

## Environmental Policy Processes : lessons from pasture management in Norway and Mongolia

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### Mongolia



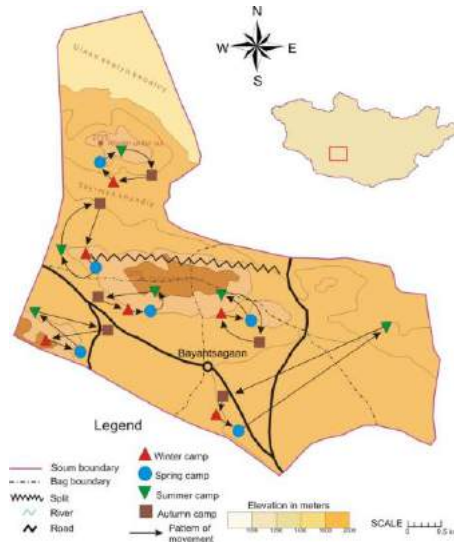
- **Area:** 1,6 M sq km
- **Population:** 2,5 M people
- 45 M livestock
- 80% of land area-pasture-world's largest remaining contiguous grazing area



#### **Climate:**

- Variable: mean annual temperature range:  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+20^{\circ}\text{C}$  (average increase  $2.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  since 1940s)
- Mean annual rainfall = 115-364 mm in desert-steppe.
- Extreme climatic events *dzuds*, drought, storms

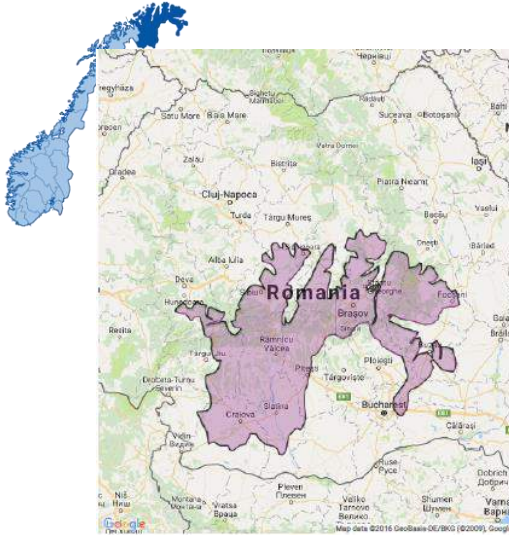
## Pattern of movement



- In general - less mobile (during normal years), in part due to concentration of services (schools, medical treatment, markets) in settlements.
- In bad years 4 times longer routes, and twice more often (4-5 times in normal year, 11 times in bad year).

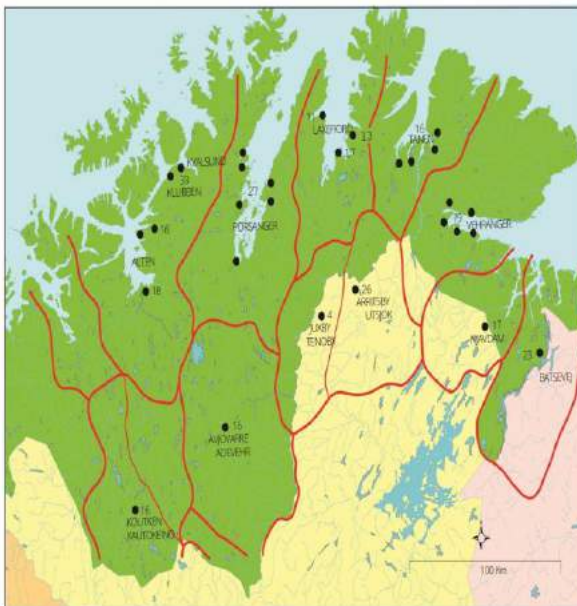


## Finnmark county

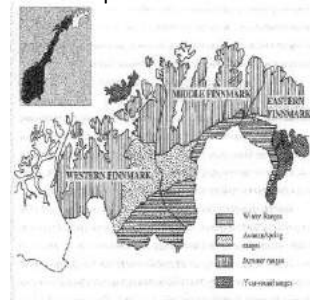


- Largest county (48,000 km<sup>2</sup>)
- 75,000 people (1.55/km<sup>2</sup>)
- 165,000 domesticated reindeer (211,000 in the country in 2015)
- Climate: 8 seasons, Atlantic/Continental

