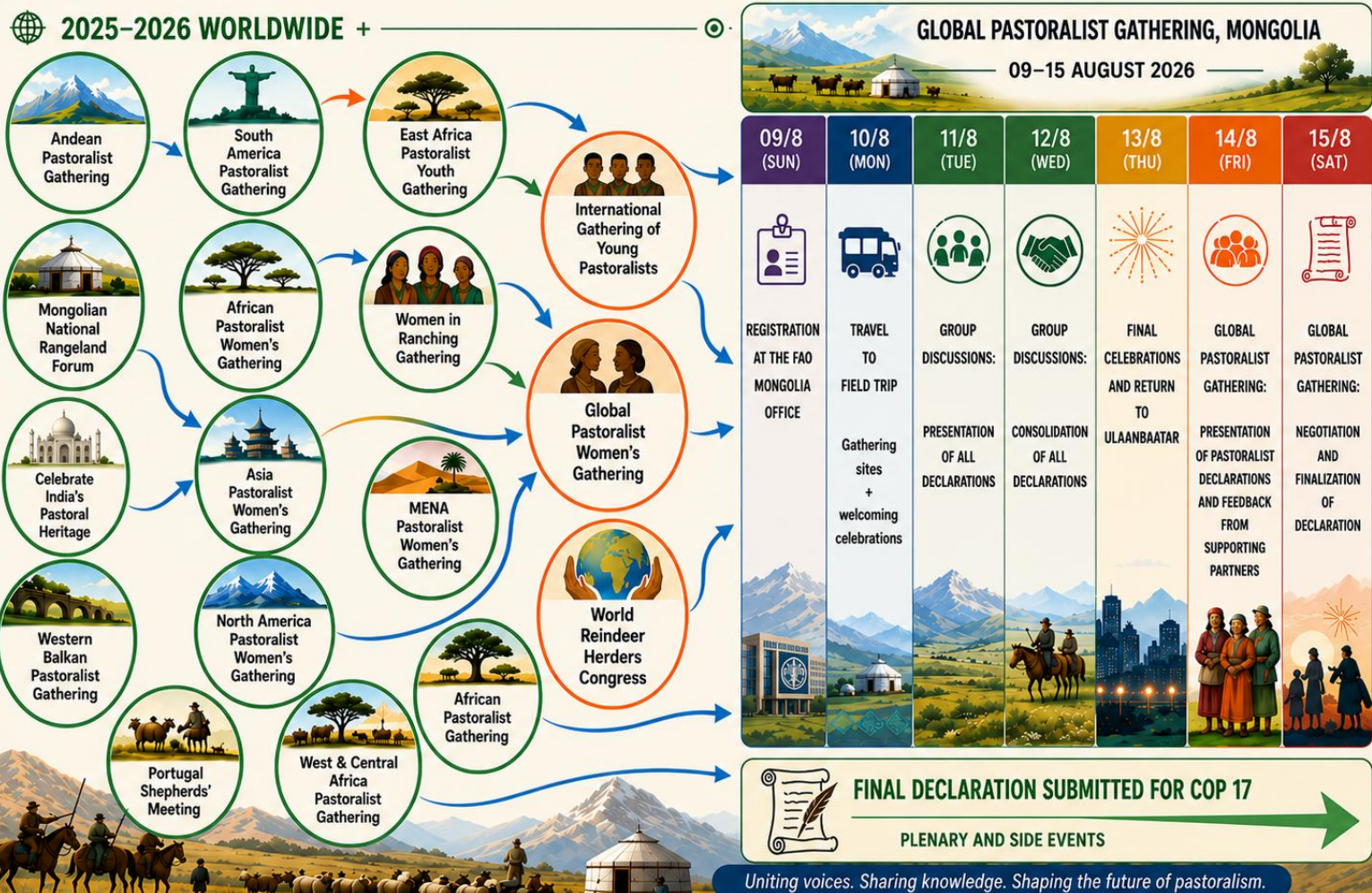


Figure 4. Pastoralists-Led Events prior to COP17

PART III - Conclusion and Expected Outcome

- Consolidated Outcome Document compiling regional results, shared challenges, proposed solutions, commitments, and cooperation directions.
- Pastoralists' Joint Declaration, with women's, youth's, and other pastoralist priorities reflected.
- Supporting Declaration for Joint Action by CSOs, researchers/scientists, and governments.
- Policy recommendations on rangeland degradation, climate adaptation, restoration, ecosystem service financing, and links between traditional knowledge and science.
- Cooperation mechanism and network among participating countries and pastoralist organizations.
- Presentation and dissemination through IYRP 2026 and UNCCD COP17 processes, including plenary and side events.

