

# PASTORALIST KNOWLEDGE HUB PARTNERS' MEETING

FAO HEADQUARTERS, ROME – 18-19 NOVEMBER 2019



## ABOUT THIS MEETING:

There is an increasing recognition of the importance of pastoralist livelihoods, the need to improve knowledge on pastoralism and the need to establish a dialogue with pastoralists in order to achieve development goals. As a pillar of the Hub, the partners collaborate through advocacy, by sharing their documents, studies and information, by jointly organizing events, and by promoting pastoralist-friendly interventions and policies.

This annual Partners' Meeting brings together partners of the Hub to review its progress, share activities on pastoralism across the world, and discuss future initiatives and avenues for engagement. This meeting had the following objectives:

- To share results of activities carried out by the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub and key partners;
- To serve as a platform to share and review activities, ongoing and from this past year;

- To discuss the future activities and role of the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub;
- To create a joint vision and approach towards sustainable pastoralism with evidence based policies and messages.

The participating partners are listed in Annex II.

## WELCOMING

Bukar Tijani, the FAO Assistant Director General opened the two-day meeting, giving a few remarks and later welcomed the Ambassador and FAO Representative to Mongolia H.E. Jambaldorj Tserendorj, who officially opened the meeting with some remarks.

### BUKAR TIJANI, FAO AGRICULTURE – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL

Bukar Tijani welcomed the participants and gave a few remarks about the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub. He highlighted the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as a key framework for involvement of pastoralists in sustainable management of their land. These were some of his remarks:

*Climate change is a reality and pastoralists should be part of the solution for addressing climate change. Pastoralists protect rangeland ecosystems and biodiversity. However, they face mounting challenges due to climate variability and policies that tend to marginalize them. Given the increased recognition of the importance of pastoralist livelihoods, there is a need to improve knowledge on pastoralism and enhance the dialogue with pastoralist communities and networks. The Pastoralist Knowledge Hub was born out of this need.*



*The Hub brings pastoralists and international actors together to integrate pastoralist concerns into international policy dialogue. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 will serve to highlight and promote the role of pastoralists in rangeland restoration. The Decade, led by [FAO](#) and [UNEP](#), calls for partnerships and collaboration with UN organizations, stakeholders and actors to achieve the goal of restoring at least 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030. This means that we all need to step up our efforts towards restoring our ecosystems and actively engage in this decade for a common goal. This meeting should create a joint vision and approach towards increased efforts for supporting pastoralists and their communities globally not only through advocacy but through collective action to achieve the SDGs, thus leaving no one behind.*

The Ambassador of Mongolia opened the meeting to advocate the interest of the Mongolian Government on pastoralism and sustainable rangeland management. These were some of his remarks:

*Thank you to the FAO Pastoralist Knowledge Hub for this opportunity to present an initiative to call for an [International Year for Rangeland and Pastoralists \(IYRP\)](#). Half of the Earth's land surface is classified as rangeland. The health and productivity of these lands is critical to the livelihoods and cultures of more than 500 million people around the world. Livestock are also raised on managed ecosystems, such as pasturelands and grasslands. Pastoral systems are low-input systems that are critical for achieving food and water security as well as resilient local and national economies, and for improving environmental conditions such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity and protection of land and ecosystems. Conversion of native grasslands to produce soybean and other crops, and feed for livestock, is among the greatest threats to these ecosystems. Restrictions on moving animals, programs to settle pastoralists, expansion of arable farming into areas best suited as rangeland, land fragmentation, damaging fire, invasive plants, and harmful subsidies and policies are the common threats in both developed and developing countries. The Government of Mongolia, supported by the Ethiopian Government, have proposed an International Year for Rangeland and Pastoralists. This is an important step towards increasing a worldwide understanding of the importance of rangelands and pastoralists for global food security and environmental services. ILRI [International Livestock Research Institute], FAO, [IYRP support group](#) and member countries of FAO are building up the momentum for the initiative officially. Both rangelands and pastoralists need recognition at proper levels.*

## PASTORALIST KNOWLEDGE HUB RESULTS AND WORK PLAN

The [Pastoralist Knowledge Hub](#) was established out of the expressed need for a mechanism to coordinate the activities of the many organizations engaged in pastoralist livelihoods, environments and economies. [Gregorio Velasco Gil, the coordinator of the PKH](#), presented the 2019 results and activities of the Hub highlighting the current activities under the three pillars – knowledge and information sharing, network building and partnerships, and advocacy.

He mentioned that the Hub has improved knowledge through projects and publications on various pastoralism themes including pastoralist data. The governance of WAMIP and support to the regional networks by supporting grassroots organizations to international policy fora has been an achievement, recently supporting CAPA on adopting the Tashkent declaration. The Hub's website and forum are some of the strong holds having approximately 1900 web visitors a month: 730 documents on [legislations on pastoralism](#), 462 documents on the [Knowledge Repository](#) and more than 1200 members in the [forum](#) (15-20 contributions per week) with rich discussions. The Hub has 39 partners who share knowledge and information amongst themselves and advocate for pastoralism in international policy forums ([UNCCD COP14](#), United Nations Decade of Family Farming – [UNDDF](#), and the Committee on World Food Security – [CFS 46](#)) and multi-stakeholders platforms such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) and the Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP).

Recently the Hub project underwent an evaluation that served as a dual purpose of accountability and learning. The evaluation found that the Hub expected impact and outcome were aimed at improving the

functioning of the pastoralist-policy-science interface, and therefore strongly relevant to the context of intervention. Gregorio highlighted some comments from the evaluation report mentioning that the project was clearly consistent with and contributed to FAO's strategic priorities. It addressed knowledge gaps on pastoralism within FAO that had lasted for over a decade and beyond, especially having a positive impact on the inclusion of pastoralism within the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests and Fisheries (VGGT). Overall, the PKH made giant leaps in setting up regional pastoralist alliances worldwide, including a focus on women and youth. These achievements are broad, however they still need to be strengthened and dimensions of the PKH such as knowledge management and generation need to be opened up to development through partnerships. The evaluation concludes that the consensus among stakeholders, both within and outside FAO, is that the PKH should continue. The participants of the Partners' meeting raised some questions about the Evaluation report recommendations. They sought to understand under what circumstances the dimension of knowledge generation will be opened up; whether it is solely for the PKH or external partners and what resources are needed. The participants agreed to join activities and generate knowledge through partnerships from the recommendations of the evaluation report.

