

# THE STATE OF DESERTIFICATION IN MONGOLIA

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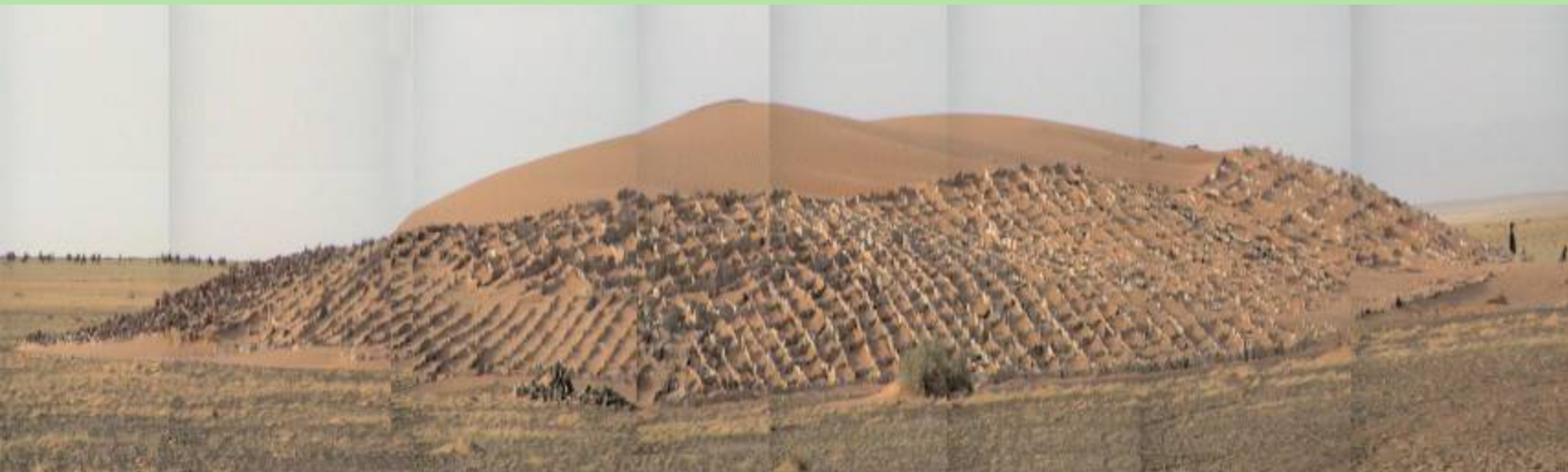
Secretary for the National Committee to Combat Desertification of  
Mongolia

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Changwon, Republic of Korea

# CURRENT STATE OF DESERTIFICATION IN MONGOLIA

- 90% of Mongolia's land is vulnerable to desertification and land degradation.
- 72.3% of Mongolia's territory is affected by the desertification, out of which 5% is very severely, 18%



# CAUSES OF DESERTIFICATION IN MONGOLIA

## *Natural factors:*

Geographical location of Mongolia:  
landlocked mountainous terrain and  
high altitude. It is characterized by:

- moisture deficit
- low humidity
- high temperature fluctuations



## Global climate change:

- Mongolia's mean air temperature increased by 2.1°C within the last 70 years which is followed by sudden temporary increase of air temperature in warm season and decreasing rainfall leading to drought and land degradation.
- Compared to the 1960s, the number of the days with sand and dust storm increased 3-4 times in steppe and Gobi regions while dust storms occur 61-127 days per year in Gobi and Great Lake areas.