This illustration shows how pastoralist organizations, networks, and regional gatherings around the world are coming together under the framework of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) to bring the voices of pastoralists to UNCCD COP17.

Recommendations and priorities emerging from meetings of pastoralists, women, youth, and other pastoralist groups organized across different regions of the world during 2025–2026 will be consolidated and discussed during the Global Pastoralist Gathering, to be held in Ulaanbaatar from 10–15 August 2026. These discussions will culminate in the adoption of a joint declaration, which will subsequently be presented at the plenary sessions and side events of UNCCD COP17.

About UNCCD COP17:

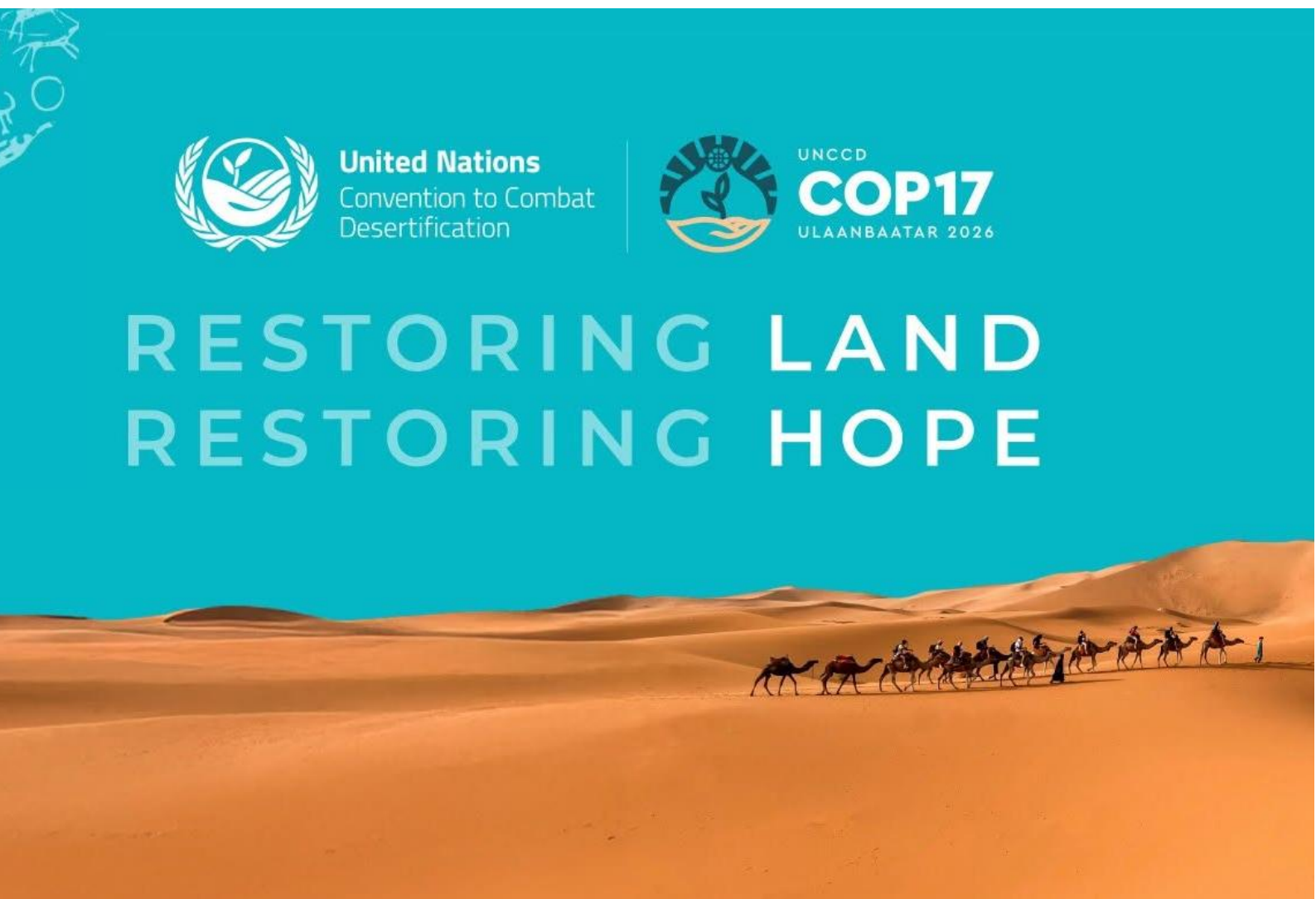
The 17th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17 to 28 August 2026. The conference is expected to bring together governments, international organizations, scientists, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, youth representatives, and development partners from around the world to discuss solutions for land degradation, desertification, drought resilience, and sustainable land management.

