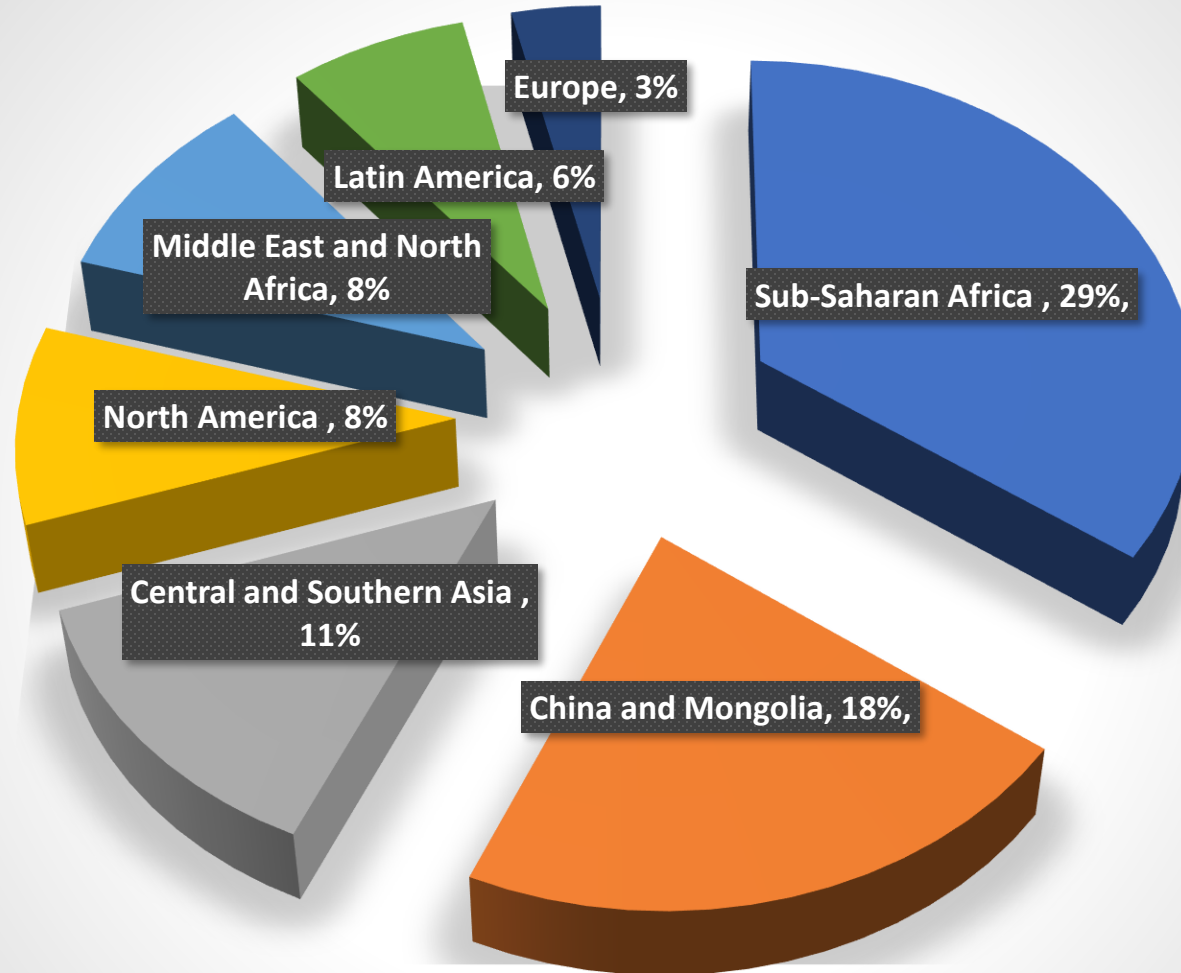


# Thoughts on 62 Papers from Pastoralism/Rangelands Subthemes 6 & 7

**D. Layne Coppock**

**Professor Emeritus, Utah State University  
Joint IGC/IRC Kenya Virtual Congress 2021**

# Papers are Regionally Unbalanced



# Other Breakdowns

- 16% of papers offer global perspectives
- Most developed nations very under-represented
- Even attention to temperate, tropical, and subtropical systems

# Research Approaches

- 73% of papers based on mixed methods (social and environmental sciences)
- 25% of papers based on social science only
- 2% of papers based on environmental science only

# Social Science Questions and Methods Dominate Overall

- Livelihoods, policy constraints, gender, co-production of knowledge, effective governance, valuation of ecosystem services, political transitions, creation of human and social capital...
- Surveys, interviews, focus groups, participatory engagement, action research, land use planning, role playing among stakeholders...

# SES Approaches Diverse

- No unifying SES (social-ecological system) method
- Implementation of SES standardized (participatory observatories) or more often, idiosyncratic
- More innovative SES in developing nations
- Some SES using computer models (7% of papers)

# SES Driven by Problem-Solving

- Improve resource management or livelihoods
- Reliance on stakeholder input
- Major departure from traditional IRC projects
- Now participation is the norm, not the exception

# Policy is Important in 61% of Papers

- While policy is a common backdrop, “hard” policy analysis is rare
- Widespread concern that policy makers do not understand or value pastoralism and rangelands



# Papers in Support of the IYRP 2026

- Objective to emphasize global action to raise awareness and identify knowledge gaps for pastoral systems

# Implications and Way Forward (1)

- Rangeland systems in the developed world (i.e., Europe, USA, Canada, Australia) matter greatly, so why are paper contributions to the IRC so limited? Can this be fixed?
- SES approaches are now the norm, but with little standardization. Should we aspire to standardize?
- Inclusion of economic analysis in SES remains rare. Why?

