

## IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

### Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Central Selenge		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Grassland, Pasture management, Soil depletion, Livestock management, Poverty reduction		
Date of submission	6 March 2017		
Web link	<a href="http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6012/comdeks_ii_case_study_publication.pdf#page=138">http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6012/comdeks_ii_case_study_publication.pdf#page=138</a>		

### Geographical Information

Country	Mongolia			Location(s)	Central Mongolia				
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	<a href="https://www.google.com/maps/@49.4761672,105.3327931,8z">https://www.google.com/maps/@49.4761672,105.3327931,8z</a>								
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland	x	Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
<p>The target landscape is home to diverse ecosystems, including considerable wildlife. Composed of well-developed river systems, protected areas and community forests, the area has a relatively high number of community forestry groups. Environmental stability and biodiversity in the region is at risk due to factors including forest and water depletion, overgrazing, illegal hunting, climate change and pollution. The primary socioeconomic concern is widespread poverty coupled with increasing inequality.</p>									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
<p>Crop farming, animal husbandry and mining are the primary economic activities. As in other areas in Mongolia, land is state-owned, with the exception of land in and around settlement areas that is slowly being privatized. Pastures are free for use everywhere in the country, and cropland is rented to farmers for up to 60 years. Over the last 20 years, there has been an increase in the migration of herders towards settlement areas.</p>									

### Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017	
Rationale				
<p>As rural people lose livestock and crops due to environmental degradation and the heightened frequency of natural disasters—such as droughts and worsening climate change effects—they can no longer survive on agriculture, and move to urban areas seeking employment. Since the region is crippled by widespread poverty, environmental deterioration has disproportionately serious consequences.</p>				
Objectives				
<p>Biodiversity conservation strengthened and ecosystem services restored by cohering advanced and traditional livelihood practices with and conservation measures; Food security enhanced by increasing productivity and sustainability of agro-ecosystems; Livelihoods of communities enhanced through diversification of agricultural products, income-generating activities and livelihood enterprises; Governance strengthened through participatory decision making and knowledge sharing.</p>				
Activities and/or practices employed				
<p>Transforming community views of the landscape and encouraging joint action; Practicing better pasture management; Instituting agroecology practices to reduce agricultural impacts; Creating community seed banks; Restoring river riparian areas; Planting community fruit gardens and mixed vegetable gardens; Developing alternative income sources such as beekeeping and handicraft production; Creating a tourism infrastructure and training tourism skills.</p>				

Results	
Joint action at an ecosystem level is now recognized by communities; Pasture conditions and soil quality have been improved; Communities have taken steps to reduce their impact and increase production through sustainable practices; Seed banks of native foods are being created; Degraded riparian zones have been rehabilitated; Community fruit gardens have been established; Income-generating activities have been piloted; Communities were assisted with identifying tourism products and establishing walking routes.	
Lessons learned	
The use of indicators was valuable for community members, governments and other stakeholders to better understand the state of the environment, plan activities, and evaluate results; While the concept of SEPLS is powerful, it is a challenge to apply to grassland ecosystems; Video presentations would be desirable for communities to view and understand the concept of landscape sustainability.	
Key messages	
The COMDEKS approach has brought communities together to act at the landscape level, and has supported increased transparency and accountability of activities. At the same time, authorities have developed a positive attitude toward communities involved in COMDEKS projects due to their strengthened capacity and well-organized nature. Participating CBOs have formed the “Mongol Satoyama Group” to coordinate their work, with the potential to form a true landscape community.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 479,992.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Mongolia.

## Contributions to Global Agendas

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

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

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>)

●	●			■			●	●
●		●	■		●	■		