As the supreme decision-making body of the UNCCD, COP17 will provide an important platform for advancing international cooperation and commitments related to:

- Land restoration and sustainable land management;
- Combating desertification and land degradation;
- Drought preparedness and resilience;
- Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration;
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- Sustainable livelihoods and food security for land-dependent communities.

For Mongolia, hosting COP17 represents a unique opportunity to highlight the importance of rangelands, pastoralism, and nomadic heritage in achieving global environmental and sustainable development goals. The Global Pastoralist Gathering contributes directly to this process by bringing pastoralist perspectives and recommendations into international policy discussions and by presenting the outcomes of pastoralist-led dialogues to COP17 delegates and stakeholders.

Figure 5. Official Announcement of the UNCCD COP17- <https://unccdcop17.org/>



PART IV - Key Logistics and Checklist

Climate and Travel Information

Table 4. General travel advice for international visitors

Aimag	Soum	Elevation	Average Temperature (11–15 August)	Precipitation	Advice for International Visitors	Brief Information for International Visitors
Selenge	Yoroo	800–900 m	Daytime: 22–27°C Nighttime: 8–13°C	Occasional short rain showers are possible.	It is recommended to bring a light jacket and a raincoat.	Located in northern Mongolia, Yoroo lies within the fertile Selenge river basin and is characterized by forests, rivers, and agricultural landscapes. The area offers a transition between Mongolia's steppe and taiga ecosystems.
Khentii	Umnudelger	~1,320 m	Daytime: 20–25°C Nighttime: 5–10°C	Afternoon showers and thunderstorms may occur.	Due to the higher elevation, mornings and evenings can be cool.	Located in the forest-steppe zone of eastern Mongolia, Umnudelger is surrounded by rolling hills and grasslands and forms part of the historic landscape associated with the birthplace region of Chinggis Khan.
Govisumber	Sumber	950–1,000 m	Daytime: 24–29°C Nighttime: 10–15°C	Generally dry with low precipitation.	Sunscreen, a hat, and adequate hydration are recommended.	Sumber is situated in central Mongolia's Gobi-steppe transition zone and features open grasslands and semi-desert landscapes typical of pastoral production systems.
Arkhangai	Bulgan	~1,300 m	Daytime: 19–24°C Nighttime: 4–9°C	Brief showers may occur.	Warm clothing is recommended for early mornings and evenings.	Bulgan soum lies within the Khangai mountain region and is known for its beautiful valleys, rivers, and traditional nomadic livestock herding systems.
Bulgan	Khutag-Undur	1,100–1,200 m	Daytime: 21–26°C Nighttime: 7–12°C	Occasional rainfall is possible.	Located in a river and forest-steppe region, cool winds are common.	Located near the Selenge River basin, Khutag-Undur combines forests, rivers, and productive pastures and is one of Mongolia's important agricultural and livestock regions.
Bayankhongor	Bumbugur	~2,000 m	Daytime: 17–23°C Nighttime: 2–7°C	Low precipitation is expected.	Due to the high-altitude mountain environment, nights can be quite cold.	Bumbugur is located on the northern edge of the Gobi region where mountain, steppe, and desert ecosystems meet, creating diverse pastoral landscapes and rich geological features.

General Weather & Travel Tips (11–15 August):

- Pleasant summer temperatures are expected during the daytime, making conditions ideal for outdoor activities, field visits, and cultural experiences.
- Mornings and evenings can be cool, especially in higher-altitude areas such as mountain and forest-steppe regions. Bringing a warm layer is recommended.
- Occasional rain showers may occur, particularly in the forest-steppe and mountain regions of northern and central Mongolia. Most showers are brief and followed by clear weather.

Important Notice – Heat wave

During August, some parts of Mongolia may experience short periods of extreme heat (over **35°C**). Please stay hydrated, wear sun protection, and follow the guidance of organizers during field visits.



Travel & Participation Checklist:

Please use this checklist to prepare for your travel and participation. Some items may be updated once final logistics are confirmed.

