Minutes of the RISG\_SA Meeting on 23rd Feb., 2021

Theme of the Meet: 'How to lobby with respective governments' and status update

Vivekanadan welcomed the participants, explained the developments to IYRP process till date, showed one video of the event arranged for IYRP [ ‘*Gaurav Yatra*’] – a walk of pride by pastoralists (‘*maldhari*’ community) on 9-12 January, 2021 in western Banni area in Gujarat state. He also expressed the need for holding such events in other states and in all the different regions in South Asia.

Sadana showed the letters received from Mongolia and emphasized the necessity of lobbying at government level so that the proposal is accepted by all our countries. With own example, he showed how the received letter is normally filed and awaits attention; ‘we have noted that lobbying can speed up action on it’. He exhorted that each of our country groups can prompt other NGOs, organizations in their respective countries to reach the government, use the documents like Global Flyer and convince on the importance of R&P, and help make a reply to the Mongolian proposal.

Rashmi Singh expressed that the Communication team had approached colleagues and others interested or working on R&P for volunteering to collect case studies, local events, documents, videos and to contribute in different manner to the cause. She got one logo and a letterhead designed for the RISG\_SA. She also appealed others to come forward, volunteer and take up the tasks that need be accomplished.

Dr Arjava Sharma, former Director expressed the need for lobbying both at policy level and also from grassroots level and suggested that we could approach SAARC, ASEAN and others to support. Moreover, ‘nomination of nodal officer for each country will give desired results’.

Dr Kamal Kishore expressed that we should reach many other organizations in the country who are engaged in grassland and pastoral activities as a joint approach is necessary to pursuade for our targets. ‘Already we are reaching other NGOs and groups and seeking their support’.

Sumer Singh from Jaisalmer lamented how the large scale solar plants in their regions in Rajasthan state are covering the grazing lands that would seriously affect grazing and movement of animals and inturn affect the livelihoods of the pastoralists.

M Rohim expressed that Bangladesh also has large rangelands and they would take up the issue with their Govt.

Ayushi Malhotra and Mahesh expressed their desire to participate more actively in this crusade.

Vivekanandan told that some of our member countries have expressed that the letter of acceptance from India will only help them convince their own country officials. At the end, Sadana expressed the need to strengthen RISG\_SA group, expressed gratitude to International Support Group and thanked all the members for active participation.

List of Participants

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| Sr | Name |
| 1 | Rashmi Singh |
| 2 | P Vivekanandan |
| 3 | Dr Arjava Sharma |
| 4 | Dr Kamal Kishore |
| 5 | Shah I Mobin Jinnah |
| 6 | Dr Nitya Ghotge |
| 7 | Ayushi Malhotra |
| 8 | Sumer Singh |
| 9 | Mahesh |
| 10 | MA Rohim |
| 11 | D K Sadana |
| 12 | Dada Dadas |

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