

## GCG meeting 6 May 2022 Minutes

**Prepared by** Jürgen Hoth with notes by Ann Waters-Bayer, Maryam Niamir-Fuller and Pablo Manzano

**Recording of the meeting** thanks to Engin Yilmaz, the recording is available [HERE](#)  
(Access Passcode: Qhk#4&64)

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#### Main topic: **What is our strategy for the coming few years?**

We have two sub-groups who are working on pieces of this puzzle, and there is a proposal for reconstituting the Core Team on the table hence the agenda of this meeting.

#### Agenda

1. Findings of the Sub-group on pastoralist engagement (Jürgen [et al.](#))
2. Findings of the Sub-group on global actions for 2022-2025 (Pablo [et al.](#))
3. Proposal to reconstitute the Core Team (Jim [et al.](#))
4. Discussion of the above, and agreement on what the IYRP ISG should be doing strategically for the next few years and before 2026.

#### Participants

Harouna Abarchi, Hossein Badripour, Fiona Flintan, Han Guodong, Ykhanbai Hijaba, Jürgen Hoth, Barbara Hutchinson, Dana Kelly, Khalid Khawaldeh, Ruijin Long, Sarah McDonald, Pablo Manzano, Maryam Niamir, Ken Otieno, Yuping Rong, Jim O'Rourke, Devinder Sadana, Igshaan Samuels, Ann Waters-Bayer, P. Vivekanandan, Engin Yilmaz. (See complete **directory** in Annex 1, below.)

#### Summary of key proposals resulting from this meeting

- Integrate a Fundraising Team
- Merge regional communication and global events subgroup.
- Put out call for self-nominations for Co-chairs of the Global Coordinating Group
- Encourage formation of national committees
- Resume having periodic meetings where each of the regional group chairs/Comm team chairs report on their activities, to help with new ideas and identify areas of collaboration.

## Discussion

- I. Reaching out to pastoralists in remote areas (Jürgen)
  - The received input (8/11 RISGs, see map in Annex 2)) could become part of the foundation for the IYRP **Communication strategy 2022-2026**
  - The resulting Matrix is currently under review (see Annex 2)
  - Average requested funds: USD 350,000 per region, or about 50–80,000/RISG/yr.
  - We need to establish a Fundraising Team. Jürgen proposed to be the contact person for those interested in joining
  - Jürgen highlighted the need to establish IYRP's global map for all RISG.

Next steps related to outreach and fundraising

1. Send outreach matrix for final review to all RISG Coordinators
2. Complete Input from all 11 RISG regions
3. Need to ensure funding for IYRP participants to go to priority global events; funds also needed at regional and national level.

**Proposal: Integrate the Fundraising Team** (contact [jurgenhoth1521@gmail.com](mailto:jurgenhoth1521@gmail.com))

## II. Global events, by Pablo Manzano

Pablo, Engin + Maryam: Focus on the more important events related to **UN conventions** (see table, Annex 3). Subgroups to be created for each high-level forum. The GCG's 18 key branding messages included in table to take to global conventions. Important to be strategic, e.g. in UNCCD, what we want to achieve by 2026 and work toward this during several COPs.

- Need to find key partners to influence these key events; to be added to the table.

**Call for volunteers** for subgroups for conventions; reach out to 300 organisations that sent letters of support. GCG to maintain overview of all activities related to conventions.

- a) Explain **acronyms** of conventions and/or put weblink for each acronym.
- b) Keep links to UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) and United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration (UN-DEER) through all these efforts.
- c) If new important event pops up like **Stockholm+50**, be opportunistic and ask someone in ISG to organise something for that event.
- d) Make sure that RISG chairs are involved and represent IYRP when COP held in their region.
- e) Individuals from within GCG or ISG not yet identified to be responsible for each convention/event. Volunteers to be invited. Ask among 300 supporting organisations, e.g. WOCAT for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- f) Each convention will require a different approach. Maybe not separate resolution on pastoralism but add into an existing proposed resolution.
- g) Engaging with regional events to be planned by RISGs, starting with relevant branding messages.
- **Regional communication teams** need to lead efforts on what they want to do in their region, e.g. NA RISG making survey to set priorities among short-, medium- and long-term priority actions.

