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The Nature Conservancy

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ASIA MONGOLIA

Mongolia is a country of vast landscapes and a small population. For millennia its wide open spaces have remained little changed. Today, the 69 million acres of rich grasslands that cover Mongolia's Eastern Steppe are the largest expanse of this habitat remaining on Earth. The people, plants, and animals that call Mongolia home are adapted to life in harsh conditions including frigid winters and semi-arid to desert conditions. Here, rugged nomadic herders still seasonally make their way across immense grasslands that remain unbroken by roads and fences – moving goats, sheep, horses, camels, and cows to fresh pastures. Their lives depend intimately on the health of the grasslands that provide nourishment for their livestock and families and that still support a full web of life, including top predators like the gray wolf, lynx, and steppe eagle.

Mongolia's grasslands, and the way of life of the nomadic peoples who sustain them, are threatened by mining, energy, and infrastructure development. Conservationists are working with government representatives and local herders to preserve both the grasslands and a traditional way of life.

Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy

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Otgonbayar 'Otgo' Ershuu