# IYRP Rangelands and Biodiversity Working Group

## Minutes 22/06/2023

Meeting:

1. Introductions
2. Overview of the concept note
3. Nomination of chair and co-chair
4. Proposed next steps

## Present

1. Francesca
2. Graeme
3. David
4. Pedro
5. Debbie
6. Pablo
7. Engin
8. Dana
9. Hussain
10. Jonathan

## Summary

Overall the task of the group is not well-enough defined and the scope is too broad. The group recommends a follow up meeting with a core group to refine the scope (i.e. the background paper). Propose to focus on summarizing and communicating a core message about the importance of pastoralism for conserving rangeland biodiversity. Debbie will set up a google group where all members are requested to share key resources on the theme, which will inform the next step. Jon will schedule the next meeting providing one of the working group members is willing to chair the meeting.

## All Comments

* Task not well defined so hard for somebody to accept to be chair
* Lack of quantified data
* Proposal to set up a core working
  + David would be interested
* Would the role of the WG be to produce an evidence based justification for the importance of BD – use in
* Dana is here to look for links to the traditional knowledge forum in Adelaide
  + Gathering traditional and indigenous knowledge and its role in conservation
  + Narrow the focus by deciding what the information will be used for
* Pablo – expect the group to highlight publically (sociology, anthropology etc.) the importance of traditional stewardship in maintaining rangeland BD
  + Will share paper from Science on grazing management
  + Importance of management
* David – BD is a widely recognised concept – trying to link rangelands and pastoralism to conservation of BD will be a strong message
  + Address the challenge of nature loss
* Debbie – not much general pastoralism in her area of South Africa but a lot of illegal grazing and evidence on the impact of grazing mismanagement
* Engin – very broad document – time of WG members is limited – so the document cannot be very practical if the scope is too wide – so suggest to come up with one or two actions
  + Other organisations are researching the links between pastoralism and BD so instead of new research, play a role in collecting and compiling the evidence already produced
  + Ensure continuity of work on this topic – look at “a case of benign neglect” report from UN
* Pedro – WG can link policy, practice and research
* David – are there key people that are very familiar with dryland/rangeland BD that we can invite to the group – resource people for the group
* Pablo – there are publications that defend the role of pastoralism in conserving BD – but old fashioned negative views still prevail widely
  + Powerful message to target society as well as experts with an “anti-herbivore view
* Graeme – the task is very challenging – pull together information that already exists
  + No clear policy in most cases – what would that look like?
  + Elevate pastoralism as a cultural perspective
* Francesca – opportunity to send message – this year is 750 years since the creation of the Honrado Concejo de la Mesta, an association of Livestock keepers who used to transhume, because the Mediterranean climate of Spain require this, to feed animals through the whole year around. King Alphons X, called the Sage, signed this in September 1273, 750 years ago. Transhumance paths in Spain, which cover almost 450.000 ha (almost 1% of Spain territory) and representing 125.000 km of transhumance droves. These paths are still protected nowadays, through a newer law signed by the King of Spain in 1995.
* David – try to identify a selection of data sets on rangelands and biodiversity that can shape the conversation
  + What other data sets are there?
  + JD: Rangelands atlas, Conserving Dryland BD, others…
* Dana
  + Gather what we know and then develop a series of key messages that we want to get out
  + Then look for vignettes – stories from pastoralists that illustrate the stories we know – this is more likely to capture the public’s imagination which will then influence policy makers
* Pedro – the LDN group prepares a policy paper, coordinated with the UNCCD Global report on pastoralism, and then prepare a few briefings (2-pagers) with key messages on LDN and pastoralism
  + Organising high level events to highlight main messages
* Graeme – money for a status paper?
* Hussain: My other thoughts are around how to see pastoralists themselves having a voice to relay their issues to global audience through the various activities used to commemorate IYRP. This might not be easy and straightforward, but we can explore what opportunities are there.
* Next meeting – drill down into the task
* Ask missing members to send their views by email
* One objective of the group should be in communication
  + Information must be easily accessed by those who need it most
  + Key messages for different audiences

## Full group membership

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