**ILC RANGELANDS INITIATIVE GLOBAL Annual Planning Meeting,**

**20-21st November 2019 held at FAO headquarters, Rome.**

From November 20-21st the partners of the global component of the ILC Rangelands Initiative met to discuss achievements of the Rangelands Initiative global over the last year, and to commence the process of developing a new three-year strategy for 2020-2022 (see Agenda in Appendix 1).

Partners attending included UNEP (represented by Abdelkader Bensada), FAO-Pastoralist Knowledge Hub (Gregorio Velasco Gil, Serena Ferrari, Caroline Ruto), ILRI (Fiona Flintan), IUCN (Razingrim Ouedraogo), Rangelands Partnership (Barbara Hutchinson), WRI (Peter Veit), Abdrahmane Wane (CIRAD), Ann Waters-Bayer (CELEP) and Hijaba Yhankbai (Rangelands Initiative Central Asia/Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance).

Apologies were received from Ken Otieno (Rangelands Initiative Africa), Dinesh Rabari (Rangelands Initiative South Asia/South Asia Pastoralist Alliance), IFAD and ICARDA.

The meeting was also joined by representatives from the ILC Secretariat – David Rubio (for the whole meeting) and Michael Taylor and Cristina Cambiaghi (for the introductory sessions only). Michael Victor, communications director for ILRI, facilitated the meeting.

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting commenced with introductions and some favourite rangeland moments from 2019 (see Box 1).

**Box 1: Favourite “rangeland” moments from 2019**

\* Launch of the report; GLF presentations…into global agenda

\* Mobility panel; stronger relationship between PKH and ILC

\* African Union – workshop in Dakar; land governance and access to land

\* Mongolia proposal

\* IYRP proposal and Central Asia pastoralist analysis

\* Film festival

\* WB poverty conference had a lot more pastoralist presentations

\* Film festival…in house at FAO interest in pastoralism

\* Coordination for IYRP

\* Desertifaction event in Burkina Faso…rangelands restoration conference well received…people interested in pastoralism and gaining momentum. UNCCD also interest in rangelands and pastoralists. IUCN – 2020 June World conference…rangelands and grasslands accepted for COAG.

\* Integration of RI with DFF initiative…paper produced was useful

\* Fiona: increased recognition; World Bank thanks for getting rangelands on agenda; RI Africa – land use planning manual and recognition for it.

