



October 2020

## Preparatory Process for Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

### Objectives

The campaign to promote the IYRP for the FAO COAG 2020 has been supported by a very strong, vibrant, active and worldwide network of more than 150 civil society and public- and private-sector institutions, organizations, cooperatives and associations, as well as at least 25 governments. This network could be leveraged even more strongly in the run-up to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2021, by creating regional nodes for communication and cooperation, supported by the ISG (IYRP International Support Group), FAO and others at global level, and by the Government of Mongolia, the Mongolian National Support Group (NSG), and others at regional and national levels.

The initial goal of creating Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs) is to campaign for the designation of IYRP by the United Nations for 2026, with two immediate objectives:

1. To expand the network of supporting organizations and governments in the regions and at country and local levels by continuing to raise awareness; and
2. Assuming that UNGA does designate the IYRP, by working with the ISG, FAO, the Government of Mongolia and other global supporters, to prepare suggestions and guidance for IYRP planning and implementation in their respective regions (regional action plans).

In addition to having strong regional ties and knowledge of stakeholders, RISGs can communicate better in their respective region's languages. They can ensure a strong and equitable participatory process for all supporting organizations. Furthermore, as the list of supporting organizations and countries grows, it will be more efficient to create regional nodes than trying to create a global center. The role of the ISG, FAO and the Government of Mongolia will continue to be important in ensuring a coordinated approach across the regions. The Joint International Grassland Congress (IGC) and International Rangeland Congress (IRC) in October 2021 will provide an opportunity to ensure coordination among the RISGs, as well as to validate and peer review the regional action plans.

Therefore, at least four major milestones are foreseen:

1. FAO Council (30 Nov–4 Dec 2020)
2. FAO Conference (June/July 2021)
3. UN General Assembly (14–30 September 2021)
4. IRC and IGC Joint Congress (23–29 October 2021)

The RISGs will be based on the “regional working groups” already proposed by the ISG for the purpose of engaging with the Joint IRC and IGC. Their immediate focus will be on these four milestones. Membership will be wider than that envisaged for the Joint Congress. Their continued functioning in 2022 and beyond will be a function of need, and most likely subject to a revision in mandate.

### Expected outcomes & activities

**By end of November 2020 =**

Outcome: Expansion in the number of supporting governments and organizations and of the concrete commitments for support (financial and in-kind)

Activities: Lobbying at the level of governments and regional bodies such as EU, League of Arab States etc.; promotion and communications activities; development of communications materials such as documentaries or videos to be shared on IYRP Online Booth ([www.iyrp.info](http://www.iyrp.info)); development of content to be shared on IYRP Online Booth; identifying and reaching out to organizations at regional/national levels.

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**By June 2021 =**

Outcome: Expansion in the number of supporting governments and organizations and of the concrete commitments for support (financial and in-kind); endorsement of IYRP Proposal by the FAO Conference

Activities: Lobbying at the level of governments and regional bodies such as EU, League of Arab States etc.; promotion and communications activities; developing and conducting an online campaign prior to the conference (if needed); be available to respond to requests coming from countries and delegates at the FAO Conference; participating in and/or organizing (an) awareness event(s) in Rome (such as side events etc.) and allocating resources for this purpose, if physical meetings are held.

**By UNGA in September 2021 =**

Outcome: Expansion in the number of supporting governments and organizations and of the concrete commitments for support (financial and in-kind); endorsement of IYRP Proposal by the UNGA

Activities: Lobbying at the level of governments and regional bodies such as EU, League of Arab States etc.; promotion and communications activities; developing and conducting an online campaign prior to the UNGA; participating in and/or organizing (an) awareness event(s) in New York (such as side events, seminars for delegates, exhibits, film screenings, etc.) and allocating resources for this purpose, if physical meetings are held.

**By the Joint Congress in October 2021 =**

Prepare draft IYRP regional action plans, and be represented at the Congress for discussion of these plans; support Congress resolutions. The Congress Secretariat and delegates will be kept apprised of the work of the RISGs through regular updates to the Congress website as well as to the IYRP Online Booth website.

**Organization**

At the end of August 2020, members of the IRC Continuing Committee (CC), the IGC CC and the ISG had been invited to volunteer to sit in one of the 10 following “regional working groups”. In October 2020, all other supporting organizations and governments will be invited to expand these into Regional IYRP Support Groups, with the aim of having at least one person per country in each group.

Regional categories for the RISG:

- East Asia
- Central Asia and Mongolia
- South Asia
- Australasia
- North Africa and Middle East
- Eastern and Southern Africa
- West and Central Africa
- Europe and Arctic
- North America (Canada, USA and Mexico)
- Latin America and the Caribbean

The ISG will initially convene these groups (one by one) to launch their work, but the RISG members will elect their own chairs and communication teams, and decide on their own strategies and internal deadlines. RISGs can also decide to regroup or change their membership in consultation with the ISG. At the minimum, it is expected that each group will focus on four immediate tasks:



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1. To review the “12-monthly themes” and the IYRP Open Flyer as developed by the ISG in 2018, in order to update them and adapt them to the region
2. To manage the regional page of the IYRP Online Booth, including identifying and uploading information, and adding more supporting organizations
3. To review and help finalize the Regional Papers being developed by the Congress Authors, in time for the deadline of Full Paper Submission on 30 November 2020 (if necessary).
4. Respond to any requests as needed in the run-up to the FAO Council session in November/December 2020.

The RISGs will elect one person to be part of the global ISG Communications Team. Groups that share languages may wish to consult with each other. The RISG will regularly report to the ISG on their progress, and bring new ideas to share.