



# Adaptation Futures

2012 International Conference on Climate  
Adaptation, 29-31 May 2012 Arizona, USA



## Dryland Development Paradigm: Adaptation of Pastoral Social- Ecological Systems in Mongolia

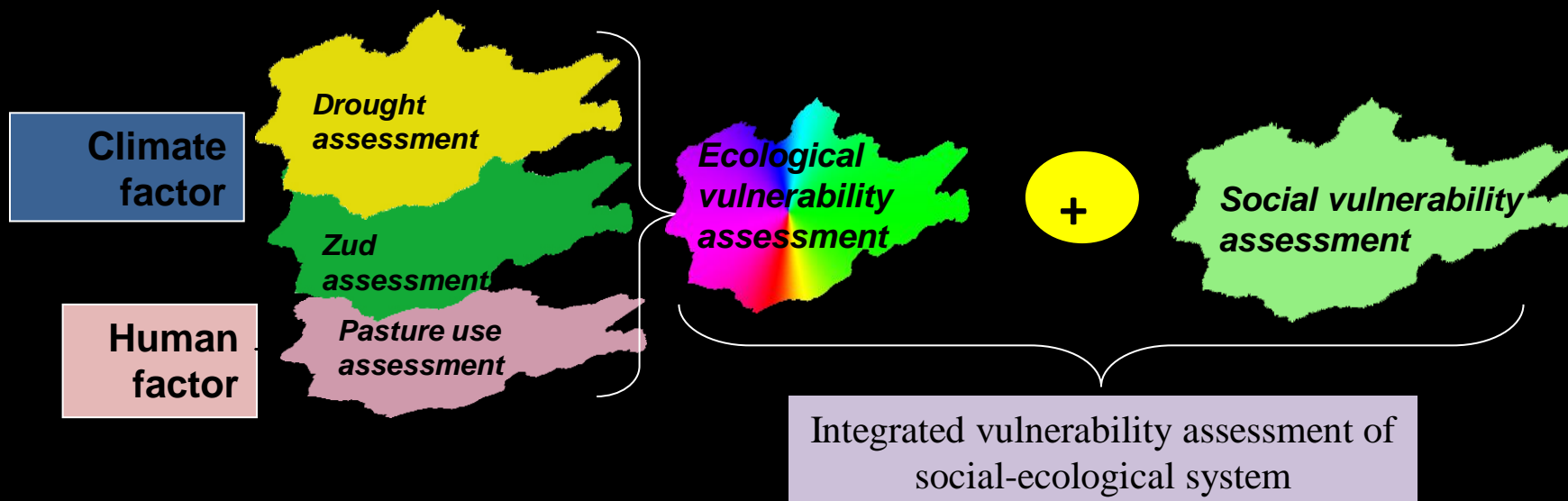
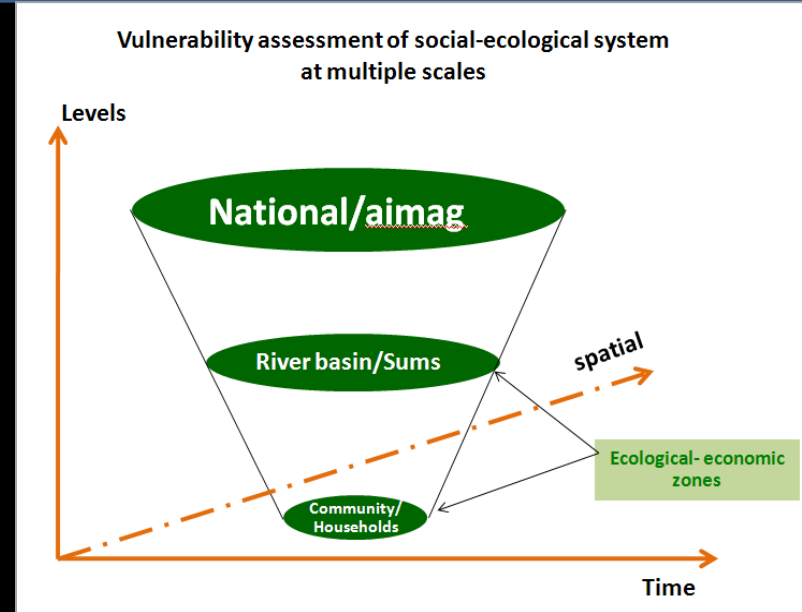
*T. Chuluun, Ph.D., Dryland Sustainability Institute*

