**Introduction**

The share of agriculture in the GDP of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan ranges from approximately 15.0 to 27.2%. Pastureland covers between 45 to 72% of the area of Mongolia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. Totally 65% of all territory of Central Asia is pastureland (Ykhanbai, 2020).

Central Asia Pastoral Alliance (CAPA) covered 49 organizations as members and partners of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, from which: ILC members -9, CSO’s and NGO’s from countries of CA -18. Also we have collaborated with 15 government institutions/organizations.

CAPA has influenced in most countries Central Asia, for the introducing Participatory Rangeland Management approaches in a context of transition from centrally planned government systems to decentralized market economies in former soviet bloc countries has presented challenges.

The Central Asia Pastoral Alliance worked closely with Pasture User Groups (PUGs) on Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), a people-centered approach to development aiming to conserve natural resources such as water, soil, and local biodiversity.

Rangeland use is a traditional land use method in many Central Asian countries. According to the latest research, pasture mobility is declining due to the effects of climate change, economic transformation and land degradation. In many cases, this decline in mobility leads to conflicts between land users, landowners and / or municipalities.

**Table legal definition of PASTURE USER GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kyrgyzstan</th>
<th>Kazakhstan</th>
<th>Mongolia</th>
<th>Turkmenistan</th>
<th>Uzbekistan</th>
<th>Tajikistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association of pasture users is a public organization on the territory of local self-government.</td>
<td>To conduct joint activities when using pastures, the pasture users have the right to form an association of pasture users (a simple partnership, a consortium).</td>
<td>Herders’ communities were recognized as a voluntary organization, according to the Mongolian Civil Code.</td>
<td>Pasture users association - a public association for the joint management and use of pastures, chekene - association of livestock owners without legal entity for collective grazing.</td>
<td>Pasture users can create pasture user associations to share and protect pastures.</td>
<td>The citizens can create societies of pasture use and obtaining in lease of pastures. Dehkan farms, also be members of society of pasture users.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Size of innovations: Recognition of tenure security on grazing lands in Kyrgyzstan covering 9.0 mln ha pasture land the rights of pasture users recognized by government to manage their graze lands by the agreement with Jayit Committees. Mongolia: PUGs represent and cover 62.5 million hectares which constitute 57% of total Mongolian rangelands. Rangeland use agreement covering more than 30,0 mln ha pasture lands, being managed by co-management contracts with local governments.

**CAPA models of CM**

**Mongolian model:** focused on interventions for Community Based Pasture and NRM, where focused on local Pasture User Groups, PUG, Forest User Groups, FUG and Communities for NRM.

**Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan model:** based on local governments supported co-management of rangelands with Pasture Committees and Pasture Users’ Unions, PUU.

**Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan model:** based on government lead co-management of pasture land NR, at local village and district level.
LEGAL REFORM ON RANGELANDS IN CENTRAL ASIA

- "Land Law" (2002) and "Law on Environment Protection" (2006) in Mongolia (reduce pasture degradation)
- "Law on Pastureland" (2009) in Kyrgyzstan (tenure system on pasture use)
- "Law on Pasture" (2013) in Tajikistan (tenure rights of PUGs)
- "Law on Pastures" (2015) in Turkmenistan (PMP to lease pasture land, chekens)
- "Law on Pastures" (2017) in Kazakhstan (PMP to strengthen their tenure rights)
- "Law on Pastures" (2019) in Uzbekistan (duties of stakeholders on pasture management)
- "Law on Grazing Tax" (2021) in Mongolia (reduce pasture land degradation, income for rangeland management)

Focus on Decentralization and CM

DIFFERENT TENURE SYSTEMS

These are includes:
- common property and open access and contractual use in Mongolia
- local and state managed systems in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
- contracted use and leasehold systems in Uzbekistan
- state-owned, individualized (private/rented) leasehold systems and private ownership in Kazakhstan
- state managed contractual systems in Turkmenistan

