

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We express our gratitude on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives to the Continuing Committee of the International Rangeland Congress and International Grassland Congress for the support and providing the guidelines that were used in the preparation and hosting of the Joint Congress in Kenya. The core of the planning for the Congress was undertaken by the members of the National Organizing Committee (NOC) and its subsidiary Sub-Committees drawn from several institutions and individuals involved in the management of rangeland and grassland ecosystem. The Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) provided the technical congress secretariat that coordinated all the activities of the congress on behalf of NOC. We therefore, recognize the efforts of these experts and to all those individuals in the country who contributed to the preparation and hosting of the virtual congress.

The preparation and hosting of the important congress could not have been successfully accomplished without the financial support of the Government of Kenya. The support from the Cabinet Secretary and Principal Secretaries at the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries and Cooperatives was monumental. The Ministry looks forward to further engaging stakeholders and partners in developing the rangeland and grassland systems for the benefit of Kenyan people. Additionally, the congress was substantially sponsored and technically supported by several key institutions: USDA – Agricultural Research Service; USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service; Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO); CIAT (International Center for Tropical Agriculture); International Grassland Congress; International Rangeland Congress; Animal production society of Kenya (APSK); Colorado state university, Warner college of natural resources; Kenya Seed Company; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI); The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); University of Nairobi; The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); The African Wildlife Foundation; Kenya Tourist Board, Kenya Export Promotion and Branding Agency (KEPROBA) and other government departments and agencies. We sincerely thank you.

Special thanks are due to the authors and presenters of papers and posters, the 115 reviewers and individuals who assisted in one way or the other, and the esteemed conference participants. Your relentless effort resulted in the development of this important congress proceedings. It is our hope that the proceedings will provide useful reference material - to sufficient scale - for those interested in understanding the major trends and associated issues covered during the congress to re-engineer development of rangeland and grassland ecosystems.