Problems of Land Tenure in Altai Trans-boundary Regions

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Altai is the region of high biodiversity, and concentration of international, national and regional interests.
Territorial Structure of Altai Region

- Eastern Kazakh Oblast (Kazakhstan) 36.2%
- Bayan-Ulgiy Aimak (Mongolia) 5.8%
- Khovd Aimak (Mongolia) 9.7%
- Altaiskii Krai (Russia) 21.6%
- Altai Republic (Russia) 11.8%
- Altaiskii Okrug in Xinjiang-Uighur Autonomous Region 14.9%
Population Structure in Altai Region

- Eastern Kazakh Oblast (Kazakhstan): 29%
- Altaiskii Okrug in Xinjiang-Uighur Autonomous Region (China): 11%
- Bayan-Ulgii Aimak (Mongolia): 2%
- Khovd Aimak (Mongolia): 2%
- Altai Republic (Russia): 4%
- Altaiskii Krai (Russia): 52%
Common Features of Altai Trans-Boundary Territory

• Ethnic structure of population.
• Comparatively low level of industrial development.
• Rich natural resource potential.
• The regional systems of land tenure oriented on the use of own land resources for economic and other purposes on the basis of traditions or laws. [Kotlyakov, Komarova, 2007].
Economic Problems

- Irrational use of land resources, not involved into the economic turnover with maximum effect.

- Objective and subjective reasons as lack of economic, political, intellectual potentials for their most effective utilization as well as external and internal restrictions including ecological ones.
Ecological Problems

• Irrational use of own land resources.

• The source of ecological problems can:
  – Firstly, be far beyond the region boundaries, and can be caused by trans-boundary transfer of pollutants.
  – Secondly, be in the sphere of the state political interests. In this case the land tenure adversely affects the regional interests.
  – Thirdly, be caused by pollutants accumulated in the earlier period of time.
Legal aspects of land use issues

Poor study of normative-legal principles of land tenure, namely, property and forms of management. For instance:

– Lack of appropriate normative-legal base for ecological and nature protective regulation of anthropogenic loads under different forms of land use.

– Lack of efficient legal mechanism of responsibility for land disturbance or degradation caused by economic activity or its absence.
Peculiarities of the land tenure system in Altai Republic

• Firstly, Altai Republic is quite representative territory that includes all types of land tenure, specific for other regions of Altai.

• Secondly, Altai Republic remained traditions of national ethnic nature management and life support system for native population, which are peculiar to other Altai regions.

• Thirdly, the system of land tenure in Altai Republic in some extent is intermediate between economically backward aimaks of West Mongolia and industrial regions of East Kazakhstan.

• Fourthly, the Kosh-Agachsky region has been selected due to it is the only administrative entity adjacent to the boundaries of three countries.
Phases in modern system of land tenure

• **First phase** – pre-soviet period that is preceding to establishment of the Soviet Power and collective forms of property in Altai:
  
  – Land tenure was represented by traditional kinds of economic activity nomad cattle breeding, hunting and so on.
  
  – Regular settlements were formed mainly in junction of trade ways in wide valleys of large rivers and inside of mountainous catchments.
  
  – Lack of appropriate technologies of agricultural farming. Ploughing up of lands not suitable by its natural features lead to the 15-70% loss of productivity of arable lands.
Phases in modern system of land tenure

- **Second phase** – Soviet economy period:
  - Collective farms had been formed; plant growing had been developed to provide forage for cattle feeding during winter time in collective farms; production of meat and wool, and in some districts milky products, maral pants breeding had been developed.
  - High density of cattle herd, lack of pastures turnover, and its consequence depression and digression of summer and spring pastures, lack of pastures, acute shortage of natural hay fields, necessity of development of filed forage production (melioration, secondary salting of soils).
Phases in modern system of land tenure

- **Third phase** – post perestroika development:
  - Destruction of economically non-effective branches and ways of economy; liquidation of large agricultural farms; reduction of cattle stock, mainly sheep and goats. The remained inheritance as pastures digression has no positive dynamics so far.
  - System of nomad cattle breeding is oriented on use of natural forage potential that can not ensure the food needs of the republic population, not saying about inter-regional market.
  - Expansion and creation of maral breeding parks; their area is close to the upper limit of ecological loads in cattle breeding.
  - Growth of cattle stock in private economies, resulted in high density of cattle on natural forage sites around large and middle settlements.
Altai Trans-boundary Biosphere Territory
Modern Kinds of Nature Management
Altai Trans-boundary Territory: Directions for Future Development
Thank you for your attention!