Siida 'commons' – ca. 1694 (iflg. Vorren 1978)



Present 'common pastures'



- Vorren- in the 1700s  
«common use»  
between siidas
- Paine (1960s)  
overlapping territories



## Environmental policies/regulations

The collage consists of three overlapping news article screenshots:

- Top Article (Norwegian):** Title: "Får kraftig smekk for ikke å ha redusert reintallet". Subtitle: "Reindriftsgrupper i Finnmark som hadde fått pålegg om å redusere antallet reinsdyr de eier, og som ikke har etterkommet pålegget, er pålagt tvangsmulkt på til sammen".
- Middle Article (BBC News):** Title: "The slow and deadly dzud in Mongolia". Includes a photo of a dead animal in a snowy landscape.
- Bottom Article (Norwegian):** Title: "slede tragedien". Includes a photo of a sled dog.

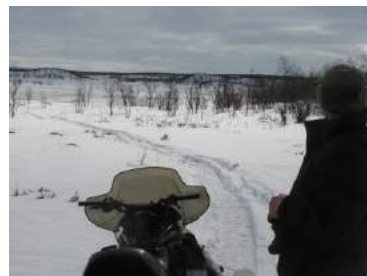
# Environmental policy processes- saving pasture users from themselves

- **Mongolia: 'tragedy':**  
80% of pasture 'deteriorated', millions of animals dead.  
"The degradation of pastureland occurs due to inaccurate activities of human beings (...). It is very important to enable legal environment for developing herders economy with own ownership of land and pasture."
- **Finnmark: 'resource catastrophe', 'anarchy', 'reindeer abuse':**  
«We must reduce the number of reindeer. Otherwise the whole industry loses. It's an expression of the 'tragedy of the commons' (...) the pasture capacity will be destroyed.» (Minister of Agriculture, 2012)
- **Solution: New environmental/pasture policies: privatise pasture, invent new ideas of 'common pastures'.**

## Studying environmental policies

### 1. The analysis of key policies (text and implementation):

- **Mongolia: The Pastureland Law (Drafts 2010, 2014)**
- **Norway: The Finnmark Law (2005)**

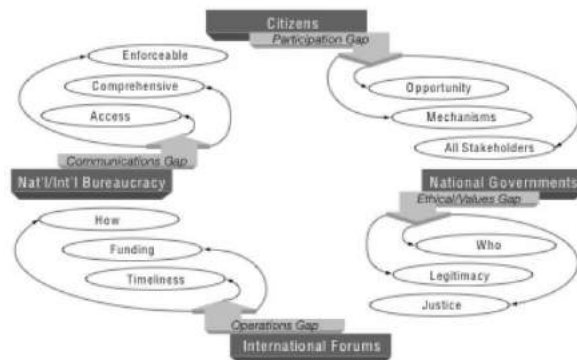
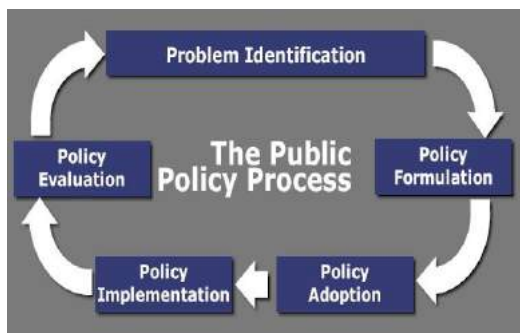


# Studying environmental policies

## 2. Study the policy process

- Policies not simply, 'generated' and also not simply 'implemented'
- Not a neatly rational or coherent process, effects are (to different degrees) unpredictable
- E.g. Insitutional bargaining, layering, bricolage.
- E.g. civil protests against (pasture)land privatisation, election dynamics.

(Marin & Bjørklund, 2015, in *International Journal of the Commons*, 9 (1))



## Conclusions:

- Policy processes provide important insights into how pastures are managed in reality (not only on paper).  
Lessons can be drawn across cases, but are these insights transferrable?
- YES: pastoralism as socio-technical system, resource characteristics (varied and variable in time & space, commons);
- NO: path dependency, contextual (social, historical).
- Still, comparison is useful.
  
- More research is needed 😊.