- **Approach group of 300** supporting organisations, be strategic, ask for support for specific endeavours.

### III. Reconstituting a new core team, by Jim O'Rourke

**Jim:** The Core Team (Ann, Barb, Maryam and Jim) have been involved for 14 years. It is time to move on. We are not leaving the IYRP, but will take on specific items within IYRP efforts to focus on.

Jim now wants to focus on USA; **Maryam** on organising global events and fundraising; **Ann and Barbara** to focus on website and listserves.

They are not stepping back immediately, but wanting smooth **transition**, open up space for new ideas and change.

- Each RISG needs to take more responsibility for the regional pages on website.
- There is a need to coordinate global communications efforts ensuring communication among RISGs about what they are doing.

**Proposal:** Merge regional communication and global events subgroup.

**Fiona:** Put out call for **self-nominations**, then staged process of changing leadership. ISG will still have role after FAO picks up IYRP (scheduled to take place in 2025). This group will work with FAO. Do we have to maintain the same momentum? Keep some things going with less visible presence than in past year or so.

Does IYRP need to organise side events at each COP?

Value of ISG in coordinating efforts of people from different organisations and regions in promoting rangelands & pastoralists; possibility to be more strategic.

**Maryam:** Send a call for self-nominations, 2 co-chairs; send to whole ISG for response within 2 weeks.

### **Level of commitment for next years to 2026**

Next 4 years, big momentum needed in RISG and individual countries to raise awareness and engage in policy dialogue to change government policies.

Coordination for events need not always be by Co-chair of IYRP GCG.

Important to coordinate to influence at different levels, strengthening regional and national structure to help reach impact at the grassroots.

Focal points needed at country level.

Focus on regional teams, priority activities for different groups within region; from now on, have meetings with regional chairs and communication chairs, sharing ideas for cross-fertilisation. Barb and Ann to consider how to use website more effectively to share these materials, to help in RISG planning, e.g. maybe new page on website for NA group.

**PROPOSAL** Encourage formation of national committees

such as in Mongolia already, letter from Govt of Mongolia to all countries could be useful.

FAO will not start anything on IYRP until 2025 (according to Gregorio) and might send a letter out to countries only then.

### Next steps

- Maryam will follow up to see if **Govt of Mongolia** would send letter to countries that have sent letter of support encouraging them to start national committees. IYRP groups at global, regional and national level reach out to much larger constituency than does FAO.
- Jürgen will send out **matrix** to all RISG leaders and give them 2 weeks to send in any missing information. Individuals to contact him if they would like to be part of fundraising team.
- Global events group to make information of IYRP activities related to the UN conventions and other events available to Ann for the conventions & events section of the IYRP website (<https://www.iyrp.info/conventions-events>).
- Maryam: Call for nominations to start process of leadership transitioning; 2 subgroups to continue doing what they are doing; focus on picking up momentum in regional and national groups.

## Annex 1. Directory of GCG Members

First Name	Last Name	RISG	Email
Anders	Oskal	Arctic	oskal@reindeercentre.org
Dana	Kelly	Australasia	dana@danamkelly.com
Sarah	McDonald	Australasia	<a href="mailto:sarah.mcdonald@dpi.nsw.gov.au">sarah.mcdonald@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a>
Hijaba	Ykhanbai	Central Asia & Mongolia (CAM)	y.hijaba@gmail.com
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Rong	Yuping	East Asia	rongyuping@cau.edu.cn
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Loupa	Pius	ESA	loupadado.org@gmail.com
Igshaan	Samuels	ESA	igshaansamuels@gmail.com
Olivier	Maurin	Europe	<a href="mailto:o.maurin64@gmail.com">o.maurin64@gmail.com</a>
Engin	Yilmaz	Europe	<a href="mailto:engin@bican.net">engin@bican.net</a>
Hossein	Badripour	Middle East & North Africa (MENA)	<a href="mailto:badripour@yahoo.com">badripour@yahoo.com</a>
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Jürgen	Hoth	NA	<a href="mailto:jurgenhoth1521@gmail.com">jurgenhoth1521@gmail.com</a>
Barry	Irving	NA	birving@ualberta.ca
Pablo	Frere	South America & Caribbean (SAC)	<a href="mailto:pablofrere@gmail.com">pablofrere@gmail.com</a>
Pablo	Manzano	SAC	<a href="mailto:pablo.manzano.baena@gmail.com">pablo.manzano.baena@gmail.com</a>
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Jim	O'Rourke	IYRP-ISG	lorourke@csc.edu
Maryam	Niamir-Fuller	IYRP-ISG	mniafull2@gmail.com
Barbara	Hutchinson	IYRP-ISG	bhutchin@email.arizona.edu
Abdelkader	Bensada	UNEP	abdelkader.bensada@un.org
Munkhnasan	Nasaa	MoFALI, Mongolia	munkhnasan2025@gmail.com
Ann	Waters-Bayer	IYRP-ISG	waters-bayer@web.de

