

THE WORLD-WIDE IMPORTANCE OF NOMADIC PASTORALISM

Almost half of the Earth's land above sea level is classified as arid, with temporary rich grazing after prolonged periods of drought. These arid regions are inhabited by 250 million mobile pastoralists who for centuries have managed to adapt their lifestyles to the natural resources that these climatic conditions provide without upsetting these areas' delicate ecological balance. They are the keepers of millenary cultures, of local breeds of livestock, of unique ecosystems and of a biological diversity of incalculable value.

GLOBAL GATHERING OF PASTORALISTS IN SPAIN LA GRANJA (SEGOVIA) 08-16.09.2007

The participation of about 300 pastoral representatives from 40 different countries will be an opportunity to exchange information and experiences and to debate different solutions to the problems faced by nomadic and transhumant herders the world over. The fact that this gathering is to be held in Spain will allow the participants to know the historical importance of the rich Iberian pastoral cultures, as well as the legislation that protects since the 13th century more than 400,000 hectares of drover roads, with a total length of 125,000 kilometers, guaranteeing the movements of mobile herds across the entire country

MAIN GOALS:

1. To guarantee the rights of the pastoralists to their traditional grazing lands, their customs, their migrations and social structure.
2. The recognition of the important role pastoralists play in preserving the planet's natural resources, food sovereignty, biological diversity and climatic change.
3. To provide the pastoralists with mobile services that are adapted to their medical, veterinary, training, schooling, commercial and social needs.
4. To guarantee the pastoralists' access to information as well as participation in governance, development, policies and projects that directly affect them.

5. The resolution of conflicts with sedentary populations via dialogue and cooperation and the easing of trade and the pastoralists' migratory movements, especially in border regions.