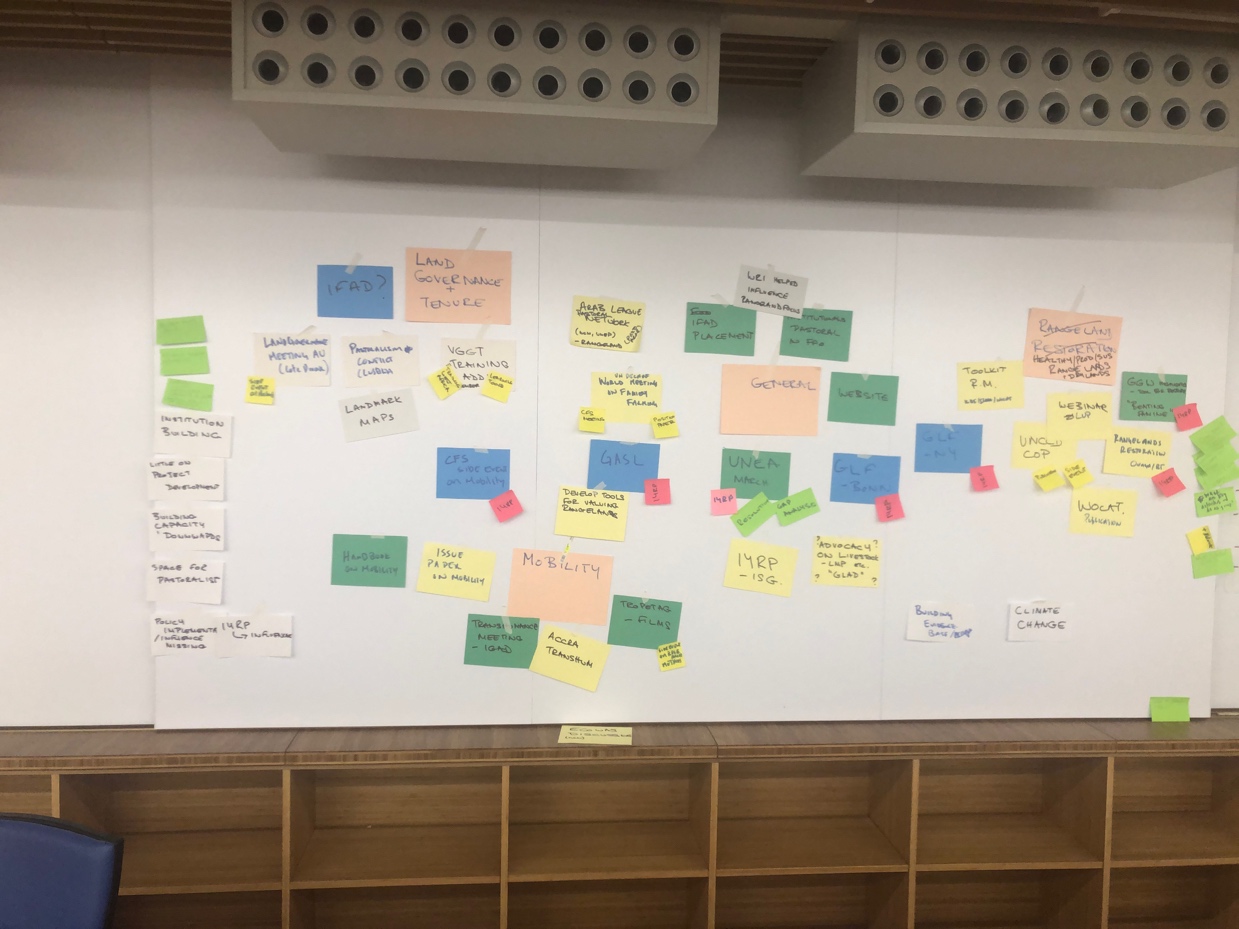
\* Amplifying the messages through all these different groups; growing interest around the world!

**II. MAPPING OF WHAT THE ILC RANGELANDS INITIATIVE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO IN 2019**

The participants then mapped out the activities that the Rangelands Initiative has contributed to over the last year (2019), under the Initiative’s three thematic areas: land tenure and governance; rangelands restoration; and mobility – see Figure 1.

Activities were only included if they had been directly funded from the ILC-funded coordination grant held by ILRI, or if two or more partners had been involved in their implementation in an effort to highlight the role that the Rangelands Initiative is playing in encouraging collaboration and coordination between partners.

Despite this criteria concern was raised[[1]](#footnote-1) about the attribution of these activities to the Rangelands Initiative – some of which had been funded by partners and would have been reported elsewhere already. These concerns are well-founded and it was agreed that there needs to be a clearer distinction between what are “partner activities and/or outputs” and what are “Rangelands Initiative activities and/or outputs.” This will be discussed further below in the section on suggested future activities of the Rangelands Initiative.



**III. THE FUTURE OF THE RANGELANDS INITIATIVE GLOBAL COMPONENT**

An open plenary discussion then followed on **the future direction of the Rangelands Initiative.** Key areas identified by participants for future consideration include:

* Platform for Information sharing on research, good practices etc. on rangelands;
* Communication on rangelands;
* Coordinating/facilitating global activities on rangelands including activities of partners where appropriate;
* Raising visibility of rangelands and our own organisations as part of this.
* Networking
* Lobbying and influencing;
* Fostering collaboration on rangelands between partners.

