



Updates from the Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs) from November 2022 to March 2023

North America RISG

- Starting in Nov 2022, a survey was sent out to the 21 sections of the SRM and selected IYRP network members in the USA, Canada and Mexico. The purpose was to assess expert opinions on key challenges and interventions facing North America. Results were compiled in Jan 2023 to form the basis for an action-planning workshop at SRM Boise (see below).
- The IYRP was well represented at the 76th Annual Meeting for SRM in Boise, Idaho, on 7–15 Feb 2023. Outputs included: (a) an online global scholarly symposium covering many topics, held on 7 Feb; 18 presenters attracted a virtual audience of 61; (b) an in-person presentation at the SRM opening plenary session on 13 Feb that introduced a hybrid audience of 428 to the IYRP; (c) a hybrid IYRP action-planning workshop for North America held on 13 Feb involving 73 participants; (d) a hybrid scholarly symposium on 15 Feb covering rangeland stewardship/product certification issues; 9 presenters attracted a hybrid audience of 58; and (e) a volunteer paper at a hybrid social science session on 15 Feb covering amplification of local pastoralist voices via film—one presenter attracting a hybrid audience of 143. Other IYRP short stories with pastoralist voices from around the world were also on display at the opening plenary.
- 150 complimentary virtual registrations for the SRM meeting were granted to ISG members.

South America RISG

- Fieldwork in the Peruvian Southern Andes was carried out from 26 Nov to 16 Dec 2022 by Greta Semplici (PASTRES postdoc) and Cecilia Turin as part of the research “Rangelands and pastoralists of Latin America” proposed in collaboration of Pablo Manzano. Alpaca and llama pastoralists contacted during fieldwork were informed about IYRP 2026 and short videos were recorded in Aymara and Spanish.
- The first RISG coordination meeting (virtual), held on 28 Dec 2022, allowed to identify who continues to be interested in participating and supporting IYRP 2026.
- The research proposal “Documentation of indigenous pastoralist knowledge and practices for the sustainable management of high Andean rangelands and bofedales (Andean wetlands)” was submitted on 30 Jan 2023 by Cecilia Turin to the Endangered Material Knowledge Programme, British Museum, and is now being assessed.
- A meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru was held on 31 Jan 2023 to increase awareness of the country’s rangelands and pastoralists and of the importance of IYRP 2026. As a result, the Government of Peru is preparing a support letter to the Government of Mongolia and IYRP 2026.
- A webinar “Rangelands and pastoralists of Latin America” organised by Greta Semplici and Cecilia Turin was held on 28 Feb 2023, where the cases of Mexico, Colombia and Peru were presented, and Pablo Manzano presented his latest research.

- The blog “The futures of the pastoralist systems of Southern Andean Peru”, written by Cecilia Turin and illustrated by Greta Semplici’s photos, was posted on 25 Feb 2023 at PASTRES.org: <https://pastres.org/2023/02/24/the-futures-of-the-pastoralist-systems-of-southern-andean-peru/>
- A book on “Latin American pastoralism” proposed by Pablo Manzano is making small advances.

West & Central Africa (WCA) RISG

CGIAR Initiative on Agroecology: This aims to develop and scale agroecological innovations with small-scale farmers and other agricultural and food system actors across different socio-ecological contexts in seven low- and middle-income countries. In territories called “Agroecological Living Landscapes,” the Initiative will engage with diverse stakeholders, including farmer associations or communities, researchers from multiple disciplines, private companies, international and national NGOs and local, regional and national policymakers. This initiative will work in Senegal and Burkina Faso from the WCA region and in India, Kenya, Laos, Peru, Tunisia and Zimbabwe from other regions of the world.

The objective will be achieved through food actors: 1) Co-creating agroecological innovations (practices, business models and institutional arrangements) and assessing which work best, where, why and for whom; 2) Identifying business opportunities and financial mechanisms for local enterprises to deal with agroecological innovations; 3) Determining the most suitable policies and mechanisms of policy integration for promoting effective and sustainable agroecological transitions; 4) Developing strategies and action plans that encourage and support sustainable behaviour change oriented to agroecological principles and transitions.

“Milk from the Walo” Fair (1st edition), Richard-Toll, Senegal, 27–28 Jan 2023. Based on the dynamics around the dairy sector in the Dagana dairy basin (Northern Senegal), the Dagana Milk Innovation Platform (PIL), in partnership with the PPZS, GRET and other actors, has initiated activities aimed at promoting the milk sector in the Department of Dagana, mainly based on pastoralist livelihoods. After several exchanges and consultation with the various players in the sector and the concerned administrative authorities, PIL and its partners organised a first edition of the “Milk from the Walo” fair. This event, part of the roadmap of this platform, saw the participation of various development actors, research institutions (ISRA, CIRAD), private companies (Laiterie du Berger, Compagnie Sucrière Sénégalaise) and NGOs (GRET). More information can be found here: <https://www.ppzs.org/actualites/foire-lait-du-walo-richard-toll>

