



IYRP General Update November 2022

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Supporters of IYRP 2026

The International Support for the IYRP is still growing and we have received letters or logos of support from 319 organisations thus far! We have also changed the orientation of our logo, where the people and the livestock are moving from left to right (forwards) symbolising the progress we have made and continue to make.

There have been some changes in the leadership in a few of our 11 Regional IYRP Support Groups / RISGs (<https://iyrp.info/resources/front>). We sincerely thank all of those who have stepped down from their leadership positions for their hard work and contributions to the IYRP, and we welcome the new chairs who have offered their valuable time to spearhead their regional activities.

In order to tackle contemporary issues in rangelands and pastoralism, several Working Groups were established to collect and collate scientific information that would help debunk myths about rangelands and pastoralism and to effect policy change. The Working Groups thus far are on Afforestation in Rangelands, Desertification & Land Degradation, Mountains, and Pastoralism & Water, and a new Working Group on Biodiversity is being set up. Information about and from the Working Groups is being posted on the Global Resources section of the IYRP website (<https://iyrp.info/resources/front> – scroll to bottom of page).

Partners' activities at global level

- SNV Netherlands, EDF (Environmental Defence Fund), CELEP (Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism) and IYRP co-hosted a session at the Food Systems Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP27 on 12 November 2022 entitled "*Pastoralism & Rangelands Restoration*". Maryam Niamir-Fuller (IYRP International Support Group/ISG co-chair) delivered a keynote where she emphasised that pastoralism is a nature-based sustainable food production system that contributes to nutrition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and support livelihoods, and thus should be considered as a solution to challenges such as food insecurity.
- At the GLF (Global Landscapes Forum) / FAO Global Digital Forum on "*Transforming agrifood systems with forests*" on 29 September 2022, Igshaan Samuels (IYRP-ISG co-chair) presented on the role IYRP could play in promoting sustainable forests and agrosilvo-pastoral systems in drylands. He further reiterated the need for a closer working relations with the IYRP and the FAO Commission on Forestry (COFO).
- Members of various IYRP RISGs attended and supported the Dana+20 event on the *Mobile Peoples and Conservation Declaration* on 7–10 September 2022 in Wadi Dana, Jordan. A manifesto on Mobile Peoples was subsequently released.

- The IYRP Global Coordination Group (GCG) and the Sustainable Fibre Alliance and its partners had various engagements to discuss formation of a Global Rangelands Stewardship Council.
- The IYRP and the Mountains Partnership Secretariat are developing a policy brief on *Sustainable Mountain Pastoralism* to support the UN-declared International Year of Rangelands in 2022.
- The ICCA (Indigenous Peoples' and Community-Conserved Areas and Territories) Consortium, GEF-SGP (Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and the IYRP-GCG hosted a virtual workshop on 14–15 and 18 November 2022 to discuss a framework for a global initiative to gather support and strengthen for *Pastoralists' Territories of Life*. The workshop also identified key priorities for action, identified main donors and discussed a communication strategy with key stakeholders including pastoralists. Igshaan Samuels delivered closing remarks at the workshop.
- In September 2022, the IYRP-GCG sent a letter to the *Integrity Council of the Voluntary Carbon Market* to highlight the need to prevent indiscriminate conversion of rangeland into forests/ plantations and the potential of rangelands themselves to support global carbon mitigation. Versions of the letter could be found in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese (see <https://iyrp.info/integrity-council-voluntary-carbon-market-icvcm>).
- On 14–15 September 2022, CELEP launched the second edition of the “Perspectives of Pastoralism Film Festival” at the Tropentag conference in Prague, Czech Republic. The films were introduced by Hussein Wario, Centre for Research & Development in Drylands, northern Kenya. They are now on the film-festival website (www.pastoralistfilmfestival.com) and can be used also for events being planned at global or regional level, e.g. during side events.

