

Meet the UNCCD COP17 Delegation

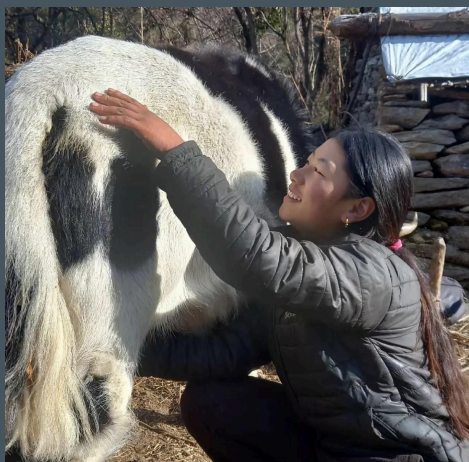


Abarchi Harouna

Organization: ASSOCIATION NODDE NOOTO (A2N); IYRP West and Central Africa

Country / region: Niger; West and Central Africa

Pastoralist leader from Niger and co-chair of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists for West and Central Africa. He brings Indigenous and pastoral community perspectives to COP17, with a focus on rangeland management, soil biodiversity, climate adaptation, land governance, and secure pastoral land tenure.



Angfurba Sherpa

Organization: Pastoralists Association; Yak Chauri Farmers Federation

Country / region: Nepal; Himalayan region

Yak and Chauri herder from Nepal's Himalayan region and Treasurer of the Yak and Chauri Farmers Federation. She represents high-mountain pastoral communities, especially women, whose livelihoods depend on alpine rangelands and who are facing climate change, land degradation, and policy barriers.



Arminda Velasco Torrez

Organization: CAOI / CONAMAQ context

Country / region: Bolivia; Andean region

Bolivian Indigenous leader and departmental legislator in La Paz. Her COP17 profile is connected to CAOI's work to bring Andean pastoralist perspectives into the UNCCD process, including the Indigenous Caucus, plenaries, contact groups, and thematic discussions on water, land, and people.

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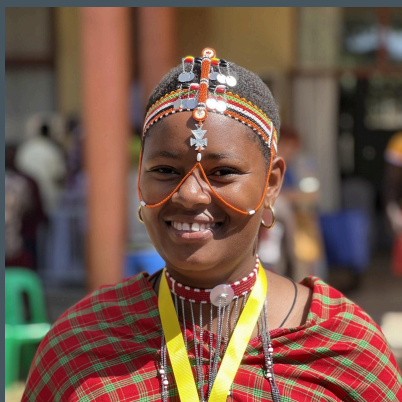


Gregoria Jimenez

Organization: CITAFRO

Country / region: Honduras; Latin America and the Caribbean

CITAFRO leader and President of ODECO, working to advance Afro-descendant territories in global environmental policy. At COP17, she will highlight the impacts of desertification and land degradation on Afro-descendant communities, and advocate for restoration, racial equity, human rights, and environmental justice.



Neema Seki

Organization: Pastoralist Women's Council; IMPACT Kenya / AFPAT accreditation context

Country / region: Tanzania; Africa

Indigenous women and youth advocate from Tanzania connected to the Pastoralist Women's Council. Her work focuses on Indigenous Peoples' rights, women's leadership, youth engagement, land rights, climate resilience, and sustainable natural resource management across national and regional spaces.



Reagan Siamito

Organization: ILEPA; MPIDO / ESIPA / CDLS network context

Country / region: Kenya; Kajiado County

Community representative and mobilizer from Indigenous pastoralist communities in Kajiado County, Kenya. He advocates for climate resilience, community-led conservation, land governance, and Indigenous knowledge systems, and supports partnerships that strengthen pastoralist community resilience.

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Rose Kudate

Organization: ILEPA

Country / region: Kenya; Narok County

Maasai leader, educator, trainer, and Board Member of ILEPA in Kenya. She represents Maasai pastoralist women affected by rangeland degradation, land fragmentation, and climate change, and brings experience in women's cooperatives, livelihood diversification, education, and economic empowerment.



Yungdrung Jhama Lama

Organization: Youth Indigenous pastoralist; ICIMOD / WWF / Asia Pastoralist Women's Gathering context

Country / region: Nepal; Himalayan region

Youth Indigenous pastoralist from Nepal's Himalayan region. She brings stories of how climate change is affecting mountain pastoral communities, including aridity, drought, desertification, and shrinking pasturelands, while linking land restoration with the preservation of Indigenous culture and resilience.