Serena Ferrari from the PKH team closed the PKH session by highlighting the work plan and future activities of the Hub. She mentioned that the PKH would continue with the [Pastoralist Knowledge Hub website](#) maintenance, updating and improving the design of the knowledge repository and the [database](#) of pastoralist organizations globally. Alongside this, the Hub currently is working on the guidelines for national legislation on pastoral mobility, a reference paper on institutionalizing pastoralism within FAO, a publication on indigenous food systems, IYRP advocacy, and land tenure activities in line with the VGGT and a new project proposal on Pastoralism and biodiversity. The Hub wishes to continually build synergies, collaborations and partnerships for all these activities, to ensure policy incidence by strategizing on how to position pastoralist issues in global, regional and national forums.

## PARTNERS' PRESENTATIONS

Afterwards, some of the partners were able to present their organization(s) and activities, in planned sessions facilitated by Michael Victor from ILRI. Here below, in the following sections, their presentations are summarized and grouped according to pastoralism-related themes.

### SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Pastoralists manage their livestock herds by managing their rangelands and their mobility across those rangelands. It is often thought that they "overexploit" natural resources, which is not true. Pastoralists have lived in the rangelands for millennia and are seen as the caretakers of these lands. These presentations highlighted some of the best practices from pastoral areas on sustainable rangeland management.

[Participatory assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management in grassland and pastoral systems](#) project offers a framework for designing a methodology for participatory assessment and monitoring of land degradation and multiple benefits of pastoral areas. Razingrim Ouedraogo from IUCN presented this methodology to the participants, stating that the current assessment gaps weaken the evidence to support sustainable management and drives the assumptions of widespread degradation of pastoral lands. Therefore, there is a need to address the weakness in the assessment of grasslands and



rangelands. These participatory approaches employed are designed to overcome some of these challenges through building trust with land managers and respecting the local knowledge with negotiating the incorporation of science. This project is being implemented in five countries: Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Uruguay, Niger and Burkina Faso. A few of the lessons learned are that participation of all stakeholders at every level is important and that local knowledge is highly valuable in every step of the project such as in identifying the locally relevant indicators.



Another broad initiative is the [Great Green Wall](#) taking root in Africa's Sahel region, at the southern edge of the Sahara desert. A decade in and roughly 15% underway, the initiative is already bringing life back to Africa's degraded landscapes at an unprecedented scale, providing food security, jobs and a reason to stay for the millions who live along its path. Further to this, the project seeks to improve resilience of human and natural systems and land restorations as key solutions with dual benefit on ecosystems and livelihoods. [Moctar Sacande from FAO's Forestry department](#) stated that large-scale restoration for small-scale farming is crucial to stop land degradation. He mentioned that in the project, communities' preferences of species for restoration was mainly with the aim to provide food for human, feed for animals and medicine for humans.

[Fiona Flintan](#), rangeland scientist from ILRI, presented on the [ILC Rangelands Initiative \(RI\) global component](#), which was established in 2016 as an offshoot of the Africa component. The global component works across two regional Rangelands Initiatives (Africa and Asia) and links with the Latin America Semi-Arid Platform. The global component also maintains a link with the ILC Secretariat, supporting them on rangeland issues; contributing generally to development of CBIs (commitment-based initiatives). She highlighted the goal of the Rangelands Initiative is to increase tenure security of local land and resource users in rangelands, through three thematic areas: land tenure and governance, rangeland restoration and mobility. Further to that, she mentioned the following two days (20-21 November 2019) there was a Rangelands Initiative meeting to discuss on the way forward for the initiative with partners.

She also presented the TerrAfrica/ WOCAT publication [Sustainable Land Management in Practice - Guidelines and Best Practices for Sub-Saharan Africa](#) funded by World Bank and co-funded by GIZ, launched in June 2019. The document highlights the main principles of sustainable land management (SLM), identifies and analyses best practices for improved productivity, livelihoods and ecosystem services and offers a framework for investment in Sustainable Land management (SLM) on the ground. It is illustrated with 47 case studies from 18 countries. The document is targeted at key stakeholders in SLM programmes and projects at the design and implementation stages, including practitioners, managers, policymakers, planners, together with, financial and technical institutions, and donors.

## NEED FOR DATA ON PASTORALISTS AND RANGELANDS

Despite pastoralism being practiced globally, there is insufficient and unreliable data that influences policymaking and development projects in pastoral areas. These five presentations on projects and

studies done on pastoralism highlighted the gaps in knowledge on pastoralism and rangelands while, three of them addressed the gaps in data by providing evidence pastoral systems.

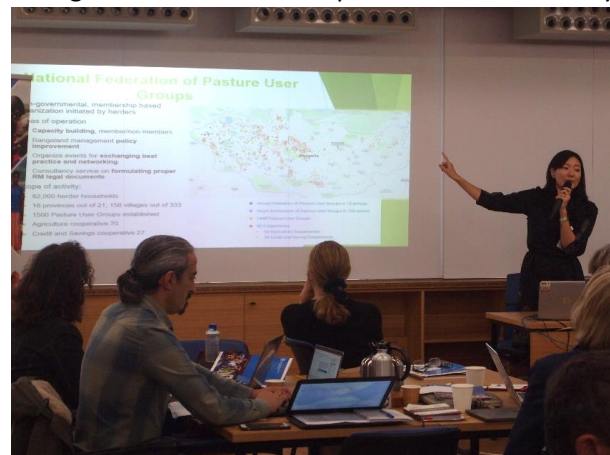
Abdelkader Bensada from UNEP presented the study [\*A Case of Benign Neglect: Gap Analysis\*](#) done by UNEP and GRID Arendal. He highlighted that millions of people worldwide practice pastoralism. It has roots in every part of the world and back thousands of years to the beginning of agriculture. However, while pastoral societies have existed for millennia we still do not know that much about the interlinkages between pastoral practices and the rangelands these depend upon. He stated how it appears as though pastoralists and rangelands are invisible in a lot of research about the global environment.

