





There was no need to destroy the land and people worshipped mother nature.



But now there is too much technology and its polluting the air.



Secondly, the exploitation of nature,



And in my opinion, this is causing severe issues like desertification.



They [the Mongolian government] say they will protect nature, they will conserve nature,



but they will never do that.



They say with our rehabilitation grass will grow again you know everything will be just fine.



They say with our rehabilitation grass will grow again you know everything will be just fine.



I don't believe that. I believe for next 100 years it's not going to be the same.







It seems like when foreigners come to Mongolia, the first job they get is in construction.



In construction, you have no other option than digging the land.



There is no difference between digging the ground and destroying the land.



It would be better if specialists in the environmental sector would come to Mongolia.



On one hand, I know that constructing new buildings is important for the development of Mongolia.



Digging, creating holes, and putting clay buildings into the land.



So construction is good for the development of the nation,



but it's dangerous to the environment.



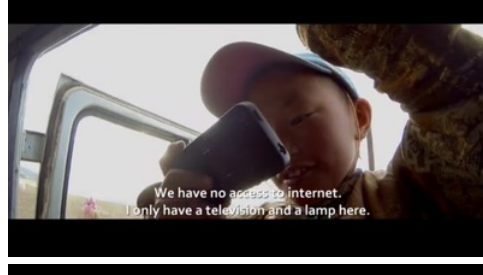
It's necessary for young people in the city there are many educational institutions



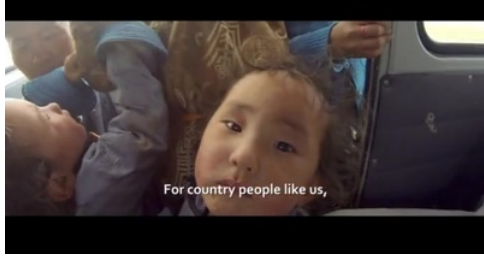
There isn't any internet in the countryside.



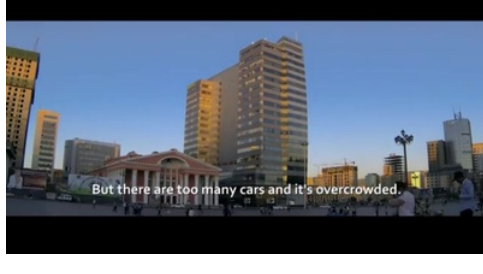
Since everything is centralized in the city, young people go to the city to follow the civilization.



We have no access to internet. I only have a television and a lamp here.



For country people like us,



But there are too many cars and it's overcrowded.



There is too much air pollution, for us rural Mongolians, the air is not suitable and it's difficult to breathe there.





We try to keep the main source of water clean.

Help them understand how to treat nature in good way.

Mongolians don't even put a spoon full of milk into the river.

And even when we move to a new place, we don't leave any holes in the ground at our old place.

This is coming from our traditions.

If you move one stone from it's resting place, then for three years it will not find its new place.

I think that politics at the soum (village) and aimag (town) levels are the same.

First of all, the preservationists need to take control of protecting the environment.

Secondly, this area has been exploited for mining for three to four years.





Because of this, ponds and wells have dried up.



Luckily, these companies stopped digging up the ground last year.



So we can see that ground exploitation and mining leads to the rivers drying up.



So we can see that ground exploitation and mining leads to the rivers drying up.



Now we need to state or clarify, in the law, who is responsible for environmental protection.



Now we need to state or clarify, in the law, who is responsible for environmental protection.



Because in the old times, there wasn't any gold digging (or soil exploitation.)



People, lets all protect and love mother earth.



It digs the land a lot. I think it's wrong.



If we continue digging the land, nothing will grow and it will be hard for us to herd animals.



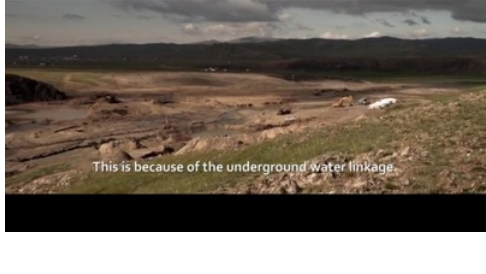
There used to be 33 ponds and wells in this area but because of gold mining, the water lines (streams) were destroyed.



So even though you do the digging in the opposite direction of the river or lake, this one starts to shrink.



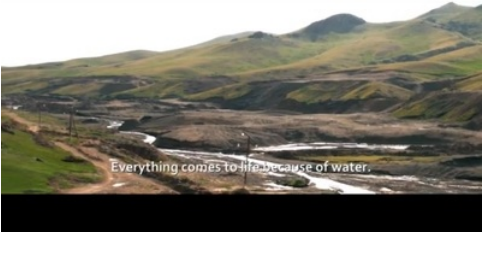
This is because of the underground water linkage.



This is because of the underground water linkage.



As said before water is precious and priceless.



Everything comes to life because of water.





The environment, plants, and flowers come to life because of water.



So we need to understand the importance of water,



I believe that if people around the world can agree on water protection, it would be important in global peace and health.



