

CONCEPT NOTE: SOUTH AMERICAN REGIONAL PASTORALISM GATHERING

Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2026 as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism¹ (IYRP-2026)** to raise awareness about the value of rangelands and sustainable grazing. The initiative also advocates for developing the adaptation and resilience of pastoralists, expanding socio-ecological knowledge of these systems, and promoting increased responsible investment from states.

Global and regional meetings are being organized worldwide to gather the demands and challenges of pastoralists. This information will later be presented in political decision-making and knowledge-sharing spaces. The **FAO** is the UN agency leading IYRP-2026².

In South America, pastoralism is the result of a millenary sociocultural process involving ancestral techniques and colonial contributions. It is estimated that **2 to 3 million people** depend directly on pastoral systems, managing over **500 million hectares** of rangelands and similar ecosystems, ranging from sea level to 5,000 meters in altitude.

The objective of this regional encounter is to promote continuous action by pastoral communities, establish a regional agenda to improve rangeland governance, achieve recognition for pastoralist livelihoods, and ensure consistent representation of South America at the Global Gathering of Pastoralists in Mongolia and other global events beyond 2026³.

Objectives

General Objective: To facilitate a gathering for South American pastoralists to present their demands, challenges, and solutions regarding socio-ecological, economic, and political development to create a regional agenda.

Specific Objectives:

- **Visibility:** Highlight the contributions of pastoralism and the importance of rangelands.
- **Policy:** Generate thematic reports and policy proposals for regional governments and the global political agenda.
- **Research:** Identify knowledge gaps to develop a transdisciplinary research agenda.

¹ <https://docs.un.org/es/A/RES/76/253>

² <https://www.fao.org/rangelands-pastoralists-2026/es>

³ <https://iyrp.info/>

- Alliances: Strengthen regional pastoralist alliances and rangeland networks in South America.

Location and Date

- **City:** Cusco, Peru.
- **Venue:** Cusco Municipal Convention Center (Historical Center)⁴.
- **Dates:** July 15–19, 2026 (3 days of work and 1 field day).

Structure

The event consists of three working days at the Cusco Convention Center and a fourth day visiting the **ACEMAA** Participatory Research and Experimentation Center in Pitumarca. A separate moment for the women and youth pastoral groups will be also considered in the agenda. A "Knowledge and Experiences" Fair will allow NGOs, academia, and governments to share projects. Side events and consultations may run in parallel during the working days.

Working Sessions:

- **Youth Dialogue:** Debating challenges and solutions from the perspective of youth and their families.
- **Regional Women's Gathering:** Focused on the **International Year of Women Farmers (IYWF 2026)**⁵.
- **Pastorals' Dialogue:** Pastoralist leaders discussing current problems and solutions.
- **Support Entities:** Dialogue between OSCs, governments, and academia.
- **Parallel sessions:** Pastoral dialogues and consultations regarding specific topics, e.g Foreground paper for the IYRP, Rangeland Stewardship Council
- **Final Plenary:** Drafting the "South American Pastoralist Declaration" and the regional message for the global event in Mongolia⁶ (August 2026).

Participants

The event is organized for **100 participants (besides parallel sessions)**: 10 for the organization and 90 for delegations from 9 South American countries (10 people per country).

Delegations will include:

⁴ <https://centro-convenciones.cusco.gob.pe/>

⁵ <https://docs.un.org/es/A/RES/78/279>, <https://www.fao.org/woman-farmer-2026/es>

⁶ <https://iyrp.info/events/global-pastoralist-gathering-conference-mongolia>

- Pastoralist representatives (suggested as the majority).
- Government and public sector officials.
- Academic experts and NGOs.
- International organizations.

Selection will prioritize age and gender equity and represent various ecosystems: **Llanos, Páramos, Puna, Cerrado/Caatinga, Savanna, Chaco, Pampas, and Patagonia.**

Reference Budget (Per Person)

Item	Cost (USD)	Notes
Local Transport	\$1.80	Walking is possible; taxi is approx. \$1.80.
Accommodation	\$260.00	José Antonio Cusco Hotel (4 nights, includes breakfast).
Meals	\$64.00	Lunch and dinner at \$8.00 per meal.
Field Trip	\$30.00	Contribution to support ACEMAA transport costs.
Total	\$354.00	<i>Excludes international travel.</i>

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Coordinating Institutions include: Global Alliance for Rangelands and pastoralists GA4RP, IYRP South America, ACEMAA, PASTORAMERICAS, REDAR PERU, and the International Land Coalition ILC

