**Notes on meeting of RISG co-chairs, 8 April 2024**

***Participants:*** Moussa, Serena, Cecilia, Enrique, Burmaa, Cecilia, Igshaan, Ann, Vivekananan, Jon, Ken (left 15:15).

***Apologies:*** Maryam

**1. Introduction of co-chairs**

Burmaa and Enrique introduced themselves (see also <https://www.iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/Current%20co-chairs%20of%20IYRP%20GCG%20Jan%202024r.pdf>)

The three co-chairs have different responsibilities and aspects of focus but support each other. Igshaan liaises with the 11 RISGs, providing support from global level, e.g. in action planning, joining their regional events, e.g. last week two events of the South Asia RISG and a meeting next week to revive the MENA RISG. Igshaan and Enrique both liaise with the FAO, which will implement the IYRP in 2026, and are discussing how attention to rangelands and pastoralists can continue post-2026. They are pushing for a permanent “home” for the IYRP and the IRG/IGC (International Rangeland/Grassland Congresses).

Burma focuses on increasing involvement of pastoralists and youth in the IYRP coalition and linking with the Mongolian Government. Enrique is spearheading the presentation of the IYRP at global fora, in UN agencies, in GASL (Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock) etc, making sure that the IYRP voices are included, bringing the messages from the WGs, in close working relationship with Jon.

***Action Point 1: All RISGs to provide 0.5–1-page narrative report on events implemented in recent months and short-term plans, to be compiled into an IYRP update for the International Support Group.***

**2. Updates from RISGs**

***South Asia:*** Vivek reported that the RISG recently organised a National Workshop on Resilience of Indian Rangeland and Pastoralists (Dec 2023), a Workshop with Bargur cattle Pastoralists in Tamil Nadu (Feb 2024) a Camel Yatra in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (Mar 2024) and a Rangeland Award Workshop for individuals and groups (Mar 2024). It is pursuing a national pastureland policy and is discussing local issues with Ladakh pastoralists, wanting to bring this to the United Nations.

***Action Point 2: Vivek to send Igshaan an explanation of the Ladakh situation and what support is needed.***

Igshaan suggested that Vivek include in the RISG report the recent webinar organised by the South Asia Pastoralist Alliance (SAPA) with pastoralist youth – involving five countries in region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). ICIMOD also has activities in South Asia, especially related to yak herders in Nepal and Bhutan.

***Action Point 3: The RISG in South Asia to further engage with SAPA and ICIMOD and include their IYRP-related activities in the regional report.***

***West & Central Africa (WCA):*** Serena reported on the major activity: the conference on agropastoralism in Africa to be held in Saly, Senegal on 12–14 November 2024, organised by the RISG and PPZS (scientific group on pastoralism & drylands), with funds from the World Bank, CIRAD, French NGOs and ECOWAS. Scientific and organising committees were set up. The organisers are discussing with French AVSF, IRAM and others the opportunity for a plenary session on IYRP priorities in WCA. They invite Igshaan, Enrique and Burmaa as co-chairs of the IYRP International Support Group, with all costs covered, and will support participants from low-income countries particularly students. Researchers are to take part with own funds.

The conference will focus on Africa but links will be made with other RISGs under the IYRP umbrella: cases from other regions on specific issues that are of interest also for Africa.

Moussa spoke about social media, but his poor connection made it difficult to understand. He will interact with Enrique. The conference organisers are also keen to have a representative from the Mongolian government. Burmaa can provide the contacts.

Igshaan suggested that the organisers communicate with Cecilia to include a representative of the International Year of Camelids (IYC2024).

***Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA):*** Ken tried to join the meeting but his connection was poor; he left early. Igshaan took part in the recent ESA RISG meeting and recalled that they discussed implementing the ESA action plan for IYRP2026, reviving the regional policy working group (WG), and attracting pastoralist youth.

***South America:*** Cecilia reported on involvement in the workshop in Brussels on 7–11 October 2024 on developing pastoralism indicators, and in the upcoming hybrid GASL conference in Montpellier on multifunctionality of rangelands. New organisations are getting involved in the RISG, e.g. Agrosavia, Colombia. Cecilia is taking part in the Gender WG and the Mountain WG and is in FAO’s Steering Committee for IYC2024. This is moving ahead slowly at government level. There will be an RISG meeting this month. Colombia is incorporating pastoralism into its research agenda; a recent doctorate was completed on this topic. Cecilia will also add the PASTURAS film festival to the RISG update.

Cecilia’s two questions:

1. The Government of Peru sent a letter of support for IYRP2026 but received no response from the Government of Mongolia. Because Peru does not have a Mongolian Embassy, the letter went through the Government of Cuba and may have got stuck there. Where can Cecilia follow up about this: who to contact in Mongolia’s Ministry of Agriculture?

***Action Point 4: Cecilia to send the Government of Peru’s letter and full accompanying document to Burmaa, who is to contact Munkhnasan and Bamunkh in Mongolia’s MoFALI about this letter.***

1. Is it possible for RISGs to contextualise their IYRP logos?

Ann: Some RISGs have already developed their regional logos; this is fine, as long as the RISG logo is used together with the global logo.

Moussa: Barbara linked him with the graphic artist who made the IYRP logo and who then made the WCA logo with the changes that Moussa requested. Because she is doing this as a volunteer, it may take time.

***Action Point 5: Cecilia to contact Barbara and her graphic artist to arrange IYRP logo for South America.***

Enrique: The Government of Peru is trying to make the transition from the IYC to the IYRP. This year, it is making a calendar for the IYC and plans a webinar on camelids in early July. This will be an opportunity to get in touch with the Mongolian Government and establish a path toward IYRP2026, to be better prepared for this than it was for IYC2024.

***Central Asia and Mongolia (CAM):*** Burmaa reported that there was recently a stakeholder meeting with MoFALI and a stakeholder action plan for this year is being developed, including a rangeland forum.

1. **Links between RISGs and Working Groups (WGs)**

Jon: There was an enthusiastic response when the gender WG sent key messages two months ago to the RISGs, leading to more than 20 translations within two days. He hopes for similar response with regard to other outputs of the WGs. He requested that each RISG check to see whether it is represented in the different WGs; this would improve their regional connections. If there are language problems in joining a WG, the RISG should inform Jon to see if a solution can be found.

***Action Point 6: Each RISG to make sure it has at least one member in each of the thematic Working Groups of the IYRP coalition.***

Ann: The IYRP information for pastoralist organisations was updated and Jon reduced it to two pages. A request was made to all RISGs for translation into local languages. The RISGs in WCA and CAM responded quickly, producing translations in French and Russian, but the other RISGs did not respond.

***Action Point 7: Ann to approach each RISG to ask for translations of the 2-pager.***

1. **Closing**

Igshaan reminded all RISGs to send their reports; after the Global Coordinating Group meeting later this month, the IYRP update for May 2024 will be finalised and shared.