The **value of the Rangelands Initiative global** to the partner organisations (how does it help to achieve organisation objectives) was then discussed with responses including:

* Developing a shared vision that evolves and responds to issues and new data;
* Gives an understanding of where individual and regional work fits in the global context of rangelands issues; has broad and informed perspectives; global context. To local work;
* Provides/shares information, evidence-based information and a network that supports outreach and research programs;
* Access to information; communicating messages; synthesis of different themes/issues;
* Members have gained a sense of being part of a global community working toward common goals/shared vision; and a sense of having the opportunity to influence policy at the national level;
* Sharing resources and leveraging funding/financial resources;
* Raising issues of importance globally; facilitates interactions e.g. IYRP; coordinates to improve efficiency; part of the global community;
* Helping to influence own organization in paying more attention to rangelands;
* Increases visibility for own organisation – justify future investments;
* Experience sharing;
* Influencing more broadly globally and nationally; see an opportunity as a source of learning and connection both ways; how organizations can help make connections with individuals; help policy-making and decision-making by providing data and evidence;
* Coordination and raising profile of participatory rangeland management (PRM), and providing evidence on restoration to promote rangelands as a key ecosystem;
* Need to identify champions i.e. for the aware and the un-aware!!! For any issue/organization…is it restoration, governance/tenure or what?
* Need to avoid overlapping of roles and responsibilities e.g. between PKH and Rangelands Initiative global.

Key words: information sharing, communication, coordination/facilitation, visibility, networking, lobbying, influencing, collaboration, platform.

**Challenges for the Rangelands Initiative** were then identified:

* Limited resources and time to contribute to or to gain from the collaboration – including the coordinator who has less than 1 day per week working on the Rangelands Initiative coordination.
* There is ad hoc and/or limited support, organizational ‘buy-in’ and commitment to the Rangelands Initiative from some partners;
* Rangelands rapidly disappearing due to land conversions etc. and a still lack of appreciation of their value;
* Lack of funding – needs more resources. Raising funds has depended on the coordinator but she has had limited time to contribute to this. ILC Secretariat expects to see more funding contributions/commitments from partners if they will provide a grant to the Rangelands Initiative in future. We have missed opportunities to write in the Rangelands Initiative into funding/grants of partners – does this reflect a situation where partners do not see the added value of the RI?
* Working as a network of large organisations at global level – formalize or not formalize? Time given to RI is only one part of work. Network of individuals or organisations? Do our organizations know and support our involvement in the RI? How to actualize working capacity of verbal commitments from individuals/organisations?
* We should be developing:
  + Joint projects
  + Best practices
* How to capitalize on interest by donors in drylands and rangelands? And the role of pastoralism in these.
* ILC structure/framework is a challenge and an opportunity.

Intervention from Michael Taylor: ILC is a coalition of organizations – role is catalysing collaborations with long-term strategy for change; they work on many platforms and provide some seed funding. They can bring people together to help tackle big issues; their role is at early stages…either succeeds or fails in a certain amount of time. For this group…what’s next…is the value of this group now seen to be big enough for partners to share the cost of it? ILC will not keep giving seed funding so how to gain resources to move forward?

**Current and upcoming opportunities for the Rangelands Initiative**

Participants shared some key opportunities coming up over the next decade for raising the profile of rangelands. Of key importance are:

* The **UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration** to be launched in 2021, and in which the Rangelands Initiative has already secured a place in the planning for the Decade (through the organisation of a panel at the Global Landscapes Forum New York), and potentially throughout the Decade itself. Several of the Rangelands Initiative global partners had already raised the issue that there needs to a strong coordinated response to the Decade – the space is there, and we (Rangelands Initiative) need to consider taking the space and/or working with others to take the space as a coordinated and stronger group. In the past, the Rangelands Initiative had tried to maintain an entry point focused on land tenure and governance for such broader initiatives; however, a broader focus would be required for engagement in the Decade as well as some other initiatives within which the Rangelands Initiative could be involved. There was agreement amongst the partners present that taking a broader focus would be something to strongly consider and reflect the interests of their organisations. Fiona also raised the point that several organisations including the WB and WOCAT/CDE had already shown interest in being part of a broader group working together in preparation of and during the Decade. FAO is involved in monitoring of restoration efforts with UNEP.
* The **UN Decade of Family Farming** – in 2019 CELEP had been engaging with World Rural Forum (WRF) on behalf of the international support group for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), and together with the Rangelands Initiative had developed a Brief providing the rationale for why pastoralists should be part of the Decade. It was agreed that the Rangelands Initiative should continue engaging with the Decade and identify what added value we can bring to it – and not least because this is another commitment-based initiative (CBI) being supported by ILC. Again, however, it would demand a broader focus than land tenure and governance.
* **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists** – to date the global component of the RI through ILRI, FAO-PKH and others has played a key role in supporting the call for an IYRP. As can be seen by Figure 1, there have been a number of activities organised by the Rangelands Initiative coordinator and partners where publicity has been given to the IYRP. In addition, support has been provided to the Rangelands Initiative Central Asia coordinator Hijaba in Mongolia to assist the Mongolian government and supporters to get mobilised and influence other countries to support Mongolia’s call.

In addition, the following processes, initiatives and events all offer opportunities to engage in:

* Bonn Challenge, AFR100, ECCA (WB) and the drive by governments to restore land (more focused on forests to date); GASL-grasslands network;
* International Rangelands Congress (IRC)/International Grasslands Congress (IGC) in Nairobi in 2020 – several partners presenting panels and/or organising panels;
* Attention to climate change – RI global needs to interact more in this – year of action, adaptation as entry point, REDD++ for rangelands?
* Interest in agro-ecology (CFS), silvo-pastoralism (IFAD); carbon sequestration;
* Drive for more healthy diets and the place of livestock within these (livestock emissions), emphasis on food systems, “one health” approach including rangelands;
* ILRI’s Global advocacy on livestock development (GLAD). Some link already here to CAADP.
* IUCN and HERD projects including rangelands restoration.
* COPs e.g. UNCCD, CBD, UNCCC etc.
* Alliances with IP, land rights, and conservation movements and organisations.
* Global Alliance for Sustainable Livestock (GASL)
* LANDMARK (WRI led)
* Mobility – in all its aspects including livestock, wildlife, people with related impact on rangelands, youth etc.
* Films – several people interested in making films and/or have some films already available including WOCAT, CELEP/VSF, ILRI/TNRF (Tanzania), Patrick Augenstein, Michael Benanav.

**ILC’s New Operating Model**

David Rubio made a presentation on ILC’s new operating model, which will be necessary to follow if the Rangelands Initiative wanted to apply for further funding. See attached ppt. Some key points include:

* Need for active partner engagement beyond coordination
* Need for clear commitment from partners to the initiative including financial
* Requirement for complementary/joint funding – need to be financially sustainable
* Funding not for activities but for seed funding and coordination.
* Move by ILC to invest more in regions than globally

This will demand a change in how the Rangelands Initiative operates including need for clearer/firmer participation, support and commitment from partners. Of course, in order to give this, partners need to see the value of the initiative.

**Rangelands Initiative Central Asia**

Hijaba Yhankbai (coordinator) provided a presentation on the Rangelands Initiative Central Asia (see separate file). Key points include:

* The expansion of the Rangelands Initiative Central Asia into a broader alliance – Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance. This was established at Rangelands Initiative regional meeting earlier in the year. Members felt that there was a need to broaden the focus from ‘only’ land and natural resource governance. It also an opportunity to link to the work of the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub.
* The global component of the Rangelands Initiative has been supporting the RI Central Asia and the other regional rangelands initiatives. It was agreed that it is important to continue doing so.