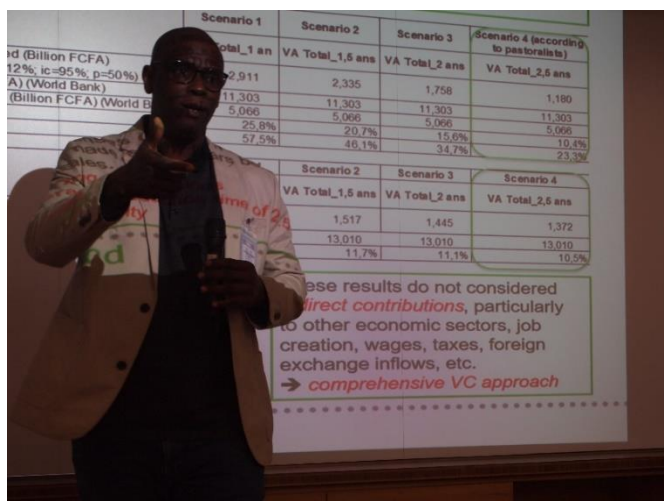


This report was designed to assess gaps in environmental and socio-economic information and in the provision of technical support for pastoralism and rangelands. The study analyzed the accessibility, availability and trustworthiness of the data on pastoralism and rangelands currently publicly available from various sources. Global environmental assessments were easy to access, but the level of confidence in the reviewed data was medium. The study found that none of the 13 global environmental assessments reviewed disaggregate their information so that data specifically on pastoralists or rangelands can be distinguished from data on other livestock-keepers and land-use types. He concluded by reiterating that pastoralism and rangelands are globally significant, but under-recognized and undervalued.

A very innovative project was then presented, aimed to start filling the gap on pastoralism-related knowledge and data. Namuulan Gankhuyag from the National Federation of Pasture User Groups (NFPUG) Mongolia and Abdrahmane Wane from CIRAD presented the IFAD-funded project on Pastoralist Driven Data Management implemented in Argentina, Chad and Mongolia to the participants. Namuulan presented the findings from the Mongolia project findings while Abdrahmane presented on the study of *Pastoral Household Economic Contribution* with a comparison of Chad and Mongolia.

Namuulan gave a background of NFPUG and its areas of operation (capacity building for members/non-members, rangeland management policy improvement, etc.) within Mongolia. She highlighted that the project findings are used to track and monitor sustainable rangeland management on factors such as rangeland health, animal health, animal welfare, quality of raw materials, responsible herding and environmental friendly methods. The main lesson from the project was that the surveys on herder households should be short and focus on main topics as the current ones were time consuming and the herders are not able to spend much time on interviews leaving their everyday job.





Abdrahmane presented on the study, which was mainly focused on three conceptual frameworks for (agro) pastoralists' household: revenue, expenditure, shock and strategy. Through the study, it was noted that pastoralists are well aware of the markets and use them to sell different products. Pastoralists mainly produce for self-consumption to build their resilience therefore, it was key to consider self-consumption in the study. In Chad, often at times self-consumption contributions to the national calibrations for example in the poverty rate calculations is missing. In this study, the inclusion of self-consumption in the poverty

rate calculation showed a decrease from 47% (poverty rate calculation without self-consumption) to 39% (poverty rate calculation with self-consumption). In the Mongolian study, the addition of the self-consumption calculation the revenue is regionally noticeable. In Chad, it was noted that pastoralists' response to shocks was through their own actions of mainly pastoral adjustment and asset sales.

The key messages from the whole project this far are:

- Pastoral associations contribute to collect reliable and accurate economic data
- (Agro)pastoralists know well markets even if market actors (including policy-makers) don't know much about them
- (Agro)pastoral households create wealth, ensure their food security through self-consumption and contribute to national wealth.
- (Agro)pastoralists operate in a shock-prone environment. They try to face up by developing strategies based primarily on their own system of actions (pastoral adjustment/asset sales).

Véronique Ancey from FAO's Animal Production and Genetics branch also gave an example of how to adapt methods of research and provide knowledge on pastoralism. She presented a study launched by AGAG in 2018: "*Youth pastoralists in towns and cities. Chad and Burkina Faso*", that was aimed capturing structural changes and confronting normative narratives on pastoralist youth migrants in the towns and cities of Chad and Burkina Faso. The study found that in Chad, the pastoral system and its inter-generational relationships of solidarity are not being called into question (with the exception of the Mbororo) and pastoral societies are not in crisis. The question of pastoralist youth, their integration and their future in Chadian society has not yet emerged as a central issue in public policy and development aid. In Burkina Faso, pastoral societies face a complex pastoral crisis, with both external (land) and internal (a breakdown in the modes of intergenerational redistribution) dimensions.

Pastoral mobility and citizenship face critical issues in both countries. Young people's trajectories underline the need for pastoral families 1) to combine pastoral mobility and territorial anchoring and 2) to be able to exercise their citizenship, more notably their land rights, within local and national power structures in Burkina Faso. Generally, the recognition of pastoralists' rights and understanding young people's mobility and their pathways to adulthood is critical for supporting pastoralist youth and constructing public action for them. This understanding of individual and collective strategies should not take policy makers away from the necessary support to pastoral systems.