*Sustainable Development Institute, National University of Mongolia*

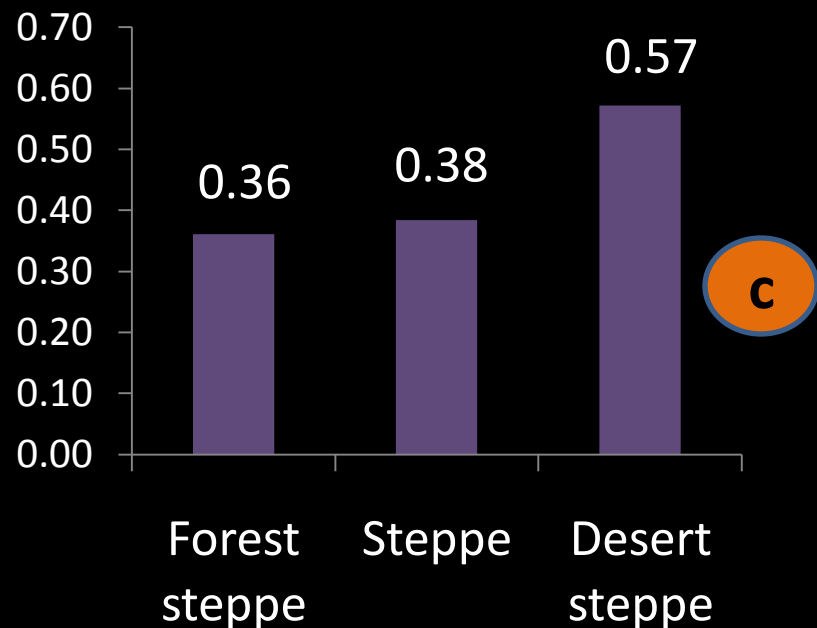
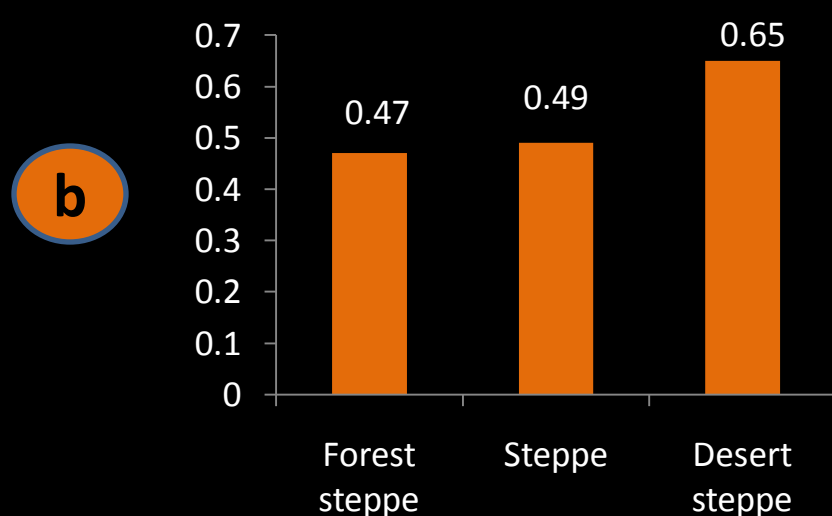
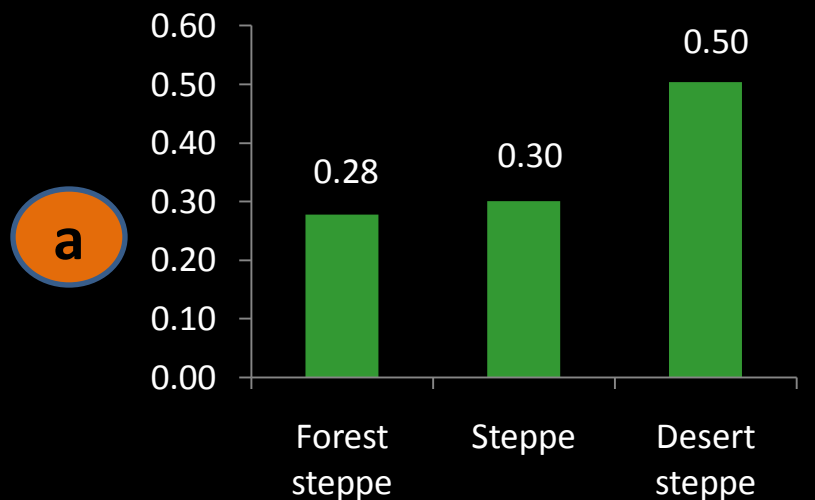
*With M. Altanbagana, B. Tserenchunt & S. Davaanyam (DSI, Mongolia)*

