Fifth Edition of the Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival at Tropentag 2026 (TT26)

Theme: Celebrating Pastoralist Women – Co-Creating Spaces for More Equitable Solidarities

Tuesday 15 Sept. 2026, 18:30 – 21:30 CEST
and Wednesday 16 Sept. 2026, 19:00 – 22:00 CEST
Zentralhörsaalgebäude (ZHG) / Central Lecture Hall Building,
University of Göttingen Main Campus

Description:

This year the Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival coincides with the United Nation's International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026). The grassroots initiatives that led up to the creation of the IYRP include a "Gender and Pastoralism" subgroup, which did the first round of selection of films including pastoralist women, allies and scholars from all around the world.

For the TT26, we have selected films from this collection along with new films highlighting the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women held in May 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This gathering offered an opportunity for pastoralist women to increase visibility of their contributions to extensive livestock production while networking and building international solidarities.

Photo: @Keerthana Sri, 2025 – a Rendille herder in northern Kenya.

This film festival was started in 2019 with the vision of creating a space in which films created by and with pastoralists could be shared to contribute towards building awareness about pastoralism. For the first time, we will screen a film made in 1984 by film festival co-founder Ann Waters-Bayer. She is a pioneer in participative methods and bottom-up innovation practices in agricultural research and development and has been an active ally to pastoralists for nearly a half century. Also for the first time, we will screen an in-progress film *Jireen – Sharing Land,* through which the filmmakers explain what steps they are taking to decolonise the filmmaking process together with an agropastoralist community. Despite the many decades separating the making of these films, they both share a dedication to inclusive process.

Each evening of the film festival includes films that celebrate women pastoralists. For example, Tuesday includes a film introducing pastoralist women leaders in their communities in Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Spain. There are a number of short films that were collaboratively created by women pastoralists across the world together with filmmakers and academics as part of the preparation for the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women and reflection afterwards. These films create a stage where individual pastoralist women can put forward the points that are most important to them. Country-specific networking and mutual solidarity between women pastoralists can be seen in films on both nights of the film festival, on Tuesday with the Hungarian Pastoralist Women's Group and on Wednesday with *Ganaderas en Red* from Spain.

Each evening of the film festival also includes films made by women filmmakers that demonstrate why livestock mobility is important. These films show how it can be a sustainable strategy for producing livestock in environments with variable availability of vegetation over space and time. Too often, herding, ranching and other forms of pastoralism more generally are viewed as a male endeavour. The women featured in these films flip the narrative and make their work visible.

The Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival is organised on behalf of the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) by DITSL (German Institute for Tropical & Subtropical Agriculture), Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) Belgium. The 2026 programme has been finalised by Keerthana Sri and Margareta Lelea. Moderation during the event will be done by Margareta Lelea.

https://www.pastoralistfilmfestival.com/events/tropentag-2026/

https://www.tropentag.de/conference/filmfestival.php

Programme

Tuesday, 15 September, 18:30 – 21:30 CEST
Co-sponsored by Pasturescapes

Celebrating Women Pastoralists Part I 18:30 – 19:10 CEST

Films and discussion

Behind the scenes – decolonising collaboration with pastoralist communities

Opening of the 5th Edition Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival with Echi Gabbert and Ginno Ballo, who will present content from their in-progress film about agropastoralism in Ethiopia. The initiative Jireen – Sharing land, a community-led film project, will be showed in part.

This meeting shares the ongoing journey of collaborative filmmaking and project development in the agropastoralist Arbore community in southern Ethiopia. It also explores what it means to protect community ownership.

When Ethiopian co-creators were denied Schengen visas, completing the film in Europe would have been the easiest solution but it would also have reproduced the very hierarchies the collaboration sought to overcome. Instead, the team chose to preserve shared authorship and develop new forms of co-creation, allowing creative decisions to remain with the community. We will watch some of the footage in progress.

Our experience invites broader reflection: Decolonial collaboration is about language and participation and it is also about redesigning processes when existing structures undermine equity.

Participants are invited to discuss how filmmaking and international cooperation can move beyond damage-centred approaches toward collaborations that recognise pastoralist communities as experts on land, animals, health, culture and their temporalities.

Photo: @ Paulina Guskowski, 2018 – Filmmakers Echi Gabbert and Ginno Ballo working on *Jireen – Sharing Land*

Celebrating Women Pastoralists Part II 19:20 – 21:30 CEST

Films and discussion

Films: 19:20 – 20:45 CEST

	Pastoral development and gender – 3:27 – United Kingdom – Saverio Krätli – 2023 This film highlights the vital but often overlooked role of women in pastoralist communities. Through local voices, it shows how including women in decision-making strengthens both gender equity and sustainable pastoral development. It also differentiates between a focus on women and a focus on gender, emphasising that gendered research requires a relational analysis between different women and men in an area. In relation to development, it cautions that sometimes projects focused on improving women's livelihoods might have the unintended consequence of having the activity co-opted by men.
	Transhumance: the seasonal droving of livestock – 21:20 – Albania, Andorra, Austria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, Spain – Francesca Pasetti – 2023 This film takes us on a journey across several countries in Europe, introducing people whose families have practised transhumance for generations. Following the seasonal movement of livestock between different grazing areas, they continue a way of life that makes the best use of natural resources while preserving landscapes, traditions and cultural knowledge. The film gives particular prominence to the experiences and contributions of women in transhumant communities, whose roles are essential to the continuity and transmission of this living heritage. Filmmaker Francesca Pasetti has dedicated much of her professional life to promoting and documenting transhumance. Her work includes her long-standing involvement with the Fundación Trashumancia y Naturaleza in Spain, her role as Focal Point for the Spanish Declaration of Transhumance as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, and her position as Co-Chair of the European Regional IYRP Support Group of the Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists (GA4RP), among other activities. Through the voices and experiences of transhumant pastoralists across Europe, the film highlights transhumance not simply as an agricultural practice, but as a living cultural heritage that continues to connect people, animals, landscapes and generations. It is included in a UNESCO collection dedicated to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, recognising the cultural significance and continuing vitality of transhumance.

	Living in the mountains of Ladakh, India – India – 3:05 – India – Patrick Augenstein – 2023 In this film, a nomadic woman shares her daily life in Ladakh's high mountains. She speaks about the hardships of changing rainfall, the struggle to feed her livestock, and the reasons why many young people leave for the cities—offering a poignant glimpse into a fragile way of life under pressure.
	Enchukunoto (The return) – 15:52 – Kenya – Laissa Malih – 2024 In this intimate and groundbreaking film, Laissa Malih, the first female Maasai filmmaker, returns to her ancestral village in Laikipia to explore how climate change is transforming Maasai lands and lives. What begins as a documentary about land and tradition becomes a personal journey of identity, belonging and intergenerational dialogue. Through her lens, Malih reclaims the narrative of her people, offering an insider's perspective on resilience, culture and the future of Maasai storytelling.
	Pastoralist Series 4: Sadia Ahmed – 2:08 – Somalia – VSF Belgium & CELEP – 2019 Sadia Musse Ahmed was interviewed as part of a series of films made at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) that was held in Brussels, Belgium, with representatives from Europe and Eastern Africa. Sadia represented the Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA). She explains the challenges women face, particularly emphasising exclusion from decision-making in pastoralist groups within Somalia.
	Political representation of pastoralist women, care and labour – 2:07 – Colombia – Maira Alejandra Quintero Brito & Brittany Bunce – 2026 In preparation for the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women in Kathmandu in May 2026, a number of pastoralist women from all around the world were invited to collaboratively make films about issues that are important to them. Maira, from Colombia, discusses how pastoralists are not widely recognised in her country, and the work of pastoralist women is even less known. She argues that there must be more political representation of pastoralist women, not just symbolically attending meetings, but structurally integrated in decision-making. She also explains that, because of the multiple roles that women hold as mothers and caregivers, decisions they are involved in will likely increase sustainability and community wellbeing.

	Reversing, reviving, regenerating: pastoralist women restoring rangelands in Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, and Spain – 15:56 – Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Spain – Fiona Flintan, Cristina Ghinassi & Marco Buemi – 2023 Highlights the work of three women pastoralists to lead their communities to restore rangelands, improve livelihoods and increase biodiversity. The case studies presented by these women include the Koitegan Community Forest in Kenya, the Sary-Bulak Village in the Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan, and Finca Montefrio in Cortegana, Spain. The film is made by a team from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), which is part of the global CGIAR system for agricultural research.
	Let's woman up – Darrylin Gordon, pastoralist, Lamboo Station, Kimberley – 6:42 – Australia – Gisela Kaufmann & Karsten Orlt – 2020 Darrylin is a Jaru woman who comes from a line of strong and proud Aboriginal women. Her family has been working with cattle all of her life. She remembers being with her grandfather in cattle yards from an early age and knew that this was what she wanted to do. Today Darrylin is the only woman working on Lamboo Station, owned and run by the Ngunjiwirri Aboriginal Corporation. Her vision to offer training camps to empower local Aboriginal people earned her the title of Western Australia's Rural Woman of the Year in 2018.
	Time of Hungarian women herders – 14:48 – Hungary – Nikolett Csányi – 2023 In 2023, Hungarian women herders joined together to create a group so that they could mutually support each other and offer more visibility for women in the herding profession. This film offers an intimate interview with the leader of this group, Ibolya Sáfiánné, along with historical photos from her life and footage of her working with some of her sheep and lambs. In the second half of the film, there is footage from the Herder-Scientist Gathering organised by Prof. Zsolt Molnár in May 2023, which brought together scientists from all over the world and herders from different parts of Hungary. Since this film was made, Hungarian women herders have become more involved in global networks. For more information about women herders in Hungary: https://martor.muzeultaranuluiroman.ro/archive/2024-29/

Confirmed discussion participants 20:45 – 21:30 CEST

Sadia Musse Ahmed (Somaliland): Pastoralist, MSc Anthropology, Somaliland Country Representative, Pastoral Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (PENHA)

Maira Alejandra Quintero Brito (Colombia): Pastoralist, Participant of Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, Member of Pastoramericas and Agrosavia

Brittany Bunce (South Africa/Spain): Member of IYRP Gender Working Group and Planning Committee of the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, Research Fellow at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain (ICTA-UAB)

Zsolt Molnár (Hungary): Head of Department Centre For Ecological Research – Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Budapest, Hungary

Ibolya Sáfiánné (Hungary): Professional herder, Leader of the Hungarian Women's Herder Group and author

Spanish-English translation by Richard Carrillo (California): Work experience includes Disability Rights California and Sacramento's Gender Health Center, among others. Active in many community groups.

Wednesday 16 September 2026 – 19:00 – 22:00 CEST

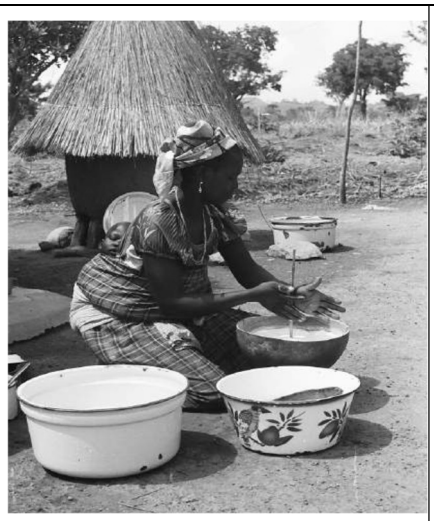
Celebrating Women Pastoralists Part III

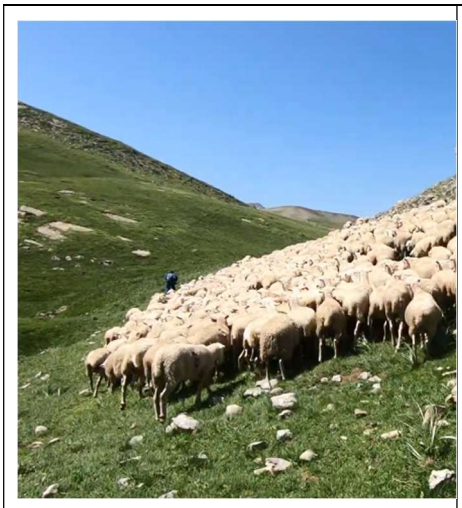
19:00 – 20:50 CEST

Films and discussion

Films 19:00 – 20:25

	For Ann – 4:21 – Africa, Asia, Germany – Lauren Svejcar & Margareta Lelea – 2026 Many from all around the world asked for a tribute to Dr. Ann Waters-Bayer, who dedicated much of the past half century to promoting bottom-up innovation, participatory methods, and the importance of pastoralists. It was her vision to create the Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival as a vehicle to raise awareness about the importance of extensive livestock production and the people who make it happen. She has also been a driving force behind getting the grassroots momentum organised to put forward the proposal for the United Nations IYRP 2026. Her kindness and integrity form a positive force for change.