Annex 2 Outreach pastoralist groups in remote areas, by Jürgen Hoth  
(Summary of input received to date.)

**Outreach to pastoralist groups in remote areas**

Prepared by Jürgen Hoth, 2022 05 07

**Goal**

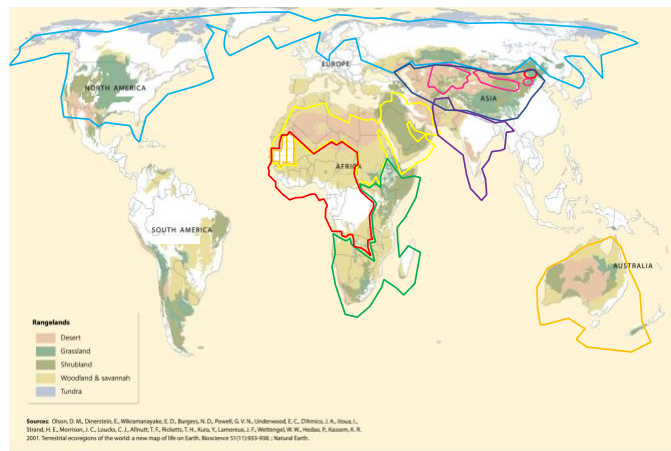
- Develop a strategy to raise funds to help to reach out to pastoralist groups in remote areas (Anders Oskal)
- Work group: Anders, Hijaba, Jürgen and Maryam

**Key proposed Items**

1. Name and overall size of the pastoralist group
2. Geographic distribution
3. Main activity that needs to be supported and how would be implemented
4. Amount required
5. Periodicity (permanent, seasonal, or event-based e.g. annual meeting, etc.)

**Response 8/11 RISG regions**

- Arctic
- Australasia
- Central Asia & Mongolia
- East Asia
  - Inner Mongolia
- Eastern & Southern Africa
- Middle East & North Africa
- Central Asia & Mongolia
- South Asia
- West & Central Africa
- WAMIP



## Integrated Matrix (under review)

Area	Objective	Activity	Output	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Responsible Party	Start Date	End Date	Cost (USD)
Rangeland Management	Improve rangeland management	Conduct rangeland assessments	Rangeland assessment reports	Number of assessments	0	10	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	50,000
		Develop rangeland management plans	Rangeland management plans	Number of plans	0	5	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	30,000
Legal Recognition	Bring legal recognition to the traditional rights of pastoralist communities	Engage with government officials	Meetings with officials	Number of meetings	0	10	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	40,000
		Develop legal frameworks	Legal frameworks	Number of frameworks	0	5	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	30,000
Awareness	Raise awareness about the role of rangelands and the contribution of herders	Organize community meetings	Community meetings	Number of meetings	0	10	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	20,000
		Produce educational materials	Educational materials	Number of materials	0	10	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	20,000
Culture	Importance of traditional culture through their stories and knowledge	Collect traditional stories	Traditional stories	Number of stories	0	10	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	15,000
		Share traditional knowledge	Traditional knowledge	Number of sessions	0	10	Project Team	2023-01-01	2023-12-31	15,000

