

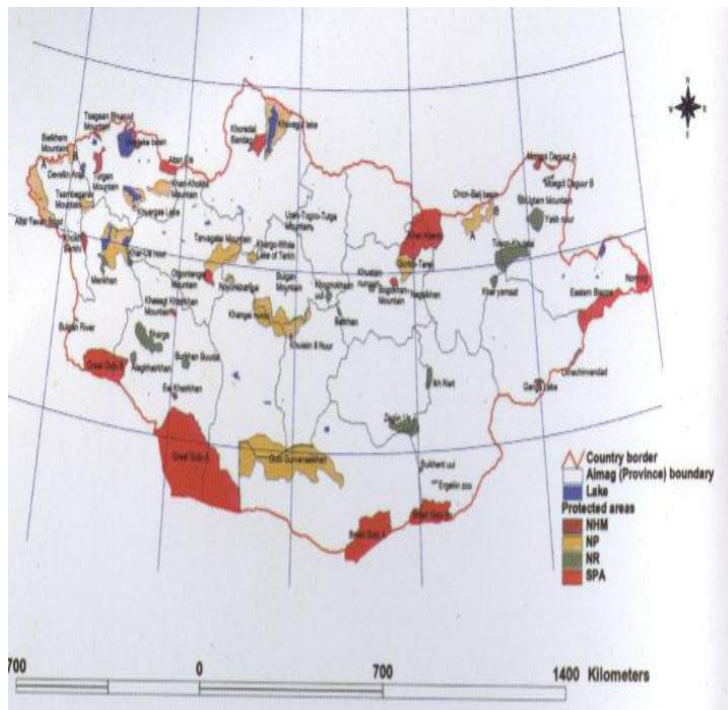
***Conservation and Land Grabbing: Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution? 26 – 27th March 2013 ,Mappin Pavillion, London Zoo IIED
Poverty and Conservation Learning Group & International Land
Coalition***

