**Asian Forest Forum: Research, Capacity Development, and Good Governance**

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# Land degradation and Research collaboration opportunities in Mongolia

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# Background

Mongolia has over 76.8 % of its territory under threats of desertification and land degradation including almost all of its grasslands and pastureland.

Land degradation has been the most challenging environmental issues in Mongolia as it is closely related to the most prominent economic sectors – agricultural sector is dominated by livestock which contributes almost 85 % of the sector as a whole, enabling Mongolia being second biggest raw cashmere producer in the world after China.

# Government policy on degraded land restoration

- Government Policy on Ecology,
- National Security Concept of Mongolia,
- Sustainable Development Concept-2030,
- Green Development Policy
- National Action Program to Combat Desertification, prioritized wide-range goals and measures to address the land degradation and desertification /In 2010 the Government approved the NAP, updated in line with the new 10-year strategy of UNCCD/.
- Government policy focuses on the strengthening multilateral cooperation for combating desertification

# OBJECTIVES OF FOREST RESTORATION

## Sustainable development goals

**/Parliament decree 2016 /**

**I STAGE (2016-2020): Reduce desertification, increase protected areas 25 % of territory, forested area 8.5 %**
**II STAGE (2021-2025): Reduce desertification, increase protected areas 27 % of territory, forested area 8.7 %**
**III STAGE (2026-2030): Reduce desertification, increase protected areas 30 % of territory, forested area 9.0 %**

## State Policy on Forest policy

**/Parliament decree 2015/**

**Objectives**

**Forested area**
**2020 yr 8,3%,**
**2030 yr 9,0%**

→

**Implementation stages**

**2015 yr 12280,0 thous.ha**
**2020 yr 12984,0 thous.ha**
**2030 yr 14079,0 thous.ha**

→

**Per year (avg)**
**120,0 thous.ha**

**Supporting natural regeneration and plantation**
**2020 yr 310,0 thous.ha,**
**2030 yr 1500,0 thous.ha**

**Degradation drivers:**

Desertification process /percentage in the total territory/

| Assessments made in | Areas slightly affected | Areas moderately affected | Areas strongly affected | Areas severely affected | total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 | 23 | 26 | 18 | 5 | 72 |
| 2010 | 35.3 | 25.9 | 6.7 | 9.9 | 77.8 |
| 2016 | 24.1 | 29.8 | 16.8 | 6.1 | **76.9** |

# Degradation drivers:

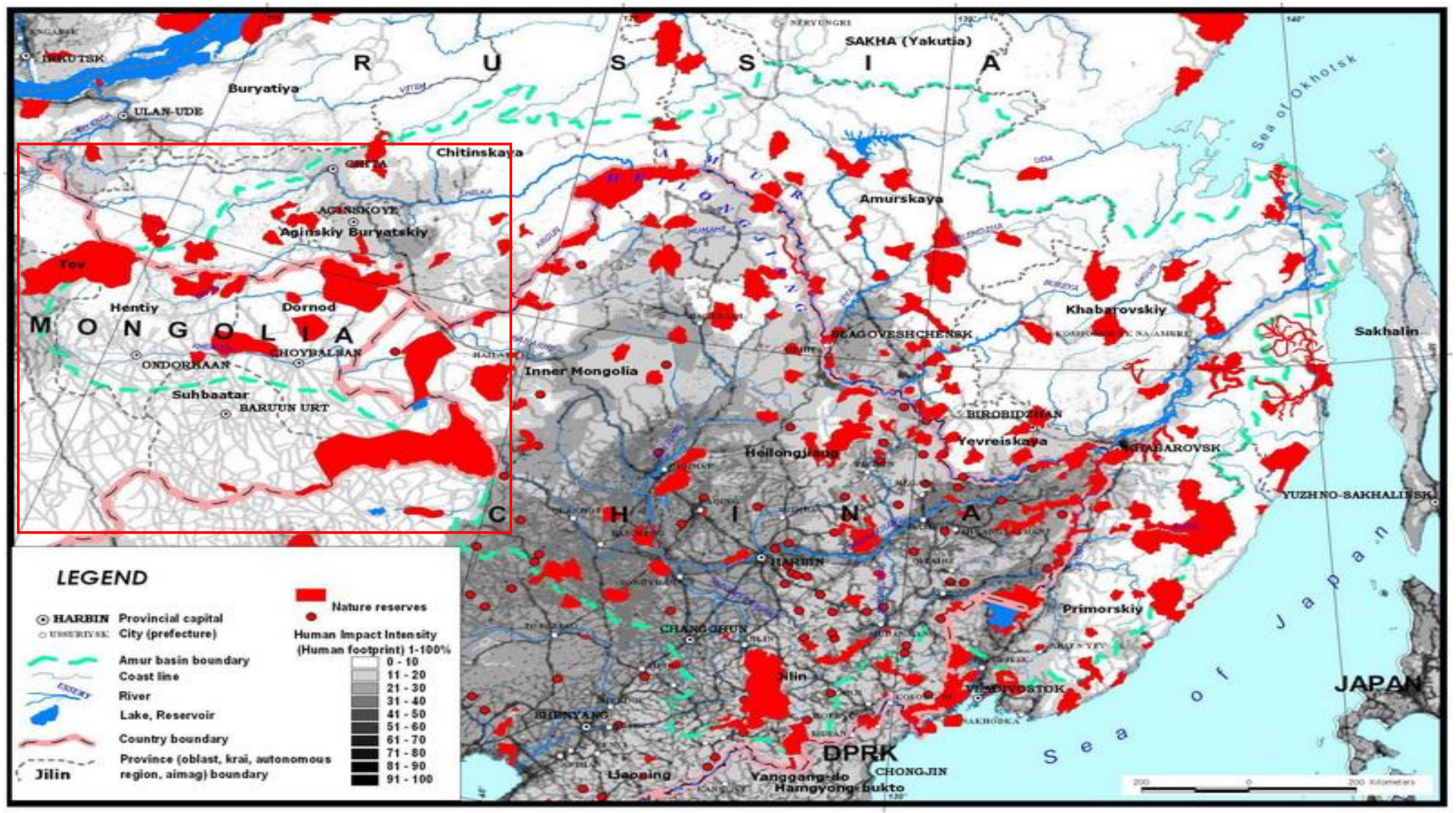
Anthropogenic factors are as follows:

