

TRANSHUMANCES

A PROJECT BY THOMAS CYTRYNOWICZ & EMILIE TRICOT



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6 MONTHS TO LIVE TO THE RHYTHM OF THE LAST GREAT NOMADIC
MIGRATIONS AND UNDERSTAND THE INTERDEPENDENCIES THAT LINK
HUMANS TO THE REST OF THE LIVING WORLD.



A genetic mutation, the DRD4-7R gene, known as the “nomad gene”, could influence our propensity for movement, our attraction to wide open spaces and our curiosity for novelty. A fascinating discovery, made in the course of recent research, which leads us to wonder: what if this gene explains our inability to feel anchored anywhere, our irrepressible need to set off again, to walk, to explore?

This personal quest is at the heart of Transhumances, a human adventure at the heart of the last great nomadic migrations. Over the course of a year, we'll share the daily lives of six nomadic communities around the world, experiencing their seasonal migrations in environments as diverse as they are dazzling: the icy steppes of Mongolia, the fertile mountains of Turkish Kurdistan, the scorching desert of Mauritania, the vast expanses of India, the peaks of the Peruvian Andes and the endless savannahs of Tanzania.

These migrations are more than mere movements: they are the expression of complex, interdependent relationships with numerous species, both animal and plant. The survival of these communities depends not only on the health of their herds and the fertility of the soil after the annual rains, but also on the solidarity between group members. These are all inter-species relationships that escape us in our sedentary lifestyles.

And yet, the collapse of biodiversity, soil erosion and pollution all reflect our degraded relationship with the living world. Urban dwellers have lost interest in the fate of other species, forgetting the interdependence that underpins their very existence. And this rupture doesn't stop there: it is also social. Our lives are becoming increasingly individualistic, disconnected from the family and community ties that anchor us. Faced with this reality, we urgently need to turn to those who have maintained a respectful and interconnected relationship with nature and their communities, and who remind us that it is possible to live differently.

As photographers and travelers for many years, we have already had the chance to rub shoulders with some of these communities, but this time we are looking to make an extraordinary adventure project a reality: total immersion in often extreme conditions. Facing blizzards or heat waves, we will walk long distances with our transhumance companions, living at the rhythm of the herd and contributing to the smooth running of the camp. In the process, we will try to learn more about the interdependencies that underpin migrations and how they ensure survival for all.

In these spaces where nature still dictates its laws, we will face up to the growing threats posed by the climate crisis and the privatization of land by the authorities. These are disrupting lifestyles, requiring even greater resilience and adaptation on the part of the nomads. As guardians of a subtle balance with their environment, they must now mobilize their knowledge and techniques more than ever.

While the adventure is above all personal, Transhumances has a universal dimension: it questions our relationship with movement, sedentariness and our place in the world. Ultimately, it raises the question: how can we rediscover a sense of connection, community and interconnection in a world where everything seems fragmented? This journey is a quest to redefine the way we live, move and cohabit with the other species that share our planet.

THE PROJECT



TRANSHUMANCES is an immersive and captivating exploration of the latest nomadic migrations around the world. Over a period of one year, we accompany six nomadic communities, living with them as they move.

This project aims to gain an in-depth understanding of an age-old way of life, shaped by a unique interdependence between humans, animals and the environment.

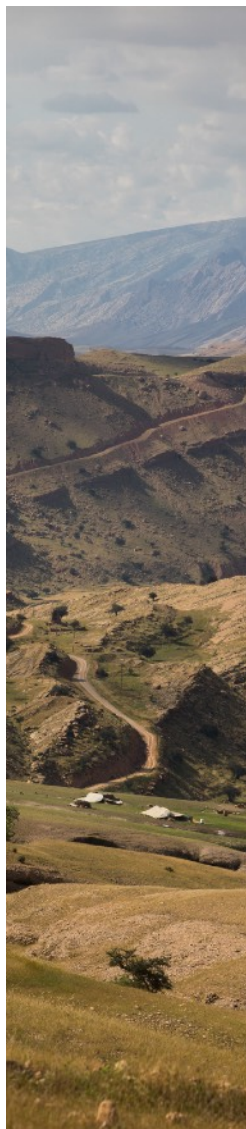
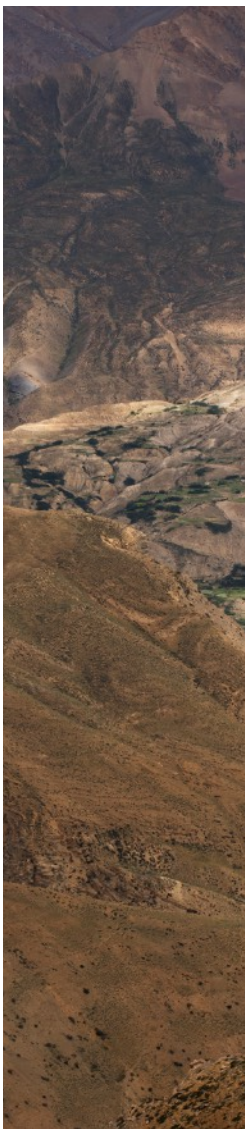
By joining their migrations, we are not simply observers. We walk alongside them for dozens of kilometers, often in extreme conditions, sharing their vital goal: to reach their destination, safe and sound, with their herds. Synchronized with the animals' footsteps, we plunge into the heart of pastoral interactions, discovering social dynamics, intergenerational relationships, and the intimate bond they maintain with nature.

