CARPATHIAN CONVENTION
Wednesday 21 February 2024 – Videoconference

IYRP International year of Rangeland and Pastoralism

Declaration of Transhumance UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

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- Focal Point Spain Nomination Transhumance UNESCO ICH
- Facilitator of the ERASMUS + “Eco-TransH” project
- Secretary of the Transhumances and Transitions UNESCO Club

Foto Katy Gomez
2026 IYRP
International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

- 2019 - Mongolian Government submits proposal to FAO
- 2022 - UN Declaration of the International Year of Grasslands and Pastoralists
Why an IYRP?

- To increase worldwide understanding of importance of rangelands & pastoralists for food security, economy, environment & cultural heritage

- To help fill knowledge gaps about rangelands & pastoralists through participatory research & communication

- To promote informed, science-based policy & legislation for current & future generations

- To mobilise people worldwide to grasp new opportunities in rangelands & pastoralism
Regional IYRP Support Groups (RISGs)

Multistakeholder RISGs to generate partnership:

▪ to expand network of supporting organisations and governments in the 11 regions of the world
▪ to work with Government of Mongolia and IYRP International Support Group to plan and implement IYRP activities in these regions
▪ Central role for pastoralist organisations in the RISGs & their activities
Activities up to & during IYRP 2026 on various themes

Joint research & publishing
Policy briefs / statements
Pastoralist gatherings
Social media campaigns
Films / Photo exhibits
Pastoralist innovation fairs
Side events
Conferences / Webinars ... etc
Signature of a MoC between IYRP and the Carpathian Convention during the COP 7 in Belgrade- Serbia 12-10-2023
Transhumance,
a traditional practice,
in serious danger of disappearing,
therefore the need for its
Declaration as
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage
The Nomination of Transhumance as UNESCO ICH

- History of the Nomination
- How does Nomination help pastoralists
- How is the process of Nomination

- How to give Visibility to Transhumance
- Safeguard Plan
Steps taken to include Transhumance in the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites

1st Recognition
Austria - Greece - Italy
“Transhumance: the seasonal droving of livestock along migratory routes in the Mediterranean and in the Alps”
Recognised as a UNESCO ICH
Bogotà - 12th December 2019

The multinational nomination file of Transhumance as International ICH
was submitted to UNESCO by ten European countries

2nd Recognition
Albania, Andorra, Austria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, and Spain
Transhumance, the seasonal droving of livestock declared UNESCO ICH

IYRP
“International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralism”

3rd Recognition?

2008-2017 2019 2020 Mars 2022 5 déc 2023 2026

Decision to submit a joint application: France and Spain, both co-leaders
Many requests from other countries for second wave

Collective work by all countries
Recognition of the practice as ICH (Intangible Cultural Heritage) at national level for each country

Drawing up of the an International Safeguard Plan, and its management
Exhibition of the Transhumance film of the nomination file in English (¿and other languages?)
Carte des pays inscrits au Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel de l’UNESCO pour la reconnaissance de la pratique de la transhumance

1ère vague : 2019
2ème vague : 2020
Europe

Sources : Rép et Schmunk (UPSEF MP, 2003)
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Impact of inscription for communities and States?

The inscription of the element Transhumance has helped to

- bring **visibility**: the pastoral community become part of wider societal debates.

- to broaden the **understanding of Immaterial Cultural Heritage** in a rural context

- enhance the **regional and global cooperation**, given the important role of the ICH in sustainable development

- **promote dialogue among different communities** regarding the agropastoral life, such as landscape, crafts, food, traditional assignment of grazing areas, history and culture

- **popularize the concept** at all level, specially
  - **government level**, (who have to take responsibility and put resources for its safeguarding plan)
  - **consumer on products quality** and its importance at environmental level

Spain 1930
Challenges of Transhumants in some countries of Europe

No longer being able to use pastoral routes, their ancestors have used for centuries (South Italy)
The Colantuono Family has to do the first 38 km of their traditional transhumance (285 km long) only on asphalt.
While the ecological changes they’re facing may be hard to reverse, man-made borders or other constraints can be adjusted.

While known problems for mobile herding world wide

Rights on access land and rangelands

Access to clean water

Arctic Europe Sami and the mining

Generation renewal

While the ecological changes they’re facing may be hard to reverse, man-made borders or other constraints can be adjusted.

