ESRC GCRF Inclusive Societies: ‘Mediation Model for Sustainable Infrastructure Development’:

Scaling up Praxis from Mongolia to Central Asia

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

1. ***What is the purpose of this research?***

This project develops a framework for sustainable infrastructure development to promote inclusive economic development and social welfare in the context of Chinese mega infrastructure initiatives in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan. We aim to understand how local communities, mine staff and government officials engage, address and mediate disputes in Kyrgyzstan. Through interviews and focus groups the research will identify the needs, interests and objectives of various community stakeholders. Based on the lessons learned from the successes and limitations in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan we will develop a framework that can be applied to other infrastructure projects in Central Asia.

1. ***Why have I been invited to take part?***

You have been invited because you are a community member knowledgeable about livelihoods, mining and local governance issues in your region of Kyrgyzstan.

The inclusion criteria are members of the community with knowledge of this topic. Participants include community residents, local government officials and mining company staff.

1. ***Do I have to take part?***

No. You can ask questions about the research before deciding whether or not to participate. If you do agree to participate, you may withdraw yourself from the study at any time, without giving a reason, by advising the researchers of this decision.

1. ***What will happen to me if I take part in the research?***

If you are happy to take part in the research, you will be asked to participate in an interview that will take approximately one hour. It will consist of a series of questions about your experiences of mining in your area. You will be asked if you give permission for the interview to be audio recorded.

If you are still happy to take part, you will then be asked to sign a written consent form or give oral consent.

No follow up visits are planned.

1. ***Are there any potential risks in taking part?***

There are minimal risks in taking part in this research. Issues around conflicts in the area will be discussed only if the participant is willing to share such information. In order to reduce any potential risks, the researchers will ensure all data is confidential and stored securely.

1. ***Are there any benefits in taking part?***

There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part in this research.

1. ***What happens to the data provided?*** [[1]](#footnote-2)

The information you provide as part of the study is the **research data**. Any research data from which you can be identified (e.g. your name, audio recording), known as **personal data**, will be anonymised and stored confidentially so that you will not be identifiable. It does not include data where the identity has been removed (anonymous data). We will minimise our use of personal data in the study as much as possible.

The **research data** will be stored confidentially using password-secured computers and written field notes held securely in a locked hotel room in the field. Any electronic storage devices will be encrypted;data will then be transferred to Oxford University’s Nextcloud secure data storage for a minimum of 3 years.

Only the research team will have access to research data.

We would like your permission to use direct quotes.

All research data and records will be stored for a minimum of 3 years after publication or public release of the work of the research. We may retain and store your personal data for an additional period of time as necessary for the purposes of the study, and for further research.

1. ***Will the research be published?***

The University of Oxford is committed to the dissemination of its research for the benefit of society and the economy and, in support of this commitment, has established an online archive of research materials. The research may be published in academic journal articles, a book, policy briefs and in reports and media for a public audience.

***9. Who is organising and funding the research?***

The UK Economic and Social Research Council-Global Challenges Research Fund is funding this research through the School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford, UK. Fiona McConnell is the Principal Investigator.

1. ***Who has reviewed this study?***

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee

1. ***Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?***

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the relevant researcher Kemel Toktomushev kemel.toktomushev@ucentralasia.org, phone# 996 (3522) 57 820 or their supervisor the University of Central Asia 996 (3522) 57 820, or Fiona McConnell – Fiona.mcconnell@ouce.ox.ac.uk or (44)1865 285070, all of whom will do their best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how they intend to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the relevant chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner:

Chair, **Social Sciences & Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

1. ***Data Protection***

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the study.

The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that we perform in the public interest.

Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from <http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/>.

1. ***Further Information and Contact Details***

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

Dr Fiona McConnell

School of Geography and the Environment

Tel: (44)1865 285070

Email: fiona.mcconnell@ouce.ox.ac.uk

1. Please refer to [CUREC’s Best Practice Guidance on Data Collection and Management](https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics/resources/bpg) (BPG 09) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)