Fiona and David then provided a quick update on the other rangelands/drylands regional initiatives:

* **Latin America Semi-Arids Platform** is in second year of a 4-year strategy. They are more focused on drylands farming with a big emphasis on water and access to water. They have some complementary funding through a project with IFAD.
* **Rangelands Initiative South Asia** has already formed a broader alliance – the South Asia Pastoralist Alliance (SAPA), which also links with FAO-PKH. The entry-point of the SAPA is more at community level with a strong emphasis on general rights for pastoralists and preservation of their culture and livelihoods.
* **Rangelands Initiative Africa** had their strategy planning meeting two weeks before. They also broadened out their focus at the meeting, for example, to look at rangelands-based investments more widely, but this may be channelled down in the strategy still being prepared. Rangelands Initiative Africa has the PRM (participatory rangeland management) project and a project in Sudan as co-funding and is seeking additional funding.

**Discussion on the implications of the above for the Rangelands Initiative global component**

A discussion was had on the implications of the above factors on the Rangelands Initiative and its direction/future. Some key points raised include:

* The current unsustainability of the RI in that there are only enough funds from ILC for covering one day per week of the coordinator’s time plus a few activities, travel, communications and publications. Really, at least a half-time coordinator is needed and there could be enough work generated for a full-time coordinator, particularly if the initiative is to broaden out.
* There has been lacking commitment from several partners, despite all present saying that they felt that the Rangelands Initiative is valuable. If the Initiative is to continue receiving funds from ILC, then this needs to change and there needs to be both organisational including some financial commitment from partners. At the very least, the organisation should provide for the funding/time of a representative to attend the annual planning meeting.
* The issue of attribution was again raised – and the somewhat unclear way that activities are attributed to the Rangelands Initiative. This is something that is encouraged by the way that the ILC works and requests reporting, and there is even more danger of this in future with the demands from the ILC Secretariat for joint and/or complementary funding – for example, in the new CBI reporting forms. Care needs to be taken that activities funded by other donors/projects, and carried out by one of the partners, are not attributed to the Rangelands Initiative (or any other initiative), and if the Rangelands Initiative builds on or uses the work of the contribution from the other donor/project, this should be clearly stated. However, with the current lack of funding for the Rangelands Initiative, undertaking ‘independent’ activities is challenging.
* The opportunities opening up for raising the profile of rangelands at the global level were again stressed, and it was agreed that these opportunities went beyond land governance and tenure. Though a clearer mandate has some advantages, it was felt – because of the challenges of sustainability of the RI and the direction that the regional RIs are going, i.e. broader in nature, as well as the interests of several partners (and some potential new partners) to focus more broadly on rangelands –that it would be an advantage for the RI to broaden its scope and/or be part of a broader initiative. The point was raised that, within the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, the “ecosystem” had been named as “Rangelands and Drylands” and as such, if such an alliance is to engage strongly in the Decade, it would be better to focus on and call it “Rangelands and Drylands.” It was also reiterated that, at the NY meeting, the gross lack of good evidenced-based data on rangelands and drylands was highlighted, and this is a key issue that needs to be addressed through the Decade.
* As such it was agreed by those present to pursue the establishment of a broader alliance on rangelands and drylands, potentially incorporating the Rangelands Initiative with a strong focus on land governance and tenure. As the alliance is established, the Rangelands Initiative can still function and be used as a platform for further discussions about the broader alliance.
* Some concerns were raised that such an alliance would be similar to the PKH, however, it was agreed by the majority that the alliance would be bigger, wider, than the PKH in terms of multiple stakeholders (potentially even private sector), and broader in scope e.g. including a focus on dryland farming beyond pastoralism. In rangelands, pastoralism is only one part and there are other actors apart from pastoralists. In addition, PKH has the strong focus on building capacity of pastoralists, and this is not something an alliance would anticipate doing (at least, not directly). It was agreed that this issue still needs discussion and attention to ensure that there is not repetition and/or that the two initiatives would not be competing with each other.

**IV. STRATEGY PLANNING**

The next set of sessions was meant to focus on the future strategy of the Rangelands Initiative. However, as there was interest to establish a broader alliance on rangelands and drylands, it was agreed that it would be useful to start brainstorming on what issues such an alliance could focus on and which global initiatives/processes it could target. There was some discussion about an overall goal for the alliance, and though this was not agreed the following words were thought important: equitable, sustainable, NRM, securing, communities, access, rangelands and drylands, healthy. Need to include cross-cutting issues of data/knowledge management; gender justice; youth; IPs.

