**Joint Meeting: Mongolian National Support Group (NSG) and IYRP Support Group (ISG)**

**DRAFT Meeting Notes**

**9 September 2020**

[Next meeting will be around 21 September 2020 when website is launched]

*Action points are highlighted in yellow!*

*Participants included: Gregorio Velasco-Gil (FAO); Serena Ferrari (FAO/PKH); Hijaba Ykhanbai, Tungalag Ulambayar (Mongolia); Engin Yilmaz (Turkey); Ruijun Long (China); Rikke Olivera (IFAD); Iain Wright (ILRI); Hossein Badripour (Iran); Barry Irving (Canada); Dana Kelly, David Phelps (Australia); Mounir Louhaichi (ICARDA); Ann Waters-Bayer (CELEP); Chris Magero (IUCN); Kathrine Johnsen (Norway); Elisabeth Huber-Sannwald (Mexico); Anthony Palmer and Debbie (IRC/South Africa); Pablo Manzano (University of Helsinki); Fernando Garcia-Dory (ESN); Greg Perrier, Maryam Niamir-Fuller and Barbara Hutchinson (USA); and Mr. Erkin Kazbai Y. (JASIL staff member for Zoom sessions)*

**Upcoming Deadlines:**

* Letters of Support Deadline to be mentioned in “Introductory Note” to COAG – September 12, 2020 [NOTE: letters can be written in any of the UN languages); MOST IMPORTANT – Governmental letters of support!
* Website materials submitted to Ann and Barbara – September 14, 2020
* Website launch target – September 21, 2020
	+ **Focus on contacting Ambassadors in Rome**
	+ Everyone use social media outlets and email lists to announce website
* Additional Letters of Support Deadline for COAG meeting – September 27, 2020
* COAG Meeting – September 28 – October 2, 2020

**Website Materials Needed and Contacts for Submissions**

* Email all regional materials except North America to Ann by September 14th [waters-bayer@web.de]
* Email all North American materials to Barbara [barbarah@cals.arizona.edu]
* **Materials needed**
	+ Brief testimonials (personal story and why an IYRP is important); 45-90 seconds
	+ Featured topical videos about pastoralists and rangelands from countries and regions; 3-10 minutes
	+ Illustrative photos with name of photographer
	+ High-definition logos for organizations that want to be listed as supporters of the Mongolian IYRP proposal

**Meeting Discussion**

Gregorio reported on the still ongoing planning for the COAG virtual meeting. Much of COAG’s work may be handled via email and online meetings. There will be three days of discussions posted on their platform. How voting will occur is undecided at this time.

* Five minutes have been requested for the Mongolian Minister to speak about the importance of the IYRP proposal; other supporting regions may also be able to support the proposal.
	+ Topics for presentation might include: Commitment for implementation now until 2026; who will be paying; state some level of allocation specifically; mention all the letters of support and commitment
* He is working on an “Introductory Note” document for COAG that will include a paragraph about the letters of support received by Friday; although there is potential to bring other letters to the attention of the delegates up until the meeting.

Engin – Turkey may provide a letter but needs an official request from Mongolia to the Turkish Embassy in Rome. Mentioned other countries that might be willing to support the IYRP.

Chris – IUCN is working on a letter of support now; contacts have been made in West African countries, too. IUCN is ready to provide more assistance.

Gregorio – Confirmed that contacting embassies is most important.

Hijaba – The NSG will be meeting tomorrow morning and he will remind them about sending a letter to the Turkish Ambassador and others; Mongolian Ambassador in Rome could have Zoom chats with leaders of regional blocks to promote the IYRP proposal.

Ann – Question about potential letters from France, Japan, and China.

Hijaba – They are still expecting those letters.

Mounir – He is now based in Tunisia (see more in Chat text below).

David – They are hoping for a letter of support from the Australian Federal Ministry of Agriculture. There is a new Minister, but they believe he has all the correspondence on his desk.

Serena – The Italian Foundation for Recognition of Transhumance is pushing for a letter from Italy.

Gregorio – Minister from Mongolia can also mention letters, particularly new ones, when he speaks. He will have more information later this week.

Ruijin – China wants to support their neighbor, Mongolia. They have requested letter from the Forestry & Grasslands Administration. A small group has formed and believe they can have a letter of support prior to the COAG meeting.

Ann – There will be a video testimonial from a French Member of the European Parliament.

Elisabeth – they have good contacts in the Ministry of Agriculture in Mexico; particularly for climate change; might be able to gain additional letters prior to the COAG meeting.

Gregorio – All efforts are welcome, including letters of support from NGOs, but Government support is most needed; although having IFAD and IUCN letters make a strong statement.

Maryam – it is important to raise awareness with all this is just the first main hurdle; after the COAG meeting, proposal needs to go to UN in New York for final decision.

Dana – What about the EU opposition at UNEA?

Ann – CELEP works with EU and did try for their support, but they will not do it as a block.

Maryam – Perhaps there are possibilities with individual EU countries?

Gregorio – Spain supports but will not provide a letter.

Hossein – Three civil society organisations from Iran may be submitting letters soon.

