



Land Governance in SDC Projects

Project Title: Pasture Ecosystems Management – Green Gold

Country: Mongolia

Current Phase, Year: 3, 2010–2012

Objective / Outcome:

The project goal is to enable communities of herders to preserve, protect, and nurture enduring pasture ecosystems to underpin sustainable livelihoods.

Outcome 1: Knowledge – to create capacity among Mongolians and their institutions to develop and apply sound knowledge towards the sustainable use and management of pastureland resources in economic, social, and ecological terms.

Outcome 2: Governance – to nurture effective coordination and cooperation among herding communities, the government, civil society, and donors to create supportive policy and legislation to ensure the sustainable use and management of pastureland.

Outcome 3: Collective action – to facilitate effective collective action among herders to eliminate the open access issue of pastureland use and to increase development opportunities in selected soums (local administrative units).

Outcome 4: Productivity and marketing – to facilitate improved access of herders to skills training to increase quality and add value to justify higher prices for their products.

Project experiences and perceived challenges in land governance

Facilitating increased awareness among land users regarding aspects of land governance is of central importance to the success of the project.

There are strong relationships between the quality of land governance systems and resultant food and livelihood security. However, at present, food security is not a prominent concern in Mongolia.

In the past, guaranteed free access to land has been a major legal element in Mongolia. However, such freedom of access is an increasingly impossible proposition in the Mongolian context. This project emphasises that new land governance systems that regulate access and use of pasture resources will be necessary to adapt to emerging contexts and conditions.

In addition to improving land governance structures and procedures, there is a need to reduce the pressure on land and resources by means of alternative livelihood

options and facilitation of small-scale businesses and industries that do not depend on such resources.

Project background

Pasture resources in Mongolia are subject to increasing pressure due to increasing animal populations. The traditional land rights system guarantees every herder access to pasture resources. No limit was placed on the size of herds. The increased pressure on pasture resources precludes herders from practicing rotational grazing to the extent required, further increasing the pressure on existing rangeland. As a result of the previous socialist system, there are scarcely any traditional land governance structures in place or people experienced in such governance.

Project partners and operational structures

Project partners include the Government Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Light Industries; the Mongolian Society for Rangeland Management as the implementing partner; and relevant grassroots organisations. Bringing these organisations together to build an effective unit for development is one of the project's key challenges.

Cross-cutting aspects of land governance have influenced the concept and operation of the project. One desired project outcome emphasises increasing stakeholder awareness of the relationship between sustainable pasture management and the policy/legislation environment.

Project activities range from building awareness and facilitating collective action at the local level to advising the national government in its drafting of pastureland law.

Focus on land acquisitions

The dynamics of large-scale land acquisitions in the country are increasing. Mining concessions bear the potential to sow conflict and endanger people's livelihoods.

Source: **Anseeuw, W.; Boche, M.; Breu, T. ; Giger, M.; Lay, J.; Messerli, P. and K. Nolte. 2012.** "The State of Large-Scale Land Acquisitions in the 'Global South'. Analytical Report Based on the Land Matrix Database". CDE/CIRAD/GIGA, Bern/Montpellier/Hamburg

International Women and Mining Network/Red Internacional Mujeres y Minería (RIMM) 2010. In The Name Of Survival: Mongolian Herder Women Oppose Mining Companies. IN: Women From Mining Affected Communities Speak Out: Defending Land, Life & Dignity. <http://www.samataindia.org/Publications/2010rimmwomenspeakout.pdf>

Links to related information

http://www.sdc.admin.ch/en/Home/Documentation/Briefing_Papers/Asia_Brief

http://operations.ifad.org/web/guest/country/voice/tags/mongolia/mongolia_nomadic