I believe that if people around the world can agree on water protection, it would be important in global peace and health.



You know what? What we are doing here, artisanal mining, is not deteriorating nature.



Actually, the environmental destruction comes from the big mining companies,



who are digging the holes on the original virgin lands.



We are just working here to get whatever is left from the mines that are not being rehabilitated.



People have a really bad misunderstanding that the Ninja Miners just dig the ground anywhere they want to.



People have a really bad misunderstanding that the Ninja Miners just dig the ground anywhere they want to.



That's not true. In reality we are here working on the place that has already been dug up by the mining companies.



That's not true. In reality we are here working on the place that has already been dug up by the mining companies.



Even they do not want to go and dig the ground to extract gold,



but the circumstances of their lives require them to go into this.



We were herders, however in 2005 we lost all our animals (due to starvation) during the dzud (harsh winter.)







This is not a time for us to be retired, but we don't have any professional background.



So this is what we do in order to survive.



In old times we only had the "khuree" (groups of rural families living together)



We didn't have cities, provinces or villages. We didn't have stable residential places like now.



We didn't have cities, provinces or villages. We didn't have stable residential places like now.



In the summer we go to our summer place.



Then we will go to our autumn place.



Then we will go to our spring place.



We didn't have any problems with lack of grass.



a person has the right to own land in Mongolia, and to live freely on their property.



a person has the right to own land in Mongolia, and to live freely on their property.



But I think that we should limit mineral resource mining licenses. If possible, it should be stopped.



Personally, I think that the land should be used for the prosperity of the people living in that area.



Personally, I think that the land should be used for the prosperity of the people living in that area.





But digging the land for mining is wrong. It's not necessary.



I really regret, as a Mongolian, that the Mongolian government is selling its land for a piece of dirty money.



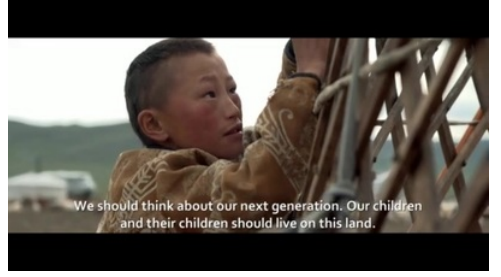
I really regret, as a Mongolian, that the Mongolian government is selling its land for a piece of dirty money.



Behind the person buying the land, there are foreigners from wealthy countries.



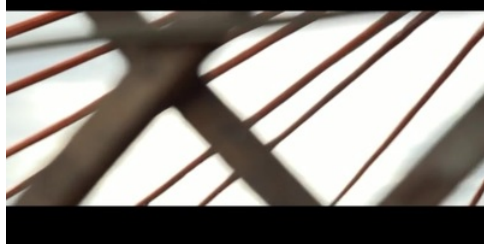
It's so wrong. We should stop it immediately.



We should think about our next generation. Our children and their children should live on this land.



We should think about our next generation. Our children and their children should live on this land.



If privatization is stopped, it doesn't mean that we (referring to local people from this area) will be expelled from our land.



But to become a tool for foreigners, and to sell Mongolia's land to them,



The number of goats has increased rapidly due to increasing cashmere prices.



Goats prevent grasses from growing nutritiously, because they eat the roots.



Goats prevent grasses from growing nutritiously, because they eat the roots.



Because of this we are running out of pasture.

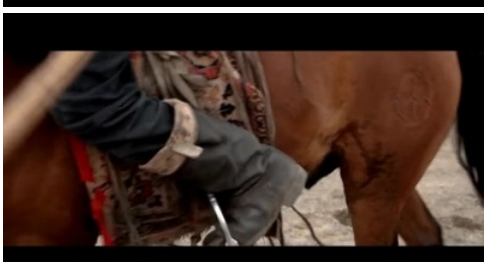
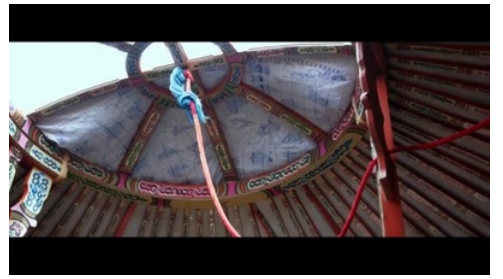


Because of this we are running out of pasture.

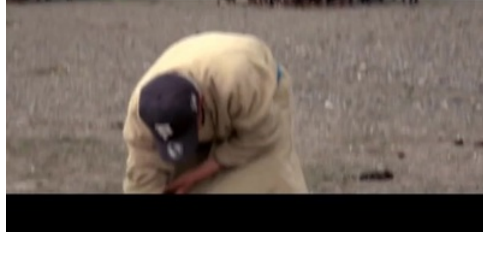
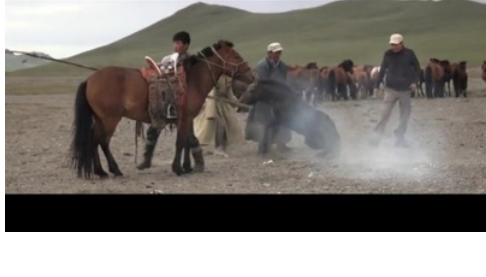
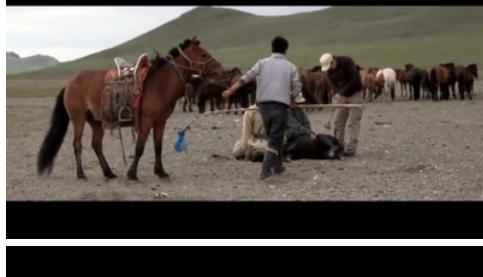


Only long hot summer days with little rain.