Source: Scoping study by members of CAPA, 2021

Table 2: Pastureland tenure and management specifics in CA countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Pasture land tenure</th>
<th>Grazing fee or pasture use payment</th>
<th>Mobility and use in seasonal pastures</th>
<th>Community based pasture and natural resources management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Mixed tenure arrangements, such as private ownership, leasehold and common use</td>
<td>Some relationship between livestock ownership and registered pasture use with payment</td>
<td>Large livestock operations increasingly common and relatively mobile</td>
<td>Village-based grazing, but has led to localized pasture degradation. Co-management contracts supported by the new law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Pasture state owned, no private ownership, leasing of pasture to herders</td>
<td>Access rights to pasture with purchase of tickets, sold on an annual basis with pasture use payment</td>
<td>Seasonal pastures under administration of local government</td>
<td>Management devolved to local Pasture Users Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Open access for summer pastures, communal use of winter, autumn and spring pastures, pastureland state owned</td>
<td>Herder household livestock owners subject to local grazing fee</td>
<td>Seasonal migrational incorporation of traditional systems of pasture rotation</td>
<td>Community based co-management of pasture and natural resources and PUGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>Pastureland state owned, but some pastures privatized</td>
<td>Pasture use payment system introduced</td>
<td>Settled pasture use and mobility only in summer</td>
<td>Co-management approaches introduced with Pasture User Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>Contracted use and leasehold systems</td>
<td>Pasture use payment</td>
<td>Settled and village based pasture use</td>
<td>Roles of stakeholders clarified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkmenistan</td>
<td>State managed systems</td>
<td>Pasture use payment</td>
<td>Managed by local governments</td>
<td>Roles of stakeholders clarified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COP26

APA Focal point Dr. Hijaba Ykhanbai was attend to UNCCC COP26 in Glasgow, and exchange project learning’s with the wider audience. At the COP26 representatives of pastoralist we exchange our learning to promote the eco-friendly food production in pastoral agriculture. Pastoralists are food producers in many ways, but they not much supported in the processes by the governments and international donors.

Interview Hijaba Ykhanbai by Kunduz A., ILC Asia about his participation to the COP26

Q: What are the impacts of CC for rangelands and pastoralists?
Yes, as you know, pastoralists from around the world manage rangeland ecosystems equal to 54% of world’s land surface. These ecosystems are highly suffering from Climate Change impact in high degree. Pastoralists in many places, similar pastoralists in Mongolia or in Kyrgyzstan, are victims of climate change. Current climate change emergencies putting more and more pressure on the day-to-day life of indigenous people, local pastoral communities around the globe. But their land rights are not secure and their voices are not fully heard on the formulation of global policies and regulations.

What are the traditional methods to deal with adaptation and mitigation on Climate change?
The Mobile Pastoralism is a solution for climate change mitigation, ecosystem restoration and resilient food systems, which traditionally was focus on mobility rotation and shifting pasture use between and within the seasons. They are traditional methods of pasture use. Pastoralists are custodians for green development. However now need a right balance between ecological capacity and the herd size. Also need to recognize pastoralists as eco-friendly food producers and supporter of rangeland environmentally services. So we need to recognize herders’ communities as ecological, economic and social unit for climate resilient local development.

What was discussed at COP26?
There was many multi stakeholder, multi-disciplinary, timely and informative events and discussions. Mainly focus on the world transition from COVID-19 to sustainable, green and inclusive economic growth. Regarding to rangelands and pastoralists one of biggest event was Rangelands at IFAD pavilion “Launch of a campaign on mobility”, which I and other pastoralists representatives from different regions exchange experiences and ideas on Climate and Pastoralism. There was also Campaign on Mobility and IYRP during COP, Various actions with pastoralists attending the COP26, Rangelands Initiative Global/WA-MIP and on the behalf of ILC I take part. I’m very happy that ILC One team, led by Mike and Tina, was one of influential stakeholders for international level discussions of CC at the COP26 in Scotland.