## Name and overall size of the pastoralist groups

- Hundreds of groups per region

## Main identified goals

- Improve rangeland management
- Bring legal recognition to the traditional rights of pastoralist communities
- Raise awareness about the role of rangelands and the contribution of herders
- Importance of traditional culture through their stories and knowledge

## Main Issues

1. Lack of reliable info about current situation of rangelands / pastoralists
2. Lack of recognition of pastoralists' customary governance systems and land tenure rights
3. Forced sedentarization and nationalization of natural resources
4. Weakening of pastoralists' sense of ownership & unsustainable use of rangelands
5. Conflict over rangelands among mobile pastoralists, state authorities & settled communities
6. Fragmentation of pastoralists' territories and rangelands degradation
7. Climate change: floods, recurrent and prolonged droughts, etc.
8. Improper delivery of mobile services, e.g. veterinary, health, energy, water points, education
9. Lack of financial support to enhance pastoralists' contribution to the economy & food security
10. Transboundary diseases – threat to local breeds & livestock mortality
11. Lack of awareness and participation of pastoralists regarding the value of native/endangered biodiversity.

## Outreach mode

**Who:** Pastoralist networks/ associations & govnt livestock services.

**How:** Pastoralist festivals, cultural events and regional and international exchange meetings  
Radio, TV spots, and short videos to be circulated through WhatsApp or TikTok.

## Amount and periodicity

Avg funding requested: &350,000 USD for 3-5 yrs. **Overall:** \$4-5 M USD

## Notes



- Assessment of rangelands & pastoralists and establish national rangeland data platforms
- Arctic Council EALLU Project methodology

## Summary

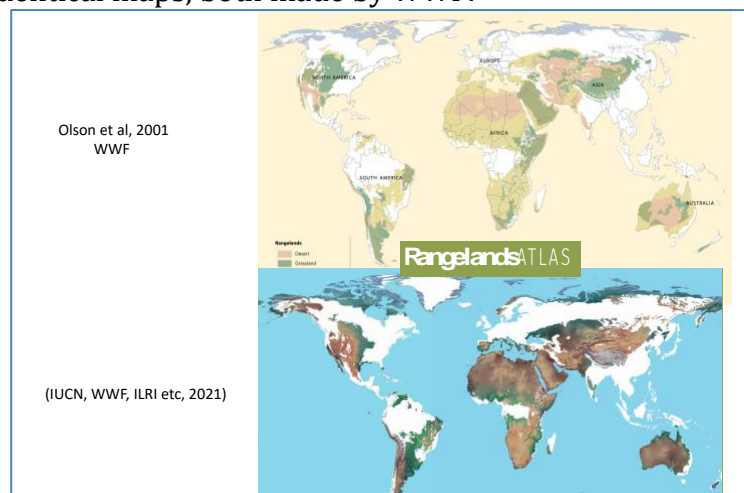
- Good input that can be used according to the interests of donors
- This seems more the foundation for a **Communication strategy 2022-2026**
- Form a Fundraising Team
- We would like to hear from all regions, but we can start with what we have.

Next steps related to outreach and fundraising

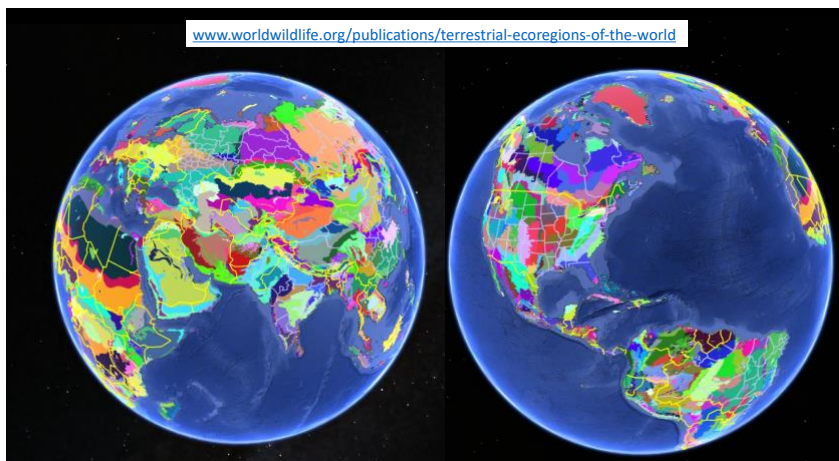
4. Send outreach matrix to all RISG Coordinators (Updated RISG directory?)
5. Complete Input from all 11/11 regions: deadline
6. RISG map (FAO?)
7. Integrate the Fundraising Team (contact jurgenhoth1521@gmail.com)

...about the rangeland map

In addition to being identical maps, both made by WWF.