## *Anthropogenic factors:*

### Overgrazing:

- ◉ Livestock herds increase after the privatization for the recent years.
- ◉ Pasture carrying capacity is exceeded by 32.5% between 1999-2004. It is the major cause of rangeland degradation.
- ◉ Herd composition changed with dramatic increase of the goat population with 19.9 million that account for 46% of the livestock total number

### Over consumption of saxaul and other shrubs for fuel.



Improper mining activities and the rehabilitation is not satisfactory:

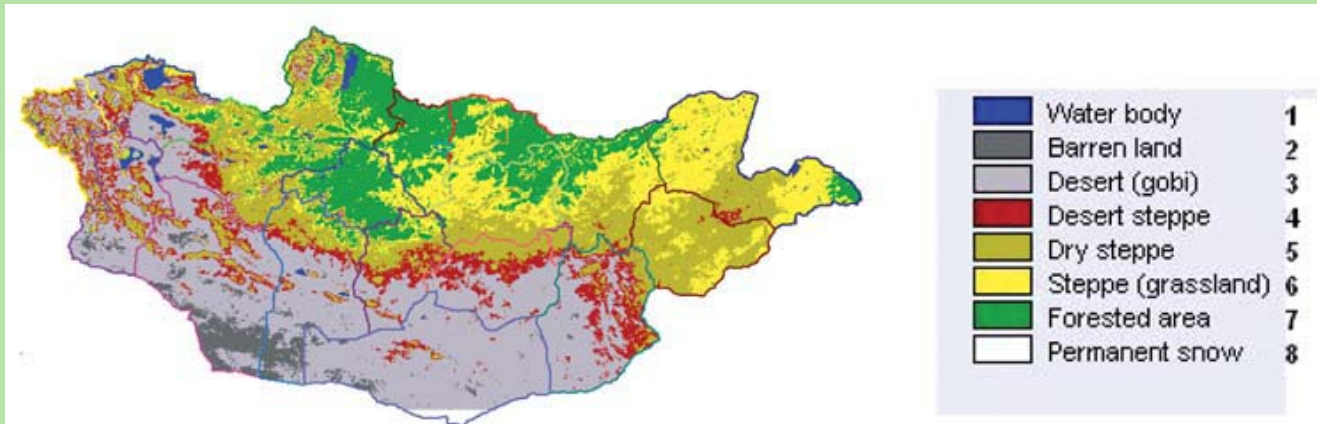
The survey shows that in 2009-2010 about 20000 ha land was used by mining companies and only 4000 ha area was restored.

- Roads in rural areas: Soil productivity and vegetation decreased by the reason of multi tracking roads in rural areas.
- Illegal cutting of trees and bushes

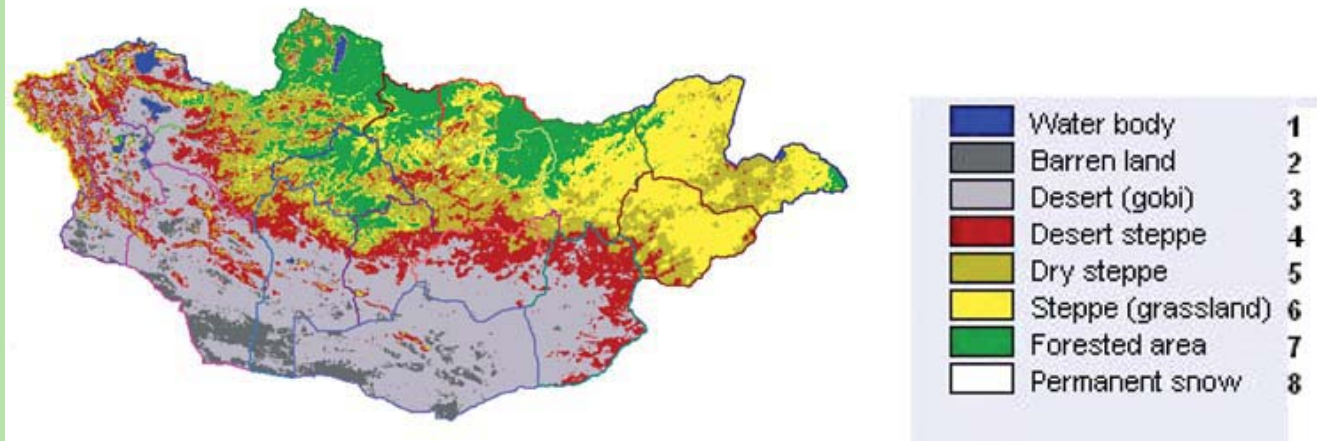


# Land Surface Change and Desertification

1992



2006



A desertification impact assessment study produced results such as 20-30% decrease in pasture grassland yields during the last 40 years. and a rise in livestock vulnerability due to pasture degradation, which indicates that desertification issue should be considered at the National Security Management level. The studies concluded that the 72,3% of Mongolia's territory has been affected by medium and high rates of desertification.