**“Conservation and pasture land
use rights in Mongolia”**

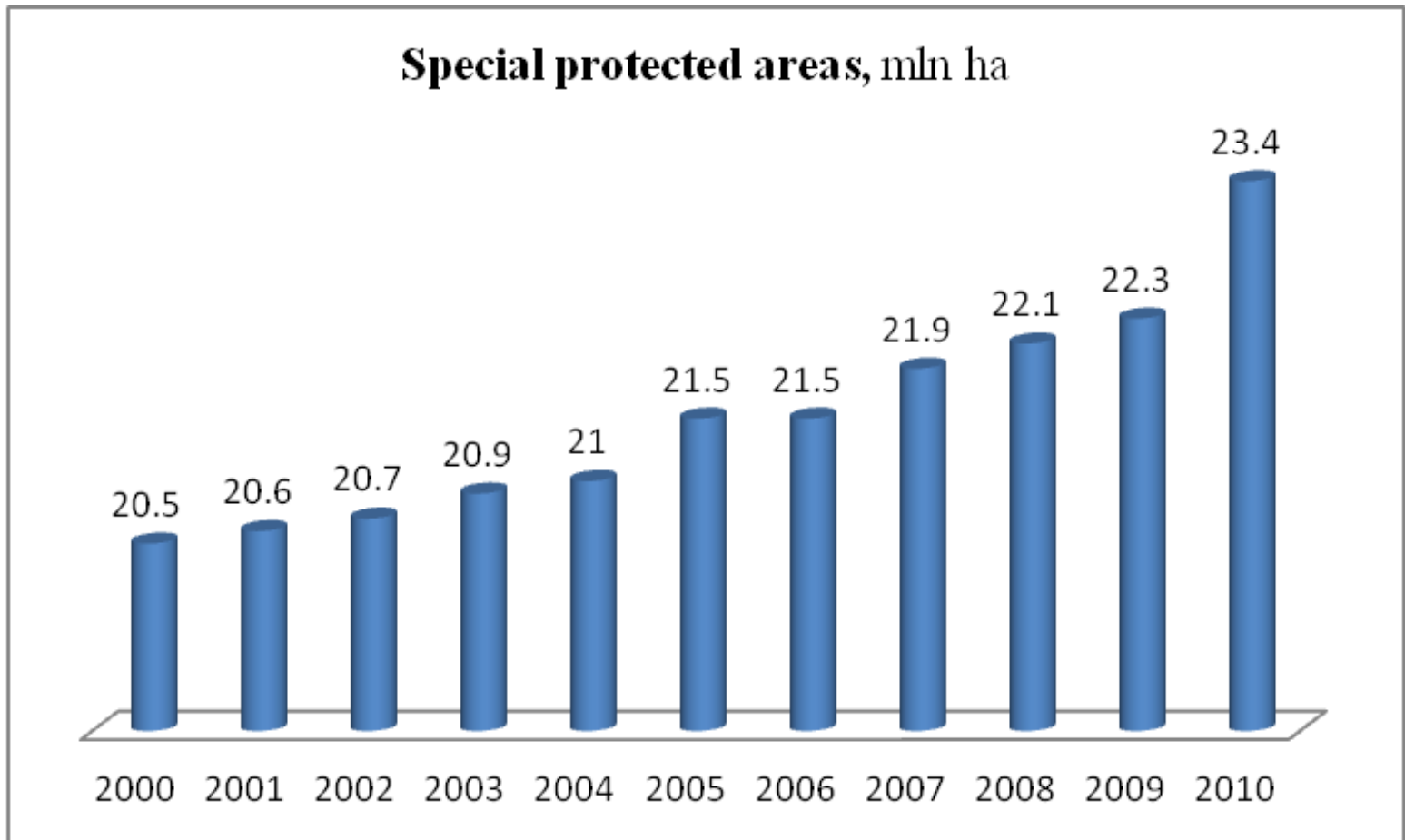
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Natural parks and conservation zones

- There are currently about 27,2 mln. ha set aside as State Special protected areas (SSPA), or 17,4 % of country land;
- There are 2 levels of SPA:
 - National level SPA;
 - Local level SPA
- *key drivers for conservation:*
 - *Changing value of NR and Land, protection from local land use practice*
 - *Mongolia target to protect 30% of its land (Rio, 1992) for conservation of rare and sensitive species, and protect fragile ecosystems*



Expansion of State Special protected areas in Mongolia

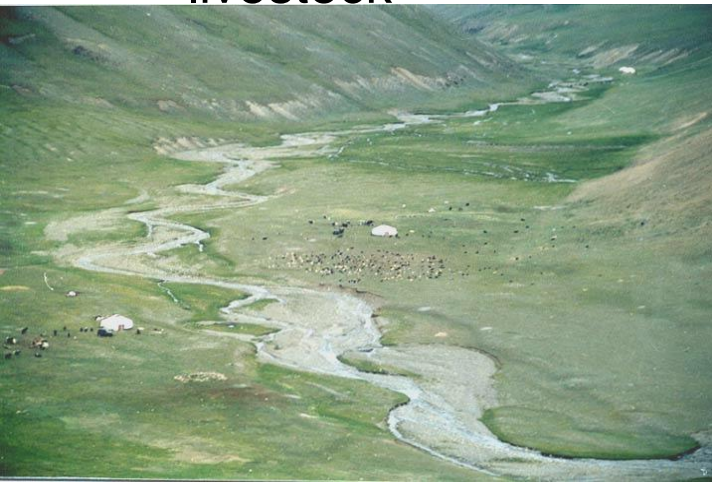


The beneficiaries and losers of land Conservation in Mongolia

- Main beneficiaries are: central and local institutions on NC, tourism, elite, herders living in buffer zone, forestry
- Expanding of SPA makes pressure on common pasture land impacting herder's traditional land use rights, as it not legitimized
- Commercial use (mining) also impact land conservation and pasture land use rights of herders