Afterwards, [Daniel Burgas from University of Helsinki](#) reiterated the fact that pastoralism is misunderstood because of the gaps in knowledge and policies interfering in mobility and other cultural capital. He began the presentation by stating that pastoralism is a globally important livelihood of extensive livestock production, and is resilient through mobility. He introduced the Global Integrative Pastoralism Program (GIPP), which so far is a group of academics from several institutions that want to: i) understand crises and collapses; ii) improve interaction between academia and stakeholders of pastoralism; and iii) improve the interventions for sustainable pastoralism, globally

His colleague, [Pablo Manzano](#) then explained the framework, which integrates several disciplines: economics, social and environmental sciences with sustainability as crosscutting, determining the indicators for each with learning from pre-history, history and the present. The GIPP would compile the Global Pastoralism Data by compiling candidate indicators across disciplines then carry out a multi-dimensional analysis of pastoralism trajectories and drivers of shifts then select the pastoralism sustainability indicators and produce a Global Pastoralism Map and Database.

## INITIATIVES FROM GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS

This partners meeting had presentations from grassroots organizations in Central Asia, Europe and other regions. These presentations gave an overview of the pastoralism situation globally and the efforts being made by grassroots associations to ensure pastoralist representation.

The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) is a global alliance of pastoralists and communities practicing various forms of mobility as a livelihood strategy while conserving biological diversity and using natural resources in a sustainable way. [Fernando Garcia from Spain, a representative from WAMIP](#), and coordinator of European Shepherds Network, spoke on WAMIP's process to review and resume governance and membership through updating members' registry and map, drafting new Statutes, council participation rules, discussion on position for Civil Society Mechanism Working Group on Agroecology and other upcoming activities. The main challenge is to strengthen the pastoralist movement for effective national/ regional communication and gatherings to establish agenda. Nevertheless, WAMIP still needs support and collaborations on various aspects such as financial and human resources, political support and lobbying and advice and feedback on the action plan. He also transmitted WAMIP's interest to look in detail the PKH Evaluation Report in order to define a possible better procedure of collaboration between FAO and grassroots pastoralists organisations. In particular, Recommendation 2 of the report proposes that certain dimensions of the PKH could be opened up to development through partnership including "pastoralism visibility, capacity building and representation of pastoralist CSOs". In the meantime, WAMIP proposes to define a sort of protocol to define the relations between FAO and pastoralist CSOs based on the approved "FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations". WAMIP expresses that in the process of institutionalization of pastoralism within FAO, it is important to ensure transparency and consultation. Key questions to consider include the definition of the strategic agenda of fora and events to be present at, defining the representatives to attend those events by WAMIP itself, and in general terms to pursue mechanisms of delegation, empowerment via pastoralist to pastoralist dialogue opportunities, and direct support to establish pastoralist CSOs own communication tools amongst other actions.

In Central Asia (CA), rural populations and social lives are closely connected with pastureland use. [Hijaba Ykhanbai from JASIL](#) presented about the newly established [Central Asia Pastoral Alliance](#) (CAPA), which



is a network of organizations representing pastoralists in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. This alliance grew out of the ILC Rangelands Initiative Central Asia with a focus on diverse tenure systems. Large tracts of land in CA of pastureland is fragile environment and pressures of growing herds are mounting. He reiterated how it is important for communities to work towards sustainable rangeland management through restoring pasture infrastructure in post-Soviet countries. Hijaba stated that participatory rangeland management is vital in CA for joint decision-making on natural resource use, for stakeholders to share ideas, analyze jointly, and a bottom-up approach with free exchange of views. The sub-regional working group meeting was held in Tashkent (September 2019) to exchange learning, best practices and work results from the previous triennial period up to 2019 and propose activities for the next triennial period (2020-2022). The ILC Rangelands Initiative Central Asia with the support of FAO Uzbekistan organized this meeting. From this meeting, there was the [Tashkent Declaration](#) of CAPA, which calls for members and partners to broaden their networks.



He concluded saying that there is a need for support and empowerment of local institutions including women's groups. Through participatory approaches, there is a need to adapt and restore the traditional practices in CA such as community-based methods of pasture management and plan of pasture use by pasture user groups (PUGs).

Joseph Boussion & Olivier Maurin from CORAM presented on the [European Shepherds Network](#) (ESN), which is a social movement and the only alliance formed for and by grassroots mobile pastoralist

organizations in Europe (PKH-Europe regional network). During this meeting, ESN was represented by CORAM – France, APPIA – Italy, Campo Adentro – Spain. Joseph spoke about the work of ESN and its current activities in enhancing connections and information sharing among shepherds in Europe. He stated that ESN tomorrow hopes to be a will, a necessity and a goal for shepherds and grassroots organizations in Europe. They would like to strengthen the legitimacy and visibility of the network by ensuring a real network of European shepherd associations at a strategic moment for European pastoralism, which will bring a lobbying force to the national and European and European institutions making the network visible. Why not an ESN meeting in Brussels at end of 2020!

In Spain, we can find the [Plataforma por la ganadería extensiva y el Pastoralismo](#). This platform is an open space for exchange, collaboration and dialogue supporting pastoralism. It is powered by [Fundación Entretantos](#), which is a non-profit, countrywide level organization that is devoted



to social participation and is specialized in participatory planning and management of rural areas. **Pedro Herrera** from Fundación Entretantos expounded on how the platform tries to support grassroots organisations directly representing pastoralists but avoiding interfering in their dynamics. He mentioned that the platform works through collective work, experience sharing and co-creation of knowledge among a network of people and organizations working for a common goal. The platform consists of shepherds and farmers grassroots organizations, academia and research institutes, government officers and local authorities, conservationists, supporting groups such as schools of shepherding.