By drawing inspiration from these societies, which still live in symbiosis with their ecosystems, this project aims to draw essential lessons for our times. How can we rethink our relationship with living things?

TRANSHUMANCES is a quest to learn, understand and draw inspiration from these guardians of ancient knowledge, at a time when redefining our own lifestyles is crucial for the future of our planet.

6 COUNTRIES COMMUNITIES MIGRATIONS EPISODES

TRANSHUMANCES unfolds through 6 migrations as diverse as possible, in terms of the environment in which we evolve, the cultural specificities of the communities and the challenges they face.



MIGRATION 1: BACK TO THE VILLAGE, SUMMER MIGRATION OF MAURES IN MAURITANIA

For the Moors of Mauritania, summer heralds a crucial moment: the return to the villages, where water and shade are once again resources they can count on. In this first migration, we accompany them through the gigantic valleys of the south of the country, sharing the slow pace of their journey. This journey immerses us in a daily life where the balance between man, animal and environment is a matter of survival. Unpredictable weather conditions are commonplace in this part of the Sahel. Each season can bring its own set of difficulties, not least the recent privatization of water sources.

MIGRATION 2: DEPARTURE FOR THE DRY SEASON, RAIKA IN INDIA

When the dry season sets in on the plains of Rajasthan, the Raika, camel herders, embark on a long journey in search of pasture for their herds. In this chapter, we follow their caravans across arid landscapes, discovering a rich culture where survival relies on an unshakeable bond between man and animal. The journey is a lesson in resilience and respect for a fragile ecosystem. They have to renegotiate their relationships with farmers to make their way through the ever-increasing number of cultivated fields. These agro-pastoral relationships are at the heart of the Raika's social considerations, and guarantee the proper feeding of their livestock.

MIGRATION 3: ANNUAL TRANSHUMANCE IN PERU

In the Peruvian Andes, transhumance is a ritual that links families to the cycles of the mountains. We join shepherds and their herds as they climb the steep slopes to reach high-altitude pastures. In this episode, we explore an age-old harmony between humans, their animals and the Andes, where each stage of the journey is rooted in unique spiritual and cultural practices.

MIGRATION 4: THE WINTER MIGRATION OF THE KAZAKHS IN MONGOLIA

At the height of winter, a time when the harsh climate tests every living thing, we join a nomadic Kazakh family in western Mongolia. Together, we set off on foot for over 150 kilometers, following the herd in extreme temperatures, in a nature that is both hostile and majestic. Rising before dawn to gather the herd, crossing icy and slippery rivers, battling blinding blizzards and not losing any members of the herd, are all tasks that guarantee the success of this winter migration.

MIGRATION 5: SPRING MIGRATION IN TURKISH KURDISTAN

In spring, the valleys of Turkish Kurdistan are covered in greenery, and nomadic families begin their migration to the high plateaus, where they find abundant pasture. But every year, weather forecasts become increasingly unpredictable, and departure is delayed. During this migration, we share their journey through majestic mountains, where the beauty of the landscape contrasts with the challenges of an ancestral way of life that is often threatened. We experience with them the hope and vitality of spring renewal, observing up close their traditions and incredible resilience, new births and festive moments during visits between distant members of the same clan.

MIGRATION 6: THE TURKANA SPRING MIGRATION IN TANZANIA

When the first rains of the season herald the return of abundance, the Turkana begin their spring migration. We follow their steps across the vast African plains, where the herds advance under immense skies. Through their daily gestures and their profound knowledge of natural cycles, this episode sheds light on a way of life in total symbiosis with the earth. The capricious rains of recent years and population growth in certain areas force them to travel ever greater distances.

PREPARATION & LOGISTICS

GET INFORMED PARTNER UP FINANCING EQUIPMENT

When preparing an expedition, nothing should be left to chance. Our past experiences are the basis for efficient logistics, both in terms of human and material resources.

Get informed: Our project is nourished by rich and varied reading on the subject of nomadism. Anthropological, environmental science or philosophical works, they open up perspectives that will give substance to our reflections on site.

Some of the works we've come across: Nomades, A. Sattin - Attachements, C. Stépanoff - Hooftprints on the Land, I. Köhler-Rollefson - Manières d'être vivant, B. Morizot - Une écologie décoloniale, M. Ferdinand

Making the right contacts: We are already in contact with a number of local partners, notably in Mauritania and Mongolia. We can count on them to extend our thinking and put us in touch with nomadic communities. We will be accompanied by a translator, to ensure crystal-clear communication and enable us to plunge into the heart of local life.

Some pre-established contacts: IYRP West Africa, Mongolia - VSF-B, which works with pastoral communities in the Sahel (Mauritania in particular).

