

<p>WORLD GATHERING OF NOMADIC &amp; TRANSHUMANT PASTORALISTS</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>From 8-16 September 2007</p>	<p>PRESS RELEASE</p> <hr/> <p>Tel: +34 915 192 194 or +34 921 445 480  Mobile: 630 43 80 93 Fax: +34 913 896 273  E-mail: <a href="mailto:prensa@nomadassegovia2007.org">prensa@nomadassegovia2007.org</a>  Web: <a href="http://www.pastos.org">http://www.pastos.org</a></p>
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## SPANISH PASTORALISTS MOBILIZE TO ASSERT THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF THEIR PROFESSION

The representatives of the groups of *Red Pastor*, an organisation which already covers five Spanish regions, decided on 5 July this year, in an assembly that took place in Teruel, Spain, to call a national meeting in order to make progress and establish greater unity in this sector. This will allow them to assert the social benefits of their profession. They will appeal for a “Ley del Pastoreo” (Pasture Law) at the World Gathering of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists which will take place in September in Segovia with the support of the United Nations and the Spanish Government.

Madrid, 6 July 2007. The “Red PASTOR” Assembly announced on 5 July that it would continue to focus on the decision to develop the idea of creating a national federation, made at the 1<sup>st</sup> National Pastoralists’ Conference that took place in September in Teruel. This will be done by calling a pre-meeting for the World Gathering of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists which will take place from 8 to 16 September at La Granja, Segovia.

Red PASTOR will invite local associations from around the whole country to unite, mobilize themselves and make themselves heard. In this way they can raise issues regarding the critical state of this sector, the obstacles put in place by the public administration and the need to put solutions into action and find alternatives.

Red PASTOR is an organisation that was created by an inter-territorial cooperation project using Leader + funding for rural development. Pastoralist and livestock farming associations from the eastern part of Asturias, the Montaña de Navarra (Navarre Montaña region), Sierras de Maestrazgo (Maestrazgo mountain range) and Gudal Javalambre (Teruel), Sierra de Albarracín (the Albarracín mountain range, Teruel) and Sierra Norte de Madrid (the northern mountain range of Madrid) met at its 6<sup>th</sup> Conference that took place on 4 and 5 July. Approximately one hundred people attended the assembly, all working under the slogan “What is a pastoralist today?” and they came to the conclusion that, apart from supplying high quality food produce, the new identity of pastoralists is further broadened by the cultural and environmental value of their profession. Representatives of the Association of Pastoralists and Livestock Farmers of Eastern Asturias (APGOA) affirmed that

“Pastoralists were the first ecological group that existed on Earth”.

A number of specific problems and solutions were highlighted at the assembly, for example; claiming access to public pastures, more research into the health implications of extensive cattle farming and recognising the work that pastoralists do. Each association in each region is working on the task of identifying problems and formulating alternative solutions in order to present their conclusions at the World Gathering in Segovia.

The need to mobilize and unite, look for good representation and participate in the relevant negotiations was discussed. “Everyone recognises the pastoralist figure and they think of it as a nice image, as if nothing was wrong, but if we do not react soon and take concrete measures to support the cause then this profession will become extinct” the assembly warned.

- 1) Collaborate with the UN and other international organisations in order to reach specific goals in the fight against desertification by promoting the sustainable development of the more arid areas of the planet.
- 2) Demonstrate that extensive grazing is perfectly compatible and necessary in order to achieve modern and balanced development. Within a global context, the example of Spain should be highlighted because of its “Ley de Vías Pecuarias” (Livestock Routes Law) and the heritage of its native cattle breeds; this will also help Spain to obtain the support of the European Union for its pastoralist communities.
- 3) Promote and support relations between different nomadic and transhumant communities in the world, facilitating relations between them so that they can discuss their problems openly, look for solutions and establish stable links based on cooperation and friendship.
- 4) Remove the obstacles that impede freedom movement for nomadic pastoralists on their traditional routes. Recognise the rights of way and international cooperation.
- 5) Recognise their rights to the pastures within the territory in which they live, rights to water.
- 6) Change the focus of sedentarization and exclusion policies. Support and coordination for programmes and projects which help to develop institutions and NGOs.
- 7) Strengthen its social organisation and institutions
- 8) Rights to intellectual and cultural property, ancestral knowledge, designs and music. Promote education related to this traditional knowledge.
- 9) Preservation of native breeds.
- 10) Understand the value of the environmental work and the conservation of the biological diversity of the region which is a result of the nomadic and transhumant pastoralist practices.
- 11) Create a **Nomadic Peoples Observation Centre** which reinforces and supports existing organisations and acts like a platform or permanent office.

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*The NGO Transhumancia y Naturaleza (Transhumance and Nature), with the help of RedPastor and other NGOs, is organising the “World Gathering of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists” which will take place from 8 to 16 September at La Granja de San Ildefonso (Segovia) and will bring together about 300 representatives from nomadic communities. It will be a unique opportunity for pastoralists from all over the world to exchange experiences and look for solutions. For more information please visit:*

*The following institutions have collaborated in the World Gathering of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists:*

Ministerio de Vicepresidencia del Gobierno (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister)  
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente (Department of the Environment)

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores (Department of Foreign Affairs)

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation)

CENEAM – Organismo Autónomo de Parques Naturales (Autonomous Organisation for National Parks)

Fundación Biodiversidad (Biodiversity Foundation)

*Institutions which have been involved in events related to the World Gathering of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists:*

Autonomous Community of Madrid

Ayuntamiento de Madrid (Madrid City Council)

Diputación Segovia (Segovia Regional Council)

Ayuntamiento de Segovia (Segovia City Council)

Ayuntamiento de La Granja de San Ildefonso (La Granja de San Ildefonso Town Council)

*Christensen Fund*

WATU Acción Indígena (WATU Indigenous Action)

Fundación Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente (Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente Foundation)