



## Report of the ESA-RISG meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

**Participants:** Loupa Pius, Uganda; Ken Otieno, Kenya; Kedibone Chueu, South Africa; Laureen Ongesa, Kenya; Tracy Apiyo, Kenya; Monica Yator, Kenya; Sadia Ahmed, Somaliland; Hannah Longole, Uganda; Hussein Wario, Kenya; Igshaan Samuels, South Africa; Abdelkader Bensada, UNEP; Ann Waters-Bayer, Germany; Caroline Kibii, Kenya; Elizabeth Katushabe, Uganda; Sikhhalazo Dube, South Africa; Jarso Mokku, Kenya

**Absent with apologies:** Michael Odhiambo, Kenya; Anthony Egeru, Uganda; Timothy Njeru, Kenya

### Introduction

This third meeting of the ESA-RISG was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021 virtually via Zoom and hosted by RECONCILE. The meeting was facilitated by Ken Otieno of RECONCILE, who is also the chairman of the ESA-RISG. In the introductory remarks, it was noted that the meeting was important in keeping members updated with regards to two sessions of the policy and communication working groups. The second aspect of the meeting was to get members to review and contextualize the draft global Action Plan document, and provide feedback as requested by the International Support Group (ISG) for the interest of the East and Southern Africa Regional IYRP Support Group (ESA-RISG). Lastly, the members were also in the process of making contributions to the action plan, identifying opportunities in the region that could be critical in building up the momentum at the country and regional levels towards the IYRP. Reference was also made to the work that has already been done through the establishment of ToRs for both working groups.

### AGENDA

1. Updates from both the communication and policy working groups.
2. Feeding in the facts to the global Action Plan for IYRP
3. Identification of initiatives that are ongoing scheduled with a bearing to the IYRP.

### Updates from the 2 working groups (communication and policy)

#### Updates from communication team

The team includes: Loupa Pius, Uganda; Kedibone Chueu, South Africa; Monica Yator, Kenya; Sadia Ahmed, Somaliland; and RECONCILE Communication Department.

The communication team lead by Loupa Pius, Uganda, reviewed the ToRs and, as per their previous meeting, agreed that some of their key areas of action from now to UNGA September 2021 include:

- Mapping and listing upcoming regional and in-country events – *(Indigenous knowledge conference mapped in Kenya by RECONCILE, UN Food Systems Summit)*
- Merging the IYRP flyers from Eastern and from Southern Africa as one document to form the ESA flyer
- Nominating members to co-manage the updating of ESA webpage *(Hannah Longole from ACC from Uganda volunteered to take the responsibility)*
- Collecting information (media-based) like stunning photos, videos and posters for use and upload into the IYRP website ahead of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The media-based information should have short descriptions for easy understanding.



- Adding more interested institutions and organizations such as academia, civil society, inter-governmental agencies in the ESA RISG
- Engaging different institutions of the ESA RISG in their letters of support towards the IYRP process.
- The communication group through RECONCILE to establish a social media webpage. **Twitter page for ESA RISG to be hosted by RECONCILE.**

### **Reactions to the above-listed activities**

There was a general sense of agreement to review the above activities for possible inclusion into the draft global Action Plan. Of critical importance also is the inclusion of the actions outlined in the ToRs as part of the work.

There is need to include more lobby groups into the campaign to support the upcoming IYRP, for example, the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub (PKH) that has already been added by FAO which is a member of the global communication team.

There is need to continue looking for members who are willing to participate and be added to the group supporting the IYRP because their contribution will be very important when it comes to providing support to the IYRP process.

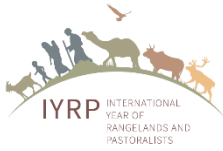
Ensure that support letters from member countries are signed and submitted to the relevant expected people before August 2021.

### **Updates from Policy Working Group**

The ESA RISG agreed to establish a policy working group to support the IYRP process by identifying relevant policies and identifying policy gaps and how these gaps can be filled in respect to pastoralists and rangelands.