The results of these discussions will be?
I think, in terms of rangelands, it was good opportunity giving visibility to pastoralist live-hoods as vital agents for climate change mitigation, ecosystem restoration and resilient food systems. Many decision makers understand, that pastoralists are crucial part of the solution to the climate crisis. Pastoralists are caregivers of ecosystems. But of course, a worldwide recognition that sustainable pastoralism is a viable form of climate change mitigation, ecosystem restoration and resilient food systems are needed. I hope ILC new Strategy for 2022-2030 will play important role on its implementation.
The Mongolian Government proposal for an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026 could provide the impetus and momentum necessary for realizing this ambitious change agenda. It would increase a worldwide understanding of the importance of rangelands for global food security and environmental services, and call attention to the need for sustainable management and enlightened policies in both developed and developing countries. It would enhance the perceived natural and cultural values of rangelands and pastoral livelihood systems, strengthen pastoralists’ rights and pride in their own cultural systems and traditions (especially among the youth) and foster innovation toward sustainability and overcoming poverty.

ASIL with other global and regional partners and members was influenced and initiated for the development of the Mongolian Proposal for an IYRP, with main focus to support global recognition of nomadic mobile pastoralism and rangeland use.

**IYRP: Press realize**

ENG: On 15 March 2022, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York unanimously declared 2026 the International Year of Rangelands & Pastoralists (IYRP). This final approval is the culmination of an IYRP movement that grew over several years to become a global coalition of over 300 pastoralist and supporting organisations, including the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and several UN agencies. Building on these efforts, the Government of Mongolia and 60 co-sponsoring countries developed and put forward the resolution to UNGA.

UNGA fully appreciates the importance of the IYRP resolution for addressing global biodiversity, climate change and socio-economic issues. It recognises that “pastoralism is a dynamic and transformative livelihood linked to the diverse ecosystems, cultures, identities, traditional knowledge and historical experience of coexisting with nature”. It affirms that “healthy rangelands are vital for contributing to economic growth, resilient livelihoods and the sustainable development of pastoralism.”

The IYRP aims to raise awareness and fill knowledge gaps globally about the considerable benefits provided by healthy rangelands and sustainable pastoralism. It will also advocate for strengthening the capacity of the pastoral livestock sector and for increasing responsible investment in this sector. The ultimate goal is to make rangelands and pastoralists prominent in policy debates around everything from confronting climate crises to reducing poverty, managing threats to biodiversity, developing sustainable food systems and helping to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In these debates, the IYRP will help amplify the voices of pastoralists and scientists about the value of rangelands and pastoralism.

**CENTRAL ASIA & MONGOLIA RISG for IYRP**

The main priority issues for next period among the IYRP 12 months themes was identified by “Central Asia and Mongolia”, CAM, RISG members in 27 Jan., 2022. The RISG CAM undertakes a participatory exercise with map out the 12 proposed IYRP themes into priority issues. Meeting participants select more priority for region two following IYRP themes: 1. “Rangelands, pastoralism, Climate change and resilience”, 2. “Preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services on rangelands”.

Priority issues are: i) for “Rangelands, pastoralism, Climate change and resilience”- a) Turn vulnerability into resilience; and b) Awareness on expected impacts of climate change on rangelands and pastoralists; ii) for “Preserving biodiversity and ecosystem services on rangelands”- a) Promote tourism and conservation in rangelands, tourism benefits to pastoralists; and b) Protecting threatened biomes and species, including combating alien invasive species, overhunting, habitat loss, and protecting genetic resources of livestock, wildlife and rangeland plants. Therefore these issues will main objectives of RISG CAM for the next years.

**ICCA-TERRITORIES OF LIFE**

The one of activities of JASIL was to support for establishing the ICCA-Mongolia Working Group for “Territories of Life”. As for action, JASIL has piloted activities for improving marketing of milk and dairy products of the communities during the COVID pandemic was implemented in the Bayanbulag community, Batsumber soum, Tov aimak, in cooperation with ICCA Consortium by Snow change initiative. For the specifics of the community was done installation of new equipment’s for cooling of milk during the emergency time for marketing of these products.