Moving to Albania, **Martine Wolff** representing the shepherds from Kelmend stated that they are currently fighting for their tradition and survival. Kelmend Alpine region, North of Albania, is an agropastoral area rich in culture and tradition. The shepherds' herds maintain transhumance traditions and shape the cultural landscapes. Some of the challenges she highlighted were no cross-border mobility is allowed and dispossession of their land and river for hydropower projects leading to reduced water quality and quantity and consequently loss in biodiversity. She confidently stated that the shepherds from Kelmend would like to link with other shepherd groups around Europe to help them survive culturally and voice out their concerns. It is important for the shepherds to keep this transhumant practice for the protection of the biodiversity.



## LEGAL FRAMEWORKS RELATED TO PASTORAL SYSTEMS

For a moment, pastoralism was marginalized from national discourses and policies. However, this is changing over time as pastoralists are increasingly being recognized in national, regional and international policymaking forums. These presentations highlighted the efforts being made by the African Union and IGAD to include and recognize pastoral systems with regards to resource access and cross-border initiatives including mobility and livestock markets.

**Benjamin Mutambukah**, the focal point for the ESAPN, presented some highlights from the region. He stated that the major achievements were the signing of the MoU between the Kenyan and Ugandan governments in support of the Kenya-Uganda Cross-Border Programme for Sustainable Peace and Development and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development ([IGAD](#)) Transhumance Protocol. The Kenyan and Ugandan president signed the MOU, which covers Turkana, West Pokot of Kenya and Karamoja in Uganda (Karamoja Cluster includes Toposa of South-Sudan and Daasanach and Nyang'atom from South West Ethiopia). The purpose of the MoU is 1) to reduce resource-based conflicts; cattle rustling, the spill over effects of conflict, and 2) to improve the livelihood of the communities of the Karamoja Cluster through cross-border trade, sustainable resource management and introduction of alternative livelihoods.

Benjamin said that the IGAD Transhumance Protocol negotiations have been on going between the seven countries, i.e. Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda for more than 5 years

now. It was hoped that it would be ratified in September 2019. However, some countries expressed reservations and the signing was deferred but IGAD is hopeful the protocol will be signed after the ongoing negotiations.

At the [African Union](#) (AU) level, in 2011, a [Pastoral Policy Initiative](#) was approved, aimed at securing, protecting and improving the lives, livelihoods and rights of pastoral communities in Africa. The Framework emphasizes the need to involve pastoralist women and men in the national and regional development processes from which they are supposed to benefit. [Abderrahmane Khecha, a policy officer from the AU](#), explained why it is important for the framework to emphasize on the regional nature of many pastoralist ecosystems in Africa and, therefore, there is a need to support and harmonize policies across the Regional Economic Communities and Member States. He gave reference to the advocacy activity of rehabilitating the pastoral farming system and equitable access to resources, which is now included on the agenda of the debates in most African countries. For instance, Mauritania, Mali and Burkina Faso have developed new legislation specific to pastoralism that includes important innovations.

He reiterated that pastoralism spans the boundaries of nation states, and it has a cross-border and regional dimension. He gave an example of the IGAD Protocol on Transhumance and the Permanent Interstate Committee against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS), which are currently work on strengthening the regional animal markets and coordination of regional livestock movement towards better cross-border initiatives. However, he said that there is a need to strengthen capacity of pastoralism to operate in more sustainable pathways with long-term engagement and broad partnership among diverse actors. The African Union would like to develop continental guidelines/ legal Instrument to secure pastoralism with specific focus on the prevention and management of conflicts in pastoral communities. The document must address the situation of pastoralism challenges in Africa within the context of the continental and international development agenda.

## PASTORALISM AND BIODIVERSITY

As a last presentation, [Engin Yilmaz from Yolda Initiative](#) tackled the linkages between pastoralism and biodiversity. Indeed, pastoralism is vital for conserving the rangelands ecosystems, and the abandonment of pastoralism threatens biodiversity. Where pastoralism is practiced effectively, and where local knowledge and institutions are effectively exercised, the environmental outcomes are positive. Pastoral livestock are an integral part of the environment in which they are reared, and in most cases, they have played a major role in the development of their environment. Those environments are often highly biodiverse, and both livestock and livestock managers have contributed to that diversity through systematic resource use and management techniques. This presentation highlighted the benefits of mobile pastoralism for conserving biodiversity drawing attention to the links of pastoral mobility to biological and cultural diversity.

Mobile pastoralism is a land use system adapted to multiple spatial-temporal and cultural variabilities. It is undervalued and is not given enough attention by the global community including the nature conservation movement. It is not easy to access the existing information on mobile pastoralism, to invest on it and monitor its trends without baseline. Engin mentioned that our goal should be to increase understanding of mobile pastoralism with evidence-based knowledge, which allows making links between multitudes of issues.

He stated that currently Yolda Initiative focuses on conducting scientific research to increase our understanding of the role of pastoralism in relation to biodiversity conservation and climate change and to provide evidence of the importance of mobile pastoralism for the conservation and management of landscapes. The Initiative focuses on mobile pastoralism's correlation with other biodiversity datasets and demonstrating the link between mobility and biological diversity. Some of the publications produced include thus far are [\*Mobile Pastoralism and protected areas: Conflict, collaboration and connectivity\*](#), [\*Mobile pastoralism and the World Heritage Convention\*](#), [\*Mobile Pastoralism in Mediterranean Landscapes: The state of \(mobile\) pastoralism in five pilot sites\*](#) and [\*Co-creating Knowledge for Action with Transhumant Herders in Spain\*](#). He mentioned that the publication in Spain is based on participant observation of transhumant movements and in-depth interviews with current and former transhumant herders. The study aims to address several gaps including documentation of present-day transhumant pastoralists' traditional knowledge in use and ethnographic accounts of the current reality of transhumance in practice, grounded in the lived experiences and voices of transhumant herders in Spain.

