

Title: Spatial information and analysis on livestock and environment interactions in CIS and Mongolia

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Description: *Background:* In the past ten years the demand for livestock-derived products has decreased in the Soviet Union, while at the same time institutional and structural changes have led to growing environmental problems. The Russian speaking platform of the Livestock Environment and Development (LEAD) initiative Virtual Centre addresses the lack of pertinent information and decision support for solving these environment problems commonly faced by scientists and decision-makers. The spatial information and analysis presented here are part of this project.

Since the transition, and the move to market economies, most livestock production systems have become increasingly fodder based (i.e. less dependent on grain and manufactured feed), despite mediocre fodder and uncertain access to fodder resources. However, land reform has concentrated on arable land, and little attention is yet paid to tenure of grazing lands, to rights of way, and to water rights of transhumant herders. Following also the phasing out of transport subsidies and the increasing insecurity, normal grazing cycles between summer and winter grazing areas are being interrupted, remote grazing lands are less used, and consequently the pressure on land closer to urban areas has strongly increased, with severe degradation resulting. While the overall stocking rate has decreased, some estimate that overall degradation of the rangeland has increased.

Phasing out of energy subsidies has also caused that manure, is not returned to the land, but used for heating and cooking, because alternative energy sources are no longer available or affordable. Thus, as a result of the transition, several ecological sound cycles are being interrupted.

On the other hand, there are still major problems with large intensive production units, some being kept alive with continued state support, other now managed by the private sector. Clean production has never been prominent in the CIS countries, and environmental policies and investments are still weak.

Objectives: The objectives of implementing this data base and analysis are to gain understanding of the livestock-environment interactions, to build awareness, to target future activities and to help the design of policy and technology options.

Beneficiaries: The main beneficiaries of the "hotspot" maps are expected to be the policy makers and program managers in regional, national and international agencies. The targeted beneficiaries of raw data and methods for analysis are the scientific and technical communities.

Outputs:

- Updated comprehensive spatial data base on land use, environmental and livestock
- Maps of livestock and environment interaction "hotspots"