

**Call for Participants:**  
**A Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women**  
**May 26-29, 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Hosted by: ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development)**

**Organized by: ICIMOD and IYPR Pastoralism & Gender Working Group**

**Application deadline: February 15, 2026 (see application link below)**

**Introduction:**

*Greetings!*

We are pleased to invite pastoralist women from across the world to participate in the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women 2026 – a meeting to celebrate and strengthen the voices of women pastoralists from around the world. This event brings together women pastoralists, livestock farmers and shepherds whose work connects deeply with land, animals, and community. Your voice and experiences are important, regardless of whether you have traveled before; you are welcome to participate..

**Meeting Objectives (for more details see [Link to: Concept Note](#)):**

1. **Build a global network of pastoralist women**, to support ongoing knowledge sharing, mutual support and advocacy, and to ensure women’s voices are represented in decision-making at local, regional and global scales.
2. **Shape global agendas** for rangeland and pastoralist policy, practice, and that reflect pastoralist women’s priorities.
3. **Amplify pastoralist women’s voices** by developing a strategy to deliver this agenda in global venues such as the UNCCD COP 17 and others.
4. **Share and learn** knowledge, skills and connections that will advance gender equality, sustainable pastoralism, and resilient rangelands.

**Who This Gathering is For:**

We welcome all who self-identify as a pastoralist woman and are interested in contributing to this important dialogue. We are seeking participants who are passionate about topics such as pastoralist women’s rights, economic autonomy and development, violence prevention, traditional knowledge and innovations, education and well-being, rangeland restoration, and climate justice, among others.

We invite pastoralist women of all ages, from all countries, and from diverse pastoralist systems, including women who are part of Indigenous or traditional communities, and women who communicate primarily through oral traditions.

If you need support completing the application or with travel arrangements, please feel free to reach out. Below you will find our principles of participation and participant criteria to guide your application, please refer to these criteria when submitting an application:

### **Our Principles of Participation:**

- **Inclusion:** We encourage applications from women pastoralists of all ages and from all countries, including those from Indigenous and traditional communities, especially those with limited access to previous opportunities.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** We honor the traditions and leadership structures of each community while promoting women's voices.
- **Community Legitimacy:** Participants should be recognized and trusted by their communities.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Participants commit to sharing what they learn at the Gathering with their communities afterward.

### **Nominations:**

We accept nominations of potential **pastoralist women** participants from the following:

1. Pastoralist women's organizations or networks, including regional gatherings of pastoralist women
2. Pastoralist communities or organizations that support pastoralist women
3. Organizations that have agreed to sponsor the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women
4. Pastoralist women may nominate themselves

In all cases, the potential participants should submit individual applications, indicating how they meet the following criteria. Nominating or sponsoring organizations may assist applicants to complete and submit their application.

### **Participant Criteria:**

#### 1. Identity and Pastoral Experience

- You must be a practicing woman pastoralist, actively engaged in grazing-based livestock rearing.
- We welcome women from nomadic, transhumant, semi-nomadic and other extensive pastoral systems.

#### 2. Community Representation and Reciprocity

- Ideally, you should be nominated by your community or a pastoralist women's group.
- You are open to represent community ideas, and willing to share your experiences and engage in collaborative discussions.

- You commit to share learning and outcomes with your community when you return home.

### 3. Advocacy and Indigenous Movements

- Experience in Indigenous peoples' movements or pastoralist advocacy is valued, but not required.
- Even if you have not been involved in formal advocacy, your voice is important.

### 4. Communication and Language

- You must be able to speak an official language of the Gathering (English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Hindi, Nepali) or attend with a translator as part of your delegation
- We encourage openness to learning and sharing across languages and cultures.

### 5. Travel Logistics

- You should already have, or be able to obtain, travel documents (such as a passport)
- Sponsoring organizations are encouraged to assist with visas, local transport, and costs. Please contact the organization or person who invited you to apply.