*Mark Stafford-Smith (CSIRO, Australia) & D. Ojima (CSU, USA)*

# Social-ecological vulnerability assessment



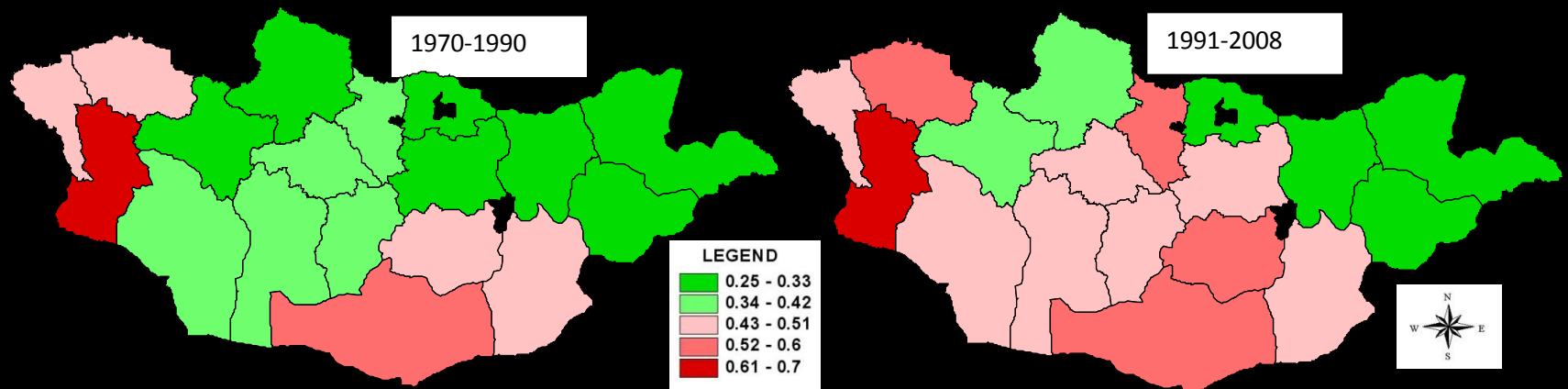
# *Ecological (a), social (b) and social-ecological vulnerability (c) assessments in Tuin and Baidrag river basins by ecozones*



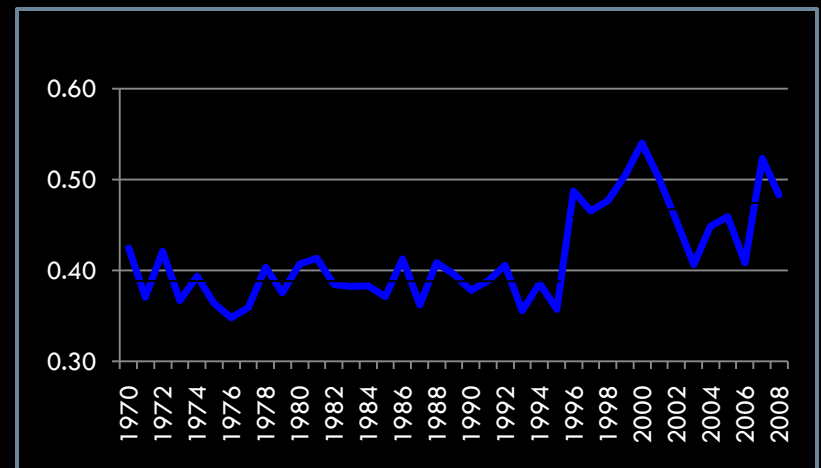
(1986-2010) (Forest steppe: Jargalant, Zag, Galuut, Erdenetsogt; Steppe: Bombogor, Ulziit; Desert steppe: Baatsagaan, Buutsagaan, Jinst, Bogd)

