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The Tukha People in Northern Mongolia: Sustainability and Indigenous Rights for Land Resources

This study investigates how a combination of endangering factors—climate change and a prohibition on subsistence hunting on the ancestral lands—threatens the existence of the Tukha people, a small-numbered ethnic group of hunters and reindeer herders in northern Mongolia. To the Tukha people, a prohibition on subsistence hunting means: food insecurity, disappearing skills and crafts, the loss of knowledge and language related to wildlife, hunting, and living in the taiga. Moreover, it undermines the Tukha subsistence economy and results in the loss of sustainable procurement practices. Instead, the Tukha will be forced to rely on store-bought food and seek other income sources, for instance, by catering to the needs of the growing tourism industry in the region.

The Tukha family is setting up a dwelling “chahdyr” at the summer encampment Örteng-Kyrkhy (The Burnt Ridge), northern Mongolia, June 2023. Photo @ Victoria Soyan Peemot