Promoting local milk in West Africa and the Sahel. Stakeholders in the livestock sector from several African countries met in Thiès (Senegal) on 24–26 Jan 2023 in a workshop to review the 3-year action plan and the advocacy and communication plan of the regional innovation platform for promoting local milk in West Africa and the Sahel, organised by the [Association for the Promotion of Livestock in the Sahel and Savannah \(APESS\)](#) in collaboration with its partners. More information can be found here: https://www.seneweb.com/news/Afrique/promotion-du-lait-local-en-afrique-de-l-n_399847.html

9th session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD). The RISG was represented by its chair Harouna Abarchi at the 9th session of the [Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (28 Feb to 3 Mar 2023) organised by the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Niamey (Niger). This gave an opportunity to speak about the IYRP and raise awareness on the importance of rangelands and pastoralism.

Improving governance of the RISG. The two main regional pastoralist organisations ([Réseau Billital Maroobé – RBM](#) and [Association pour la Promotion de l'Élevage au Sahel et en Savane – APESS](#)), as well as the regional research stakeholder [Pole Pastoralisme et Zones Sèches \(PPZS\)](#) have been involved in overseeing the RISG. They are now part of the RISG Steering Committee, jointly with two co-chairs. The Steering Committee is defining an action plan to reach pastoralists and raise field-level awareness on the upcoming IYRP.

Central Asia & Mongolia (CAM) RISG

Regional action plan:

- Regional priority issues and activities finally defined and discussed with members
- Regional proposal for involving remote herders discussed with relevant stakeholders
- Organisations' action plans developed by members of CAM RISG

Events

- IYRP session for Envisioning a Global Initiative for Pastoralists' Territories of Life, with ICCA Consortium was organised on 14, 15 and 18 Nov 2022. The key outcome of this workshop was to ensure that advocacy toward the recognition, safeguarding and enhancement of Pastoralists' Territories of Life is taken up in the lead-up to the IYRP.
- "Camel Heritage Festival 2023" on 26 Jan 2023 in Khuld soum of Dundgobi aimag, Mongolia

Regional and national cooperation

- Initial ideas for cooperation with specific donors and international organisations being discussed
- Cooperation with government organisations of Central Asia is initiating
- Draft cooperation plan of RISG CAM being discussed with MoFALI and MNET of Mongolia

Translations

- "Rangeland Afforestation is not a Viable Climate Change Mitigation Strategy" by Igshaan Samuels and Maryam Niamir-Fuller, Co-chairs of the ISG, translated into Russian
- Regional priority issues (12 themes) for IYRP translated and distributed in Russian and Mongolian

Plans for next 3 months

- Finalise Regional Action Plan, involving all members (Mar–Apr)
- Membership drive to attract more members in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan (Feb–Apr)
- Investigate possibility for organising regional event in CAM (Jun–Aug)
- Organising some events for pastoralists in Mongolia (Feb–Jun: RISG CAM with MoFALI and MNET)

South Asia RISG

Pastoral Youth Conclave and IYRP Round Table Discussion. We organised roundtable discussion on IYRP during the Pastoral Youth Conclave Festival held on 19–21 Jan 2023 at Bhuj, Gujarat. Totally, 25 members participated in the discussion representing CSOs, pastoralists, officials from Government Departments. The Pastoral Youth Conclave was organised by Sahjeevan / CFP in association with Living Lightly Exhibition. Members agreed to take up campaigns on Access to resources, Water, Youth, Role of women, Mobility. Preparation of a map on pastoralists and pasture land in India and also later for South Asia, a support mechanism for pastoralists under National Livestock Mission and

collaboration with IGFR for regenerating pastureland in association with CSOs were discussed during the meeting.

Pastoralists Cell in The Ministry. The Government has formed Pastoralists Cell in the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Members of RISG South Asia including pastoralists and CSOs took part in the “Pastoralists Meeting” organised by the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry and Dairying on 27 Jan in New Delhi. During this meeting, we circulated some points to be taken up at policy level:

1. Formal recognition of pastoralist communities’ identity and their enormous economic contribution: documentation of pastoralist numbers (census) and their livestock and economic contribution across the country by 2026, and creation of the pastoral cell with an inter-ministry collaboration relevant for the livestock sector.
2. Drafting a National Pastoralists and Rangeland Policy by 2026 with a participatory approach: ensure continued access to traditional and critical grazing areas in forests areas, grasslands and village commons, and smooth inter-state movement of pastoralists.
3. Access to veterinary care system to pastoralists with special attention to design and connectivity issues in the remote and inaccessible regions.
4. Enacting participation and allocating funds for the activities under UN-recognised IYRP 2026.
5. Easing the access to the CSO Funds for organisations working on pastoralist issues and concerns.

IYRP awareness material in different languages We prepared 2-page information on the significance of IYRP 2026 in English, Kannada, Hindi and Marathi for circulation to pastoralists and officials of government departments at both central and state level.