I think people need to have a close relationship with nature, so that they can keep the nature as beautiful as it is.



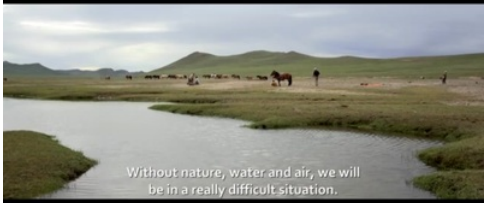
I think people need to have a close relationship with nature, so that they can keep the nature as beautiful as it is.



No matter where you are from or what your nationality is.



I wish that people could keep the earth, water and air clean.



Without nature, water and air, we will be in a really difficult situation.



and will return to nature after death.



So I try to keep the environment as clean as possible for my children's children.



So I try to keep the environment as clean as possible for my children's children.



You should use it in a good way. Other than that I can't say things like "we need to destroy that television or computer."



You should use it in a good way. Other than that I can't say things like "we need to destroy that television or computer."



You should use it in a good way. Other than that I can't say things like "we need to destroy that television or computer."

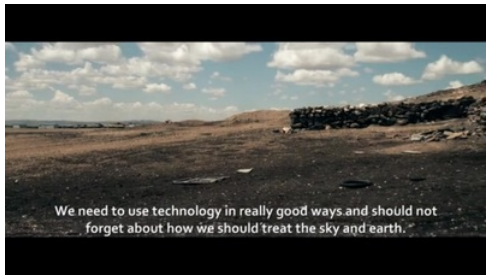


You should use it in a good way. Other than that I can't say things like "we need to destroy that television or computer."



We need to use technology in really good ways and should not forget about how we should treat the sky and earth.





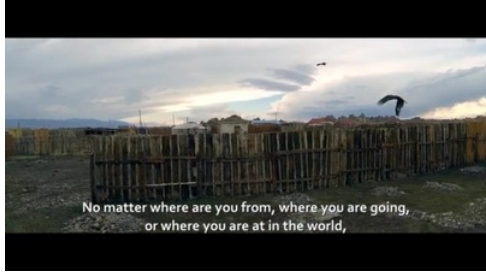
We need to use technology in really good ways and should not forget about how we should treat the sky and earth.



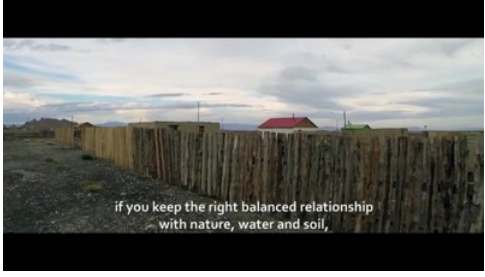
If we learn to use even the small amount of soil that fits in your hand, it means we are learning to protect our nature.



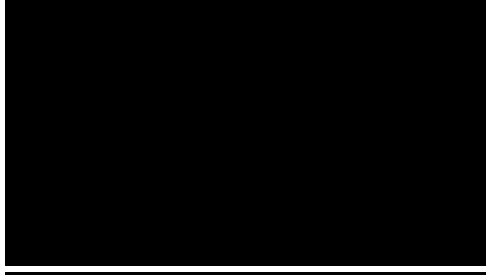
No matter where are you from, where you are going, or where you are at in the world,



No matter where are you from, where you are going, or where you are at in the world,



if you keep the right balanced relationship with nature, water and soil,



Field Producer and Researcher  
**Ariell Ahern**  
Location Sound Recordist  
**Ian Bliss**  
Location Translators  
**Tsendsuren Purevsuren**  
**Binderiya Dondov**  
Anthropologist and Location Translator  
**Bumochir Dulam**

*Three toom & First snow* performed by **KHUSUGTUN:**  
**Ulbabayar.Kh** - cello, tovshuur & throat singing  
**Ariunbold.D** - composer, throat singer, great horse fiddle & guitar  
**Amarbayasgalan.Ch** - zither  
**Chuluunbaatar.O** - throat singer & horse head fiddle  
**Adiyadorj.G** - throat singer, flute & drum  
**Batzorig.V** - throat singer & horse head fiddle  
Music copyright 2009 Khusugtun All rights reserved  
Special Thanks to  
**Nicole Koschmann**  
.. -

Tangat Lama & his daughter  
Dorjpurev Lama & his wife  
Boldbaatar & his son Nyambat  
Ganbaatar & his wife Jagai  
Jugder & his whole family