Before Departure

- ☐ Confirm passport validity (recommended minimum validity of 6 months)
 - ☐ Check visa requirements for Mongolia
 - ☐ Confirm flight details and arrival/departure dates
 - ☐ Print or save copies of tickets and travel insurance documents
 - ☐ Save hotel information, venue address, and emergency contact numbers
 - ☐ Keep copies or photos of your passport, visa, tickets, and wallet contents
 - ☐ Keep receipts and boarding passes if reimbursement applies
-

For the Gathering

- ☐ Review the final agenda and event schedule
 - ☐ Review the concept note and relevant declarations/background materials
 - ☐ Prepare presentation materials if you are speaking or facilitating a session
 - ☐ Bring a backup copy of your presentation on a USB drive
 - ☐ Confirm your assigned field visit group and destination site
 - ☐ Bring any requested materials for group discussions or declaration drafting (*if applicable*)
 - ☐ Bring a traditional outfit or cultural item to share (*optional*)
-

Personal Packing List

- ☐ Passport and visa documents
 - ☐ Cash and/or bank card
 - ☐ Mobile phone and earbuds/headphones
 - ☐ Chargers, power bank, and plug adapter
 - ☐ Essential medications and personal medical supplies
 - ☐ Warm clothes and layered clothing for field visits
 - ☐ Comfortable walking shoes or outdoor boots
 - ☐ Hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen
 - ☐ Personal toiletries
 - ☐ Reusable water bottle
 - ☐ Light waterproof jacket or raincoat
-

Recommended Items to Pack for Mongolia in August

-  Layered clothing for changing temperatures throughout the day.
-  A light waterproof jacket or raincoat for occasional rain showers.
-  Comfortable walking or outdoor shoes suitable for field visits and outdoor activities.
-  Sun protection, including a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
-  A reusable water bottle to stay hydrated during travel and field visits.

 Please note: Mongolia's high altitude and clear skies mean that the sun can be surprisingly strong, even on cooler days. Sun protection is therefore strongly recommended throughout your stay.

Field Visit Essentials

- ☐ Notebook and pen
 - ☐ Camera or smartphone for photos
 - ☐ Portable charger or power bank
-

-
- ☐ Small backpack for day trips
 - ☐ Snacks for longer travel days (*optional*)

We look forward to welcoming you to Mongolia and sharing the knowledge, traditions, and hospitality of pastoralist communities. Safe travels and see you soon

Useful Information for Participants:

Currency and Exchange Information:

The official currency of Mongolia is the Mongolian Togrog (MNT, ₮)

Approximate exchange rates:

- 1 USD $\approx$ 3,400–3,600 MNT
- 1 EUR $\approx$ 3,900–4,200 MNT
- 1 GBP $\approx$ 4,500–4,900 MNT

Payment and Cash:

- International credit and debit cards are widely accepted in hotels, restaurants, and larger businesses in Ulaanbaatar.
- Cash is recommended for purchases in rural areas and during field visits.
- Currency exchange services are available at Chinggis Khaan International Airport, commercial banks, and authorized exchange offices.
- ATMs accepting Visa, Mastercard, and UnionPay are widely available in Ulaanbaatar and most provincial centers.

Banks and ATMs:

The following banks operate extensive ATM networks across Mongolia:

- Khan Bank
- Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia (TDB)
- Golomt Bank
- State Bank of Mongolia

ATMs accepting international cards such as Visa and Mastercard are commonly available in airports, hotels, shopping centers, and city centers.

Taxis and Transportation:

Taxis are widely available throughout Ulaanbaatar and can be booked by phone or through mobile applications. App-based taxi services are generally recommended for convenience, transparent pricing, and cashless payment options.

Recommended Taxi Services:

-
- UBCab,
 - ABA Taxi



Taxi fares in Ulaanbaatar generally start at approximately 1,500–2,000 MNT per kilometre, depending on the service provider and traffic conditions.

Travel times in Ulaanbaatar can vary considerably during peak traffic hours, especially between 08:00–10:00 and 17:00–19:00.

Medical Services and Emergency Assistance:

Medical facilities and pharmacies are readily available in Ulaanbaatar and provincial centers. For participants staying in Ulaanbaatar, nearby international-standard medical facilities include:

- SOS Medica Mongolia
- Intermed Hospital

Emergency numbers in Mongolia:

- Ambulance: 103
- Police: 102
- Fire and Emergency Services: 101
- General Emergency Number: 105

Connectivity:

- Mongolia uses 220V electricity with Type C and Type E power plugs.
- Free Wi-Fi is available at most hotels, conference venues, and restaurants.
- Local SIM cards can be purchased at the airport and from mobile operators in Ulaanbaatar.