News from the Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

1. Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA)

- ESA RISG members took part in assessment of the status of implementation of the African Union (AU) International Bureau of Animal Resource (IBAR) Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development), SADC (South African Development Community) and UMA (Arab Maghreb Union). This process has strategic bearing on the IYRP based on the level of the assessment.
- ESA RISG members, partners and friends of the IYRP distributed IYRP information at the Pastoralist Week of Karamoja in August 2022, a cultural event that brought together pastoralists from Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan.
- Dialogues were held on cross-border and sustainable peace through the IGAD transhumance protocol.
- A national dialogue meeting on mining/ extractives and pastoralism was held in Karamoja.
- The AFSA (Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa) and ESAPN (Eastern & Southern African Pastoralists Network) regional dialogue on agroecology developed pathways for accelerating and championing pastoralism as a component of agroecology.
- LPP (League for Pastoral Peoples) held a webinar on 27 September 2022 on “Accounting for Pastoralists” which included a study in Mozambique, presented by Jacob Wanyama.
- The IYRP was popularised at the annual congress of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa in the Free State, South Africa, in July 2022.

2. Middle East & North Africa (MENA)

- The MENA RISG contacted university lecturers across the region to expand the MENA network. This process was not successful; the region welcomes assistance on how to expand IYRP support in MENA.

3. Australasia

- Sarah McDonald has stepped down as regional chair and a suitable replacement will be announced in due course. We thank Sarah for her support thus far and we are happy that she would still remain active within the RISG.

4. Central Asia & Mongolia (CAM)

- The CAM RISG, IYRP GCG and ICCA Consortium co-hosted a virtual workshop on developing a “*Global Initiative for Pastoralists’ Territories of Life*” on 14–15 and 18 November 2022.
- The joint recommendations of international scientists and organizations from the IYRP GCG on the "Restoration and afforestation of natural pasture lands" to the iVCM paper (<https://iyrp.info/sites/iyrp.org/files/Rangeland%20afforestation%20is%20not%20a%20viable%20CC%20mitigation%20strategy.pdf>) was translated into Russian.
- Ms Kuluipa Ahmatova stepped down as co-chair for CAM RISG and was succeeded by Hasrat Arjjumend through an open nomination process.
- The CAM RISG participated in the Mongolia National Rangeland Forum on 15–16 September 2022 and made comments and recommendations to the Forum on the importance of the IYRP and legally recognising rights of pastoralist communities and associations.
- The CAM region has, through a participatory process, identified the priority areas and topics for each of the 12 monthly themes for the IYRP.
- In the meeting of representatives of some Mongolian NGOs, CSOs (civil society organisations) and herders to support the IYRP, Dorj T. highlighted the global importance of the IYRP for rangelands and pastoralism. Hijaba Ykhanbai made a presentation on community-based pasture management in CAM. Supporters and members/herders of the WAMIP (World Alliance of Indigenous Mobile Peoples) and Nomadic Herders Association “Mongol Gobi” and others exchanged ideas and experiences on pasture management in their communities and the need for adaptation to climate change issues.
- Hijaba Ykhanbai, co-chair of the CAM RISG, conducted field work and a participatory study with local community members in the high mountain region of Altay in Mongolia on planning, decision making and implementation of rangeland management and the herders’ mobility between the seasonal pastures.
- The CAM RISG held an online event on 12 August 2022: Hongxi Du and Xueling Yao presented a paper on “*Grassland restoration in Wulatezhong Banner and fencing by wire netting in Inner Mongolia*”. Hijaba Ykhanbai announced the annual award for pastoralist communities in 2022.
- The CAM RISG is working closely with the National Coordinating Committee for the IYRP in Mongolia, as well in other countries of Central Asia: Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.
- Members participated in the Regional Water Forum of Central Asia, which was held in Dushanbe in September 2022.