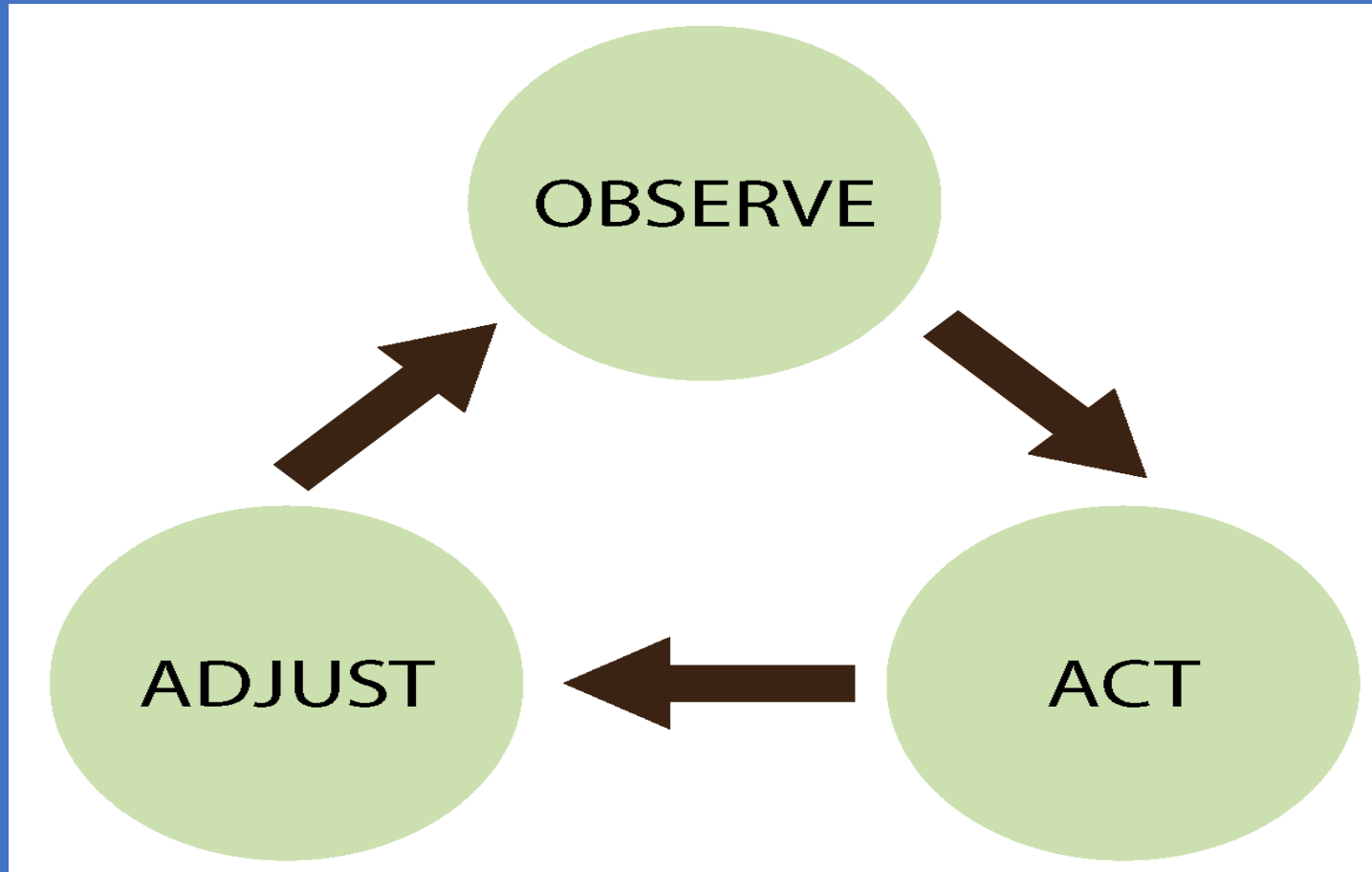
## Implications and Way Forward (2)

- Work in the developing world appears to be more innovative with regards to SES, while work in the developed world seems more traditional. Why?
- We have noted for many years that policy makers don't understand pastoralism or rangelands. How can we overcome this challenge?
- What should be the next steps for the IYRP as we plan for the next symposium at SRM in Albuquerque (February)?

# Future Priorities?

- Development of generic, transferable computer models to value ecosystem services at large spatial and temporal scales; addresses the need to overcome the “marginalization narrative” (Briske, this Congress)
- Move forward into a “new frontier” of using action research to engage with policy makers as the human research subjects. Who are they, what do they do, what do they need, how can they be influenced?... actionable interventions must replace our ineffective monologue

# The Action Research Process (Whyte, 1989)



Thank You IRC Delegates, and  
Asante Sana Kenya!