

Land assessment and monitoring component: history and plans for GG4

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GREEN GOLD

Initiation of rangeland health monitoring efforts (GG 1; 2006-2007)

1. Develop a evidence-based evaluation of change in rangeland conditions (health)
2. Use evaluations to generate a common understanding of land degradation and management options



Standardized monitoring methods (GG 2)

National Methods Comparison for Mongolia (10-12 September 2008)

1. RIAH, ALAGCAC, Universities, Institute of Botany, NAMEM
2. Agreement on core methods: 1) line-point intercept, 2) basal gap, 3) standing biomass, and 4) photo-points.
3. Methodology for soil characterization
4. System for interpreting the data (relative to site potential or a reference= ecological sites)



Training and data collection (GG 3)

2009: First data collection/methods testing in ecozones (selected soums)

2010: Methods and database training, GG data collection used for ecological site/state-and-transition model concepts

2011: First national data collection by NAMEM, approval of methods by MNET, more GG data collection

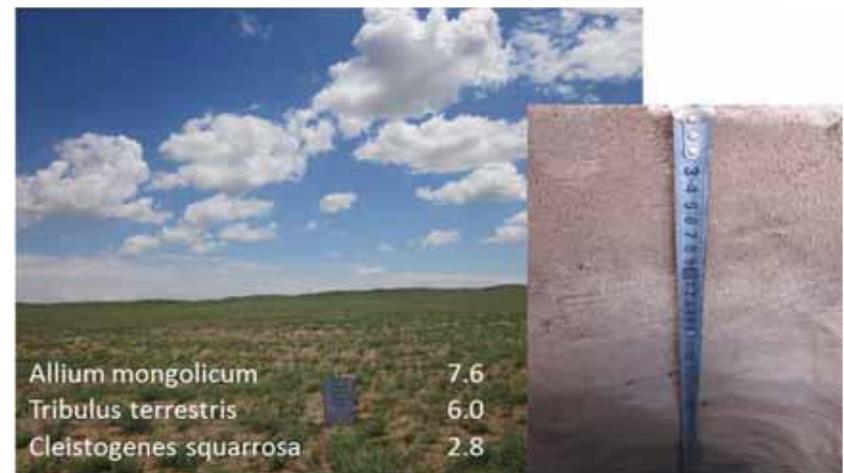
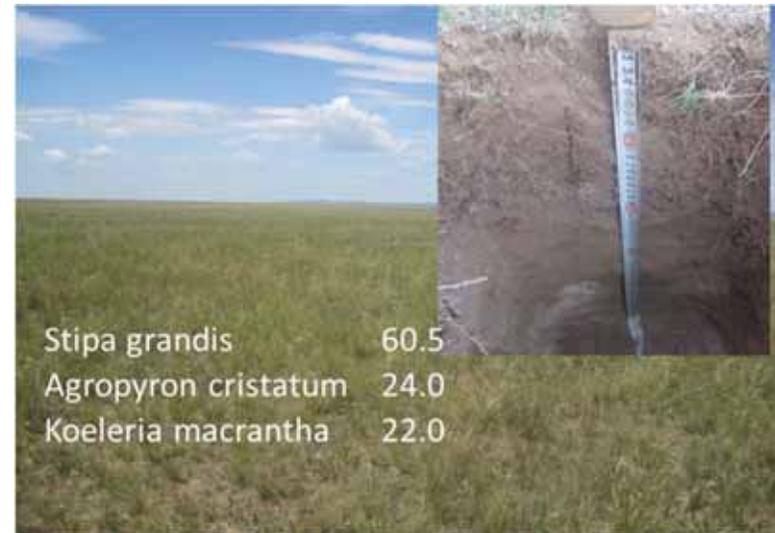
2012: Data management, analysis, initiation of report led by Ecological Site Description Core Group (>600 samples obtained by GG to date)

Ecological site-based interpretation of national monitoring data and applications at soum/PUG-level (GG4)

What are ecological sites?

Land classes that differ in climate and/or soil, potential vegetation and responses to climatic and management drivers

Different management needs

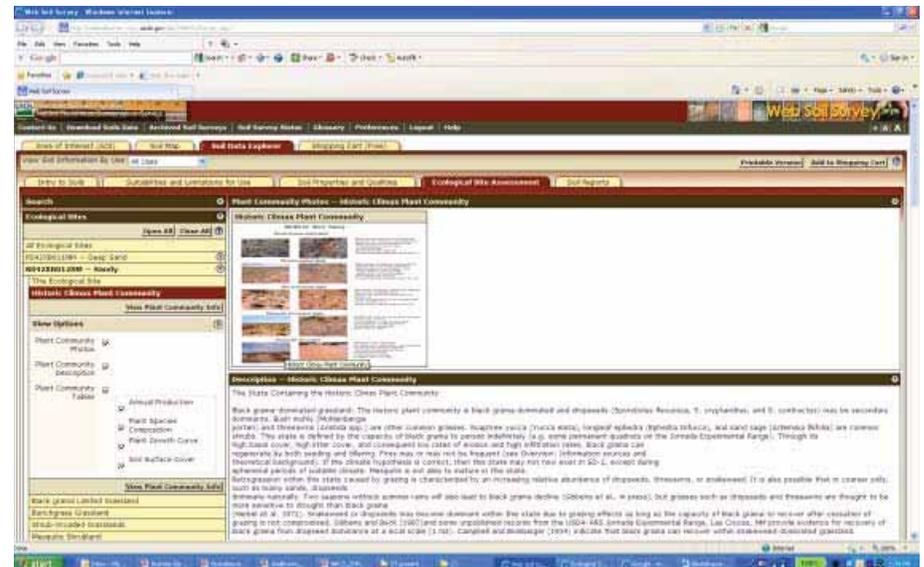


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What are ecological site descriptions?

Knowledge base about an ecological site

- Collaboratively developed
- Documents, training materials
- Ecological potential for site
- Definition of degradation
- Limitations to recovery
- Best practices



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A. Capacity building at NAMEM:

- follow-up training for field staff and aimag engineers
- hire monitoring/database manager
- IT support, equipment
- Interpretation of monitoring data at national level based on ecological sites (2013 report is one component)

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B. Capacity building at ALAGCAC:

- hire ecological site description (ESD) development coordinator
- develop national approach to ESD development and establish relationship to “rangeland contract”
- IT support, equipment
- training on ESD concepts for aimag- and soum-level land managers (could include MNET)

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C. Ecological site description develop pilot projects:

- Undurshireet, Ikhtamir, Khanbogd soums (major ecozones)

- develop ESDs within soum, cooperation with PUGs/herders/ALAGCAC/MOFALI

- how to develop maps of carrying capacity, management/restoration recommendations

- how to use tools for extension and implementation of rangeland contracts

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Summary: Two parts to GG efforts:

Natural resource problems are recognized at national and regional levels via broad-scale sampling (GG sampling) and long-term monitoring (NAMEM)

Solutions to problems:

- national policy (regional prioritization, restoration needs)

- implementation at aimag/soum level (ESDs, local carrying capacity, best management practices, local-scale assessment and monitoring (ALAGCAC?))

WHO are users?

ALAGCAC

- Land use planning & management

MNET

- Natural resource management
- Coping with desertification

MOFALI

- Livestock management