Oral Consent Script for ESRC GCRF project Inclusive Societies: ‘Mediation Model for Sustainable Infrastructure Development’: Scaling up Praxis from Mongolia to Central Asia.

Record this consent process using a digital recorder (if participant has consented to this) or by using a Record of Consent Form.]

[Oral information giving stage]

Hello, my name is [x]. We are working on an Oxford University research project on the interaction between local residents and mining companies in Kyrgyzstan. We are trying to understand what types of conflicts exist between mining companies and local people and how these conflicts are addressed. Would you be interested in being involved in the research?

Our research team involves the University of Oxford, University of Central Asia and Independent Research Institute of Mongolia.

We are interested in getting the local experience and perspective on these issues. If you choose to be a part of this project, here is what will happen:

We will have an interview with you which should take approximately one hour, where we will ask a range of questions related to your experiences of mining-related conflicts.

The answers you give will be anonymised and your name will not be used. The personal information you will share with me will not be passed to any third party. The anonymised research data will only be handled by our group during this field trip. The research will be used to help develop a model for future conflict resolution in mining regions in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan.

This research is anonymous, which means that in any publications, your name will not be used, unless you insist on the opposite.

We do not anticipate any risks involved in taking part in this project.

Taking part is completely voluntary and we can stop any time you like without giving a reason and without any negative consequences.

With your permission, I would like to make an audio recording of our discussion to make sure I’m getting an accurate record of your thoughts. Alternatively, I can take notes in my notebook. Which would you prefer?

If you agree to take part in this project, the research will be written up as academic publications to be read by academics, policy documents which can be circulated among policy makers, and a handbook for other communities around Central Asia to refer to. You can also get a copy of any of these documents.

This research project has been reviewed and approved by an Oxford University ethics committee. If, after contacting us with any concern, you remain unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the ethics committee. Their email is ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk. I will also give you their postal address and this project’s ethics reference number.

Do you have any questions?

[Oral consent seeking stage, after participant has had sufficient time to think about whether s/he wants to take part]

Do you give your permission for me to interview you? Do you give me permission to audio record you?

Are you happy to take part?

Ok, thanks, in which case let’s start.