5. South Asia

- A national consultation on Pastoralism and the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 was held on 5–6 July 2022 in Delhi involving CSOs and pastoral community representatives from 11 states in India. It was organised by the Centre for Pastoralism with participation of IYRP-supporting NGOs and volunteers. Deliberations on various issues related to pastoralist communities, their access to forest resources and facilitation of claims under FRA were made. Shri Parshottam Rupala, Hon'ble Union Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, presided over the concluding session. The outcome of the workshop includes "*Policy support to pastoralists under National Livestock Mission*".
- A webinar on "*Awareness on IYRP 2026*" was organised on 12 October 2022 with participation from many NGOs, volunteers, organisations across the region and representatives from the Government of India. To move ahead, strategies were worked out along with the Indian Ministry of Animal Husbandry. Convergence and cooperation with related line departments for supporting pastoralist communities in India were requested.
- A workshop on launching of State Level Federation of Pastoralists groups in Tamil Nadu State was organised on 29 October 2022.

6. North America & Caribbean (NAC)

- The NAC RSIG submitted two proposals to the Society for Range Management (SRM) annual conference to be held in Boise, Idaho, in February 2023. One proposal involved a virtual, global IYRP symposium with six invited speakers, and the other covers an in-person planning workshop for North America having a focus on SRM Section leaders (20–40) as the main participants. The RISG co-chairs have also submitted a budget request to cover up to 200 virtual registrations for the global IYRP symposium. Funds were also requested for simultaneous translation of English into Spanish and French. These two proposals and limited funding have been approved by the SRM.
- In Mexico, presentations were made at two events to explain the IYRP and its objectives: the Grazing Management Forum hosted by Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua and the Encuentro Ganadero hosted by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and US Forest Service. In each event, at least 100 persons including ranchers attended.

In August 2022, Pronatura Noreste hosted a workshop in Durango State, Mexico, with 30 participants to create the Action Plan for Grassland Conservation in Durango. At the workshop, conservation targets were established, direct threats and contributing factors were identified, and future strategies and actions were outlined.

7. Europe

- Launch of the 2nd edition of the "*Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival*" on 14–15 September 2022 in Prague, organised by CELEP. The films promoted awareness about pastoralism as a sustainable nature-based production system to show how pastoralism is a form of agroecology ideally suited for drylands and mountainous regions – and for the climatic and economic uncertainties of today. The films focused on ecologically appropriate use of natural resources, the rights of pastoralists to continue to use and steward these resources, and the challenges they face in doing so.

- A workshop at the Tropentag conference in Prague on pastoralism, agroecology and climate change was organised by the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural (DITSL) and specifically referred to the IYRP, which was also promoted at the CELEP booth.
- A workshop on "Collaborating with pastoralists toward UN IYRP 2026" within the framework of "Cultural Landscapes Conference", held on 27–30 September 2022, addressed possible policy actions to be co-created towards the IYRP 2026 by the European and MENA RISGs.
- The European RISG organised a workshop on "*Mobile Pastoralism and Vultures*" in Northern Macedonia on 26–28 October 2022 to initiate a new understanding between mobile pastoralists, vulture conservationists and conservation authorities by offering a space for co-developing solutions and collaboration for the future of the conservation of vultures and mobile pastoralism in the Balkans and Europe.
- On 18–20 October 2022, a celebration took place in Córdoba, Spain, at a Congress on Extensive Livestock and Climate Change, organised by the partnership of the Life Project LiveADAPT (<https://liveadapt.eu>). It included a keynote speech by María Fernández Giménez; a celebration of the IYRP, led by Olivier Maurin, co-chair of the European RISG; and several panels focused on practical adaptation issues.

8. East Asia

- In July 2022, Ruijun Long and Hijaba Ykhanbai published an article "Significance and outlook of International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists of the United Nations in 2026" in the *Journal of Grassland and Turf* Vol. 42 No.2, pp136–143.
- In July 2022, Gansu Green Camel-bell Environmental Development Center (Director, Zhao Zhong) translated the PASTRES (Pastoralism, Uncertainty, Resilience, <https://pastres.org>) publication "Are livestock always bad for the planet?" into Chinese to help Chinese herders understand the role of livestock in global pastoralism.
- On 15–19 September 2022 at the 16th Yangling International Agricultural Science and Technology Forum jointly sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Government of Shaanxi Province, Ruijun Long was invited to deliver an online talk, where he introduced the IYRP to the organisers and participants.
- In October 2022, a postdoc researcher and five PhD students of the College of Ecology, Lanzhou University, introduced the IYRP to local administrators and Tibetan herders during their field study in Ali Prefecture and Naqu Prefecture of Tibet Autonomous Region, China.
- On 3 November 2022, Ruijun Long was invited to deliver an online talk at the Academic Forum on Rangeland, Resources and Environment held by Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, where he introduced the IYRP to MSc and PhD students.
- In August and September 2022, some short videos were made by Gansu Green Camel-bell Environmental Development Center and Shan Shui Conservation Centre in the Tibetan Plateau rangelands to reflect local Tibetan lives and pastoralism.
- A Grazing Handbook in Highlands is being edited by Ruijun Long, Zhao Zhong and others.

9. Arctic

- The World Reindeer Herders and International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry held a Food Lab exhibition at the World Food Forum on 17–21 October 2022 in Rome, Italy. More than 50 Indigenous Peoples' leaders, chefs and artists from seven regions of the world took part in the global discussions for the future of food, youth action, science and innovation.

10. South America

- Sonia Flores Mamani, a woman pastoralist from Bolivia, and Cecilia Turin, researcher on Andean pastoralism from Peru, were elected by Pastoamericas members to attend the Dana Declaration+20 meeting in Jordan on 6–10 September 2022. Cecilia took part as an academic delegate for Latin American countries, but the pastoralist delegate could not attend. Cecilia collaborated in the formulation and signing of the Dana +20 manifesto (<https://www.danadeclaration.org/dana-20-manifesto>) and translated it into Spanish.
- Following the agreement on IYRP 2026 regional priorities to update information on pastoralist and transhumance systems, Pastoamericas members are contributing to the Pastoralist Map on Latin American organisations. Cecilia Turin will support the completion of this process.
- Greta Semplici, postdoctoral fellow with PASTRES with support from the South America RISG co-chair Pablo Manzano, started an explorative study of pastoralist systems in Latin American countries (Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Argentina) with the help of organisation representatives.
- Cecilia Turin made a presentation about Peruvian Andean pastoralist systems in the session “Past, Recent and Future Changes in Mountain Transhumance” at the International Mountain Conference (IMC) 2022 held in Innsbruck, Austria, on 11–16 September 2022.
- South America RISG co-chairs, Pablo Manzano and Pablo Frere, together with Cecilia Turin, had a meeting with Igshaan Samuels, IYRP 2026 global co-chair, to update global activities and communicate regional advances. Cecilia was named as an additional co-chair of the RISG and regional editor to manage regional resources on the IYRP 2026 website.

11. West and Central Africa (WCA)

- *Projet régional d'appui au pastoralisme au Sahel (PRAPS)*: Funded by the World Bank and implemented with the support of [Comité permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel \(CILSS\)](#), the objective of the project is to improve access to essential production means and services and to markets for pastoralists and agropastoralists in selected cross-border areas and along transhumance axes in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad). PRAPS also aims to improve the capacity of these countries to respond in a timely and effective manner in the event of pastoral crises or emergencies.
- *Fracture Numérique (Digital Divide) project*: Funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by WCA RISG members, [the project](#) aims at identifying the digital divide(s) between urban and rural areas, between different rural areas, between different rural households, and between different members of a same household. The project is being implemented in Benin, Ivory Coast and northern Senegal. The data collected on the digital divide(s) will be discussed with local stakeholders working on pastoralism, and used to influence several ministries having an impact on those divides (Ministries of Livestock, Infrastructures, Finance, etc.).
- *Dundi Ferlo project*: Implemented in northern Senegal by WCA RISG members, this project seeks to implement reforestation through a bottom-up approach and deep involvement of pastoralist communities in decision-making, implementation and evaluation. Its objective is to restore at least 10,000 ha of forest over the next ten years in order to improve the state of

Sahelian ecosystems and strengthen the resilience of pastoral communities, which will be able to exploit vegetable products and set up economic value chains.