The original map by Olson et al. (2001). Terrestrial ecoregions of the world: a new map of life on Earth. *Bioscience* 51(11):933-938. [www.worldwildlife.org/publications/terrestrial-ecoregions-of-the-world](http://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/terrestrial-ecoregions-of-the-world) has ecoregions that the map by WWF et al. (2021) does not provide





**DRAFT: proposed IYRP Global Events Strategy 2023-2026**

**IYRP Global Events Objectives:** To spread IYRP’s key messages to the public and decision makers about pastoralism and sustainable rangelands, in a strategic way so as to achieve some impact by 2026.

**Strategy:** To focus on a few key international conventions (UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD, HLPF) and meetings of UN agencies (FAO COAG’s Sub-committee on Livestock, UNEA, UNFF). To engage with these conventions/conferences in such a way as to create momentum towards desired outcomes by 2026 and beyond.

The IYRP key messages would be the main building block of this engagement. But it has to be evidence-based. In some cases, there is sufficient evidence already available, but in other cases, more field case studies, examples, and analysis will be needed (these are noted in the table).

**Overall recommendation:** GCG should establish sub-groups specific to each of these conventions/conferences who would then plan for and carry out activities related to them at least until 2026.

Potential forums	IYRP Key message	Outcome desired	Evidence	Partner(s) who are already working on it (list can be added to)	Additional partners (list needs addition)
UNCCD  United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	<i>Rangelands and pastoralism are critical to the livelihoods and income of hundreds of millions of people worldwide. Sustainable pastoralism generates wealth at the cost of none and to the benefit of all</i>  <i>Degraded rangelands can be rehabilitated cost effectively by relying upon pastoralists’ stewardship and allowing a return to mobile livestock.</i>	UNCCD COP 15 (2022) = High-level and side events to raise awareness; government and CSO statements; additions to COP Decisions that <u>request the Secretariat to provide evidence</u> on the importance rangelands and pastoralism (R&P).  UNCCD COP 16 (2024) = A Decision by the COP recognizing R&P and calling for appropriate action.  UNCCD COP 17 (2026) = Potentially hosted by Government of Mongolia.	YES	WWF IUCN ILRI CIRAD CENESTA + <i>Coalition of Grasslands, Savannah’s and Rangelands</i> (launch in Abidjan May 2022)	IFAD? UN-DER?

Potential forums	<i>IYRP Key message</i>	Outcome desired	Evidence	Partner(s) who are already working on it (list can be added to)	Additional partners (list needs addition)
<b>UNFCCC</b> United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change	<p><i>Pastoralism is a livestock production system that requires the least fossil fuel energy, helping in turn to reduce the demand of industrial feed whose production and transport produce large GHG emissions.</i></p> <p><i>Pastoralism is a very cost-effective method of preventing wildfires since grazing on rangelands consumes much of the biomass, which otherwise forms the fuel for fires. Rangelands sustained by pastoralism are one of the largest carbon sinks on the planet. Keeping rangelands managed under sustainable grazing practices is essential for climate change mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>While industrial livestock systems have a large footprint, the carbon &amp; water footprint of pastoralists is next to nil. Pastoralism is the most nature &amp; climate friendly livestock system with many ecosystem services.</i></p>	<p>IPCC reports to better reflect the benefits of pastoralism</p> <p>IYRP to hold a webinar for IPCC Authors to bring latest science to their attention</p> <p>Side events at COPs to raise awareness</p>	<p>Data are emerging but need more comparative studies</p> <p>Some data exist on forest and grazing Pablo's work; Richard Conant's work (Univ Utah); Engin's research in Turkey</p>	IDS/PASTRES ILRI GASL IIED	

