

MONGOLIA

Scope of activities

Territorial approach on pasture management
Transition of value chains
Advocacy for sustainable pastoralism

Beneficiaries

All inhabitants of the 2 sub-districts (2109 households) of target areas
2 cooperatives (180 livestock farmers)

Period

2026 - 2029

Budget

1,315,000 EUROS

Partners & associated stakeholders

Lead implementor:

- AVSF: Agronomes & Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

Co-partner:

- CIRAD: Centre for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development

Stakeholders:

- MoFALI: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Light Industry
- NAMEM: National Meteorological and Environmental Monitoring Agency
- GALAC: Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Mapping
- GGMRRRC: Green Gold – Mongolian Rangeland Research Center
- MULS: Mongolian University of Life Sciences
- MAS: Mongolian Academy of Sciences
- NAMAC: National Association of Mongolian Agricultural Cooperatives
- EBCN: Eeltei Baylag Cooperative Network
- NLS: Nomadic Legacy of the Steppes
- Aimag and soum authorities

Donor

The Project is funded by the Funds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial

Target areas

Bayantsagaan soum, Bayankhongor province
Tsetserleg soum, Arkhangai province



Project Nomads For Life

The Nomads For Life (N4L) aims to enhance the resilience and sustainability of Mongolia's pastoral livestock systems by combining a territorial, multi-stakeholder approach with value chain development. The project strengthens sustainable rangeland management, economic diversification, and national advocacy while supporting herder organizations in two pilot regions.

Context

Pastoralism is central to Mongolia's economy, contributing 83% to agricultural GDP and employing 25-30% of the population. However, the traditional mobile pastoral system is under threat due to rangeland degradation, exacerbated by climate change and resource pressure. Overgrazing, along with inadequate technical support, leads to weakened livestock health, reduced livestock production and greater impact of extreme weather events. Furthermore, youth inclusion and generational renewal in herding communities remain critical challenges.

Project Ambition

The Nomads For Life (N4L) project aims to strengthen Mongolia's pastoral livestock systems, enhancing their environmental, social, and economic sustainability. By integrating a value chain approach with a territorial, systemic, and multi-stakeholder methodology, N4L seeks to address the complex needs of the pastoral transition and improve resilience across Mongolia's pastoral landscapes.

Project Lead Implementor

Agronomes & Vétérinaires Sans Frontières is an international NGO that has worked with Mongolian herders, rural families' communities and partners since 2004.

We promote sustainable livelihoods, animal health, and climate-resilient pastoral systems, building on Mongolia's nomadic heritage to create greener, fairer rural economies. In particular, we have applied this approach to the cashmere value chain, both upstream and downstream.

Component Objectives

N4L consists of four components:

1. **Territorial Diagnosis and Consultation:** Identify local challenges and engage stakeholders (public and private) to develop and implement sustainable, resilient territorial action plans.
2. **Economic Transition Support:** Experiment with and implement key economic levers such as diversification, access to technical services, and sustainable certification primarily through livestock farmers' organizations.
3. **Advocacy:** Advocate for sustainable and resilient pastoralism at local, national, and international levels.
4. **Project Coordination and Management:** Ensure the overall coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the project, documenting key insights and outcomes.

The project will focus on two target sub-regions:

- **Bayantsagaan soum**, Bayankhongor province - An arid area of the Gobi, where AVSF works on cashmere and meat value chains.
- **Tsetserleg soum**, Arkhangai province - A forest steppe area, where AVSF collaborates with livestock farmers on *the One Health* approach and dairy sector diversification.

Expected effects

Effect 1

A multi-stakeholder territorial approach facilitates collaboration between public and private actors to improve sustainability of pastures and resilience of herders.

Effect 2

National livestock networks (e.g., NAMAC, EBCN, cooperatives) enhance their capacity to promote the economic transition, implementing projects for sustainable practices, market diversification, and the establishment of sustainable product labels.

Effect 3

Knowledge and results from pilot projects are shared and used to shape management practices, policies and regulatory frameworks at the local, national, and international levels.

Methodology

The N4L project adopts a **comprehensive, territorial, and multi-stakeholder methodology** that goes beyond value-chain support to integrate ecosystem-based analysis, community-driven rangeland restoration, and participatory planning.

In the first year, **existing pastoral techniques and technologies** will be documented using an ecosystem-services lens to inform the co-development and prioritization of **Territorial Action Plans**. Rangeland regeneration will rely on improved mobility, collective transhumance planning, and the emergence of local facilitators—ideally herders—to build trust, coordinate fallow periods, and co-design restoration solutions.

The approach is grounded in CIRAD's **participatory and iterative GASL framework**, combining ecological, climatic, zootechnical, socio-economic, and institutional assessments through participatory mapping, data collection, and shared diagnostics. This scientific effort aims to ensure long-term field research and national NGO involvement, while AVSF and CIRAD jointly coordinate analysis, community engagement, and continuous learning to guide a coherent, climate-resilient pastoral transition.

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