**DRAFT Minutes**

**IYRP Steering Committee Conference Call**

**April 5, 2017**

**Attendees:** Jim, Maryam, Jurgen, Abdelkader, Fiona, Katherine, Mounir, Rikke, Razingrim, Dana, Ann, Ray, Barbara

1. **Update on GAP Analysis from UNEP – Abdelkader, Maryam, Katherine**

The gap analysis has a limited budget. They have contracted with Maryam as lead consultant, but the Steering Committee will be called upon to act as reviewers and advisors on data needs; it is crucial to the effort. The purpose is to assess the need for a comprehensive global assessment.

Will want to share methodology, key concepts, how to frame boundaries, stakeholders, timeframe, sampling methods with the Steering Committee. This will be a participatory process with stakeholders and the Steering Committee. They will want to have a meeting on the gap analysis and likely a workshop to go over the methodology and later a second workshop for validation.

Questions from Maryam for Steering Committee – they welcome suggestions from all:

* Definition of key terms – the Steering Committee’s open flyer is a good start; the latest translations in Spanish and Russian are a good start but will need more translations. Please let them know if you have contributions. (Vivienne, Dana, Thomas, and Ann are working on social terms)
* Identify data or networks of data/information; need to map out what quantitative and qualitative information and data exists in the public domain – requesting assistance from members of the Steering Committee
* How to connect with the business community/large corporations? Ray will contact members of the IGC Continuing Committee. Jurgen will contact the Strategic Advisory for Water at Nestle. There will be a short document on methodology soon that can be passed out to corporate contacts.

There are plans to set up an Advisory Committee with scientific experts to guide the gap analysis that will be available to interact on a daily basis. They are still working on arrangements.

Mounir suggested there will have to be agreement on how to define rangelands since there is variation by country. Katherine says they look forward to having this discussion after they send out the first document.

UNEP 4 will be in China in 2018 and we should plan for a Side Event to help with promotion for an IYRP. Perhaps we should have a separate skype meeting to discuss and begin planning.

1. **Update on Country activities**
2. **Ethiopia - Fiona Flintan** – continues to press the ministry but has not received a response.
3. **Kenya - Jim O’Rourke and Ray Smith** – had a productive meeting with good interest. A committee has been set up to create a briefing note and resolution. Met with Secretary of Livestock who was very supportive. Waiting for feedback from Director of UN Affairs. There is hope this will tie into 2020 IRC/IGC Congress.
4. **Tanzania - Fiona Flintan and Jim O’Rourke -** Follow up needed. Need to verify the person in Tanzania who will follow this through.
5. Mongolia - Jim O’Rourke - Letters have been prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to FAO. Not sure if they have been delivered to FAO.
6. **Argentina - Jim O’Rourke** – Susan Feldman said she is still working on this. Still a question about Bolivia and their proposed IY of Camelids. Collaboration should be explored.
7. **Australia - Dana Kelly** – they have organized a small committee (Dana, John Taylor, and David Phelps) that will brief Australian government and grassroots committees; seeking to develop activities around Australia. Met with Department of Agriculture and they have consulted with Foreign Affairs. Also, discussed with FAO in Rome. They are keen to support, but need the briefing note. They would write to UN or write to interested countries.
	1. **Briefing Note** – want to know benefits for farmers; SDGs should be mentioned
	2. *There is a question, however, about FAO policy on designation of International Years. The Australian governments wants to go through FAO, although a developing country needs to take the lead. There may be requirements for having funding sources identified and there appears to be a policy not to support IYs in years of a major conference on the subject. This needs to be clarified.*
8. **Scandinavia - Kathrine Johnsen** – there will be a reindeer herders Congress in August which might include a call for an IYRP. A recent report issued by Norway on the Sami reindeer herders is receiving criticism due to the perception that it was not sensitive to indigenous issues.
9. **Morocco and West Africa - Jim O’Rourke and Iain Wright –** a meeting was held regarding the Cancun Statement and was to be presented to the Ministry on January 9th. Have not received any feedback since then. Gregorio had suggested a different contact who attended the WB conference.
10. **Iran - Jim O’Rourke –** contacts there are encouraging support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
11. **Niger –** likely a long way to go to get support. Gregorio may have additional information.
12. **Update on Open Flyer and Logo** – Elisabeth is working with their graphic artist on final fixes to the logos on the open flyer. Comments have been received concerning the logo and there will be another round of reviews when the next version is ready for distribution to the S.C.
13. **Maryam’s report –** regarding a side event in July on Sustainable Development Goals at the High Level Political Forum in New York: only ILRI has expressed interest so far – no other steering committee member has come forth. Waiting to hear from ILRI/Gates to see if they will support the event (with Iain). The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will organize their usual side event and encourages any other side event to include Indigenous Peoples. Unless there is active interest from a few more Steering Committee Members to help fund and organize, this side event idea will have to be dropped. The deadline for applying for side events is in early May.
14. **Discussion on next steps**

Fiona reported on comments Badi made at the recent Pastoralist Knowledge Hub meeting. He said there was no chance for FAO support for an IYRP until 2026, given FAO’s limit to supporting one international year every other year and that there were already other international years specified for all prior years. Also, he said there could not be two international year designations in a single year. However, Fiona said that a person from Mongolia seemed to have different information. She suggested that perhaps we could use other years to raise rangelands and pastoralist issues, such as the IY of Camelids.

Dana reported similar feedback from the Australian government and that they wanted the IYRP designation to go through FAO.

The suggestion was made to have a meeting with Gregorio and Badi to clarify this issue. Other suggestions included finding out if there is an option for gaining a designation through UNEP/UNEA. In late 2018, this could be brought up again. Jurgen wondered about raising the issue with the head of the CBD to raise awareness. [Cristiana Pașca Palmer. Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the CBD, www.cbd.int/secretariat/es/ ]

Ann suggested that no matter the year of the designation, she thinks we should keep the group together to continue organizing side events and awareness raising activities.

Ray said that 2027 is the 100 year anniversary of the IGC and that there will likely be a large conference held in Europe to celebrate this event.

NEXT MEETING: to be held after clarification from FAO on options for an IYRP designation.

1. **Other business**

**Attachments:**

* **Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – February 16, 2017**

**Website additions:**

* **FAO Policy on Proclamation and Implementation for International Years (2013 and 2016)**