

Videos highlight impact of Mongolian mining

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SMI researchers, finding a sustainable balance for herders and Mining in Mongolia.

The dramatic expansion of Mongolian mine sites from initial diggings to their present size has been captured using satellite imagery for the first time by researchers at The University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI).

The two videos show satellite footage of the mine sites, the surrounding urbanisation, new roads and illegal small-scale or 'ninja' mining sites.

Produced using Landsat [satellite imagery](#) of Tavan Tolgoi coal mine in the South Gobi Desert and Sharyn Gol in the Northern steppe region of

Mongolia, the videos cover an approximate 40-year time series depicting the growth and scale of impacts from mining.

UQ SMI Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRM) Project Manager Isabel Cane said the videos would be used to study changes to herder community livelihoods through social changes stimulated directly and indirectly by ecological impacts.

"The images visually display the mine-related environmental impacts that these sites are facing, and provide insights into the effects the mines are having on local communities," Ms Cane said.

She added that the videos would contribute to the broader goals of the research: to demonstrate changes in natural resources and to assist in predicting future sustainable development objectives for the affected communities.

The images are the first product of a two-year Australian aid project funded through the Australian Development Research Awards Scheme (ADRAS) entitled 'Managing the impacts of minerals development on women and men and their traditional livelihoods in Mongolia'.

The ADRAS project is part of a new [Mongolia Research Hub](#) focused on sustainable development in Mongolia.

It brings together current CSRM research in Mongolia, with information on the country and its rapidly developing mining sector.

"The Hub will be a portal to access new outputs from expanding research on Mongolian mining and help build Australian engagement with the development potential in that country," Ms Cane said.

The Australian Government has recognised Mongolia as a priority

country in mining for development, with the aim to ensure that [mining](#) revenue is distributed equitably, and that social and environmental impacts are managed well.

The CSRM currently has four research projects in Mongolia, partnering with such organisations as the International Mining for Development Centre (an Australian aid initiative), the Sirolli Institute, and other Mongolian stakeholders.

More information: Watch both videos:
[www.youtube.com/playlist?list= ... wm02g5YLZfAsMcx09y7Z](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=...wm02g5YLZfAsMcx09y7Z)

Provided by University of Queensland

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