The group agreed on three preliminary areas of engagement/focus for the alliance, which could potentially form three working groups:

* Land tenure and governance, which would by led by the ILC Rangelands Initiative and would continue to be coordinated by ILRI (at least for the time being);
* Dryland integrated farming systems including pastoralism (and mobility) – with a key target of engagement being the Decade of Family Farming;
* Sustainable/healthy land and resources, management and restoration – with a key target of engagement being the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

The group then split into three and spent time putting together ideas for these clusters/thematic areas:

* Title
* Impact pathway – what to change, how to do it, who will be involved?
* Priority activities or events
* Funding/proposals
* Coordination
* Cross-cutting themes – gender, youth, indigenous peoples

[For results see concept note on the alliance in Appendix 1]

In addition, some ideas were raised on the structure and administration of a broader alliance:

* The alliance could be informal or formal depending on preferences of partners and/or practicalities of our organisations approving engagement in such a platform.
* The alliance should have a ten-year horizon to cover the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Family Farming amongst other.
* If the alliance were to grow as we anticipate, then it would require a full-time coordinator, who will need to be funded. This would be separate to the coordination of the Rangelands Initiative, which could cover the land tenure and governance component/working group.
* Perhaps two organisations could take the lead for each cluster/theme/working group in order to have some clear but shared responsibility.
* The representative coming from each organisation should have cleared any necessary approvals from their organisation to be part of the alliance.
* There needs to be financial commitment from organisations to the alliance – either in terms of making funds available or in terms of raising funds. At the very least, each organisation should provide for the attendance of their representative at an annual meeting.

**V. NEXT STEPS**

The following next steps were identified:

* Write up and distribute meeting summary, for review by participants and finalisation (Fiona and Barbara)
* Present report of meeting to IFAD, ILC and other partners as available (Fiona)
* Write up a draft strategy for the Rangelands Initiative based on the discussions at the meeting on the land tenure and governance component, with the possibility of becoming part of a wider and broader alliance for feedback from current members and potential new members interested in land tenure and governance (Fiona/All)
* Develop a proposal for ILC for coordination of the land tenure and governance component including provision of support/linkages to regional rangelands initiatives (Fiona/All)
* Write up outline/concept note of broader alliance (Fiona/All)

FF 04.12.19

**2019 PARTNERS MEETING OF THE RANGELANDS INITIATIVE GLOBAL COMPONENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAND COALITION (ILC)**

**21st-22nd November 2019, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Iraq Room.**





## **Objectives of the meeting:**

* Reflect on achievements of last year – what went well, what went not so well, what were the highlights, what were the challenges?
* Consideration of new opportunities opening up in terms of rangelands globally.
* Presentation and consideration of ILC’s ‘new operating model’, and the implications of this for the Rangelands Initiative over the next three years
* Develop the focus, priority processes/events to engage with, the strategy, structure and modalities for the Rangelands Initiative for the next three years including funding opportunities
* Develop resource mobilization strategy.
* Defining partner roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the strategy.