- Overgrazing:
- Livestock number increased in last 25 years, /90.5 mln, December 2021/
- Pasture carrying capacity is exceeded and it is the main cause of rangeland degradation.
- The statistic information shows that 42% of the total livestock population is goat.
- Over consumption of saxaul and other shrubs for fuel wood

# Degradation drivers: Wildland fires (steppe)

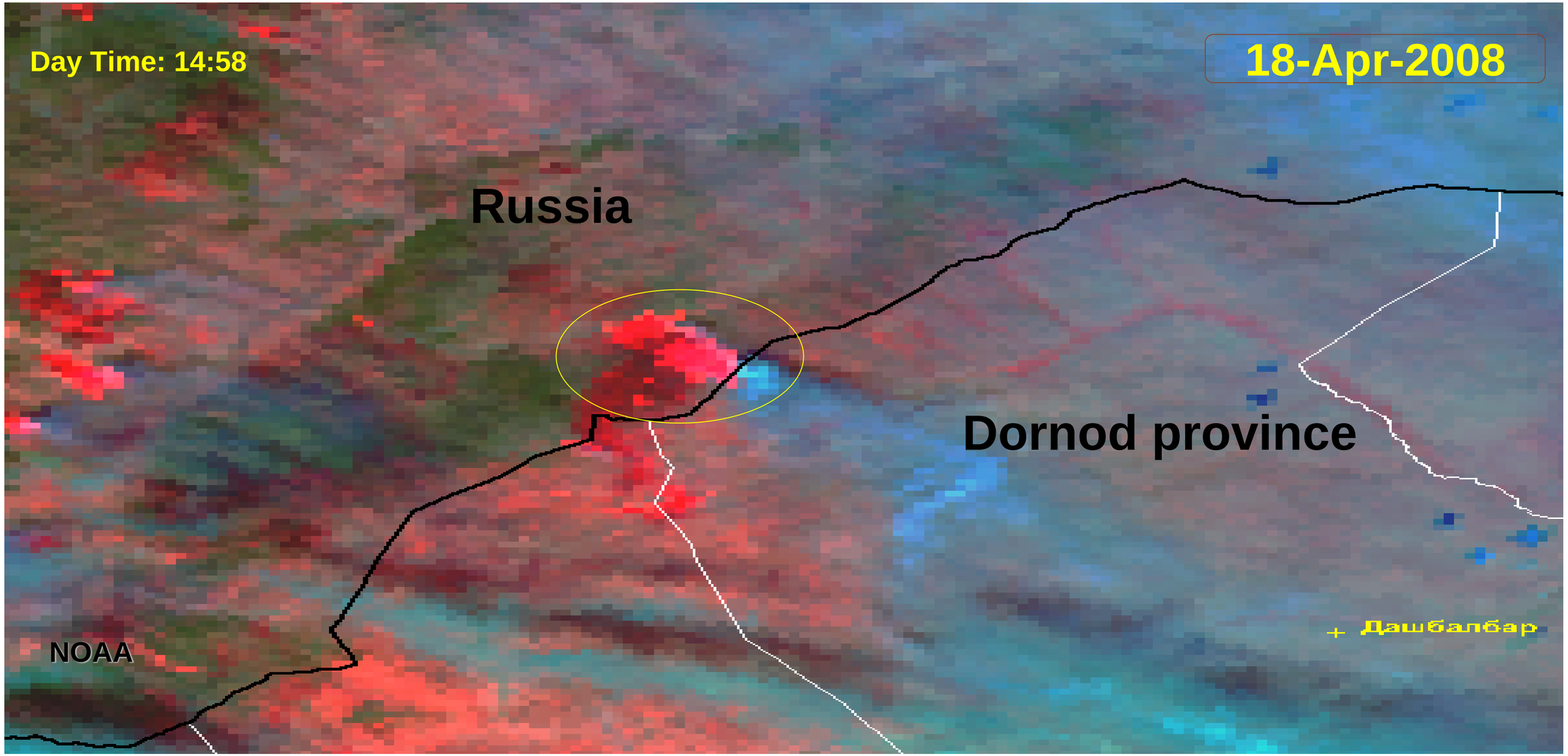
## Dauria International Protected Area

(Eastern Mongolian Steppe and Amur-Heilong River Basin, 205,572 km²)

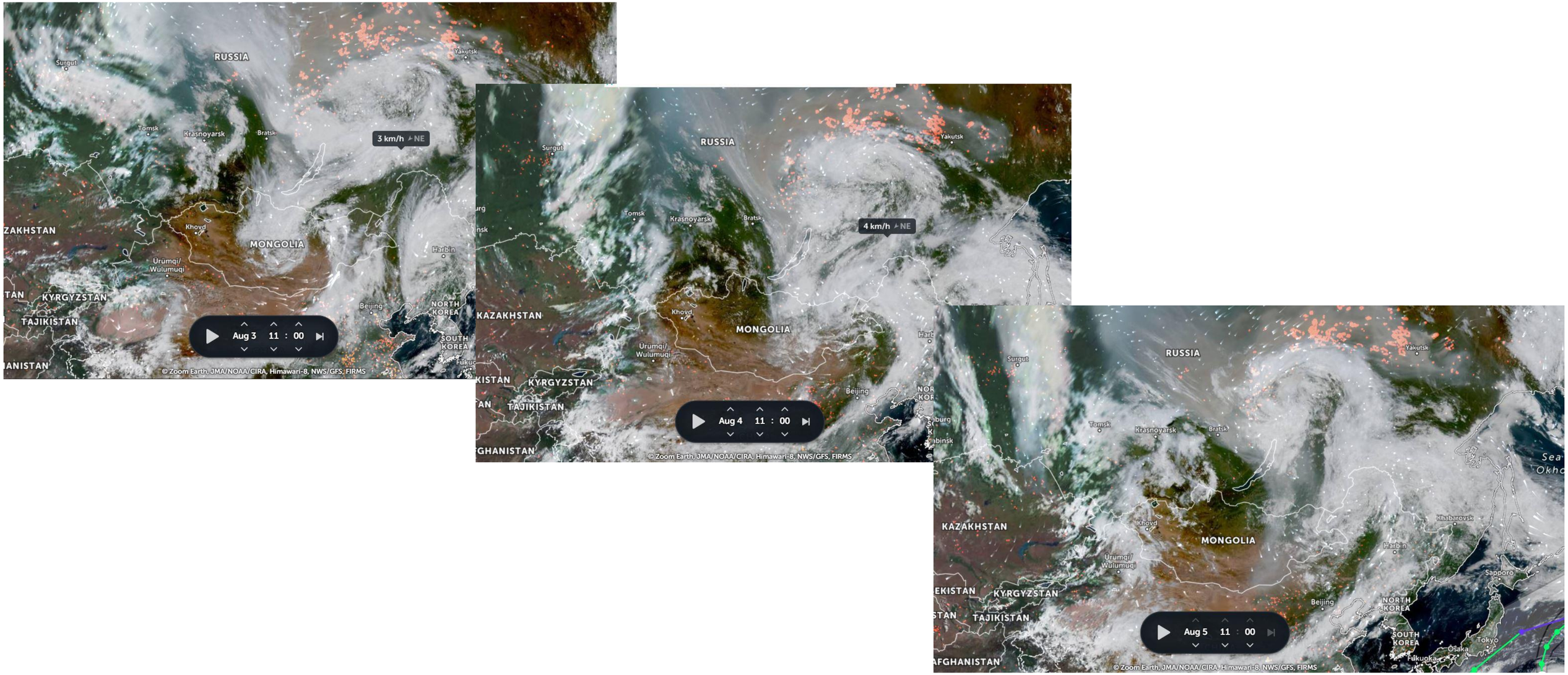


# Degradation drivers:

Transboundary fire in eastern provinces (average 1,2 million ha/year)

