



Eastern & Southern Africa Regional IYRP Support Group (ESA RISG)

Update as of 10 May 2021

Introduction

The Eastern & Southern Africa (ESA) Regional IYRP Support Group (RISG) was established early in the year 2021 resulting from the different initiatives to which different individuals have contributed directly and through their institutions of affiliation. The effort towards the IYRP culminated in the region during the UNEA4 in Nairobi and the lobbying through the Rangelands Initiative coordinated then by ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) and RECONCILE (Resource Conflict Institute) to have the Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Development support the Mongolian proposal for an IYRP in 2026. CELEP (Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism), on the other hand, has made great contributions through the members and affiliates in the International Support Group (ISG) and making presentation at different FAO initiatives, mainly led by Ann Waters-Bayer.

Accomplishments

The ESA RISG has held three meetings, which have created greater momentum in advocacy for the different rangeland- and pastoralist-related issues. During the first meeting, the group agreed on two co-chairs (Ken Otieno and Igshaan Samuels) and two vice-chairs (Loupa Pius and Kedibone Chueu), each chair and vice-chair pair coming from Eastern Africa and Southern Africa, respectively. The group has adapted the information on the IYRP campaign for pastoralists in the ESA region. Two ESA RISG subgroups have been set up: a Policy Working Group coordinated by Igshaan Samuels and a Communications Team coordinated by Loupa Pius, each subgroup having representation from several countries in the region. Hannah Longole from Uganda volunteered to keep the ESA webpage on the IYRP website updated.

There have also been some strides in getting expressions of support from regional role-players such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) department responsible for Transfrontier Conservation Areas and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). More formalised engagement with these Regional Economic Blocs in ESA will be strengthened upon completion of policy reviews by the ESA Policy Working Group.

The current initiatives include more lobbying by the ESA RISG members and through the Communication Team for United Nations (UN) Member States through their Foreign Affairs Ministries and other relevant

ministries to continue advocating for adoption of the Mongolian proposal. Through the Policy Working Group, mapping of policies and frameworks for sustainable rangelands and pastoralism in ESA is being undertaken. It is expected that this will provide for targeted engagement and advocacy on behalf of pastoralism in ESA and will build a case for the Member States to support the call for the designation of the IYRP by the UN General Assembly in September 2021. More members and organisations, including academia, in the ESA region are getting involved in the campaign.

Through in-country initiatives, members are engaging in related initiatives, for instance, the UN Food Systems Summit pre-summit dialogue on pastoralism that is being organised by CELEP members Concern, RECONCILE, CRDD (Centre for Research and Development in Drylands) and FCDC (Frontier Counties Development Council). Also other members from the ESA RISG will take part in this pre-summit dialogue. In addition, members of the ESA RISG Communications Team and Policy Working Group have been invited to and will participate in the [Mountains and sustainable food systems – Drivers of sustainable development](#) independent dialogue prior to the UN Food Systems Summit. This dialogue is convened by the Mountain Partnership Secretariat in Rome and will be held on 18 May 2021.

Jointly with The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development in Kenya, an effort is underway to document indigenous knowledge in Africa for an event just before the Joint International Grassland & Rangeland Congress (IGC/IRC) to allow sharing of knowledge, experiences and practices among pastoralist and indigenous communities. This initiative is being supported by the African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), IGAD, RECONCILE and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Terms of Reference have been developed to procure a lead consultant; five regional consultants from IGAD, SADC, ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States), ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA); and one documentary video filmmaker. Key pastoralist practices to be documented relate to mobility, livestock management, animal health, grazing, and land and water management, among others. The initiative will also seek to deepen policy, legal and institutional understanding around indigenous knowledge and practices. The outputs shall be shared at national, continental and global levels. A good window and opportunity to share, discuss and build awareness about rangelands and pastoralists is the IGC/IRC to be held in Nairobi in October 2021, in addition to various other platforms that exist to prepare for the IYRP.