

## Submitted Abstract

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## Abstract

Yak is an integral part of the highland ecosystems. They use rangelands that comprise 60% of land use in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region. Yak is the main source of livelihoods for the herders, who are marginalized from mainstream development. Yaks are also part of culture, tradition, and social life of the high mountain communities. The traditional transhumance systems facilitated access to good germplasm and markets that are critical for adapting to change. However, recent geopolitical development restricts transboundary migration, and limits access to resources. In this context, cross-learning, cooperation, and networks are solutions to address these challenges. Learning from the Association of World Reindeer Herders (AWRH), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is facilitating a mobilization of the HKH network for yak herders in Bhutan, Nepal, India and Pakistan that will converge into the HKH Yak Herders Network. The network shall provide platform i) to highlight historic, cultural, social and economic importance of yak, ii) to exchange knowledge and experience on yak value chains and relevant technologies and iii) to represent the voices of yak herding communities at the national and international forums. The paper describes the process and progress towards the HKH Yak herders' Network.