Figure 6. Essential Connectivity Information

Important Notice – Interpretation Services

As interpretation during the conference is likely to be provided using AI-based technology, we kindly recommend bringing a smartphone with you, if possible. This will enable you to access the interpretation service conveniently during the event.

Visa Information:

Participants are encouraged to check Mongolia's visa requirements well in advance of travel, as entry regulations vary depending on nationality.

- Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of arrival in Mongolia.
- Citizens of some countries may enter Mongolia visa-free, while others may be eligible for an e-Visa or may need to apply for a visa through a Mongolian embassy or consulate prior to travel.
- Mongolia's electronic visa system allows eligible travelers to apply online for tourism, cultural events, and other short-term visits. Applications are generally processed within several working days.
- Participants requiring a visa are encouraged to begin the application process as early as possible after receiving their invitation letter and event registration confirmation.

Required Supporting Documents may include:

- A valid passport;
- Invitation letter from the organizing institution;
- Event registration or accreditation confirmation;

- Proof of accommodation and return travel arrangements (if requested by the relevant authority).

Official Visa Information:

- [Mongolia eVisa Portal](#)
- Consular Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
- Immigration Agency of Mongolia

Visa Support for Participants:

Participants requiring invitation letters or visa support documents for the Global Pastoralist Gathering and Conference are encouraged to contact the organizing team as early as possible to allow sufficient time for visa processing. People Attending the IYRP and COP17.

- <https://isf.mn/en/service/visa-permit/cop17/>
- <https://unccdcop17.org/explore?tab=visa>

Inside a Ger, Cultural Etiquette:

This illustration highlights some of the key customs and etiquette to observe when visiting a traditional Mongolian ger and pastoralist household. These practices reflect the values of hospitality, respect, and harmony that are central to Mongolian nomadic culture. By following these simple customs—such as respecting the threshold, accepting hospitality with gratitude, and showing consideration for elders and sacred spaces—visitors can enjoy a warm and meaningful cultural exchange with Mongolian pastoralist families.

Figure 7. Inside a Ger

Inside a Ger & Cultural Etiquette

When visiting a traditional Mongolian ger, it is customary to observe a few cultural practices as a sign of respect.



These simple customs help create a warm and respectful experience while visiting Mongolian pastoralist families.



RESPECT



UNDERSTAND



APPRECIATE



ENJOY





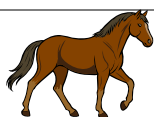
Pit Toilet:

Pit toilets are commonly used in rural areas of Mongolia, particularly during field visits and at herder households. They are a simple, environmentally friendly sanitation solution that does not require running water.

To help keep the toilet clean and reduce odors, please cover the waste with soil after use, follow the posted instructions, and dispose of toilet paper and other waste as directed.



