



ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH

Herding and mining in Mongolia: partnerships for climate adaptation

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A land of conflicts & contradictions

Increasing desertification + land degradation

Frequent and intense *dzuds*

Rapid rate of rural-urban migration

Policy & regulatory landscape: work-in-progress

Enormous promise of mineral revenues

Resource curse or mining for development?

part·ner·ship

a *relationship* ... usually involving close **cooperation** between parties having specified and joint **rights and responsibilities**

Why part·ner·ship

- Co-benefits
- Traditionally, at conflict
- Emerging realities in Mongolia
- Marriage of traditional with the modern
- Lessons from other mining regions
- Dependence on a common resource; land & water



Local
government

Miners
– MNCs
– artisanal/
informal



Disaster Management Authority



Provincial government



Media

National Park
Authorities



Local
government
NGOs
Aid agencies

Local
businesses
(non-mining)



Local
government



Take home messages

- Green development
 - Change behaviour
 - Stakeholder engagement
- Disaster management and classification
 - Pro-active, not reactive
- Change in current herding style
 - Quality, not quantity
 - Genetic studies
- Greater recognition of traditional herding knowledge
 - Herder mobility links with disasters

rma, Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, University of Queensland

Environment, Conflict and Cooperation, Newsletter 1/2015

Regional Highlights: Asia

Project by adelphi,
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German Foreign
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“Climate change adds a further layer of complexity to the already dynamic relationship between herding and mining.”



CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINING

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Lukas Rüttinger, adelphi
Vigya Sharma, University of Queensland

Studies in International Migration and Group Rights

UNDERSTANDING THE MANY FACES OF HUMAN SECURITY

Perspectives of Northern Indigenous Peoples

*Edited by Komrul Hossain
and Anna Petreici*

BRILL | NIJHOFF

CHAPTER 13

Human Security for Mongolian Herders: Evolving Risks and Opportunities

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Abstract

The Arctic region shares a number of socio-cultural and ecological parallels with Mongolia. Reliance on traditional livelihoods, fast paced changes to the natural climate, conflict with existing industries such as tourism, a rapid mining boom, and remote and sparse population centers are only some of the similarities underlining the Arctic and Mongolian contexts.

This chapter applies the lens of human security to unpack tensions underlying Mongolia's development. It provides a robust understanding of how these tensions interact with one another to infiltrate socio-economic and environmental insecurity amongst Mongolia's traditionally pastoralist communities.

The chapter argues that Mongolia's ongoing experience in navigating human security risks and opportunities may provide useful pointers to northern Indigenous peoples, including those from the Arctic. To that extent, the chapter highlights a number of important take-home messages that may: (a) not only help pro-actively counter some of the challenges that the Indigenous people of the North may increasingly experience in relation to societal security, but also (b) help build their capacity over the long-term to preserve their cultural and ecological identities.

1 Introduction

As a sovereign state, Mongolia is not 'indigenous' in conventional interpretation. Yet, it is often referred to as the 'last frontier' and one of only a handful of places in the world with true unspoilt wilderness.¹ The country is currently undergoing a change so rapid that its identity is suddenly under threat from

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¹ Togtokh, C. "Mongolian Gobi," (2011). Retrieved 2 June, 2015, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUSQ8Vz3LNk&feature=share>.

Thank you

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