

Name:	25. NOMADIC HERDERS: ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF PASTORAL ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS		
Region	Asia	Country	Mongolia and Russian Federation
Ecosystem	Mountain; Rangeland and grassland		
Nature of approach	Assessment of vulnerability; Improvement in capacity, design and policy measures (capacity building, awareness raising, promoting policy change)		
Description of approach	<p>Objective/Expected outcomes With temperature changes from climate change predicted to be among the most severe in northern latitudes, the consequences pose significant challenges to nomadic pastoralism. The project aims to assess the impacts of land use change and climate change on nomadic pastoralists and on their adaptation options and opportunities. Specifically, the project aims to improve the resilience of reindeer and yak pasture ecosystems in Russia and Mongolia in the face of climatic variability which threatens the grazing pastures. It will also aim to strengthen the sustainability of the pastoralist livelihoods; and to increase the resilience and capacity of the nomadic communities to adapt to land-use change and climate change.</p> <p>Actions During the current initial project phase, the impacts of land-use change and climate change on nomadic pastoralists are being assessed, along with the herders' adaptation options and opportunities. The project is facilitating dialogue between various stakeholders, helping to build partnerships between reindeer and yak-herding communities, and supporting and strengthening local institutions. The project is also working to increase the capacity of nomadic herders to engage in the decision-making processes concerning land use and natural resource management.</p> <p>Results achieved The Nomadic Herders initiative started in 2010. It builds on the results and experiences from the International Polar Year EALAT project on climate change adaptation in reindeer husbandry (www.ealat.org).</p> <p>To date, outputs have identified issues of concern related to biodiversity, land use, resource extraction, and climate change – all of which are representing challenges for sustainable land management and reindeer and yak husbandry in the Mongolian taiga. Options for enhancing the resilience of herder communities and taiga ecosystems in the region have been identified.</p> <p>The next phase of the project will involve the development of a GEF proposal that will focus on the opportunities for sustainable land management and reindeer and yak husbandry in northern Mongolia and southern Russia, two regions and pastoralist systems that share common challenges.</p> <p>Lessons learned (particularly highlighting the benefits and challenges related with ecosystem-based approach)</p>		
Type of organisation	UN Agency: NGO; Research	Name of organisation:	UNEP/GRID-Arendal; Association of World Reindeer Herders; UArctic EALAT Institute
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