ANNEX A. DETAILED AGENDA



KHENTII PROVINCE AND UMNDELGER SOUM

Day 1: 10 August 2026, Monday		
07:00-07:30	Registration at the Sukhbaatar square	
07:30	Departure to Umnudelger soum of Khentii province	300 km from Sukhbaatar square, Ulaanbaatar to Umnudelger soum of Khentii province
07:30-8:50	Stop at Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex at Chonjin Boldog (8:50-9:40)	55 km and 1hr 30 min drive, 40-50 minutes spend at Chinggis Statue tour. Entrance fee: self-funded by participants.
9:40-12:10	Stop at 240 Rest Area at Jargalant soum of Khentii province	185 km and 2.5 hours' drive 15 minutes
12:25-13:25	Departure to Umnudelger soum of Khentii province	60 km and 50 min drive
13:30-14:30	Lunch at Umnudelger soum of Khentii province	Lunch 1 hr 10 min
14:30-17:30	Departure to Baldan Bereeven monastery in Umnudelger soum, Khentii province	70 km from Umnudelger soum
17:30-18:00	Rest	
18:00-20:30	Welcome and dinner (traditional culture event)	At tourist camp
20:30	Stay overnight and rest at tourist camp, Umnudelger soum, Khentii province	
Day 2: 11 August 2026, Tuesday		
07:30-08:30	Breakfast at the tourist camp	at tourist camp, Umnudelger Khentii province
8:30-10:30	Visit herder-households and Baldan Bereeven monastery	
10:30-11:15	Opening the Global Gathering and presentations	Government officials and Aimag Food and Agriculture Department
11:15-11:30	Refreshment and tea break	
11:30-12:30	Discussion on YOUNG PASTORALISTS' DECLARATION	at tourist camp, Umnudelger Khentii province
12:30-13:30	Lunch at tourist camp, Umnudelger soum, Khentii province	Lunch 1 hr
13:30	Departure to Bayan-Adarga soum, See Agro-forestry on the way	160 km
18:30	Arrive at Bayan-Adarga soum of Khentii aimag	115 km 30 min spent at the statue
18:30-20:30	Welcome and dinner (traditional culture event)	At cultural centre
20:30	Stay overnight at Bayan-Adarga soum	
Day 3: 12 August 2026, Wednesday		
07:30-08:30	Breakfast	Nomadic Tourist camp
8:30-11:00	Visit herder-household and Khatdiin Urguu in Bayan-Adarga soum of Khentii province	At cultural centre
11:00-11:20	Opening speech by local government officials	
11:20-12:30	Discussion on WOMEN PASTORALISTS' DECLARATION	
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	Discussion on PASTORALISTS' DECLARATION	At cultural centre
15:00-16:00	Consolidate the DECLARATION	
16:00-16:20	Refreshment & Tea break	At cultural centre
16:20-18:00	Visit the Hunnu tomb in Duurlig Nars, Bayan-Adarga soum of Khentii province	Bayan-Adarga soum of Khentii province
18:00-20:00	Dinner at camp and stay overnight at Bayan-Adarga soum	Bayan-Adarga soum of Khentii province
Day 4: 13 August 2026, Thursday		

07:30-08:30	Breakfast	
08:30-9:30	Visit Onon River	Bayan-Adarga soum of Khentii province
9:30	Departure to Ulaanbaatar	550 km
	Stop at Batnorov soum for rest	
13:30–14:30	Lunch at Chinggis city, Khentii province	196 km from Bayan-Adarga
16:30-17:00	Stop at Baganuur city for rest	
17:00-20:00	Arrive at Sukhbaatar square in Ulaanbaatar	





GOBISUMBER PROVINCE AND SUMBER SOUM

Day 1: 10 August 2026, Monday		
08:00	Departure from Sukhbaatar Square, Ulaanbaatar to Govisumber	
11:00	Arrival at Oortsog Elgen camp for light lunch	175 km
12:00	Travel to a camp set up in the open steppe, Bayantal, Govisumber	20 km
12:30 - 13:30	Arrival and accommodation of visitors in traditional Mongolian gers.	
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch	
15:00 – 18:00	Introduction to traditional Mongolian lifestyle and culture, including mare milking and performances of traditional “Borjigon” melodies and folk arts (by the Borjigon Theatre of Govisumber Aimag)	
18:00 - 20:00	Welcome dinner	
Day 2: 11 August 2026, Tuesday		
05:30	Welcoming the sunrise over the steppe together	
07:00 - 08:00	Breakfast	
08:00 - 12:00	Discussion on PASTORALISTS’ DECLARATION	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 - 18:00	Discussion on YOUNG PASTORALISTS’ DECLARATION	
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner	
Day 3: 12 August 2026, Wednesday		
07:30-08:30	Breakfast	
09:00-11:00	Discussion on WOMEN PASTORALISTS’ DECLARATION	
11:00-13:00	Consolidate the declaration	
13:00–14:00	Lunch	
14:00-20:00	Field visit to scenic Choir Bogd Mountain, the herders’ field training site/community nucleus breeding service center established with FAO technical assistance. Dinner will be served at the herder camp	60 km
21:00	Arrive to camp and rest	
Day 4: 13 August 2026, Thursday		
07:00-08:00	Breakfast	
09:00	Departure from Govisumber	
13:00	Arrival in Ulaanbaatar	



