IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Mongolia: Nomadic Pastoralism in the Mongolian Plateau			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)			
Other contributing organization(s) *(IPSI members and/or non-members)*			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Japan Wildlife Research Center (JWRC); Kaoru Ichikawa (UNU-IAS), ed.			
Format of case study *(manuscript or audiovisual)*	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
Nomadic pastoralism, grasslands, husbandry, rangeland			
Date of submission *(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)*		March 2012	
Web link *(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)*	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5448/SEPL_in_Asia_report_2nd_Printing.web.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country *(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even "global")*									
Mongolia									
Location(s) *(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)*									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link *(if location is identified)*									
https://www.google.com/maps/@46.5133996,99.348097,6z									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland	x	Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			

Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area
Mongolia is among the countries with the highest altitude in the world. Its vegetation zones comprise the High mountain belt, Mountain taiga belt, Mountain forest steppe, Steppe zone, Semidesert zone and Desert zone. Mongolia's national land of some 1.56 million km2 is mostly covered with pastureland.
Description of human-nature interactions in the area
Nomadic pastoralism in Mongolia has taken the form of changing the rangelands season by season within a certain areal range. Shifting the sites of livestock farms reduces the stress on vegetation so that the rangelands are used in a manner that allows the grazing pastures to re-grow sufficiently.

Contents

Status *("ongoing" or "completed")*	Completed	Period *(MM/YY to MM/YY)*	03/2012
Rationale *(why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed)*			
This study was commissioned to be included in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia".			
Objectives *(goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study)*			
This chapter provides an overview the pastoral system in Mongolia including challenges and responses.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Literature review, field observation.			
Results			
Nomads procure most of the materials for food, clothing and shelter from their livestock by using the meat and milk for consumption, the fur or skins as they are for rugs or for tanning treatment to make leather, and the bones and horns are made into baby bottles and toys, as well as fortune-telling instruments. Human intervention has sustained a grassland ecosystem that has a high level of biodiversity in the Mongolian Plateau.			
Lessons learned *(factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities)*			
Nomadic pastoralism is the most reasonable land use in the steppes under the harsh natural conditions, compared with those areas more suited to agriculture in warmer climates and with more abundant water. Thus, the rangelands are being sustainably used in Mongolia.			
Key messages			
Feeding pressure by livestock has the most significant impact on the grassland ecosystem. In the Mongolian traditional system of nomadic pastoralism, however, such feeding pressure is minimized due to the greater extent of temporal and spatial distribution of the grazing, resulting in moderate disturbance to a wide area of grasslands.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities *(if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)*			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes in Asia". *This Summary Sheet was produced by UNU-IAS alone.			
Funding *(any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)*			
This study was commissioned by UNU-IAS.			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●						■			
									
Strategic Goal C			**Strategic Goal D**			**Strategic Goal E**			
■		■					■	●	
									

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

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