The tenure rights of autumn and summer seasonal pasture land of community, covering 3,650 ha, now more secure , and roles and responsibility of local stakeholders clarified; and Community governance strengthened by establishing and supporting the Women Group for the management of community activities.
Cluster 1: Working in CAPA network we learn that Mobility is a main strategy for pastoralism to adapt and mitigate impacts of Climate Change.

Cluster 2: Exchange policy and legal innovations on pasture land use tenure systems and consultation, lobby for new laws and procedures – these are the key moments of the cluster, so we use our main public relationship tools to share our progress in it. One of the most important and effective communication ways are the different groups in messengers (WhatsApp, telegram, etc.). It’s very important to keep in touch with our members, partners and colleagues to be aware of the latest changes in the policy and legislation, react immediately and properly on behalf of our members and make an effective influence to provide relevant and on-time reaction on the different changes and challenges in the region.

Cluster 3: LAMGaC of Mongolia and NFPUGs has been implementing nationwide grazing impact photo monitoring system since 2017. As of December 2019, there are 4781 photomonitoring spots installed. In 2019 additional 2809 spots were identified. These monitoring spots cover 320 soums of 21 aimags and sub districts. Grazing impact photo monitoring is the most detailed coverage having one spot in each of the 4 seasonal rangelands of PUGs nationwide. Photomonitoring database is linked into the NAMEM system that NFPUG has upgraded collecting data from stations installed in each of 1516 bagh. NAMEM system is used as reference for ecological potential of rangelands. Annual photomonitoring results by ALAMGC show how rangelands have altered compared to reference ecological potential.

Cluster 4: The field of pasture management is largely dominated by men almost everywhere, while in fact the women’s work and involvement is enormous. But unfortunately, women remain often invisible and unrecognized. Existing stereotypes, poor legal bases, and low awareness often contribute to this.

During our participation in the Traditional Knowledge and Gender cluster, we have learned a lot. We conducted a small study on gender, allowing us to deepen our knowledge on existing challenges and barriers. It helped to strengthen our understanding of gender issues too.

Gender issues are very well understood by our organizations, advancing gender equality outside, but also inside our organizations. So, both RDF and IESD have women as leaders, and have many remarkable female researchers and experts.

Cluster 5: Agroforestry is a farming system that combines the cultivation of crops and/or livestock breeding with planting of trees and shrubs. The resulting biological relationships provide numerous benefits, including diversification of the income sources, increase of biological productivity of land, water quality improvement, and habitat enhancement for both human and wildlife.

Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main land use types for Central Asian countries and from year to year the consumption of land is increasing. About 80% of the Central Asia is located in the arid zone and the most of land used for agriculture are subject to degradation and desertification at some extent.

Awards of CAPA Learning from successes was important for the future sustainability of rangeland management and securing tenure rights of pastoralists on rangeland use. One of example that CAPA members and its partners, as National Federation of Pasture User Groups of Mongolia (NFPUG), Department of Policy and Coordination on Animal Husbandry of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolia (MoFALI), Environment and Development Association JASIL, Central Asia & Mongolia Regional IYRP Support Group (CAM RISG) and the Mongolian Working Group (WG) on “Territories of Life” for Natural Resource Management Communities, Pasture and Forest User Groups, an Award for Pastoralist communities in Mongolia and Central Asia in 2021 on community based participatory rangeland management and balancing ecological capacity of pasture with animal numbers and sound use of the rangelands.

2021 Award winners are: “Sary Bulak” Pasture Users Association of Kyrgyzstan (leader Ms.Asanova Guljan); “Bichigt Khad” Pasture User Group, Da-vst soum, Uvs province (leader Ms.B. Bayan-Ochir); and, “Aduunchuluun” Pasture User Group of Lun soum, Tuv province (leader Ms.J.Solongo).