## REFERENCE PAPER ON PASTORALISM – WORKING SESSION FACILITATED BY SAVERIO KRÄTLI

One session of the PKH partners' meeting was dedicated to contributing to a reference paper AGAG is producing in collaboration with an external consultant, Saverio Krätli. Veronique Ancey explained the rationale of this paper, which depicts that, despite a renewed interest in pastoralism globally, there is still little recognition of and support to pastoralism in national policies or international fora. She stated that it is important to realize the convergences and divergences of pastoralism today at FAO that, although pastoralism is adaptive as proved through its millennial existence, it is facing increasing challenges today. Pastoralism must be supported in the short and middle term. The different views of *why* and *how* pastoralism must be supported could be used as *entry points* and *actions on how to support* pastoralism.



Saverio Krätli then explained the framework and methodology of the reference paper and what is expected. The participants of the meeting then worked in groups to identify the risks and outputs for the paper for the purpose of institutionalization of pastoralism within FAO. Their contributions will be taken into account while developing the arguments for such institutionalization. Some of the comments given were:

- Paradigm-change is happening in some places regarding the perspective of pastoralist livelihood systems, socio-economic context and ecosystem services of rangelands now being looked at as natural climate solution;



- Marginalized pastoralists have a real contribution to national economies and need to focus on this and integrate these perspectives into FAO structures;
- FAO is knowledge-based institution, not research; as such, not expected to debate, but need to define controversies and consider the structure as it is;
- FAO has a role to play in supporting data collection on pastoralism by urging member countries to include pastoralism in national statistics this is highly important in determining indicators to describe/measure pastoralism and its different contributions;
- Filling in the knowledge and education gaps about pastoralism is important both in FAO and outside;
- It is also important to integrate pastoralism as a topic and theme in climate change and environmental discussions.

## FILLING THE KNOWLEDGE GAPS IN PASTORALISM. HOW TO ADDRESS BIODIVERSITY?

Another session was dedicated to a joint work on pastoralism and biodiversity. This working group session aimed at contributing to a new project proposal the PKH is developing on filling the knowledge gaps in pastoralism, specifically on how to address biodiversity within a pastoralism context. Gregorio gave an overview of the misconceptions on pastoralism and the environment, explaining that it is vital to demystify these misconceptions with reliable data and actions.

This working group session was divided into groups where the topic *Filling the knowledge gaps in pastoralism. How to address biodiversity?* was discussed in the form of a SWOT analysis. There were four groups on *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities* and *Threats*. The participants were required to participate in at least two groups within the set of time and later the lead of the group would present their work. The session presented a good opportunity for PKH to gather more thoughts, concepts and understanding of the topic from the partners to incorporate into the proposal. See the table below for the outcome.



Figure 1 – Pastoralism & Biodiversity: SWOT analysis

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>STRENGTHS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sustainable systems for space and resource management             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Maintenance and use of harsh areas</li> <li>o Fight against the closing of open habitats</li> <li>o Fire and soil erosion prevention</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Biodiversity of flora, fauna, and soils</li> <li>- Local biodiversity             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Adapted local breeds</li> <li>o Family farming-friendly                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Self-sufficiency, equilibrium, inter-generation transmissibility</li> <li>▪ Human/social mixing</li> </ul> </li> <li>o Local knowledge on sustainable management                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Natural resource recycling (i.e. manure)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- Greenhouse gas emissions             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Scientific evidence on the advantages of pastoralist systems against intensive farming systems as far as it concerns the carbon footprint</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Advantages of pastoralist systems against rewilding as far as it concerns biodiversity? Need for data</li> <li>- Multi-functionality</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>WEAKNESSES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Genetic erosion of breeds because of weak breed management</li> <li>- Coexistence with/eradication of predators and burrowing mammals</li> <li>- Unsustainable herd management, over-grazing, soil degradation (i.e. Mongolian goat keepers)</li> <li>- Short-term/individualistic thinking (i.e. the attitude of not wanting to register of following rules that may affect biodiversity) &gt;&gt; Need to investigate why this happens</li> <li>- Policies with unexpected outcomes (“Not everything is a win/win solution”)</li> <li>- Impact of parasitic pest control products and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs on coprophages</li> <li>- Use of wood for cooking</li> <li>- “Modernization” &gt;&gt; detergents, plastic, waste</li> <li>- Reduction of mobility because of landscape fragmentation (i.e. enclosures, infrastructures)</li> <li>- Disease transmission through livestock (i.e. isard pestivirus, cheratoconjunctivitis)</li> <li>- Eradication of carnivores controlling the spread of rats</li> <li>- Abandoning of pastoralism</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>OPPORTUNITIES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local breeds manage and preserve biodiversity through:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Increasing biodiversity</li> <li>o Preserving genetic resources</li> <li>o Conserving local habitats</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mobility as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A tool to promote plant and species biodiversity &gt;&gt; grazing</li> <li>o A tool to transfer fertility and disperse seeds</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Management             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Food for livestock means additional resources for wildlife</li> <li>o Grazing rotation prevents rangeland degradation, and restore and regenerate the rangelands</li> </ul> </li> <li>- High quality of pastoralist products (local breeds)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Linking quality to high levels of biodiversity</li> <li>o Certification</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Pastoralist knowledge             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Listen to nature</li> <li>o Manage death</li> <li>o Knowing the language of plants and flowers (“ethnobotany”)</li> <li>o Ecocultural knowledge</li> <li>o Knowing better what the role of communities should be</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Biodiversity needs new tools of new understanding that pastoralists can provide – New understanding &gt;&gt; new perception and new image &gt;&gt; new opportunities</li> <li>- Contribution to one health: pastoralism as a link between people, animals, and the environment</li> <li>- Consumer awareness &gt;&gt; higher demand of products linked to biodiversity (meat, dairy, tea, berries, etc.)</li> <li>- Opening opportunities for pastoralism as a tool for adaptation under climate change</li> <li>- Provision of ecological services (calculation?)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>THREATS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Abandonment of pastoralism is a direct threat on biodiversity</li> <li>- Misconceptions of pastoralism and not enough knowledge on beneficial links between pastoralism and biodiversity</li> <li>- Separation of forestry and livestock; separation of crops and pastoralism</li> <li>- Protected area management can be a threat in terms of limiting mobility and the access to lands and resources</li> <li>- Changing diet regimes (vegan); animal right movements</li> <li>- Land use changes and fragmentation; dispossession of pastoral lands and resources</li> <li>- Intensification; mining</li> <li>- Sedentarization</li> <li>- Population growth</li> <li>- Climate variability (extreme)</li> <li>- Inappropriate policies and development projects; lack of appropriate/strategic investments and funding</li> <li>- Uncontrolled cross-breeding</li> <li>- The knowledge gap &gt;&gt; poor understanding</li> <li>- Loss of traditional local knowledge</li> <li>- Poor representation in governance; poor governance in various levels</li> <li>- Invasive species</li> <li>- Lack or poor attention on pastoralism and biodiversity</li> <li>- Poor or no access to services which are adapted to the needs of pastoralists</li> <li>- Not using traditional management strategies of pastoralism is a threat on biodiversity; Failure on recognizing and securing traditional land tenure rights</li> <li>- Global markets that have adverse impacts on pastoralism and biodiversity (i.e. prices)</li> <li>- Pesticides</li> <li>- Labelling and marginalization of pastoralists</li> </ul>

