North American Support Group for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Minutes of the meeting held on June 3rd, 2021

Prepared by Jürgen Hoth

Recording of the meeting: [https://1drv.ms/v/s!AiT6bV5aUXs28VV8zbBl-sTcHffA?e=Yj8rLe](https://1drv.ms/v/s%21AiT6bV5aUXs28VV8zbBl-sTcHffA?e=Yj8rLe)

(Courtesy of Barry Irving)

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Participants

Christian Artuso, CWS

Lia Biondo, SRM

David Borré, Pronatura NE

Layne Coppock, Utah State University

Elena Dosamentes, USDA-NRCS

Jürgen Hoth, RISG-NA

Barry Irving, University of Alberta

Maryam Nyamir-Fuller, IYRP

Barbara Hutchinson, Univ of Ariz

Pete

Other??

**New Participants**

Courtney, University of Wyoming

Carlos Mantorell, Faculty of Sciences-National Autonomous University of Mexico

Pending items

* RISG-NA minutes from May 2021

**Follow up**: Layne and Elena

* Maryam: How was “*disturbed*” and “*undisturbed*” determined in the central grasslands map?

**Follow up**: David and Christian

* Trilateral

**Follow up**, ensure linking with Trilateral effort once IYRP has been designated

UPDATES

North America

* IYRP was presented at The Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee of Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, on an informative basis asking also for support from government officials representing Parks and wildlife folks. Jurgen´s presentation to the Trilateral, made on behalf of RISG NA can be found [here](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/352523662_Encouraging_News_International_Year_of_Rangelands_and_Pastoralists).
* David presented a Summary about the key wildlife issues related to the loss of the central grasslands, manifested by the sharp loss of grassland bird populations (highest of any other North American group of birds) and the main ongoing responses, including the [Central HYPERLINK "https://www.grasslandsroadmap.org/" HYPERLINK "https://www.grasslandsroadmap.org/"G HYPERLINK "https://www.grasslandsroadmap.org/"rasslands HYPERLINK "https://www.grasslandsroadmap.org/"R HYPERLINK "https://www.grasslandsroadmap.org/"oadmap](https://www.grasslandsroadmap.org/) initiative.

Next steps

* Parks and wildlife agency from the three North American countries are looking forward to signing a Letter of Intent (LOI) to strengthen cooperation in there next annual meeting.
* As part of the Central Grasslands Roadmap they are in the process of setting grassland bird population targets as well as land conservation and restoration targets.

Key resources

* This website offers a useful variety of updated maps related to the central grasslands: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/58c48d1c8cd141c2a5a56fe66a619f64>

Report for Canada.

* Executed group letter to the federal Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and International Affairs (a sub ministry within Foreign Affairs).
* A rapid response is not expected, but a reply was already received from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.  ECCC acknowledges that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is the lead Ministry for the IYRP movement and is deferring to AAFC.  That is considered to be a positive result as the Minister of AAFC (The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau) has indicated her strong support of the IYRP and has written to the Government of Mongolia indicating the same support.  We feel everything remains on track for Canada to support the IYRP through the next phases.

Report from Mexico

* Submitted group letter to Mr. Víctor Villalobos Mexico’s minister of agriculture (SADER) co-signed by 25 organizations. The governor of the State of Durango, Mr José Rosas Aispuro, sent his letter directly to Mongolia´s Minister for agriculture.
* Waiting to hear back from the government.

Report from USA

* Core team: Bill Payne, Lia Biondo, and Barbara Hutchinson
* 45 endorsements based on SRM stakeholder´s list. Group letters to follow, to be sent to the Secretary State Department, Department of Interior and USDA.
* Webinar to be held on June 7th with US membership about IYRP´s origins, action plan, communication network and why the IYRP should matter to the US gvmt.

**Follow up** Seek to invite World Resources Institute, governors

Indigenous involvement

* Diana Doan-Crider encouraged the Intertribal Agricultural Council to inform their membership and this has resulted, so far in receiving two signers.

Communications

* New event and conventions section on IYRP´s website
* Barbara looks forward to receiving feedback on the website and ideas.

Global

* After a brief discussion about [**WWF´s Rangelands Atlas**](https://www.rangelandsdata.org/atlas/) it appears to have several information gaps.

**Follow up**: this group to review and Jürgen to gather collective feedback.

Other activities being promoted by IYRP

Led by Maryam, to build momentum in support of IYRP two proposals of side events are being made,

* One for the UNFSS (United Nations Food Systems Summit) to take place on **July 26th**, highlighting the importance of pastoralists to work in the context of environmental variability. The session is also seeking to give a voice directly to pastoralists.
* The other, prompted and led by Mongolia, for UN HLPF (United Nations High Level Political Forum) designed for the follow up of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Themes: COVID and Pastoralists, and specific SDGs.

Next meeting July 8th at 3 pm (NY time)

Original Agenda

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Duration** |  **Agenda Item** |
| 3:05 | 10 | 1. **Introductions,** Additions, deletions, modifications to Agenda |
| 3:15 | 3 | 2. Approval of previous Minutes |
|  |  |  Moved by: |
|  |  |  Seconded by: |
|  |  | 3. **Updates**  |
|  |  |  **A. North America** |
| 3:18 | 10 |  Trilateral, Central Grasslands, led by Jürgen and David Borré |
|  |  | * Grasslands Roadmap, JV8, CEC, [IYRP](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351706659_Support_for_the_International_UN_Year_of_Rangelands_and_Pastoralists_IYRP_in_North_America);
* Grassland loss in Mexico.
 |
| 3:28 | 10 |  [**IYRP´s Action Plan**](https://iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/DRAFT%20Action%20Plan%20for%20IYRP%20ver9april2021%20edited2.pdf), Maryam to introduce, all to briefly analyze its relevance for our countries |
| 3:38 | 3 |  North-American’s grasslands in WWF Global Grassl dialogue, June 29 |
|  |  |  **B. Country-based status reports** |
| 3:41 | 10 |  Canada, led by Barry  |
| 3:51 | 10 |  Mexico, led by Jürgen |
| 4:01 | 10 |  United States, led by Layne * **Update** on Indigenous communities and governments within the US: Intertribal Agriculture Council by Lia Biondo.
 |
| 4:11 | 5 | * **Update** North American Communications Team, led by Barbara
 |
|  |  |  **C. Global** |
| 4:16 | 3 |  [**WWF´s Grasslands Atlas**](https://www.rangelandsdata.org/atlas/), led by Jürgen |
| 4:19 | 3 |  [I **HYPERLINK "https://www.iucncongress2020.org/"UCN World Conservation Congress**](https://www.iucncongress2020.org/)Marseille, Fr., Sept 3-11. |
|  |  | 4. Focus of immediate activities (all) |
| 4:22 | 8 | **Next meeting**,  |
| 4:30 |  | **Adjourn** |
|  |  |  |