Conservation & the Pasture land

- Common Pasture land occupies 111,2 mln ha or 71,2% of country's territory,
- share of agriculture GDP to gross GDP reduced from 33,4 % in 2000 to 15,9% , but nomadic animal husbandry is main business and lifestyle for 40% of Mongolians
- In the period of 2000-2010 total 6,6 mln ha pasture land transferred to SPA, but animal numbers also has increased in 11,0 mln head of livestock



Traditional pasture land tenure system and the land conservation

- Pastureland has always been common property
- customary or traditional pasture land use rights were practiced
- Private ownership of pasture land is constitutionally prohibited
- Herders has rights for contracted use of seasonal pastures, but only the land under winter and spring camps is allocated to herders family
- “tragedy of the commons” is applicable, but ecological inequilibrium and nomadic land use pattern predict in limited scale



Participation for the Conservation and strengthening pasture land use rights

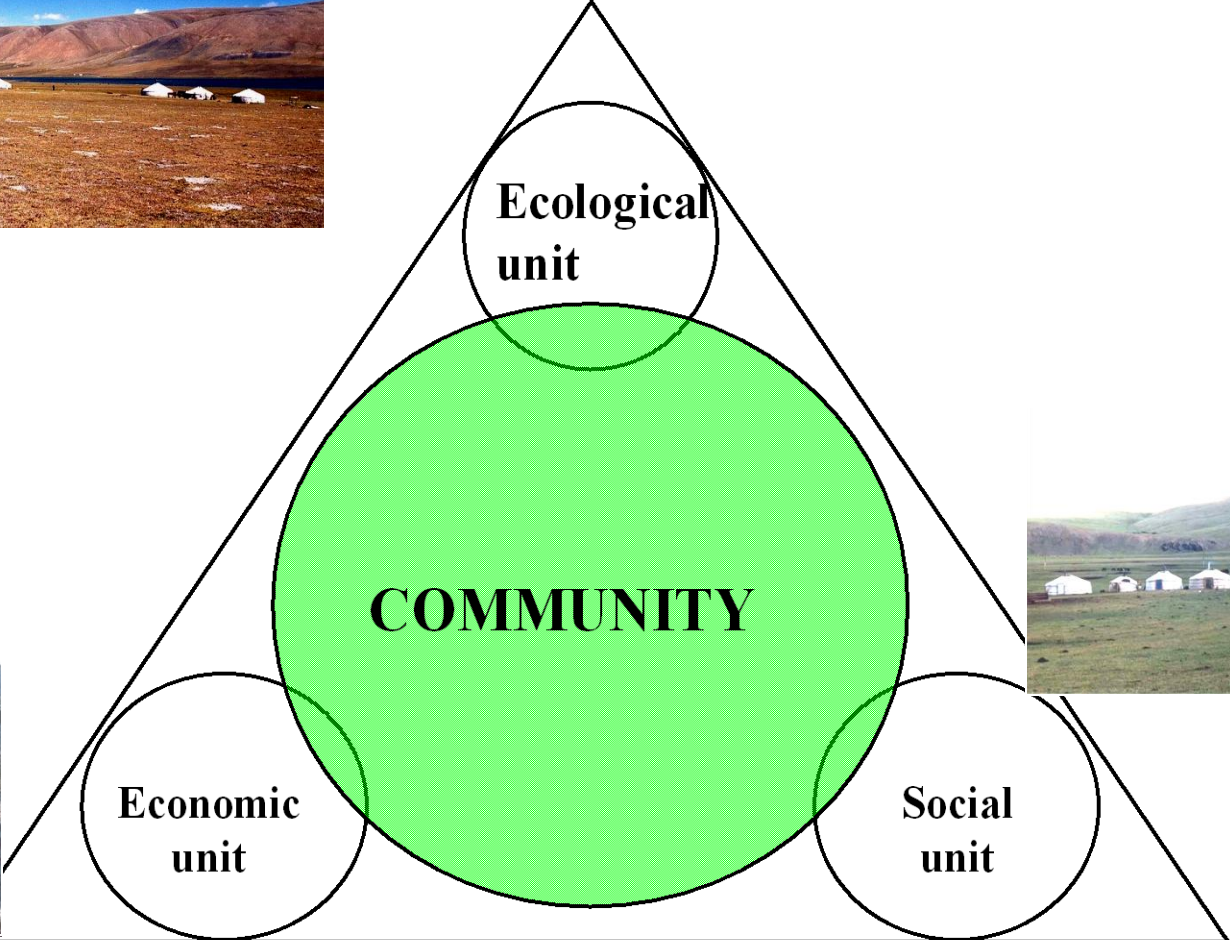


- In last decade of successful activities carried out for the herder's participation in strengthening of pasture land use rights in SPAN, and in common pasture land use
- Strengthening of pasture land and other NR use rights more important local peoples participation in decision making , will change Land governance that fails the rural poor, and the conservation, and incentive for recognizing value of land and NR
- traditional rights of the herders on seasonal pasture use, mostly in limited conservation zones.

What is the “Community” in pastoral society



Neg nutgiinkhan (herders in one area)



Khot ail (Group of camp of herders)

Saakhalt ail (neighboring herders)

Conservation & the Forest

- Mongolia is one of forest poor country with forest area in 14,3 mln ha , Communities rights are limited for timber harvesting, logging rights for companies
- Forest land occupies more than 12 % of SPA and estimated around 3,0 mln ha or 25% of country's forest in SPA.
- SPAN forests are more protected from illegal logging and commercial use.



Conservation and Tourism & Carbon

- About 456,0 thous. tourists visited Mongolia in 2010
- Beneficiaries: Almost all tourist camps are located in SPAN area
- Herders in buffer zone , and in conservation area are benefited from tourism , but tourism is business for private companies
- The case: elite benefits the conservation, in Bogd uul SPA, which is near to the capital city of Ulaanbaatar
- establishment of SPA , and restoration and sound use of pasture, forest can be carbon investment , but not yet practiced in Mongolia



Commercial pressure on conservation and pasture land

- Currently the mining sector is one fast growing economic branch, where evidence of land grabbing for commercial purposes
- At the end of 2012, almost 13,4% of country land area is licensed for both types of mining, from where 10,4 % for mining exploration license, and 3% for mining exploitation license
- “land grabbing for mining” as land allocation by centralized state institutions, without local participation
- local governments wants more land on local level conservation, that will allow them to protect the territory from mining expansion, on nature conservation view, as it can be as “green land grabbing”, because its acquisitions not based on transparent decision making processes
- Problem: overlapping the “licensed rights” for mining exploration with herders “traditional pasture land use rights”, and water, soil pollution, dusty road for the transport of mining exploitation, which damaging a the surrounding pasture area, and impacting conservation objectives of nearby SPA



Policy options for the country's case

- *Allocation of pasture land to herders communities to legally secure their customary land use rights (Voluntary Guidelines: Article 9,10)*
- *Introduction of economic incentives for conservation and sound use of pasture and NR (Voluntary Guidelines: Valuation of resources and ecosystem services, Articles 16,18,19)*
- *Co- management to support land Conservation (Procedure on pasture use in limited conservation zone of SPA) , and cooperate with commercial land use projects, as environmentally friendly and socially responsible mining*

Conclusion

- centralized land management and land licensing system is base for Land grabbing
- The different ecosystems needs more different approaches for strengthening land use rights of pastoral herders,
- The “green land grabbing” and land rush for commercial purposes are depending on ecological and social specifics, macro-economic development policy and weak land governance,
- Community based co-management of pasture land use supporting both, land use rights and the conservation

Thank you!

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