

IYRP Pastoralism & Gender Working Group

Minutes of online meeting 20.03.23

Attended by:

Ann Waters-Bayer (Agrecol/DITSL/CELEP)
Lucia Gerbaldo (FAO)
Maria Turiño (Ganaderas en Red / GER)
Nitya Ghotge (ANTHRA)
Pedro M. Herrera (Entretantos)
Rima Mekdaschi-Studer (WOCAT, University of Bern)

The second meeting of this Working Group (WG) began with a fresh round of introductions as three new members have joined the WG: 1) Maria Turiño, representing Ganaderas en Red (GER), an organisation of women pastoralists; 2) Pedro Herrera, representing Fundación Entretantos, an organisation working with pastoralists in Spain; he is also associated with the UNCCD as consultant for the GLO Report on Pastoralism and the LDN WG of IYRP and 3) Rima Mekdaschi-Studer, associated with WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies), a knowledge-management network for sustainable land management (SLM). WOCAT some years back brought out a volume on rangelands in sub-Saharan Africa and consequently is associated with different themes of the IYRP including land use.

Following the introductions, the PowerPoint presentation “Introduction for IYRP Working Groups” was shared. Rima wanted to know how the WGs will connect with each other. Ann answered that a similar question had come up in the water WG. Jonathan Davies as the coordinator for all the WGs would look into this. Currently, there are meetings of the co-chairs of the Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs) for coordination and mutual learning. There may be something similar for the coordinators of the WGs, or possibly the lead persons of the RISGs and the WGs will meet jointly. It was suggested that this WG inform Jon that we would like to work with other WGs in a mutually cooperative way as gender and youth are cross cutting issues. Comment from Rima: Gender (and youth) are crosscutting themes and hence it makes sense that they are in touch with the other WGs.

The diagram for the 12 IYRP themes shows “Pastoralist women” for the month of October. It was suggested that this be changed to “Pastoralism & gender”.

The group then looked at possible events and activities that could be taken up.

Nitya suggested:

- Linking with GASL (Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock), regional workshops and MSP (multi-stakeholder partnership), which are scheduled every year; the MSP will be in Thailand this year.
- Linking with the Living Lightly exhibitions in India perhaps with a photo exhibition on the theme “Mothers and daughters”: how daughters in pastoral communities view their mothers, what they would like to change, what they would they like to retain?
- An open-access collection of recipes from pastoralist families.

Ann said that Misereor (specifically Sabine Dorloechter-Sulser) would possibly be interested in supporting the compilation of a dossier on Pastoralism and gender which could be in several languages (English, French German, Spanish) to be published in 2025 or 2026 (Misereor is currently working on a dossier for the International Year of Camelids 2024).

She also mentioned the possibility of hosting a “Perspectives on Pastoralism” film festival focussing on women pastoralists. This had been discussed in the previous meeting as well with Margareta Lelea (DITSL, Germany).

Nitya mentioned that videos made by pastoralist women had also been discussed in the previous meeting and we wanted to make them available. Maria added that there were several documentaries available from their organisation GER as well as the fact that GER is good with social media. Movies from GER will be shared with this WG for uploading on the IYRP webpage. Lucia shared that there were a number of participatory videos available at WeCaN, which had been made by WeCaN members. She added that WeCaN had developed a set of practical guidelines to support women leaders to focus on topics and solutions from different regions. She will share these guidelines with the WG. Rima said she would share with the WG the guidelines developed by WOCAT for making technical videos.

The group felt that perhaps two types of movies could be made: 1) short participatory videos addressing different themes linked to the IYRP; these could be uploaded on the webpage from time to time and also shared regularly; 2) more professional films made specifically for the film festival and to be shared at formal events. Ann suggested setting up a smaller committee within the WG to plan and organise this.

Pedro stressed the need for the Gender WG to bring gender concerns into the other groups, many of which are working on more technical / scientific issues. He mentioned that several reports and papers emerging from these groups failed to address gender adequately. It may be necessary to bring out a working paper as well as guidelines on how gender concerns could be included. Rima had earlier shared that WOCAT and UNCCD designed a tool to assess the gender-responsiveness of SLM Technologies and Approaches and to identify areas of improvement. To that end, Technology Group Profiles on Gender-responsive SLM were produced based on the analysis of the data assessed during the piloting phase of the tool (see <https://www.wocat.net/en/projects-and-countries/projects/gender>).

Ann gave the information that the water WG is planning a webinar in June on pastoralism and water and would surely be interested in linking with the gender WG on this topic.

She pointed out that, as IYRP does not have a legal status, any activity that required grants and funding would have to be routed through a member organisation. By 2025, FAO will take over the IYRP and will make changes in the structure, possibly allowing more capacity to WGs.

She added that all of the WGs are featured on the IYRP website under Global Resources (<https://iyrp.info/resources/front>). Here, documents such as papers or statements can be posted. In addition, the minutes of WG meetings can be stored in the IYRP archival website (<https://rangelandsgateway.org/international-year-rangelands-and-pastoralists-initiative>).

Rima suggested that the concept note should have clear and concrete actions spelt out. Once the concept note is finalised, it will be shared with a wider group to invite more members to

this WG. Rima also mentioned that the FAO Regional Office in Cairo had initiated several gender-related activities and could be invited to the WG. She also mentioned reaching out to UN Habitat.

Lucia mentioned that, on 10 May 2023, there will be a global gathering of WeCaN members (16 representatives) in Rome about advocacy. This meeting would be a good opportunity to introduce the IYRP and the Gender WG to the WeCaN members.

Nitya suggested setting up a resource bank of publications, papers, movies, videos, gender toolkits, guidelines etc. Members could share resources they had created. Ann suggested that they be shared on a Google drive initially until we saw how the collection is developing and we could then consider another way to store the material so that it is available to a wider public. Nitya thought that this might be developed into a project.

Ann reminded the group that FAO has been asked by the United Nations General Assembly to implement the IYRP in 2026, but it will start preparing for this only in late 2024 or early 2025. In the meantime, it is implementing the International Year of Camelids in 2024.

Follow-up actions

- Maria to share short Spanish videos
- Nitya to prepare introductory slide on gender WG for WeCaN meeting on advocacy
- Lucia to share guidelines on how participatory videos are made
- Rima to share guidelines on how technical videos are made
- Nitya to finalise minutes of 1st WG meeting held on 23 Feb 2023 and Ann to post these on the IYRP archival website
- Nitya to revisit concept note and indicate concrete actions as emerging from discussions
- Nitya to circulate draft minutes of 20 March meeting
- Ann / Nitya to circulate Doodle poll for next meeting
- Ann to share link to IYRP archival website (inserted into these minutes)
- Nitya / Ann to share pdf of Introduction to IYRP WGs ppt
- Nitya to share revised concept note of gender WG with IYRP International Support Group and invite other interested persons to join the WG

Additional comments

Rima has offered that, once the resource bank is set up, she could help screen publications and papers and manuals that we had collected for developing the gender tool. She also mentioned that it is important is to find a logical and user-friendly structure to deposit these publications and material; otherwise, it becomes very tedious to find something when needed.

Ann suggested setting up a section of the CELEP website (www.celep.info) on pastoralism & gender. This website has a good search function. Another possibility would be to use the PKH repository (<https://www.fao.org/pastoralist-knowledge-hub/knowledge-repository/recent-releases/en/>), perhaps even asking them if they would set up a separate section on Gender, just as they now have a separate section on Legislation. Follow-up: speak to Gregorio / PKH.