The policy group led by Igshaan and Hussein Wario presented to the members some of the activities and policy/guidelines that the group agreed to undertake in supporting the IYRP process, some of which includes:

- Before analyzing and assisting in different policies, they will embark on a policy landscape mapping exercise looking at all the regional and in-country policies pertaining to pastoralism and rangelands in the region and looking at who the key players are.
- Establishing a policy webpage on the ESA page of the IYRP website where both in-country and regional cross-border policies will be available. **Ann and Hannah volunteered to upload selected policy documents into this webpage.**
- Build relationship with policymakers and different stakeholders to improve their understanding of what policies are about and a way of influencing policy that is being developed and implemented. A contact list has already been set up.
- Conduct review of policies that support pastoralists in the region for sustainability in the use of rangeland resources. These policies will be analyzed together with the implementation challenges and whether the policies are aligned to what pastoralists are doing in the region.
- Analyze these policies and develop policy briefs or policy-related documents, peer-reviewed publications and other popular publications in terms of findings on the policies that needs to be improved.



- The policy working group would want to see some changes in the policy arena particularly in some areas where pastoralists and rangelands need to be supported.

### **Current action points**

There is need to bring out different policies in our countries at different levels whether at national level or institutional that support pastoralism and rangelands, and provide a general catalogue of policies from our different countries to be uploaded on the IYRP website.

Each member to suggest which policies are relevant to pastoralism and rangelands within their countries and then forward to the policy working group to analyze which policies will be dealt with in terms of review.

There is need to finalize the process and set a timeline for submission of relevant policies identified.

Determine which policies are in different countries and which ones are relevant to rangelands and pastoralism and identify the ones that are applicable at regional and global level as well as any existing framework such as AU framework on land and pastoralism frameworks.

With regards to policy landscape, some of the key policies/guidelines and institutions on pastoralism and rangelands in ESA identified by the policy working group include:

- Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Land Policy 2012 developed by Republic of Kenya
- Kenya's Vision 2030 developed by Republic of Kenya
- Kenya Constitution 2010 and Community Land Act developed by Republic of Kenya
- IGAD Protocol on transhumance developed by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- IDDRSI Strategy and Regional Policy Framework on Animal Health developed by IGAD
- Green Pass and Commodity-based Trade in Livestock Products developed by COMESA
- Improving governance of pastoral lands (FAO Technical Guide) developed by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa developed by the African Union (AU)
- The Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy developed by the African Union (AU)
- Pastoralism, Policy and Law in the EAC and IGAD Regions – report developed by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA)
- Review of legal and policy arrangements for transboundary pastoralism developed by the IUCN and FAO.

### **Ongoing initiatives that are on schedule with a bearing to the IYRP**

Some of the ongoing initiatives identified during the meeting that would provide support to the IYRP process include:

- Annual Grassland Society Congress in South Africa in July
- National Climate Change Action Plans in process
- COP 26 Agenda
- Land Awareness Week in Uganda with side event on pastoral lands
- Rangelands and Drylands Restoration by Global Landscape Forum (GLF)



- International Grasslands & Rangelands Congress in October
- UN Food Systems Summit (ensuring food security)
- Resilience Programming Framework for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of Kenya
- GLF with focus on Africa and land degradation with side events on drylands, land degradation, restoration, pastoralism.

### **Feeding in the facts to the global Action Plan for IYRP**

It is better to look at what is already going on and how they can be used in the platform and come up with a catalogue for different policies.

The Action Plan was informed by the interests and ongoing processes of organizations written in their letters of support to the IYRP.

The Action Plan should include the additional information contributed and suggested by members and, in case there are issues that should be taken forward, they should be taken in for consolidation.

The group dealing with policy should check if the issues arising are in line with what is on the shared Action Plan.

### **Action points and way forward**

There is need to continue looking through the global Action Plan as shared by Maryam to see which is important because they could be similar but there is need to see which one works for the ESA team. Also, the one that is aligned to our activities at national, regional or institutional level and consolidate our action plan informed by already identified issues in the ToRs for both the communication and policy working groups.

There is need to continue enumerating the different processes that might help build the momentum including continued advocacy for and within our countries to fully participate and engage in the activities leading to the different major events. This will include mobilizing our governments to fully feel committed and undertake peer engagement between different countries as well as inter-governmental mechanisms of engagement.

Need to continue the work identified within policy questions, policy priorities and analysis which will be informed by what is relevant within the short, medium and long term that will take us through to 2026.

Through the Pastoralist Parliamentary Group in Kenya, lobbying could continue in terms of creating a greater political momentum at the country level.

**Ann will share again the list of countries that have not yet sent a letter of support and names she may have of people who could help in lobbying the governments.**

Letters of support should be taken seriously and updates given to know how far members have gone with it. If a member's country has not sent a letter of support, there is need for him/her to follow up and ensure the letter is signed and sent. For the effectivity of signing process, the letter should be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and then to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.