# Ecological vulnerability assessment: National scale

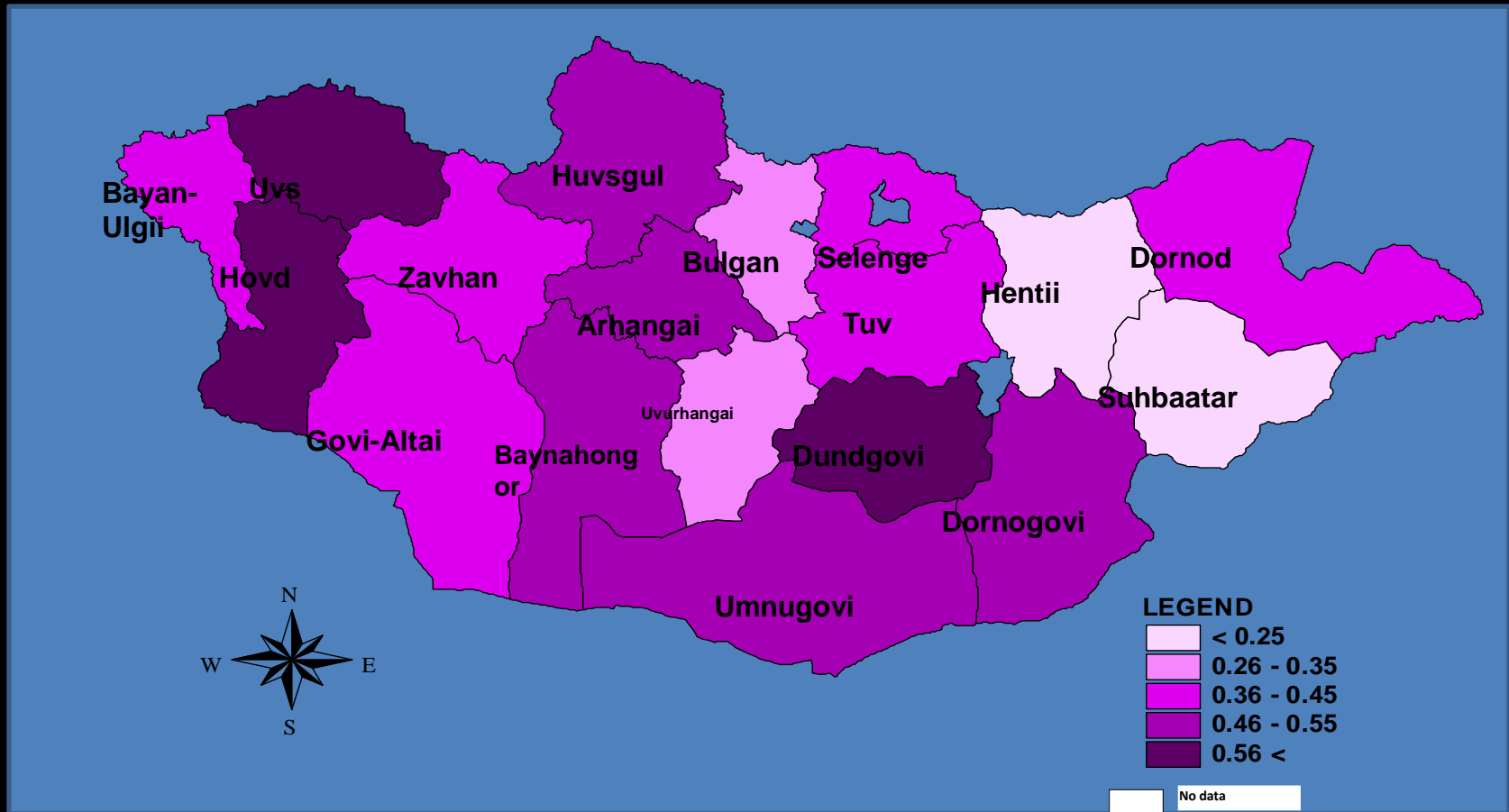
1970-1990 vs 1991-2008



Long-term ecological  
vulnerability dynamics in  
Mongolia



# Vulnerability assessment of social-ecological systems at country level



Social-ecological vulnerability = ecological vulnerability + poverty indexes (UNDP)