Potential forums	IYRP Key message	Outcome desired	Evidence	Partner(s) who are already working on it (list can be added to)	Additional partners (list needs addition)
CBD United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity	<i>Pastoralism continues over centuries because of its harmonious interaction with nature. Relying on a constant interdependency, pastoralists maintained their lifestyle, as well as the rangeland ecosystems, for thousands of years.</i>	IPBES to include assessment of nature-based pastoralism CBD OECM to better recognize and include pastoralism IUCN WCC resolution at WCC, including pastoralism as a potential OECM in line with IUCN Categories 5 & 6	Yes Protecting pastoral livelihoods and their lands will contribute to achieving the 2030 targets	WWF IUCN Yolda	

Potential forums	IYRP Key message	Outcome desired	Evidence	Partner(s) who are already working on it (list can be added to)	Additional partners (list needs addition)
HLPF High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	<i>Hundreds of millions of people depend directly or indirectly on pastoralism for their food. Rangelands &amp; pastoralism can play a major role in achieving safe, nutritious, sustainable and equitable food systems</i>	Evaluation of 2030 Agenda shows that pastoralists were left behind, and calls for the post-2030 Agenda to integrate them Stockholm+50 (June 2022) = a) Side Event with Gov of Mongolia b) Statement of IPLC and Declaration c) UNEP virtual consultations d) Dialogue spaces	Yes focus on sustainability and equity and human rights	World Reindeer Center WAMIP UNEP UNDP FAO	IPLC (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities coalition of HLPF)

UNEA United Nations Environmental Assembly	<i>While industrial livestock systems have a large footprint, the carbon &amp; water footprint of pastoralists is next to nil. Pastoralism is the most nature &amp; climate friendly livestock system with many ecosystem services</i>	UNEA 2026/27 to specifically acknowledge role of rangelands and pastoralism for sustainability and equity Global Water Forum/World Water Week to acknowledge the benefits of sustainable rangelands and pastoralism Water footprint narrative; pastoralism uses relatively less water	Yes		IFAD?
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Potential forums	IYRP Key message	Outcome desired	Evidence	Partner(s) who are already working on it (list can be added to)	Additional partners (list needs addition)
FAO COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock	<i>Pastoralism is a livestock production system that requires the least fossil fuel energy, helping in turn to reduce the demand of industrial feed whose production and transport produce large GHG emissions. Pastoralism uses rangelands unsuitable for crops to benefit human and environmental health. With low reliance on external chemical inputs, it converts natural vegetation into highly nutritious food</i>	COAG Livestock Sub-Committee 2026 to focus on nature-based pastoralism and rangelands	Yes But also Need more comparative studies; e.g. how many countries currently regulate hormones, antibiotics, nitrogen and other chemicals	PKH-FAO ILRI GASL	
UNFF United Nations Forum on Forests	<i>Pastoralism is a very cost-effective method of preventing wildfires since grazing on rangelands consumes</i>	UN Forum on Forests 2024 and 2026: Global Forest Goal 2	Some data exist on forest and grazing	IDS/PASTRES WWF IUCN CIRAD	

	<i>much of the biomass, which otherwise forms the fuel for fires</i>	(Enhancing forest-based social, economic and environmental benefits) to acknowledge that not all grazing is bad – that pastoralists can also benefit from dryland forests for sustainability of all forest resources;			
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CENESTA – Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (Iranian NGO, part of IYRP)  
 IDS/PASTRES – Institute of Development Studies – Pastoralism, Uncertainty & Resilience project (funded by the European Research Council)  
 IFAD – International Fund for Agricultural Development (UN body)  
 ILRI – International Livestock Research Institute  
 IPLC – indigenous peoples and local communities  
 IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature  
 PHK-FAO – Pastoralist Knowledge Hub, Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN  
 UNCCD – United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification  
 UN-DER – United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration  
 UNDF – United Nations Decade of Family Farming  
 UNDP – United Nations Development Programme  
 UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme  
 WWF – World Wildlife Fund  
 Yolda – Yolda Initiative (Turkish NGO, part of IYRP; director is Engin)