## **Day 1: Wednesday, November 20, 2019**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **What & outcome of session** | **How/process** | **Who** |
| 8.30 – 8.45 | Meet up for coffee, then go to room | For those not familiar with the FAO building please meet in the small coffee bar just off the lobby at 8.30am. |  |
| 9.00 – 9.15 | Introductions | * Welcome, * Present agenda and overall objectives, and introduce facilitator, Michael Victor, ILRI * Introduction with your favourite moment related to rangelands last year | Michael Taylor  Fiona  Michael Victor |
|  | **Session 1: Achievements of the global component of the Rangelands Initiative in 2019 and new opportunities** |  |  |
| 9:15 – 10.30 | Developing a mural/picture of what the Rangelands Initiative global achieved in 2019 | In plenary group work:   * Highlight key activities and processes engaged with in 2019 under three thematic areas: land tenure and governance, mobility and rangeland restoration * Who was involved in what? * What were the impacts of these? * What was the added value of working as a group/Initiative? | All |
| 10.30-11.00 | **Coffee break** |  |  |
| 11.00-11.30 | Brainstorm on possibilities for changes in the Rangelands Initiative |  | All |
| 11: 30 – 12.30 | Brain storm on new and upcoming opportunities for 2020-2022 | In plenary group work:   * Highlight any new/developing processes, events, activities to engage with in 2020-2022. * Consider were there any processes, events, activities, that the Rangelands Initiative engaged with in 2019 that should not be repeated. | All |
| 12.30– 13.30 | Lunch | Long lunch for eating and doing emails |  |
|  | **Session 2: Strategy development Part 1** |  |  |
| 13.30 – 14.00 | ILC’s new operating model & discussion of implications for RI-global | * Presentation * Plenary discussion | David  All |
| 14.00 – 14.45 | Rangelands Initiative Central Asia new strategy  Rangelands Initiative Africa, South Asia and LAC-SemiArids Platform updates | * Presentation on RI-Central Asia’s new strategy for 2020-22 * Summary of other regional CBI strategy developments (Africa, South Asia and LAC-SemiArids) | Hijaba  Fiona/David |
| 14.45-16.00 | Reflection on current (2019) strategy for RI-global | * Presentation * Plenary discussion on current (2019) strategy and what may need to change in terms of what we want to be, to do, and how? | Fiona  All |
| 16.00-16.30 | Tea break |  |  |
|  | **Session 3: Strategy development Part 2** |  |  |
| 16.30-17.30 | Development of strategic pathways/ToCs for each theme | **Process**   1. Identify the change(s) that we want to see in three years’ time for your thematic area; 2. Develop the key pathways (actions and processes) to this change bearing in mind the three modalities: connect, mobilise, influence. 3. Who are the key stakeholders involved at different levels | 3-4 groups |
| 17.30 | Wrap-up and finish |  | Michael |

## **Day 2: Thursday, November 21, 2019**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **What & outcome of session** | **How/process** | **Who** |
| 8.30 – 8.45 | Meet up for coffee, then go to room | For those not familiar with the FAO building please meet in the small coffee bar just off the lobby at 8.30am. |  |
| 9.00 – 9.10 | Review from yesterday & updated agenda | * Reflection on how yesterday went, and any burning concerns or issues * Any changes to agenda | All |
|  | **Strategy development Part 2 (continued)** |  |  |
| 9.10 – 10.00 | Presentation of mini-strategies (bus-stop) | * Each working group presents their strategy * Additional contributions and feedback | Rapporteurs of groups  All |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Development of overall RI-global strategy incorporating mini-strategies | Plenary discussion on:   * Overall goal and objectives of the RI-global -what is it we want to be, achieve, and how. What makes us distinctive from other platforms etc. * Bringing together mini-strategies as one overall theory/pathway of change | All |
| 10.30-11.00 | Coffee break |  |  |
| 11.00-12.30 | Development of overall RI-global strategy (continued) | Plenary discussion on:   * Key processes and activities with which to engage * Additional stakeholders and partners to consider | All |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch and time for emails |  |  |
|  | **Session 4: Modalities and resource mobilisation** |  |  |
| 13.30– 15.00 | Rangelands Initiative global working modalities | * Structure including coordination, steering committee, linking to regions, roles and responsibilities of partners, support from Secretariat * Mainstreaming gender justice * Communications * Resource mobilisation | All – working group |
| 15.00 – 16.00 | Presentation of meeting to non-participants | * Skype call made available to those not present to share proposal for the Strategy for feedback | TBD |
| 16.00– 16.30 | Tea break | | |
| 16.30-17.00 | Reflection and any other business | * Plenary reflection on the process and strategy including any ‘parked’ items and/or business | All |
| 17.00 | **Closure** |  | Michael V. |

1. This concern was raised later in the meeting by a partner but is included here and refers to the mapping exercise and attribution of the outputs mapped out. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)