

Glossary

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

aimag: First level administrative division in Mongolia.

Autonomous Region: Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (referred to in this book as Inner Mongolia) is one of five autonomous regions in China that are a first level administrative division in China (equivalent to provinces) and which are the highest level of minority autonomous entity in China with a relatively higher population of a particular minority ethnic group.

bag: Third level administrative division in Mongolia.

banner: Third level administrative division in Inner Mongolia, equivalent to county in other parts of China.

league: Second level administrative division in China found only in Inner Mongolia. While some *leagues* mentioned in the book such as Xilingol remain as *leagues*, other *leagues* have been changed to prefecture level cities.

soum: Second level administrative division in Mongolia.

sumu: Fourth level administrative division in China found only in Inner Mongolia and equivalent to township elsewhere in China.

CURRENCIES

CNY: Chinese yuan. In April 2019, USD1 = CNY6.7.

MNT: Mongolian Tugrik. In April 2019, USD1 = MNT2630.

USD: United States dollar.

OTHER TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS AND UNITS

airag: Fermented mare's milk.

CBNRM: Community based natural resource management.

dzud: Refers to a winter weather disaster of deep snow, severe cold or inaccessible livestock feed that may be exacerbated by a poor grazing summer/autumn.

ger: A *ger* is a traditional round shaped dwelling used by Mongolian herders consisting of wooden lattice walls, wooden poles and felt covers. Most of the *ger* materials are of animal origin or wood.

GESAS: Grassland Ecology Conservation Subsidy and Award Scheme of the Chinese government first introduced in the 12th Five Year Plan from 2011 to 2015. The scheme involves payments to herders as compensation for grazing bans on severely degraded grasslands and payment incentives (reward balance payments) to herders to stock at (sustainable) stocking rates set under GESAS.

mu: 1 *mu* is equal to 0.067 hectares (approximately 15 *mu* to 1 hectare).

otor: Large-scale livestock migration in response to environmental variability.