- *Viability project*: This aims at better understanding the socio-economic viability of agro-ecological practices and their impacts on livelihood systems across environmental and demographic gradients in Africa. This is a scientific and methodological challenge because of the lack of an established set of measures capable of documenting all dimensions of this viability over time.
- *GASL-MSP, Dublin*: The WCA RISG was represented at the [Multi-Stakeholder Partnership \(MSP\) meeting](#) organised under the framework of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) in Dublin, Ireland, on 1–7 September 2022. The RISG is particularly active in the GASL research component aimed at shedding light on the [multifunctionality of grazing-based livestock systems](#).
- *Reshuffling of WCA RISG leadership*: A reshuffling of the WCA RISG governance and leadership is taking place. The two main regional pastoralist organisations ([Réseau Billital Maroobé – RBM](#) and [Association pour la Promotion de l'Élevage au Sahel et en Savane – APES](#)) are discussing to take the leadership of the group, supported by the regional research stakeholder [Pole Pastoralisme et Zones Sèches \(PPZS\)](#).

Future activities of the IYRP

- A special issue of the *African Journal of Range and Forage Sciences* on “African Rangelands and Pastoralism” will be released early 2023 (ESA RISG).
- Communication and sharing about the IYRP during the RUFORUM conference to be held on 13–16 December 2022 in Zimbabwe. Igshaan Samuels will deliver a keynote on “*Emerging challenges for African rangelands*” (ESA RISG).
- Kenya has formed the Grassland and Rangeland Society of Kenya (GRASK) and will be invited to send a letter of support and logo to the IYRP (ESA RISG).
- Planning for implementing the IGAD transhumance protocol, e.g. during the regional meeting in Lodwar, Kenya, for developing action plans (ESA RISG).
- In Iran, MENA members will be arranging a meeting with the Rangeland Affairs Bureau, the national body in charge of rangelands across the country, to discuss the IYRP and future collaboration (MENA RISG).
- Members to reach out to and collaborate with IGFRI (Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute) and respective State DAHDs (Departments of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) to update state-wise data on pastoralists and fodder plants – evidence to be used for backing our policy recommendations in the long run (South Asia RISG).
- Actively undertake networking at South Asian level, government level, CSO level and pastoralists level to implement activities leading up to 2026 (South Asia RISG).
- Write to South Asia Pastoralist Alliance (SAPA) formed in 2015 during the regional process of WAMIP with the support of FAO; SAARC (South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation) vertical markets (headquartered in Nepal and Bangladesh) and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) etc., to explore how these groups are doing and how pastoralism can be brought into their agenda through the IYRP (South Asia RISG).
- Prepare a global set of case studies on the impacts of the Protected Area Networks (PANs) on pastoralism (South Asia RISG).

- Reach out to State Biodiversity Boards to recognise and include pastoral livestock semen (being used for artificial insemination) in the Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms – incentivising pastoralists to preserve their breeds (South Asia RISG).
- Undertake social auditing of not just protected areas but also solar parks and other energy and development-oriented projects, primarily focusing on their impacts on pastoralists and rangelands (South Asia RISG).
- Reach out to Wasteland Authority and de-tag rangelands from the Wasteland Atlas – a consultation meeting to be arranged (South Asia RISG).
- Focus on developing IYRP-related events to be presented at the annual conference of the SRM to be held at Boise, Idaho, in February 2023 (NAC RISG).
- Print at least 1000 stickers to send to different parts of Mexico with local partners and spread the message and mission of the IYRP (NAC RISG).
- Presentation on IYRP by Ann Waters-Bayer at 1.5-hour event “Uncertainty and Development in Pastoral Areas” being held by PASTRES project at InfoPoint of the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, on 7 December 2022 (Europe RISG).
- Screening of “Perspectives on Pastoralism” films on 8 December 2022 at Cinema Galleries in Brussels, Belgium, combined with photo exhibit by the PASTRES (Europe RISG).