## JOINT WORK PLANNING

The last session represented an opportunity for the partners to share their upcoming activities for the year 2020 and find out potential synergies and collaborations. The participants were divided into 4 groups representing four thematic areas of:

- Livelihood development;
- Capacity development;
- Knowledge generation and management;
- Advocacy and communications.

Each group was also provided with a world map where the partners were asked to participate in a mapping exercise parallel to identifying their upcoming activities. The participants were requested to switch to a new group after a set of time. The aim of the session was for the participants to find potential points of collaboration in their work across various themes, using both the activities on the map for inspiration as well as discussing other activities in their groups. The session aimed to lay out the landscape of activities on pastoralism that the partners will be engaged in during the year 2020, and to show the possible avenues for partnership. See Annex I for more details.



## CLOSING REMARKS, BY BADI BESBES, FAO

Badi Besbes, the chief of the FAO Animal Production and Genetics branch closed the two-day meeting reiterating that we all need to coordinate our activities as partners and advocate further for pastoralism in international and high-level policy forums. Here are some of the highlights from his speech.

*This meeting has provided a platform for rich exchange of information from and among different grass-root level organizations, shepherds, and it was important to see the lessons learned. The various presentations have been very informative. Having quality*



*and reliable data such as the one from the Pastoralist Driven Data Management project promotes the visibility of pastoralism while at the same understanding the contribution of pastoralists to economies. This data will also help us define what pastoralism is and advocating for pastoralism most importantly for evidence based policymaking.*

*Some of next year activities affect us all especially with COAG for International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, institutionalization of pastoralism and other global events that we need representation; we need to coordinate all these activities and ensure proper representation. The exercise on joint work planning mapped the activities of the partners and provided some space to discuss future collaborations and creating partnerships. This meeting was important to build synergies to jointly decide on our activities together moving forward to ensure policy incidence by strategizing on how to position pastoralist issues.*



## ANNEX I – JOINT WORKING PLAN OF THE PKH PARTNERS

Activity	Country/ies	Promoter/implementer	Livelihood	Advocacy	Capacity Development	Knowledge
<b>Africa</b>						
Pastoralist women empowerment within the dairy value chain	Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal	PKH				
Pastoral household economics (PRAPS project areas)	Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad					
Participatory management of pastoral resources and land (pastoral units in Senegal, transhumance corridors, etc.)	Several countries in Africa	VSF				
Support to the development of local dairy value chains	West Africa; Kenya and Somalia (camel milk)	VSF				
Build/support local transboundary committees	West Africa, Tunisia	PKH				
Delivery of integrated services in pastoral areas	West Africa, East Africa and Mongolia	VSF				
Linking private sector to Sustainable Land Management actors (rangelands users) – Innovative financing	Sahel countries	IUCN				
IRC-IGC Conference: PKH panel; IYRP panel; Mongolia panel (Nairobi, October 2020)	Kenya	PKH; IYRP-International Support Group; University of Helsinki; VSF; ESAPN				
Pathways Africa Conference (Nairobi, February 2020)	Kenya	University of Helsinki				
Capacity development of pastoralist organization on data management (collection, supervision, analysis)	Chad	CIRAD; PKH; Réseau Billital Maroobé				
Policy brief on the pastoralist economy in Chad	Chad	CIRAD; PKH; Réseau Billital Maroobé				
Build capacities of CSOs to do advocacy	Eastern and Southern Africa					
Capacity building on the FAO VGGTs	Mali, Mauritania, Tunisia	PKH				

Pastoralist information system	Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger	VSF				
Workshop on the resilience of pastoralists in Africa (1 <sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020)						
Research on the Total Economic Value of pastoralism	Eastern and Southern Africa	ESAPN				
Information dissemination of the Kenya-Uganda Memorandum of Understanding and on the IGAD protocol		ESAPN				
CELEP Policy Papers		CELEP				
Build the capacities of Southern African CSOs to play advocacy roles	Eastern and Southern Africa	ESAPN, (UNEP)				
Build/support local transboundary committees on the West African model with possible adaptations	Eastern and Southern Africa	ESAPN, (FAO and IGAD)				
Build/support women milk collection centres on the West African model with possible adaptations	Eastern and Southern Africa	ESAPN, (FAO)				
Research on Total Economic Value of Pastoralism in the region	Eastern and Southern Africa	ESAPN, (partner not yet identified but FAO or the African Union could be approached)				
Dissemination of information on both the Kenya Uganda MoU (Turkana/West Pokot – Karamoja) Cross-Border Programme for Sustainable Peace and Development.	East Africa	ESAPN				
<b>Europe</b>						
Conference of the social and economic situation of the Albanian herders	Albania	Herders of Kelmend				
Participation in #porotrapac coalition, advocating for other perspectives for the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) in Spain	Spain	Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo				
Website, Facebook page, Twitter – <a href="http://www.ganaderiaextensiva.com">www.ganaderiaextensiva.com</a>	Spain	Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo				
Promote a differentiated brand or label for extensive farming products	Spain	Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo				
Publish a policy paper on High Nature Value (HNV) systems and pastoralism	Spain	Entretantos + HNV-Link project				
Territorios Pastoreados 5 conference in fall 2020	Spain	Entretantos; Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo + other organizations				

IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, June 2020) – Exhibition and session on pastoralism as conservation	France	Yolda				
GASL MSP meeting (June 2020). Topic: The multifunctionality of livestock – possibility to participate and organize side activities	Switzerland	VSF				
Global Landscape Forum (June 2020)	Switzerland	ILC-ILRI				
World Biodiversity Forum (23-28 February 2020)	Switzerland	PKH				
Advocate for the IYRP and for the institutionalization of pastoralism within FAO at FAO's Committee of Agriculture (COAG – October 2020)	Italy	PKH; IYRP-International Support Group; Mongolian Government				
Network of grassroots shepherd associations	Europe	ESN				
Work with the <i>Ganaderas en Red</i> network of pastoralist women	Spain	Ganaderas en Red; Entretantos				
Promote and facilitate grassroots shepherd associations	Spain	Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo				
Facilitate a multi-agent network	Spain	Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo				
Research on seed dispersal function of pastoraillists in Turkey – to be published in peer-reviewed journal in 2020	Turkey	Yolda				
Brief report on the state of mobile pastoralism in Turkey	Turkey	Yolda				
Research on traditional ecological knowledge of nomadic pastoralists in Turkey	Turkey	Yolda				
Paper on herder-farmer-related conflicts and conflict solving	Spain	Entretantos				
LIFE <i>LiveAdapt</i> - Adaptation to Climate Change of Extensive Livestock Production project	France, Spain, Portugal	Entretantos + partners				
Round table of pastoralism and diachronic perspective	Italy	Italian Association of Ethnoarcheology (Francesca Lugli)				
<i>Semaine Européenne des Races de Montagne</i> (SERAM-3) – topic : adaptation of local breeds and climate change (Strasbourg, September 2020)	France	CORAM				
<b>Asia</b>						
Yak festival		CAPA; NFPUG				
Development of a raw material traceability system, in connection with the PKH data collection project	Mongolia	NFPUG				
WhatsApp Social Group of pastoral communities in Central Asia (March-June 2020)	Central Asia	PKH; CAPA				
National Rangeland Forum/Asia Land	Mongolia	CAPA; NFPUG				

Advocate for the IYRP at the FAO Regional Conferences Near East and Pacific regions		IYRP-International Support Group; Mongolian Government				
Asia Land Forum		ILC; NFPUG				
Capacity development of pastoralist organization on data management (collection, supervision, analysis)	Mongolia	CIRAD; PKH; NFPUG				
Policy brief on the pastoralist economy in Mongolia	Mongolia	CIRAD; PKH; NFPUG				
Regional workshop on Rangelands & Biodiversity	Central Asia	PKH; CAPA				
Knowledge sharing meeting in Central Asia on pastoralism	Central Asia	CAPA; University of Helsinki				
Replicate the PRAGA methodology in the Mongolian context	Mongolia	NFPUG				
Exhibition on the camps of Mongolian nomads: a diachronic perspective (Ulaanbaatar, April 2020)	Mongolia	Italian Association of Ethnoarcheology (Francesca Lugli)				
Round table of pastoralism and diachronic perspective (Ulaanbaatar, April 2020)	Mongolia	Italian Association of Ethnoarcheology (Francesca Lugli)				
<b>America</b>						
Gain government commitments to fund educational and communication programs for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (i.e. letters of commitments)	Canada, Mexico	Rangeland Partnership + partners				
Society for Range Management's 73rd Annual Meeting	USA					
Capacity development of pastoralist organization on data management (collection, supervision, analysis)	Argentina	CIRAD; PKH; Fundación Gran Chaco				
Policy brief on the pastoralist economy in Argentina	Argentina	CIRAD; PKH; Fundación Gran Chaco				
Social media/e-newsletter campaign regarding IYRP issues and opportunities, while collaborating and receiving guidance from Mongolian leaders	USA	Rangeland Partnership				
Complete the North America rangeland status policy paper and offsets	USA	Rangeland Partnership				
<b>Global</b>						
Develop marketing evidence-based messages to be spread widely through social media and other electronic joint publications		Rangeland Partnership				
Advocate for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists		Rangeland Partnership				
Global Integrative Pastoralist Program (GIPP) – reinforcing advocacy capacity of pastoralist organizations through availing data on pastoralism		University of Helsinki				
Advocacy for pastoralism and the YIRP before the European Parliament and the European Commission		CELEP				



Policy brief: Developing the One Health approach in relation to pastoralism and rangelands		VSF				
Advocacy for adapted animal health services for pastoralists, and integrated service delivery in pastoral areas		VSF				
Facilitate interactions between NGOs and university in Europe and Eastern Africa to build capacity mutually (ongoing/AGMs)	Europe, Eastern Africa	CELEP				
Mapping GIS data of transhumance migration routes in most of Mediterranean countries	Mediterranean countries	Yolda				
Brief report on the state of mobile pastoralism in the Mediterranean basin	Mediterranean countries	Yolda				
Research on the links between mobile pastoralism and vultures – to be published in peer-reviewed journal in 2020		Yolda				
Indigenous food system publication		PKH				
Guidelines for legislating on pastoral mobility		PKH				
Mobility issue paper		Rangeland Initiative				

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