# GOVERNMENT POLICY ON COPING WITH DESERTIFICATION

In following policy documents prioritized wide-range goals and measures to address land degradation and desertification:

- ◉ The Government Policy on Ecology,
- ◉ The Comprehensive National Development Strategy,
- ◉ The Mongolian Action Program for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,
- ◉ “Water”-National Water Program
- ◉ Forest National Program
- ◉ National Climate Change Program
- ◉ National program-“Green Wall”
- ◉ *National Action Program to Combat Desertification*



In 2010 Government approved the updated National Action Program to Combat Desertification in line with the new 10-year strategy of UNCCD.



## Overall Objective of NAP CD

To prevent, cope with and revert desertification and land degradation in Mongolia to ensure environmental sustainability, improve livelihoods of the rural population and generate environmental services of global importance.



## THE NAP CD COVERS THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020. IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN TWO PHASES:

The first one covering the years from 2010 to 2015, within the first phase, the complex action will be taken including strengthening legislation of combating desertification and capacity building and increasing public participation in actions to combat desertification.

The second one 2016 to 2020. Actions to cope with intensity of desertification by rehabilitate and restore degraded and vulnerable areas adversely affected by desertification will be taken within this phase.

In order to reach overall goal, the following priorities have been determined:

- Strengthening institutional capacity
- improving the legal and policy framework,
- enhancing science, technology and knowledge,
- increasing advocacy, awareness rising and education,
- Intensifying concrete actions at the grassroots level, increase investment

- ① The Government policy focuses on strengthening multilateral cooperation to cope with desertification and has achieved some progress on implementing international projects and programs, and collaborating with countries and organizations signatory to UNCCD;
- ① Through multilateral cooperation, we focus on strengthening capacity of national institutions to combat desertification, introducing new and innovative management concepts for natural resource use and introducing new technology etc;
- ① Mongolia collaborates with international organizations and countries such as ROK, China, Japan, the Government of Netherlands, UN agencies such as UNDP, ESCAP, NEASPEC and GEF, GTZ, SDC, JICA, KOICA, Japan Green Resources Agency etc.



## The joint projects:

- 1. “Coping with desertification” project, financed by Swiss Development Cooperation Agency;
- 2. “Sustainable land management for UNDP, Dutch Government for Combating desertification” project, financed by UNDP, The Government of Netherlands;
- 3. “Green belt” project, financed by the Government of Korea;
- 4. “Implementing the Regional Master plan for prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia” project, financed by ESCAP/NEASPEC etc



“Implementing the Regional Master plan for prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms in North-East Asia” project started in 2011 with the following main activities:

- The Inception workshop in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia;
- Innovative approaches to planting natural wind and sand-breaks;
- Capacity building training for Mongolian relevant officials and experts;
- Development of GIS database on combating desertification;
- Awareness raising and capacity building;
- Exchange of experiences and expertise within the subregion



# URGENT ISSUES



The following issues are still needed to be improved and solved:

- ◉ Legal and economic environment;
- ◉ Inter-sectoral coordination;
- ◉ Planning and use of agricultural land;
- ◉ Limited funding source for implementing the projects;
- ◉ Local capacity to combat desertification;
- ◉ Monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of desertification and land degradation;
- ◉ Use of appropriate technology for combating desertification;
- ◉ Control on illegal use of natural resources
- ◉ Ecological education of the public.