	Fulani dairywoman – 19:00 – Nigeria – Ann Waters-Bayer – 1984 In 1984, film festival co-founder, Dr. Ann Waters-Bayer, made this film together with Asma'u Maikano whose livelihood and skilled dairy craft is featured in the documentary. The filming was done in Madauchi (Asma'u's home) and Zonkwa (where she sold the milk) in southern Kaduna State, Nigeria. Ann chose to do all of the editing in Nigeria rather than Germany, in a village with no electricity, so that Asma'u could carefully review what footage she did not want shown, and which scenes she most wanted to feature. "Fulani Dairywoman" has been specially digitised for the 5th edition of the Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival from the original Super8 film.
	Pastoralist women, economy, livelihoods and working conditions – 2:53 – Benin – Brittany Bunce & Djoudé Issa Demo – 2026 This film was collaboratively made as part of the lead-up to the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women together with Djoudé Issa Demo from Benin. It shows the centrality of livestock and how women pastoralists are able to use their hard work to get income and support for their families. It also addresses the difficulty of accessing markets from rural areas.
	Pasto raiz pasto semilla (Root pasture seed pasture) – 39:29 – Argentina – Mariana Quiroga Mendiola – 2023 In the Puna region of Argentina, this film shows aspects of ecological research of high-altitude grasslands and develops the importance of establishing a respectful dialogue between scientific knowledge and local traditional knowledge of Andean people. It brings pastoralists' perspectives on their life and livelihood system, shows the main issues they face in the arid high desert of the Puna region and reflects the role of mobility and traditional knowledge in pastoral systems.

	Why a Global Gathering?: hear from pastoralist women – 7:56 – global – Djoudé Issa Demo, Ainhoa López, Maria Guadalupe Molina Siller, Lászlóné Sáfián, Alena Gerasimova, Fozia Noor, Dintle Maphala, Bhavana Desai, Saodata Abubacrine & Brittany Bunce – 2026 IYRP Global Gathering: Interviews with women pastoralists and representatives of pastoralist organisations from Africa, Asia and more. Filmed before the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women in Kathmandu, Nepal, in May 2026 explaining why the gathering is important and the expectations from it. Organisers succeeded in bringing together 100 pastoralist women from 40 countries to celebrate their leadership, strengthen solidarity across regions, identify shared priorities, and amplify pastoralist women's voices in global discussions on rangelands and pastoralist futures.
	Visibility, recognition and rights of pastoralist women – 2:24 – Mongolia – Brittany Bunce & Byambagerel Baatar – 2026 Byambagerel Baatar, a pastoralist woman from Mongolia and participant in the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women in May 2026, speaks about the urgent need for visibility, recognition and rights for pastoralist women. She calls for pastoralist women's labour to be officially recognised, for land ownership and property rights to be guaranteed, for safe environments free from violence and risk, for women to be included in decision-making, for equal access to finance and technology, and for pastoralist women to be included in climate policy.

Invited discussion participants 20:25 – 20:50 CEST

Fadimatou Balla, (Cameroon): Pastoralist, Participant of Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, Member of Association pour la Promotion de l'Élevage au Sahel et en Savane.

Brittany Bunce (South Africa/Spain): Member of IYRP Gender Working Group and Planning Committee of the Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, Research Fellow at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain (ICTA-UAB)

Djoudé Issa Demo, (Benin): Pastoralist, Programme Committee and Participant of Global Gathering of Pastoral Women, Member of *RBM (Réseau Billital* Maroobé), Young Ambassadors of Pastoralism movement, West and Central Africa.

Fozia Noor, (Kenya/ Somalia): Pastoralist, Programme Committee and Participant of Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, Director of Organization for Pastoral Peace Development (OPPD) and Founder of the Somali Pastoralist Women Network

Judith Singibala, (Tanzania): Pastoralist, Participant of Global Gathering of Pastoralist Women, Founder of TUPO Foundation

French-English translation by Knud Schneider (Germany), Agronomist and cultural liaison. Over 25 years of professional experience in Africa.

Celebrating Women Pastoralists Part IV

21:00 – 22:00 CEST

Film

	Mujeres de viento, tierra y ganado (Women of wind, earth and livestock) – 55:00 – Spain – *Ganaderas en Red* – 2023 In the ten years since *Ganaderas en Red* (GeR) was founded, this Spanish coalition of women herders, pastoralists and livestock keepers have set an example about how to structure a network through which they can offer mutual support to each other. They now include over 200 women connecting across 30 different areas in Spain. The NGO Fundación Entretantos has facilitated processes for this network to flourish. The significance of GeR is captured in this film, in the words of GeR: *"This documentary reflects who we are, our love for animals and our craft. Six years after our creation, we felt the need to convey our unity and put a face to a network of women working towards a living, fair and equal rural world."*

**The Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival is seeking funds to enable the film archive to be more accessible. The broader vision is that films included in the collection and in travelling programmes based on different themes can be taken up by others worldwide who want to host screenings. If you know of funding opportunities, please contact Christian Huelsebusch, European Focal Point, Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) (huelse[at]ditsl.org) or contact a Film Festival co-director, Anthony Denayer, Veterinarians without Borders, Belgium - a.denayer(at)vsf-belgium.org.