Finding additional funding: We're thinking of setting up a crowdfunding campaign, in particular to promote a multimedia exhibition by mobilizing our network around our values of discovery and exchange.

Equip ourselves: Our duo already owns the audiovisual equipment needed to produce the images we want to bring back from our adventures.



THE MULTIMEDIA PROJECT

Alongside these real-life experiences, we will be bringing to life an impactful multimedia project: a documentary series and a photographic series, which will complement each other to form a coherent, interdependent whole. Each migration is an opportunity to capture powerful images and poignant stories. Much more than a simple visual journey, this content invites us to reflect on our relationship with living things.

The documentary series consists of 6 immersive episodes that plunge us into the heart of a nomadic community in the midst of migration. Each episode of Transhumances offers a double reading: on the one hand, a physical and visual journey to discover fascinating ways of life, and on the other, a profound reflection on our connection with the natural world and what we lose by moving away from it.

Far from focusing solely on the romantic or exotic aspects of nomadic life, Transhumances seeks to question the reasons that motivate these families to perpetuate this demanding way of life. Through their choices, sacrifices and resilience, the series challenges us to reconsider our own relationship with comfort, nature and time.

The photographic series deepens certain aspects of the documentary series, focusing in particular on individual stories. A young nomad who joins his elders for his first migration, the old patriarch who feels the pride of preserved traditions through his children. Through these key characters, we recount real-life experiences and the complexity of the nomadic lifestyle.

The multimedia exhibition will be our main rendering. We are counting on organizations such as Vétérinaires Sans Frontières and members of the International Year of Pastoralism (IYRP), with whom we are already in contact, to co-organize a travelling exhibition, which will showcase nomadic knowledge and experience.





SCHEDULE

**JUNE
2025
MAURITANIA**

**NOVEMBER
2025
INDIA**

**JANUARY
2026
PERU**

**FEBRUARY
2026
MONGOLIA**

**APRIL
2026
TURKEY**

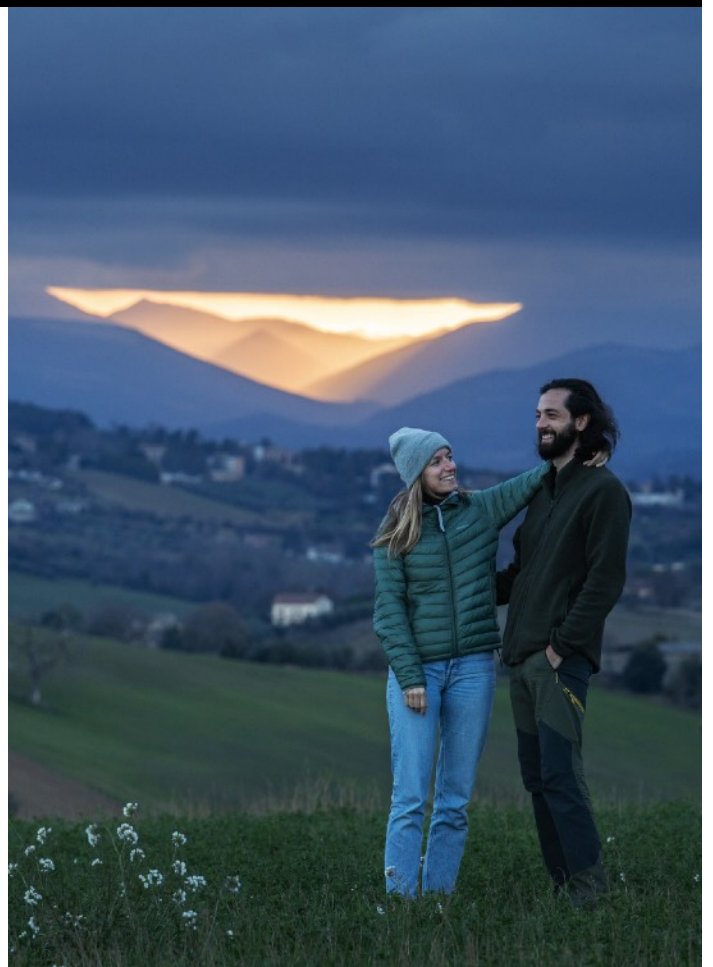
**JUNE
2026
TANZANIA**

OUR DUO

Thomas combines an academic background in humanitarian affairs and international development with a passion for photography and documentary filmmaking. For him, photography is a means of surpassing himself, both physically and humanely. It's the tool of all encounters, in the most remote and difficult-to-reach places. His discovery of the nomadic world resonated with something deeply rooted in him, and he's looking forward to exploring it through this project.

Emilie is a nimble producer, juggling meticulous planning and flawless execution for every project she undertakes. Her experience in film and documentary production has nurtured her curiosity for the human being in all its complexity, and today leads her to the intimate exploration of a way of life that fascinates her.

Together, we form a dynamic duo, united by our commitment to harnessing the power of storytelling to inspire others while living powerful personal experiences. We aim to create powerful documentary stories, in both film and photography, about the interdependence between communities and their environment.



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