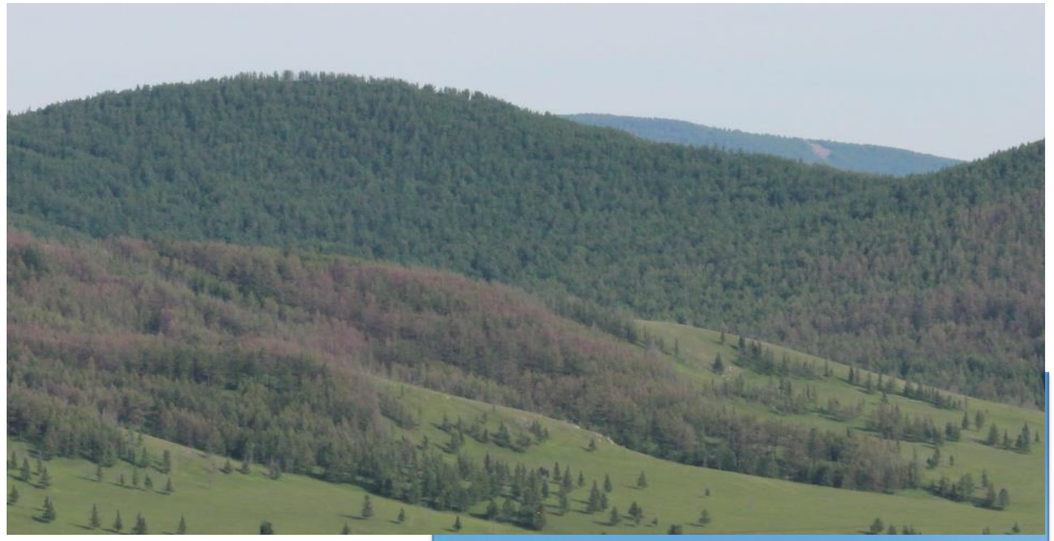


# Transboundary fire and haze (August, 2021)



# Degradation drivers: Forest pests

- Siberian moth *(Dendrolimus sibiricus* Tschetv.*)*
- Gypsy moth *(Lymantria dispar* L.*)*
- *Orgyia antiqua* L.
- *Erannis jacobsoni* Djak.
- *Yponomeuta padella* L.
- *Leucoma salicis* L.
- *Pristiphora erichsonii* (Hartig)



# RESTORATION IN FOREST-STEPPE ECOTONE
# /Selenge province, Tujiin nars/

2008

2021

- Fire, logging, insects
- Reforested Scots pine stand 15,000 ha

# RESTORATION IN FOREST-STEPPE ECOTONE
# /Selenge province, Tujiin nars/

# RESTORATION IN FOREST-STEPPE ECOTONE
# /Selenge province, Tujiin nars/

# AFFORESTATION ACTIVITIES FOR COMBATING DESERTIFICATION
# Mongolia-Korea “Green belt project”

Local nurseries (3 locations) with local vegetation (seed, seedling materials)

# AFFORESTATION ACTIVITIES FOR COMBATING DESERTIFICATION
# Mongolia-Korea “Green belt project”

Approx. = 3000 ha for 10 years
Ulmus, Saxaul, Poplar

# AFFORESTATION ACTIVITIES FOR COMBATING DESERTIFICATION /Mongolia-Korea “Green belt project”

Saxaul - native forest covers 1.7 mill, ha. 125,000 ha completely disappeared. 370,000 ha lost its capability to regenerate.

# A possible cooperation:

- What are critical global forest issues in the Asian region that require active research cooperation among Asian forest research institutes?

*There are many global forest issues in the region – determine a common issues - cooperate*

- How can Asian forest research institutes effectively cooperate to respond to the issues mentioned above?

*Joint project proposals, short and long term monitoring mechanisms on certain issues*

- How to establish the research cooperative governance or system, and what are the roles of inter-governmental organizations like AFoCO and national research Institutes in Asian forest research cooperation?

*To develop a research project proposal on common issues in the region*


THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION