

# ICOMOS WORLD HERITAGE TRANSHUMANCE INITIATIVE

Defining a thematic approach towards  
sustaining transhumance cultural  
landscapes in a changing environment

## Call for poster contributions

ICOMOS



State Tourism Agency  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

# BACKGROUND



Orkhon River Valley, Mongolia / Sergio Tittarini

The ICOMOS World Heritage Transhumance Initiative is pleased to announce the opening of the call for poster contributions for the expert conference on Transhumance heritage taking place on 21-22 May 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The expert conference will be held in the framework of the ICOMOS Transhumance Initiative with the generous assistance of the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The initiative is inspired by the perceived global importance of transhumance as a complex social-ecological system integrating diverse cultural contexts, natural environments and landscapes and its wide-ranging cross-sectoral, multidisciplinary scope.

The project is implemented in 2024-2025 and **aims to develop a methodological/thematic framework for the identification of distinctive features and values of the transhumance way of life and how these are tangibly reflected in sites, places and landscapes.**



Monte Perdido, Spain / Gerard Albanell

# CONFERENCE FOCUS AND OBJECTIVES

Transhumance is the traditional practice of seasonal livestock movement between the Summer and Winter grazing areas. It also involves the migration of human communities along with their herds. Transhumance pastoralists follow ancient routes that have been used for generations. Depending on the biogeographic area, the movement involves a wide range of domesticated animals.

Over the 20th century, the transhumance lifestyle has declined in many parts of the world as a result of the changes in the local economy that favoured sedentarisation and reduction of high-quality grazing areas. The shrinking population in remote rural areas has accelerated the erosion of the built heritage related to transhumance along with its landscape elements, the disintegration of communities and the deterioration of the intangible practices associated with the traditional way of life.

Climate change has become another important threat to the continued practice of this ancient cultural tradition and economic activity in many

regions of the world. Changing environmental factors make it harder for transhumance communities to continue using traditional pastures. At the same time, the possibilities for adaptation and a range of new grazing areas are often restricted by competing land uses, such as industrial, agricultural and urban development.

Despite the challenges, transhumance still provides lifeline support and a sense of identity to many communities, including vulnerable and minority groups worldwide. **The conference intends to draw attention to the material representation of the contribution of the transhumance way of life to human exchanges, culture and biodiversity and to recognize the relevance of the transhumance way of life for present and future generations.** More specifically the conference objectives are:

- Building a comprehensive understanding of transhumance as a way of life and a sustainable eco-social system, how this lifestyle has shaped places and landscapes, what cultural interchanges have been generated by the seasonal movements of people across long distances;
- Understanding the diverse material manifestations of traditional transhumance and the potential for their better representation on the World Heritage List and possibly other international designations;
- Understanding the traditional governance systems of transhumance communities and the challenges of continuing them.

# CALL FOR POSTERS



## THEMATIC STRANDS

We invite researchers and professionals to submit posters on the completed or ongoing research related to one of the conference themes and questions below:

1

### **Identification: distinctive features, material attributes and values of the Transhumance way of life**

- What material attributes manifest these practices and relationships and how to document them?
- What parameters help understand the state of health, authenticity and integrity of transhumance heritage and their likelihood to persist over time?

2

### **Values: the historical contribution and current benefits of the Transhumance way of life**

- How has the Transhumance way of life shaped places and landscapes? What might be the recognizable tangible features of transhumance-related places?

- How has Transhumance contributed to social, economic and cultural interchanges between communities? How can sites tangibly illustrate this interchange?
- What are the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of transhumance and how do these contribute to sustainable development? How, and to what extent, can places tangibly reflect these benefits?

### 3

#### **Governance: resilience and adaptation of the Transhumance way of life**

- What are the traditional governance systems in transhumance and what are the challenges to sustain them?
- What resilience and adaptation strategies are demonstrated by Transhumance communities? What might be the limits to adaptation before the Transhumance way of life transforms into a different system?

## ENTRIES

The submissions can be individual or group submissions. Only one submission per individual or per group will be accepted. In case of group submissions, the corresponding and lead authors should be clarified.

## SELECTION PROCESS

The first round of selection will be conducted based on submitted abstracts and accompanying material. 25 abstracts will be selected as a result of the first round. The authors of the shortlisted abstracts will be requested to prepare full posters according to a set specifications.

The second round of selection will be conducted based on the quality of the submitted posters. 15 posters will be selected as a result of the second round.

# Submission material

Abstracts and posters should be prepared in English. The application documents for the first round of selection should include (a) abstracts of max. 500 words with the keywords, indicating the selected conference theme; (b) a short bio of the applicant, or, in case of a group submission, the short bios of team members, clearly stating the lead and corresponding authors; (c) key visual material (max. 5 items including images and maps if relevant).

The design specifications for preparing full posters will be communicated to shortlisted applicants during the second round of selection.

# Criteria for selection

- Alignment with one or more of the conference themes
- Breadth of contribution to the field of research or practice
- Rigour and clarity of communication
- Balanced representation of different regions of the world

# Reviewing team

The applications will be reviewed by a team of external reviewers composed of members of relevant ICOMOS scientific committees.

# FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial support for the participation in the conference for the authors of the selected posters will be communicated at a later stage.



Nomadic herders of Mongolia / Sergio Tittarini

# PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE CONFERENCE

	21 May Wednesday	22 May Thursday
08.30-09.30	Registration of participants and opening speeches	Registration of participants
09.30-10.30	Keynote	Thematic discussions in groups
10.30-11.00	Coffee	Coffee
11.00-13.00	Keynote	Thematic discussions in groups
13.00-14.30	Presentation of the poster session/lunch	Lunch
14.00-16.30	Keynotes	Group presentations and discussion
16.30-17.00	Coffee	Coffee
17.00-18.00	Panel discussion and wrap-up	Wrap up discussion



# TIMELINE




Khinalig village, Azerbaijan / Niznuri

15 December	1 February	1 March	30 March	21 May
Deadline for abstracts	Selection of abstracts	Deadline for full posters	Final selection of posters	Exhibition

## CONTACT DETAILS

The abstracts should be sent to [transhumance@icomos.org](mailto:transhumance@icomos.org) no later than 15 December 2024, 11:59PM CET.

 [transhumance@icomos.org](mailto:transhumance@icomos.org)

 [www.icomos.org](http://www.icomos.org)

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