



***Minutes of the Meeting IYRP-RISG CAM Group
Regional Action Plan & Discussions***

5 April 2023, Wednesday | 16.00 Hours Ulaanbaatar Time (10.00 Hours CEST)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81919215167?pwd=bnFickVWM2xaeIM0RitaWGZNY1pNQOT09>

**Chair of the Session: Dr. Hijaba Ykhanbai, JASIL
Co-Chair of the Session: Dr. Hasrat Arjjumend, TGI
Minutes prepared by: Ms. Nusrat Yaqoob, TGI**

Dr. Hijaba Ykhanbai initiated the meeting by welcoming all the participants and informing all the participants that, being the part of IYRP, we have to provide our regional findings to the International Group of IYRP and we will continue our support through our action plans by 2026. After the introduction round, Dr. Hasrat Arjjumend formally invited the first speaker to present their respective action plans. Ms. Manon Lelarge, Mongolia country representative of AVSF (a France NGO), spoke a few words about her organization and that her organization mainly works on sustainable pastoralism, and that she is looking forward how she may get engaged with IYRP-RISG CAM group.

Action Plan Presentation / KAFLU

Mr. Aithul of KAFLU comprehensively presented his action plan. He informed the group that his organization's central objective was to implement the project activities at the grassroots level. Since pasturelands play a significant role in the economy of Kyrgyzstan. The pilot study done by the organization has identified how much land in the country has degraded since KAFLU is striving to establish favorable conditions for sustainable natural resource management and entrepreneurship development in the forest and agriculture sectors of Kyrgyzstan. He also mentioned that there are 9 million hectares of total forest area in the country of which 1 million hectares are pasturelands. The outcomes of pilot project of KAFLU are encouraging and these will be disseminated at the community level, village level, and national level. To disseminate the knowledge and awareness concerning ground actions they will spread the knowledge across the country through media links, radio communication, and social media. A prime objective is to reduce the land degradation of pastureland. Plan is that the agroforestry and agro-pastoralism will be promoted. Currently, they are trying to spread the knowledge widely, as the forest lands are a great source of animal grazing. The forest grazing in Kyrgyzstan is a success story. They ensure their support and cooperation on the topic to all of the collaborating organizations of IYRP-RISG CAM group.

By commenting on this, Dr. Hijaba assured that IYRP-RISG CAM will support and facilitate all the activities and action plans implementing the regional coordination at large concerning pastureland, rangelands, and agroforestry integration. Dr. Hasrat Arjumand added this is a great idea.

Action Plan Presentation / RDF

Ms. Kulupa from RDF presented her action plan for the Rural Development Fund / Ecosystem Restoration Platform of ILC-ASIA Kyrgyzstan. She proposed coordinating sessions in Summer Field School (FSc MER 2023) on 'Mountain Transhumance, Pastoralism and Rangeland Governance' and 'Livestock-Based Livelihood, and Veterinary Support Mountains'. Further actions include: fairs and dissemination of traditional knowledge; analysis of secondary use of pastures resources to conduct a qualitative assessment of the situation of the different user groups of pastures. Under the Go Green project, RDF has designed the following actions:

1. Capacity building of small farmers of Kyrgyzstan
2. Development of training material, brochures, and modules on genetic natural resources management for herbalists/pharmacologists and technologists.
3. To support local actions and development through local communities.
4. Market analysis of medicinal plants to increase the knowledge of local farmers.
5. Establishment of medicinal plant plots in the Chui region.
6. Establishment of the multi-actor framework by using community participatory methods of engagements.
7. Knowledge dissemination through means of communication.

Elvira from ILC-ASIA Kyrgyzstan talked about ecosystem restoration. She discussed that her proposed actions are as follows:

1. Organizing a workshop for women entitled 'Women in Natural Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration'.
2. Experience engagement meetings through the role of local communities in ecosystem restoration.
3. Research on women's role in ecosystem restoration collecting data for the research on the issues of best practices and approaches in rural areas.
4. These outcomes will be based on regional and local level discussions based on finished research to promote gender equality in land management and the tenure system. The collaborators will be the Central Asia Pastures Alliance, and Kyrgyz National Land Collation, besides integrating intergenerational dialogue through online lectures, youth engagement through fellowship programs, and online recreational activities for the promotion of ecosystem and pastoralism restoration.

Action Plan Presentation / NADF

Mr. Hohharov Nurrolu from NADF, Tajikistan shared the comprehensive plan. He designed three activities in a year from 2023-2025 with the cooperation of Ministry of Agriculture, Tajikistan and through the representative of **Jamoats**.

1. Conducting an inventory of pasture lands assessment with the local representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and PUU.

2. Carrying out awareness campaign concerning pastures law in the country besides providing knowledge about other necessary legal actions for pasture land integration and restoration.
3. Identification of highly productive fodder plants, and climate resistant pasture plants.
4. Development of the investment project to improve the state of pastures and exchange experience.
5. Development of the plot for the integration of more productive fodder crops to restore pastures through the agrarian university's assistance.

Action Plan Presentation / MNFPUG

Ms. Burmaa proposed action plan for 2023-2024; she proposed the following actions: organizing a national forum of Mongolian rangeland with special focus on Tuv, Khentii and khuvsgul districts in which 300 participants will participate from every concerning sector. The prime focus to organize these events is on: rangeland recovery, management, developing linkages between the national and international buyers, and exchanging experience with donors. Certification of livestock production is in place with the purpose of obtaining premium prices to be offered by national and international buyers. In the context of animal breeding, rangeland management, animal health and animal welfare are critical. For 2024-2025 the proposed activities will as also be: organizing a workshop “state and transition model-guidance for detecting loss of ecosystem services and for restoring them”. The conference will address the following issues: Mongolian rangeland and state of transition module, carbon transition of the Mongolian rangeland. International training on the resilience-based management process, sustaining & restoring ecosystem with the collaboration with USDA-ARS, Iceland Agriculture University. The training will improve the understanding of resilience-based management approach for stakeholders and besides increasing the cooperation.

