

NOMADIC HERDERS

A LEGACY OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR (IPY) EALÁT PROJECT



Even reindeer herding in
Topolnoe Sakha
Republic (Yakutia)
© S.D. Mathiesen



A young boy from the East
Taiga, Tsaganuur, riding
reindeer © Riccardo
Pravettoni

Enhancing the resilience of reindeer herders' ecosystems and livelihoods

“Nomadic Herders” is a project of the governments of Mongolia and the Russian Federation and is supported by the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Environment Program. The project will contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation and to the mitigation of land degradation in reindeer herding areas of the Russian Far East and northern Mongolia. The resilience of reindeer herding societies and environments will be increased by conserving biological diversity and reducing pasture degradation through the coproduction and application of traditional and scientific knowledge.

The project is a partnership between the Ministries of Environment in Russia and Mongolia, regional and local administrations, and indigenous communities and associations, and was initiated by the World Reindeer Herders' Association (WRH) and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry (ICRH). This initiative is also supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Norwegian Ministry of Government Administration and Reform.

Reindeer herding, a sustainable form of land use which traditionally has helped to conserve globally-important biodiversity in these regions, is in real danger of disappearing in some taiga regions. The project deals with the challenges of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss in reindeer herding societies and works to find adaptation opportunities in taiga and tundra.

Traditional knowledge about local biodiversity has been the foundation for reindeer pastoralism in these regions. The project will document and promote this unique knowledge, and develop tools and educational strategies based on the co-production of traditional and scientific knowledge for the management of pastures that sustain the livelihoods and cultures of the reindeer herders communities. In doing so, the project will contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation and land degradation mitigation priorities identified by the Governments of both countries in the Arctic and taiga areas.

The project aims to increase the understanding of how changes in biodiversity are affecting reindeer herding societies, and to develop resilience and adaptation strategies. The project will strengthen the capacity of nomadic herders in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management, and will increase their capacity to engage with private sector and government authorities in land-use planning processes.



www.nomadicherders.org

ОХУ-ын Саха-Якут, Чукотка ба Монголын хойд хэсэг нь цаа бугын бэлчээрийн чухал газар Sakha-

Activities and Progress

The proposal for the Nomadic Herders project was approved by the GEF Council in June 2012, and was subsequently endorsed in the Arctic Council by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Working Group. The project development phase is ongoing and coordinated by UNEP/GRID-Arendal in collaboration with the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry. The start of actual implementation is expected in 2014 for a period of 4 years.

In October 2012, the Nomadic Herders project was presented to His Excellency Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, on occasion of his State visit to Norway. The UNEP report, entitled Changing Taiga: Challenges to Mongolia's Reindeer Herders, was developed in one of the project target areas, and presents recommendations from the Dukha reindeer herding families themselves to improve the sustainability of reindeer herding and the management of their pastures and homeland.



In November 2012, the project held an International Stakeholder Workshop which gathered scientists, reindeer herders and government representatives to discuss themes and activities of the project. The meetings coincided with the 380th Anniversary of the Commonwealth between Russia and Yakutia. At the dinner hosted by the President of Sakha Republic His Excellency Egor Borisov, the Secretary General of the Association of World Reindeer Herders, Johan Mathis Turi, gave a speech about the fruitful cooperation between the Republic and reindeer herders of the world.

During the celebrations, the project partners also met with His Excellency the Vice-President of Sakha Republic, Mr. Dmitry Glushko, to discuss the project work in Sakha Republic over the coming years.



Project Partners

Mongolia

Ministry of Environment and Green Development
The Taiga Nature Society

Russian Federation

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
All-Russian Research Institute for Nature Conservation
Association of Evenki People of Southern Yakutia
Association of Reindeer Husbandry Development
Information Centre for Taiga Reindeer Husbandry in Khatystyr, Sakha Yakutia.
International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, St Petersburg.
Russian Representation of the Association of World Reindeer Herders
Saint-Petersburg State University
Union of Indigenous Peoples' Obshinas of Sakha Republic (Yakutia)
University of the Arctic EALAT Institute at:
North-East Federal University
University of the Arctic EALAT Institute at:
Herzen University, St. Petersburg

International

Association of World Reindeer Herders (WRH)
International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, Norway
Norwegian School of Veterinary Science
UArctic EALÁT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry, Norway
UNEP/GRID-Arendal, Norway
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Contacts

National Coordinator, Russia

Mikhail Pogodaev, PhD
Association of Reindeer Husbandry Development, St Petersburg and
International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry, St Petersburg
Nevsky prospect, 128A, Saint-Petersburg, Russia, 121024
Tel +78123237168, +79119169780
email: pogodaevm@gmail.com

National Coordinator, Mongolia

Tsogtsaikhan Purev
The Taiga Nature Society
P.O.Box-183 Ulaanbaatar-46, Mongolia
Bayangol district 15 khoroo 29-33
Tel: 976-11-310317, 976-99075559
montaiganature@gmail.com

International Coordinators

Professor Svein Disch Mathiesen
Project Leader, Nomadic Herders
UArctic EALAT Institute, Int Centre for Reindeer Husbandry
Tel: +47 905 24116, svein.d.mathiesen@gmail.com
www.reinportal.org www.reindeerblog.org

Björn Alfthan
Project Manager, Nomadic Herders
Polar & Cryosphere Division
UNEP/GRID-Arendal
Tel: +47 907 344 32, bjorn.alfthan@grida.no



Ассоциация «Оленеводы Мира»
Association of World Reindeer Herders