BAYANKHONGOR PROVINCE AND BUMBUGUR SOUM

Day 1: August 10, 2026		
05:30-06:00	From Sukhbaatar Square – Depart for Bayankhongor aimag	AVSF, NAMAC
07:00-07:30	Breakfast on the road	
07:00-13:00	Welcome to Mongolia - Introduction and information - Ulaanbaatar city, Tuv, Uvurkhangai aimag, soum - Khustai National Park	AVSF
13:00-14:00	Lunch at the Khaan Restaurant	
	Introductiuon to the Khugnu-Tarna National Park	AVSF
14:00-15:00	- Mongolian sand - Camel riding - Horse riding - Combating desertification planting tree on sand	
15:00-20:00	Water	
21:00-21:30	Welcome to Bumbugur soum, Bayankhongor aimag - Amar baina uu or How are you? Welcoming - Accommodation of participants	Aimag Governor office, Bumbugur Governor office
21:30	Dinner	
Day 2: August 11, 2026		
07:00-08:00	Breakfast	
08:00-08:30	“A Morning of a Mongolian herder” Introducing activity Getting to know the work of a female herder	
08:30-08:50	Moving to the Cultural Center of Bumbugur Soum	
08:50-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:40	Opening ceremony of the “GLOBAL HERDER GATHERING” - Bayankhongor aimag Governor E. Enkhbat - Bumbugur soum Governor N. Purevsuren - Singing the Mongolian national anthem - Morin khuur - National Long song	Aimag Food and Agri Department
09:40-10:00	Moderator: Introducing the participants	
10:00-10:40	Presentations - Current status of Mongolian pastures, ongoing activities, and future policies and directions - Current situation of women and youth pastoralists	Aimag Food and Agriculture Department
10:40-11:00	Questions/Answers related to presentation	
11:00-11:40	Tea or coffee break	
11:40-12:00	Group photo session	
12:00-13:00	Group discussion: - Pasture management declaration - Women herders declaration - Young herders declaration	Moderators
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00	Continue Group discussion: - Pasture management declaration - Women herders declaration	

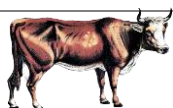
	• Young herders declaration	
16:00-16:30	Tea or coffee break	
16:30-17:20	Video introduction of Bayankhongor aimag	
17:20-18:00	Moving to the herders camp side	
18:00-19:00	Dinner	
19:00-21:00	Entertainment activities /Have fun and show off your talents from every country/	
Day 3: August 12, 2026		
07:30-08:00	Breakfast	
08:00-9:00	The life of a Mongolian herder	
09:00-10:30	Plenary Session - Presenting the results of the group discussions • Pasture management Declaration • Women herders Declaration • Young herders Declaration	Moderators
10:30-11:00	Tea or coffee break	
11:00-12:00	Approval of the Declarations	Moderators
12:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-18:00	Mini Naadam • Wrestling • Archery • Horse ricing Made in Bayankhongor - herders product exhibition	
18:00-19:00	Dinner	
19:00-21:00	Closing ceremony	
Day 4: August 13, 2026		
07:00-08:00	Breakfast in the bus	
08:00-09:00	Stop in Bayankhongor aimag center, take a photo at the Byankhongor's central square	
09:00-13:00	Bayankhongor aimag information	
13:00-14:00	Lunch at the Khaan Restaurant	
14:00-20:00	Accommodate to the hotel room for participants in UB	





ARKHANGAI PROVINCE AND BULGAN SOUM

Day 1: 10 August 2026, Monday		
7:00	Departure from Sukhbaatar Square	150 km
11:00	Stop to Urikhan	Project team
11:00-12:30	Stop by Erdenezuu	Project team
12:30-13:30	Lunch in Khar Khorin	Project team
13:30-19:00	Start to Bulgan soum	520 km
19:30 – 20:30	Meeting with herder families	40 house hold families
Day 2: 11 August 2026, Tuesday		
07:30-08:30	Coffee break	Herder household
09:00-09:20	Opening speech by Aimag governor	Moderator
09:20-12:30	General pastoralist declaration	Moderator
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	Moderator
13:30-16:30	Women pastoralist declaration	Moderator
16:30-17:00	Coffee break	
17:00-18:00	Collecting comments of the declaration	Project team
19:00-20:00	Cultural event	Soum working group
Day 3: 12 August 2026, Wednesday		
07:30-08:30	Coffee break	Herder household
09:00-11:00	Young pastoralist declaration	Moderator
11:00-13:00	Consolidate the declarations	Moderator
13:00-14:00	Lunch	Project team
14:00-20:00	Host the Cop17-Caravan participants	
	Horse raising	
	Wrestling	
	Horse roping, horse catching with a pole lasso, and cow milking.	Aimag, soum working group, project team
	Dinner	
	Fire festival	
Day 4: 13 August 2026, Thursday		
07:00-08:00	Coffee break	Herder household
09:00-12:00	Lunch	Project team
12:00-05:00	Stop in Urikhan	Project team
20:00	Arrive to UB	Project team