Action Plan Presentation / JASIL

Dr. Hijaba Yhanbai mentioned following main points in his action plan:

1. To develop the specific case of rangeland's territories of life in 3 different ecosystems in Magnolia. The possible outcome of this action will be to increase the awareness of the communities.
2. To support remote herders and communities' participation in the global, regional, and national initiative/exchange of ideas/training. Capacity building of the stakeholders, members of IYRP-RISG Central, East, Magnolia Region, and South Asia.
3. To publish an edition on ecological capacity newspaper and bulletin in good cases of community-based rangeland management with the coordination of JASIL members, partners CCPN, and others.
4. To create a public and research database on best practices of rangelands and pastoralists in Magnolia, and Central Asia related to the grasslands territories of life. Case studies and community-level rangeland practices data will be collected and knowledge will be shared with the stakeholders and partners for better understanding.
5. Organizing experience-sharing retreats among the members and partners in May 2023, 102 days (hybrid event) to strengthen the capacity of members and partners. During this meeting, the coming next three years' activities will also be defined and designed and donors for these activities will be finalized.

Action Plan Presentation / Dr. Du

Dr. Xueling Du, while discussing his action plan, discussed that the following activities have already been taken and some are still at the proposal level.

1. Reconstruction of study from the natural ecological theme museum at Chuanjing Sammu in Wurat-Middle Banner (Wulutezhong Banner). The possible outcomes are that the herdsman visits the museum frequently.
2. Desert steppe ecological restoration and sustainable animal husbandry project. The government of Wurat Middle Banner funded the project and has provided 3,000,000 RMB for this project.
3. Reconstruction of demonstration and training center for herbivorous five livestock grazing as ecology restoration at herdsman pastures in Wurat- Middel Banner. The steppe research team has already demonstrated 5 spots at herdsman pasture where herdsmen can study, and collaborate. The steppe objective is to reach 50 spots.
4. Release the book on methods of desert steppe plant recognition.

Action Plan Presentation / TGI

Dr. Hasrat Arjjumand discussed his action plan. The key proposed outcomes of the action plan are as follows:

1. The Grassroots Institute launched its 1st issue of the journal “Pastures & Pastoralism” in April 2023.
2. Special sessions in the “Summer Field School (FSc-MER 2023) on ‘Mountain Transhuman, Pastoralism and Rangeland Governance’ and ‘Livestock-Based on Livelihood & Veterinary Support in Mountains’.
3. Participated in the IIEDs MOOC Course “Pastoralism in Development’ as a tutor. (Dr. Hasrat has already facilitated 1 batch of the course).
4. Practitioner Diploma program on ‘Transhumance, Pastoralism, and Rangeland Governance’ (Academic Preparation and Evaluation of Collaboration from Central Asia and Eastern Europe: course module and workbook are under preparation, some collaborations will be evolved).
5. Contribution as Co-Chair of IYRP-RISG CAM (various tasks are already delivered and documented).

Ms. Nusrat Yaqoob informed the members of the group (IYRP-RISG CAM) that she has designed three key actions for three years period.

1. For 2023 (November): Publishing of an article on climate change and resilience in Asia region from a long-term development perspective. In the 3rd issue of the journal (Journal of Environmental Law and Policy published by the The Grassroots Institute)
2. For 2024: The Grassroots Institute will organize 3-day virtual conference with the collaboration of international organizations. Main theme: “Rangelands, Pastoralists, and Livestock in Mountain Regions: Converting vulnerability into resilience”. The conference abstract call will be published in July 2023.
3. For 2025: Research report on global coordinated research findings on GHG emissions and rangelands will be published.

Draft Agenda

Date: 05 April 2023

Time: 16:00 in Ulaanbaatar; 14:00 in Bishkek and Almaty, 13:00 in Tashkent, Dushanbe and Ashgabat:

16:00 Opening and self-introduction of participants

Presentations of members' action plan

KYRGYZSTAN

- KAFLU, Mr. Aithul B.
- RDF, Ms. Kuluipa A., Ms. Elvira M.

TAJKISTAN

- NADF, Mr. Hohharov N.

MONGOLIA

- MNFPUG, Ms. Burnaa D.
- JASIL, Dr. Hijaba Y., Mr. Erkin Kz.

Q&A / Comments and suggestions

CHINA

- Dr. Hongxi Du, Prof. Shurun Liu, Desert Steppe Research Team

CANADA

- Dr. Hasrat A., Ms. Nusrat Y., The Grassroots Institute

OTHERS

Q&A / Comments and suggestions

18:00 Closing

Additional comments: Dr Hijaba Ykhanbai, JASIL and all of participants of the meeting agreed to do joint efforts, coordination and collaboration at each level. Further JASIL ensures that if similar kind of activities will be ongoing on in any IYRP-RISG country we will support and coordinate with them exclusively. Dr. Hijaba added that Gobi Desert restoration is critical, currently, particularly in the ongoing year the desert has faced critical climatic stress. Under the banner of IYRP-RISG group we will try to find possible way forwards for the restoration of ecosystem in the Gobi Desert and to support pastoralism in the area particularly.

There were 15 members present in the meeting.