Serena – Asked if there is a letter from the French Government pending?

Iain – Ethiopia strongly supports the proposal; he will contact Kenyan officials to follow up with them about a letter of support.

Tony – Will likely be a letter of support from South Africa, but not sure when.

**Visual IYRP Website “Online Booth” for COAG Development Report (Barbara and Ann)**

* See deadlines and content list above
* CELEP has a videographer from Germany working on a 2-minute introductory film using also Mongolian footage.
* There will also be a video from a Mongolian Minister talking about the proposal.
* Especially need more content from South American countries.
* Testimonials are important, particularly from women.
* Website should highlights commitments of countries and organizations, including letter from hundreds of Mongolians herders
* Website should make clear that it is not “official” website for IYRP but rather temporary “online booth” to promote Mongolian proposal for IYRP – this could be included in website tagline

**Video Outreach and Dissemination**

* Perhaps Ambassadors from countries that have already submitted letters of support
* Website team and Engin to discuss how website launch can be most effectively done, using also social media (Facebook, Twitter etc) and listservs
* Mongolian Ambassador could make virtual invite to launch to all other ambassadors via their COAG Internet platform

**Welcome to Fernando and WAMIP as a new member!**

* Fernando, coordinator of the European Shepherds Network (ESN) and member of the Steering Committee of WAMIP) gave an account of the history of the international movement of pastoralist organisations, the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples and Pastoralists (WAMIP); you can read more at [wamipglobal.com](http://wamipglobal.com/). The movement is based on a volunteer basis and has no support person to assist with communication or admin matters; therefore, sometimes it is difficult to follow all the discussions and supranational spaces where the mobile pastoralists feel it is important to be present. They are working to understand issues around the IYRP; their challenge is to reach out to all and integrate the IYRP with their own work.
* WAMIP thanks this group for campaigning for the year and opening the opportunity, and wants to ensure that pastoralist grassroot organisations are placed at the centre of the analysis and proposals. At the next monthly meeting of WAMIP, they will talk about organising their representation within this campaign, defining representative/s, and work to understand and explain to their members how this International Year could translate into effective actions in the local contexts. Also, considering the risks of being in a process that ends up being solely in the hands of governments and UN bureaucracy, therefore, they suggest that before even there is a designation for an IYRP – to make sure that the grassroots pastoralist movement has a position in the steering mechanisms. How this could be presented to COAG?
* To strengthen the pastoralist movement, WAMIP requests to this group to consider a simple yet significant proposal: why not change the order of the words and bring to the UN the proposal of adopting an IY of Pastoralists and Rangelands?

**Messages from Chat**

Chris Magero – This is from draft IUCN WCC motion 010: “REQUESTS IUCN to seek support from State Members for the process initiated by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, to designate a ‘United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists’ in order to increase worldwide understanding of the importance of rangelands, including grasslands and savannahs, for the conservation of biodiversity and local livelihoods, to be voted on at the 27th session of the COAG.”

Engin – If the WCC was to take place in June, this motion was to be directed to IUCN Director.

Chris – Thanks Engin. This is indeed on of the motions for the WCC.

Gregorio – This is the Blue Book [http://admintersys.fao.org/Bluebook/](http://admintersys.fao.org/Bluebook/%20) where all the embassies are, but not updated addresses for granted.

Barry – Through a contact I found out Canada has supported IY's in the past with no financial commitment at the time. I am still optimistic that Canada will support this IY. I am using our livestock associations to advocate to their contacts in the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Gregorio – Official FAO websites for International Years - <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/about/es/>; <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/about/en/>; <http://www.fao.org/pulses-2016/es/>; FAO launch of IY - [http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1253551/icode//](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1253551/icode/)

David Phelps – I do not think Australia letter will be provided by this Friday. We hope before the COAG meeting.

Kathrine Johnsen – Anders told me that he updated you (Maryam) on a letter from Norway. I don't have the details.

Dana Kelly – In Nairobi, EU was not supportive because of the potential cost of activities & from memory, they also did not see rangelands and pastoralists as particularly important.

Ykhanbai Hijaba - Yes, we sent the letter of Mongolia to Norway Ministry to Anders

Ann Waters-Bayer – European countries think they will be asked to open their pocketbooks for an IY. They are, in principle, against IYs.

Kathrine Johnsen – Norway have a similar concern about IYs.

Engin Yilmaz – Can you share a letter already sent by a government? So that I can share it with officials to make it clear what is expected from them.

David Phelps – Australia government had similar concerns of not committing government funds. We instead have commitment from NGO. This has made letter from Government possible.

Pablo Manzano – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xu3J-YWwDg

Mounir Louhaichi – I just received a testimonial video from a Bedouin "Pastoralist" in Jordan. To whom I should send? It is in Arabic so I assume you will add translation at the bottom. I have video file. I can upload it here (10 MB)

Dana Kelly – Email to Ann. Or if large, upload to U-Tube and email the link to Ann.

Dana Kelly –Fernando, I am happy to continue the conversation about Australia, Dana

Fernando – Thanks Dana. I was reading with interest the mails from Australia about the terms and specific notions from there.