



Yaks in the Asian Highlands

Yak population

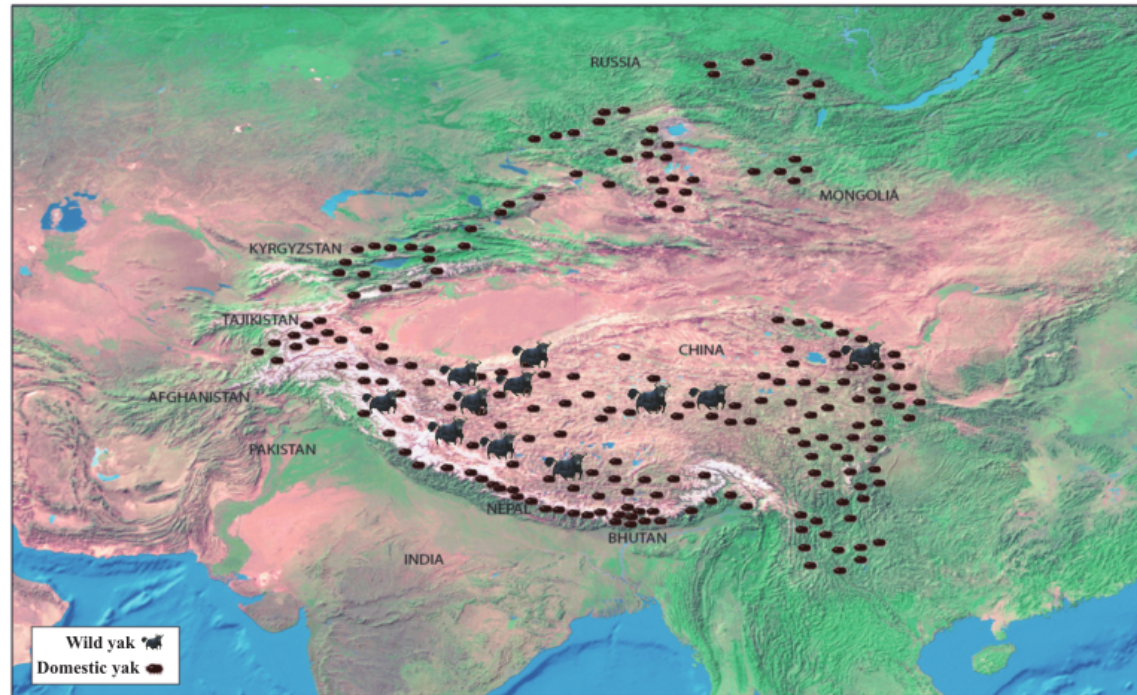
>16 million

Countries with yaks

10

Ethnic groups keeping yaks

>40



- Yak-keeping is a key part of pastoralism in the extreme highlands, providing herders with milk, meat, wool, leather, transport, fuel, a mobile bank & ecosystem services, as well as being closely tied with the social and cultural life of the highland people. Yaks contribute 20%–50% of the total income of pastoralist communities in the Asian highlands (toward SDGs 1, 2, 6, 12 & 15).
- The yak is an environmentally friendly animal with features of low-carbon (CH₄ release) and nitrogen saving compared with lowland cattle. Likely, other indigenous grazing species in the world show similar features in adaptation to harsh environments (SDG 13).