Eastern Africa, pastoralists directly involved in violent conflicts

World Recognition of Transhumance and Nomadism, and collaboration between countries for common safeguard measures is urgent
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What we need at National Level:

1) Be a Country that has signed the UNESCO ICH Convention 2003

2) Have both the Ministry of Culture, and the Bearing Communities willing to work together, and create a Common National Steering Committee responsible for

3) Nomination of Transhumance National Intangible Heritage (required time: more or less one year)
(a) to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage;

(b) to ensure respect for the intangible cultural heritage of the communities, groups and individuals concerned;

(c) to raise awareness at the local, national and international levels of the importance of the intangible cultural heritage, and of ensuring mutual appreciation thereof;

(d) to provide for international cooperation and assistance

Signed by 173 State parties, except (august 2021): Australia, Canada, Guyana, Holy See, Israel, Liberia, Liebia Lichtenstein, New Zealand, Niue, Russian Federation, San Marino, Sierra Leone, South Africa, UK, USA
What do we need at International Level

- **Selection of countries** who will participate (Commitment, Motivation, National Nomination), with a **team leading country**

- Select **2 National focal points** per country for the International Steering Committee
  - 1 Focal Point representing the Ministry of Culture
  - 1 Focal Point representing the Bearers Community

- **Regular meetings** of the International Steering Committee to work together on the Nomination File

- Preparation of a **common film**, required as part of the nomination dossier

- Required time **minimum 2-3 years**, (depending on the number of participating countries, and the capability of the International Steering Committee to collaborate)
Intangible Cultural Heritage of Transhumance

- Handycrafts linked to transhumance (skills leather, wood, metal..... knives, bells, chairs, necklaces, instruments for cheese making, sticks...).
- Traditional festivals
- Markets and bartering
- Local terminology
- Toponymy
- Gastronomy

Shepherd's stick - Greece

Cow of Vosges-France

Shepherd market in Spain

Organization of Transhumance

- Shepherds hierarchy: (Mayoral, rabadán, zagal)
- Dates of departure and return
- Identification and marking of the animals
- Ritual of setting the animal bells
- Dogs (protection and guarding)
- The leading animals “mansos” and “cabestros” used to lead the flock
- Horses/donkeys for transport
Tangible Cultural Heritage of Transhumance

All the architecture related to the Transhumance

- Droves
- Water points
- Old and modern signposting
- Chapels
- Monasteries
- Huts along the way
- Mountain shelters
- Megalithic constructions

Menhir da Meada - Portugal
7,5 m
Highest of Iberian Peninsula

Stopover chapel for Transhumants, San Marco in Lamis - Gargano - Italy

Attilia Saepinum - Roman city, where the transhumance still occurs – Molise - Italia

Porta Boviarum – Attilia Saepinum- Molise - Italia

Signposting Cañada Real in Madrid - Spain

Shepherds' Hut Abruzzo-Italy
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Spain: Since 1994 a sheep and goats flocks walk again on the “Cañada Real” of Madrid

1800 sheep and 200 goats, more than 500,000 people

Raising awareness of the importance of Transhumance

Cantabrian herders, in their regional costume, with their local Tudanca breed cattle

Trashumance passing through the very centre of Madrid 2019

September 2007 the 1st World Meeting of Nomadic and Transhumant Shepherds (Segovia-Spain)

Representatives of WAMIP (World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples) from all over the world came to Madrid- SPAIN, in occasion of the COP 8 "Convention Against Desertification"
For the first time a sheep flock transhuming on the Champs Élyséees

In the fair Meeting of the International Steering Committee for Nomination of Transhumance UNESCO ICH

Paris March 2022, on the occasion of the International Agriculture Fair

Great mediatic impact
The Nomination of Transhumance as UNESCO ICH

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The nomination is not a goal, it’s a beginning

All the work carried out, including:
• research,
• strengthening of networks,
• creation of synergies,
• involvement of communities and institutions

Represents a valuable capital for future that transcends nomination and inscription: The Safeguard Plan, to promote concrete, effective and lasting commitments and actions.
National and International Safeguard Plan for Transhumance

- **Documentation:**
  - Scientific research on social and cultural functions of Transhumance
  - Documenting and mapping the routes of transhumant pastoralists

- **Transmission:**
  - *Educational projects*, school children participating in transhumance, women safeguard skills about wool, .......
  - *Festivities*
  - Implementation of awareness-raising and information activities

- **Promotion:**
  - Supporting the continuity of local events and processes
  - Creating a network of Transhumance museums
  - Temporary and/or itinerant exhibitions
  - International day of Transhumance

- **International Partnership:**
  - International collaborations for exchanging good practices
  - Coordination meeting of the communities (FAO PKH and IYRP)
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