
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies



presents

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Biodiversity Conservation in a Developing Country: Mongolia

Abstract: Mongolia is located on a high plain in eastern Asia at a mean elevation of 1300 meters, isolated by natural geographic boundaries with China and Russia, but the country forms an important buffer between these two countries. Mongolia's ecosystems range from the Gobi and Altai Mountains in the south and west, semi-desert and vast areas of steppe grassland across its central region, to taiga forest covering mountains and tectonic valleys bordering Siberia in the north. Endemism averages between 10 and 20% among plant and animal species and many rare and endangered species that formerly migrated throughout the Central and East Asian steppe and deserts, from Korea to Eastern Europe, survive in isolated pockets of Mongolia; Bactrian camel, a desert bear, snow leopard, wild ass, Saiga, large herds of Mongolian gazelle, as well as many rare wild flower and bird species. Przewalski's horse, a unique species of horse, is now being reintroduced to the steppe from European and Australian zoos.

How can these habitats with their unique biodiversity be protected? An argument for protection demands knowledge of this uniqueness and a large dose of politics with arguments and support to help develop economic alternatives to exploitation. This talk will discuss on-going efforts to protect an ancient lake in northern Mongolia, Lake Hovsgol, a sister lake to Baikal, and one of the most pristine large lakes in the World.

Date: Thursday, February 28, 2002

Time: 12:15 pm - 1:45 pm

Place: Auditorium at Wistar Institute

On Penn's campus: Spruce Street & Penn's 36th Street Walkway

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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