Chuluun, T. 2011. Land degradation and desertification in Mongolia.  
Background paper for the Mongolia Human Development Report 2011.

# Summary

- Desert-steppe region is likely the most vulnerable to climate change in Mongolia;
- Ecoregion based-adaptation policy needs in different ecological-economic zones:
  - Resilient development of the Mongolian Gobi as an example

A herd of camels is gathered in a grassy field in the foreground. In the middle ground, there is a large, calm blue lake. The background features a range of blue mountains under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a bright yellow color.

# The Mongolian Gobi – Globally Important Agricultural (Natural-Cultural) Heritage System

Technological Transformation  
Institutional innovation

*Баярлалаа! Thank you!*





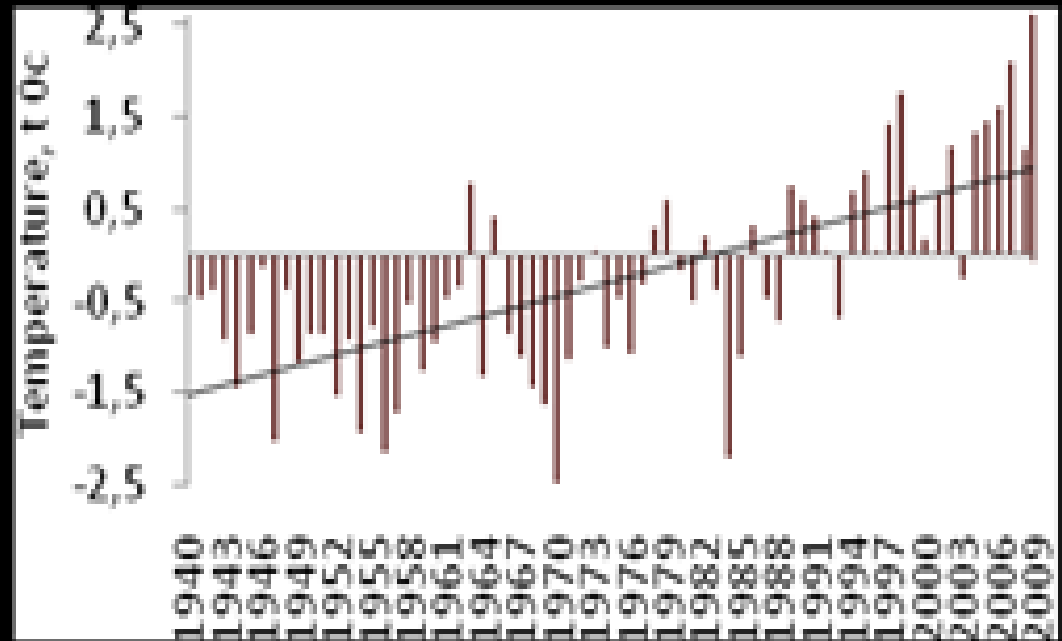
# Objectives

- Application of the DDP as a framework:
  - Understanding;
  - Social learning;
  - Awareness;
  - Integrated vulnerability assessment;
- Capacity building for adaptation
- Policy recommendations
  - Resilient development of the Mongolian Gobi

# DDP P2. Critical slow variables

Temperature increased by  
more than 2°C since 1940

Climate change,  
particularly,  
global warming  
is critical slow  
variable!



# DDP P3. Thresholds

- **Water resource decrease** due to global warming in the region already exceeded the threshold level in both river basins.
- Only 3 rivers out of 25 rivers (based on the map of 1969) are inflowing into the **Tuin river**, which flows into the **Orog lake**.