### 6. Inclusion and Diversity

- Participants without travel experience are encouraged to travel with a delegation from their region, including a translator. The organizers will help connect you with others travelling from your country or region.
- We especially encourage applications from:
  - Women from Indigenous, and minority pastoralist communities.
  - Young and elder women.

#### **How to Participate:**

If you are interested in participating, please fill out the application form [[link to a application form](#)] or email a copy of your application to [[email address](#)] no later than February 15, 2026.

#### **Anticipated Costs:**

A fee of US\$1400 per participant covers all participant costs within Nepal including lodging, meals, transportation, and all meeting expenses and materials.

In addition, participants will need to cover their travel costs to and from Kathmandu, Nepal.

#### **Funding Options and Opportunities:**

1. Several partner organizations have agreed to sponsor participants from their organizations, regions or projects. If you are nominated by one of these organizations,

please indicate this in your application. We will also work to match participants with available sponsors.

2. We may have a limited number of scholarships available to cover the meeting fee (\$1400), and potentially some travel costs. Please indicate in your application if you wish to apply for a scholarship. SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE LIMITED AND WE CANNOT ASSURE FUNDING FOR ANY APPLICANT.
3. Participants may fund themselves.

#### **Submission Requirements:**

- A personal statement that includes your background, pastoralist experience and community involvement, and that explains why you wish to attend, what you hope to contribute, and how participation will benefit you and your community (500-1000 words). Be sure to address other relevant participant criteria outlined above. If written responses aren't feasible, you may submit a short video (<3 minutes) that includes the same information.
- A brief letter of support from your community (such as local government or traditional leader), or an organization, network, or project you have participated in.
- Statement of funding needs.

#### **Application Evaluation:**

A selection committee that includes pastoralist women will evaluate applications based on each applicant's potential contributions to and benefits from the gathering as well as other criteria listed above. The selection committee will also consider representation from pastoralist regions around the world.

#### **Key Dates and Logistics Information:**

- **Application Deadline:** February 15, 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** March 8, 2026
- **Registration (and payment by sponsor):** March 22, 2026
- **Official Letters of Invitation Sent:** As soon as registration and payment are received
- **Travel arrangements (i.e. airline ticket purchase) should be completed no later than:** April 17, 2026 [Note, participants must arrive in Kathmandu by May 25, 2026]
- **Meeting Dates:** May 26-29, 2026 (arrival no later than May 25, departure on May 30)
- **Location:** International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **Lodging and Meals:** Lodging and meals are included in the gathering fee. All participants will stay in the same hotel in Kathmandu and reservations will be made by ICIMOD.

ICIMOD will provide transportation to and from the hotel to the ICIMOD campus each day.

**DRAFT APPLICATION FORM (TO BE ON-LINE GOOGLE FORM OR PAPER EQUIVALENT)**

First Name (Given Name):

Last Name (Family Name):

Country:

State/Province:

Community/District/Town:

Year you were born (e.g. 1975):

Languages: (please list all of the languages that you can speak and understand)

Email (if possible):

Phone number (required):

NOTE: Please complete the following sections in one of the official meeting languages (English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Hindi, Nepali). Use of one of these languages is preferred. If necessary, you may complete in a different language and we will seek appropriate translation.

1. **Personal statement.** In your personal statement, please 1) tell us about your background, pastoralist experience, and community involvement, and 2) explain why you want to attend the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, what you can contribute and how participation will benefit you and your community. Be sure to address any relevant participant criteria outlined in the Call for Participation (500-1000 words or 3 min video).
2. **Letter of support.** Please attach/upload a brief letter of support from your community (such as local government or traditional leader), or an organization, network, or project you have participated in. The letter should address your ability to represent your community's priorities and concerns and to share your learning with community members when you return.
3. **Funding needs.** Please let us know more about how you expect to cover the costs of attendance. (check the box that best applies) Funding needs will not be considered in reviewing applications.

A sponsor has agreed to support my participation

My organization will support my participation

I can cover all my own costs

I can cover my travel to Kathmandu, but not the \$1400 fee

I can cover the \$1400 fee but not my travel to Kathmandu

I do not have a sponsor and will need a scholarship to cover all of my costs