

PASTORALIST COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Lived Experiences and Ways of Life

A Call for Community Stories from Pastoralists Across Asia

The International Land Coalition (ILC) Asia, Central Asia Pastoralist Alliance (CAPA), Ecosystem Restoration Platform (ERP), Land Rights Now!, Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), National Land Coalition (NLC) India, Rainfed Livestock Network (RLN), and South Asia Pastoralist Alliance (SAPA) are pleased to invite you to the Pastoralist Community Conference, 2026, dedicated to the International Year for Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP), 2026. The conference is part of the Mobility Matters (<https://mobilitymatters2026.org/>) and the Promise of Commons (<https://promiseofcommons.in/>) initiatives.



Who is this Conference for?

Any pastoralist community member from any Asian country who would like to share their story. The community members can be part of a community-based organisations as well, like a breeder's association.

Facilitating Stories

CSOs and other organisations working at the grassroots level can help pastoralists submit stories and present during the conference by acting as “facilitators”, helping in translations, logistics, and writing support.

However, the story has to be of the community and presented by the community from their perspective. Projects undertaken by CSOs cannot be submitted as stories.

Why this Conference?

Across Asia, pastoralist communities have for centuries sustainably managed vast rangelands, mountains, and semi-arid landscapes — stewarding biodiversity, maintaining food systems, and preserving rich cultural heritages. Their stewardship also contributes to the restoration of degraded rangelands, strengthens ecosystem resilience, and sustains essential ecosystem services for future generations.

Today, climate change, land grabbing, green enclosures, legal exclusion, and the erosion of customary governance systems (to name a few) increasingly threaten Pastoralists' lives, livelihoods, and fundamental rights over land, territory, and natural resources.

Pastoralists are key actors in community-led ecosystem restoration and Nature-based Solutions across diverse landscapes. Their stories of innovation, resistance, and stewardship are under-documented and often struggle to find space in formal government processes and policymaking. This conference aims to provide a space to pastoralist community members from Asia to share their experiences, knowledge, struggles, and needs, and encourage cross-learning by interacting with other pastoralists who connect online.



The Themes for Submission

In this context, the following are the themes under which pastoral community members can submit their stories:



1 Pastoral Culture, Knowledge and Customary Governance Systems, for Rangelands and Livestock

- Traditional restoration practices that regenerate degraded rangelands, maintain ecosystem health and livestock breeds
- Knowledge systems that manage livestock breeding, nutrition and healthcare
- Knowledge systems that govern sustainable grazing practices.
- How culture celebrates and sustains pastoral systems and rangelands

2 Livestock Contribution in Food Systems and Markets

- Efforts or initiatives related to livestock and agri-product value chains
- Fair trade, branding and accessing markets for pastoralist products

3 Women's Land Rights & Youth Leadership

- Cases or examples of leadership by women and youth in rangeland management and pastoralism

4 Initiatives and Struggles of Pastoralist communities for resource access and mobility

- Experiences, struggles and challenges faced by pastoralists in accessing and managing rangelands and indigenous livestock in a mobile system.
- Adaptations in response to challenges such as encroachment, grabbing, acquisition of pastoral lands for various infrastructure development activities, biodiversity conservation, green energy transition etc.
- Grassroots-level initiatives by pastoralists to secure access to land and natural resources (success stories).

Selected stories will have space for the presentation during the Pastoralist Community Conference being organized on 10 and 11 September 2026 and all the stories will be included in a community story compendium.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

- Please submit a 500-700 (max) word abstract about the story, along with five to six high-resolution photographs related to the story and one photograph of the community presenter.
- The abstract should cover the story succinctly, conveying all important aspects of the story, such as the challenges, struggles, or gaps experienced; how they were addressed by the community; outcomes (positive or negative); the process of carrying out the work; and collective action. If possible, quotes can be added.
- Participants are free to submit stories in more than one theme. Different pastoralists from the same landscapes may submit abstracts if their stories differ.
- The abstracts can be submitted in the national or common language(s) of the country, but English is preferable.
- By submitting the abstract, participants agree that organizers and its media partners may use, share, reproduce, and adapt their work in any media for educational, promotional, or other standard purposes. Credits will be given accordingly, and participants can request a digital or print copy of any publication featuring their work.

The abstracts and photographs, along with consent and other story details, need to be submitted in the [online form](#).

The deadline for abstract submission is **15th August 2026**. The selected community members will be informed by **24th August 2026**.

Non-community members or organizations facilitating abstract submission should ensure that they do so with the community member's consent and inputs.

Entries that do not incorporate these cannot be considered.

For any help or further information, please contact:

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