Edith Santiyan

Organization: Nalala Tree Foundation; ESIPA; Women Land Rights Initiative; PACAR

Country / region: Kenya

Indigenous Maasai leader from Kenya and Founder and Executive Director of Nalala Tree Foundation. Her work focuses on Indigenous Peoples' land rights, climate justice, ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and the leadership of Indigenous women and youth.

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Stephen Basele

Organization: Pastoralist Goals Foundation; IYRP Youth Working Group; CLAN! Network

Country / region: Kenya; northern Kenya drylands

Founder and Executive Director of Pastoralist Goals Foundation, an Indigenous-led organization working on pastoralist rights, community land governance, climate justice, culture and heritage, and youth leadership in Kenya's drylands. At COP17, he will bring northern Kenyan pastoralist youth perspectives into global rangeland discussions.

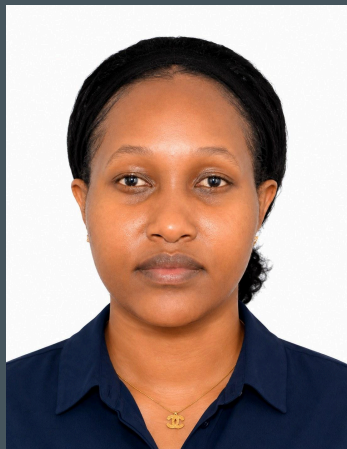


Jacob Lekaitogo

Organization: Pastoralist Youth Alliance Africa; IYRP Youth Working Group

Country / region: Kenya; Africa-wide youth networks

President of the Pastoralist Youth Alliance Africa and Global Coordinator of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists Youth Working Group. He works to strengthen pastoralist youth representation across Africa and will support COP17 discussions on youth, rangeland restoration, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and climate resilience.



Jackeline Malelo Lolkurum

Organization: Pastoralist Youth Alliance Africa; Naret CBO; IYRP Youth Working Group context

Country / region: Kenya; Samburu County context

Communications Lead for the Pastoralist Youth Alliance Africa and Co-Founder of Naret CBO in Kenya. She is also a registered doctor in Samburu County, connecting pastoralist women's health, youth leadership, land restoration, communications, and local-language sharing of COP decisions.

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Ketty Sadith Olazo Paredes

Organization: CAOI / CIAP; Asociación Andes Pasco

Country / region: Peru; Pasco / Andean region

Community member of San Francisco de Asis de Yarusyacán and president of Asociación Andes Pasco, an association of entrepreneurial women breeders of Andean camelids. She brings experience in llamas and alpacas, women's leadership, community communications, and Andean pastoral livelihoods.

Raul Milla Muñasqui

Organization: CAOI

Country / region: Peru / Andean region

Quechua Indigenous leader and a recognized community member of the Pucayacu Peasant Community, in the district of Yanacancha, province and department of Pasco. He is a breeder of South American camelids and sheep. From a very young age, he has been a member of his community's board of directors and has been repeatedly elected president of the community. He is a member of the governing council of the Andean Indigenous Council of Peru (CIAP), which is part of CAOI. He has actively contributed his traditional knowledge on pasture restoration, reforestation with native species, and water harvesting and conservation to the project "Indigenous Peoples Restoring Andean Ecosystems for Good Living," implemented in the communities of the upper Huallaga River basin.



Sonia Astuhuamán Pardavé ("Pacarina Huanca")

Organization: CAOI

Country / region: Peru / Andean region

Quechua leader of the Kuntur Wanka Nation. She is a spiritual leader of Indigenous Peoples, a healer, a weaver of collective dreams, and a voice for the communities of the Peruvian Andes on the world stage. She currently serves as Women's Advisor to the Andean Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI) and the Andean Indigenous Council of Peru (CIAP). She has created healing spaces such as the Circle of Women Healers and the Dance of the Moon, and has participated in numerous international events and conferences on the rights of Indigenous peoples, women, and biodiversity.

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Bella Cisse

Organization: Network for Inclusive Development in Sahel (NIDS)

Country / region: Mali / West Africa

Is currently working as executive Director of the Network for Inclusive Development in Sahel (NIDS), and African Regional Focal point of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC). Originally from the Fulani pastoral community of the Sahel, he has many years of experience in environmental issues and community development, particularly those related to the environment and the rights of pastoral peoples. He also works in education and development that impact Indigenous Peoples and their local communities. His advocacy work takes place at the local, national, regional, and international levels, where he translates international discussions to the local level and vice versa. He has advocated for the recognition and respect of the voices and rights of isolated Indigenous peoples. He holds numerous positions and is a member of several boards at the national, regional, and international levels.