# MEASURES TAKEN TO COPE WITH DESERTIFICATION

The Government of Mongolia is working to implement the following actions:

- Ensure realistic inter-sectoral planning and strengthening the capacity for coping with desertification;
- Implementation of bigger projects in tree planting and preventing the sand movement;
- Identify the technologies for rehabilitation on the basis of location and degree of land degradation;
- Public awareness raising.

- ① Develop and implement integrated management plan of river basins with purpose of proper use of water and other natural resources
- ① Expand rehabilitation of saxaul and protect oases in gobi region
- ① Support the initiatives of civil society organizations, business entities for planting trees;
- ① Use of international best practices for combating desertification, preventing sand movement and establishing windbreaks.

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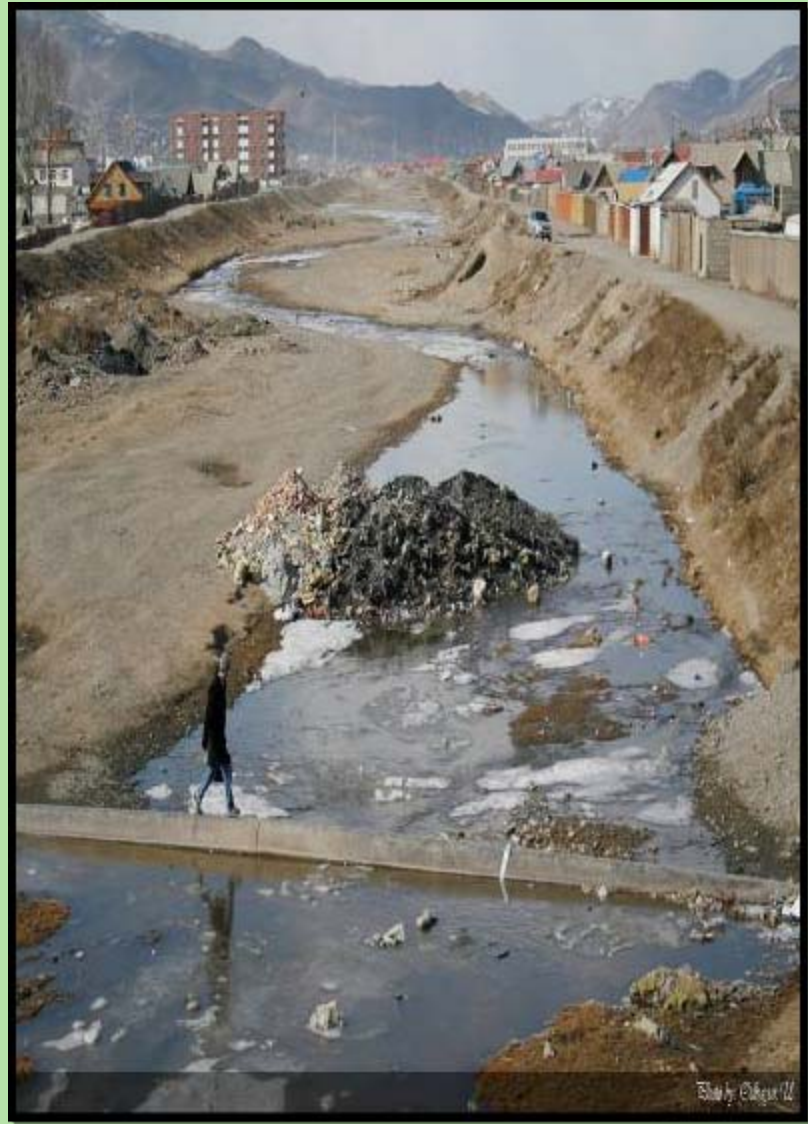


СЭБЭ ГЭГ 2008 ОН



PHOTO BY SOBAYARU

СЭБЭ ГЭГ 2010 ОН



Shirley O'Brien









A photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes with a light tan color. Several green, leafy shrubs are scattered across the dunes. In the background, a utility tower with multiple cross-arms is visible against a pale, overcast sky. The overall scene suggests a desert environment with some vegetation and infrastructure.

***THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION***