

Request for Partner Proposals: Pathways Europe 2026 & 2028

The Pathways Team is seeking host institutions for the next two (2) Pathways Europe Conference and Training programs in 2026 and 2028. The past Pathways Europe Conferences were hosted in Germany (2018), The Netherlands (2022), and Spain (2024). [See our website](#) for more information about these conferences. These conferences have been gaining attendees each iteration, with the latest conference hosting 298 attendees in Cordoba, Spain.

Benefits to host institution and local community: Hosting the Pathways Conference is an opportunity to showcase conservation breakthroughs in your country or region and provides an excellent capacity-building opportunity to your local and regional fish and wildlife conservation and management community. With little to no travel costs, your staff and the staff of agencies and organizations in your region will be able to participate in the conference and/or training at a significantly lower cost. The conference will bring revenue to local businesses. With experts from around the world attending this conference, local host organizations are given an opportunity to draw international attention to their projects and programs. Additionally, local cohosts have the opportunity to plan pre- and post-conference programming which takes advantage of the fact that many wildlife management practitioners and researchers will already be onsite for the conference. Finally, hosting the Pathways Conference is an excellent way to build new and diverse partnerships with both funders and other organizations who share your mission.

Host Requirements: Potential host locations are reviewed based on the amount of human dimensions of fish and wildlife conservation work being done in that area, potential for HD work to contribute in future work in the area, location relative to past conferences, points of interest in the area, accessibility to major airports/travel costs, financial and logistical support capacity of the host applicant and their network, and other factors.

Governance Structure: The Pathways cohosts will mutually agree upon a governance structure, deciding **at least one year in advance** who will be responsible for venue selection and contracting, marketing efforts, fundraising efforts, training programs, plenary speakers and their subsequent travel costs, and other necessary actions determined by the Pathways Team. Budget management and financial terms will be decided on between partners in advance.

Colorado State University (CSU) will provide consultation assistance and guidance for the overall process, which may include financial management, program management (including abstract review process and program creation), registration setup, and help ensuring a successful conference.

Other details of the governance structure and division of duties will be agreed upon with hosts on a case-by-case basis. If your organization would like to host a future annual conference, please complete this RFP and send it to Emily Schmieding, Pathways Conference Coordinator (Emily.LeBlanc@ColoState.edu).

Proposal Instructions:

Please provide detailed responses to the questions below. Proposals are due **March 1, 2025**.

Section I: Host Institution Details

Proposed host organization name, address, and description (including its expertise in the human dimensions of wildlife sector): _____

Host organization web address: _____

What goals does the host organization have by hosting Pathways Europe? _____

Section II: Conference Program Content Ideas

Proposed conference theme and topics of interest: _____

Possible keynote speakers (Name, affiliation, topic(s) they could speak about):

Section III: Timing and Location Details

Where do you propose hosting the conference and what are the specific attractions or logistical advantages of this location? _____

Available dates in September-October, 2026 or 2028 (please point out if weather trends and/or travel/lodging costs are higher during this time): _____

Nearest airport(s): _____

What public transportation options are available from the airports or major transit stations to the venue? _____

Section IV: Staffing

Who would be the lead contact from your organization? Please provide name, job title, and primary email address. _____

What is your staff capacity to help prepare for and organize this conference between now and the proposed dates? _____

Do you expect compensation for staff time, and, if so, please list expectations: _____

Do you have access to volunteers or affordable onsite temporary staff to help set-up and run the conference? _____

Please list any professional networks, other than the Pathways networks, where you would promote the conference? _____

Section V: Venue Details

Please list describe the venue, noting that Pathways Europe has generally had 200-300 attendees.

Suggested Venue: Name, location, web address	Venue Size: Number of rooms and capacities	Venue Costs

Please list top three hotel recommendations below.

Suggested Hotel: Name, location, web address	Hotel Size: Capacity, lodging levels	Hotel Costs: Room rates, additional

Pathways typically provides 2 coffee breaks per day, one meal (lunch), and one social event each evening. The conference also provides a conference dinner on one night of the conference, usually at cost for participants. What would your food plan be and along with estimated costs? _____

Section VI: Budget and Funding Details

Projected participant travel costs (please provide a travel cost estimate with notes for participants traveling from the following places to your top venue choice): _____

Fundraising plan (Please provide an estimate of how much money your organization would be able to raise to help cover conference costs along with a fundraising plan):

Section VII: Extracurricular & Other Considerations

Social events (please propose any special social event ideas and/or venues that you have in mind for the conference): _____

Publications (let us know if you plan to develop any special publications in conjunction with the conference): _____

Excursions (List key nearby attractions and propose a plan for how pre- and post-conference excursions would be organized): _____

List any environmental considerations and sustainability measures:

Will this location be able to cater to disabilities and accommodations?