BULGAN PROVINCE AND KHUTAG-UNDER SOUM

Day 1: 10 August 2026, Monday

08:00-12:00	Leave UB (Sukhbaatar square) to Darkhan	232 km (allow 4 hours)
12:00-13:30	- Lunch in Darkhan	-
13:30-19:00	Travel to Khutag-Undur soum, Bulgan aimag	372 km (5 hr 30 min)
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner in Khutag-Undur (e.g. Country Roads or similar)	Xanadu Razorback LLC
20:00 – 21:00	Stay overnight in Khutag-Undur soum	

Day 2: 11 August 2026, Tuesday

07:30-08:30	Breakfast	Traditional Mongolian products
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome by local officials	Khutag -Undur soum Cultural center
09:00 – 12:30	Field visits: • Introduction of Primary association of herder household • Grazing management areas • Meetings with herder households	
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch (local + supplemented foods)	
13:30 – 16:00	Visit: • Rotational grazing plots • Forage trials • (Moved) Xanadu feedlot operations	
16:00 – 17:00	Tea break and informal reflection	
17:00 – 19:00	Free time	
19:00 – 20:00	Dinner with local cultural program	
Overnight	Khutag-Undur soum	

Day 3: 12 August 2026, Wednesday

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast	Traditional Mongolian products
08:30 – 10:30	Discussion: Women Pastoralist Declaration	Khutag -Undur soum Cultural center
10:30 – 10:45	Tea break	
10:45 – 12:30	Discussion: Young Pastoralist Declaration	Khutag -Undur soum Cultural center
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Discussion: General Declaration	Khutag -Undur soum Cultural center
15:00 – 15:30	Group photo and closing	
15:30 – 18:30	Free timing	
19:00	Dinner	
Overnight	Khutag-Undur soum	

Day 4: 13 August 2026, Wednesday

07:30-08:30	Breakfast	
08:30-09:00	Departure	
09:00-14:30	Departure to Darkhan-uul aimag	(with lunch stop en route)
14:30-16:00	Visit Plant Science Agricultural Research Institute (PSARI), Soil organic carbon (SOC) laboratory,	Director, Dr. Bayarsukh and researchers
16:00-20:00	Departure from Darkhan-Uul to UB	



SELENGE PROVINCE AND YUROO SOUM

Day 1: 10 August 2026, Monday

07:00	Leave to Selenge from Sukhbaatar Main Square	330 km
8:40-9:00	Stop Urikhan	Rest room, Coffee
11:00	Travel to Darkhan	230 km
11:30-12:30	Lunch	Darkhan city
13:30-16:00	Festival of “Tsagaan Esgii”	Javkhlint soum
16:00-18:00	Discussion on young pastoralists’ declaration	Javkhlint soum
18:30	Dinner at Ger camp	Javkhlint soum

Day 2: 11 August 2026, Tuesday

07:30-08:30	Breakfast	At Yuroo lodge
8:30-9:30	Travel to Yuroo soum center	Yuroo soum 30 km
9:40-10:00	Meeting with /governor of province/ the Head of the Agriculture Department of Selenge Province	
10:30-11:30	Visiting the Yuroo breeding unit	
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	At Yuroo breeding unit
13:00-15:00	Set up a Ger /nomadic house/, saddle the horse, horse rodeo	At Yuroo soum Khandgait
15:00-17:30	Discussion on women pastoralists’ declaration	At Yuroo soum
17:00-18:30	(dinner-soum government)	
18:30	Go to the Yuroo Lodge	

Day 3: 12 August 2026, Wednesday

07:30-08:30	Breakfast	At Yuroo lodge
8:30-9:30	Travel to Selenge aimag	
09:30-12:30	Consolidate the declaration	Selenge governor’s office
12:30-13:30	Lunch	At Selenge aimag
14:00–15:00	Saihanii Khutul	Selenge aimag
15:00-17:00	Tujiin Nars	Selenge aimag
18:00	Go to Selenge camp	Stay overnight at Selenge aimag

Day 4: 13 August 2026, Thursday

07:00-08:00	Breakfast	Selenge aimag
09:00	Departure Selenge to UB	
12:00-13:00	Urikhan Stop for Lunch	team
13:30-15:30	Visit Aglag buteel khiid for 2 hour	
15:30-18:30	Arrive to UB in Sukhbaatar Main Square	Team