



IYRP at the IGC 2023 in Kentucky

The International Grassland Congress (IGC) was held on 14–19 May 2023 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, Kentucky, USA. It was attended by IYRP coalition members Jim O'Rourke (USA), Dana Kelly (Australia) and Andiswa Finca (South Africa), among others. Jim and Dana made this quick report on 20 May.

The IYRP was received and discussed in great detail – more so than at Society for Range Management (SRM) meeting in Boise. It was a tremendous surprise and extremely encouraging. This is because much of the world that has grassland organizations are in fact dealing with rangeland.

So, a list of activity:

- *Jim O'Rourke gave a 5-minute review of IYRP at the Plenary session on Tuesday morning.*
- *An IYRP session was held 5:30–7:00 Tuesday afternoon. A brief history again and then the participants were separated into their respective RISGs: 8 from Australasia, 7 from North America (really all U.S.), 3 from Eastern and Southern Africa, 1 from Middle East and North Africa, and 2 from Europe. These groups developed issue lists and then action items to bring the word to the general public. These notes are being sent to respective RISG Chairs with suggestion to copy Ann.*
- *Amy Ganguly in her Plenary address on Thursday morning had a slide on IYRP and emphasized the importance.*
- *At the IGC Initial and Final Business Meeting, a Resolution for IYRP was discussed and passed at the Final Business Meeting. This will appear in their minutes*.*
- *Dana Kelly talked about the IYRP in her Plenary address on Thursday afternoon.*
- *Ray Smith, Chair of IGC and Chair of the Congress talked about IYRP in his comments Tuesday after lunch encouraging folks to attend the session later that day.*
- *Numerous mentions were made of IYRP in technical presentations. Too numerous to document all.*
- *IRC/IYRP booth in the Trade Show all week – Sunday through Friday – with banners on word clouds and monthly themes and a handout on the concept of IYRP supplied by Igshaan and delivered by Andiswa Finca.*
- *Randy Jackson from University of Wisconsin Madison talked at length about the need for “elevator speeches” to get the word across to the general public.*
- *Greenacres Foundation (field trip location on Wednesday) presented ideas for “elevator speeches”.*
- *Dana Kelly had a poster in the Poster session – up all week – on IYRP.*

* To see the minutes of the IGC business meetings, go to: <https://www.internationalgrasslands.org/about/> and scroll down to minutes.