



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

# "MONGOLIA'S NETWORK OF MANAGED RESOURCE PROTECTED AREAS"

MON/13/303 PROJECT

## THE PROJECT GOAL:

The goal is to ensure integrity of Mongolia's diverse ecosystems to secure viability of nation's globally significant biodiversity.

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

- Ministry of the Environment and Tourism
- United Nations Development Program

## FUNDING:

- Global Environmental Facility – 1,309,091 \$
- UN Development Program – 200,000 \$
- Ministry of the Environment and Tourism -500,000 \$ (in-kind)

## TOTAL BUDGET:

1,509,091 \$

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SITES:

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. "Gulzat" LPA (Uvs aimag, Bukhmunun soums)   | 203,316 ha |
| 2. "Khavtgar" LPA (Batshireet soum of Khentii aimag)   | 104,900 ha |
| 3. "Tumenkhan-shalz" LPA (Tsgaaan ovoo, Bayan-uul soums of Dornod aimag, and Norovlin soum of Khentii aimag) | 374,499 ha |

## THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The project objective is to catalyze strategic expansion of Mongolia's protected areas system through establishment of a network of community conservation areas covering under-represented terrestrial ecosystems.

## PROGRAMME PERIOD:

2013-2018



## ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTPUTS:



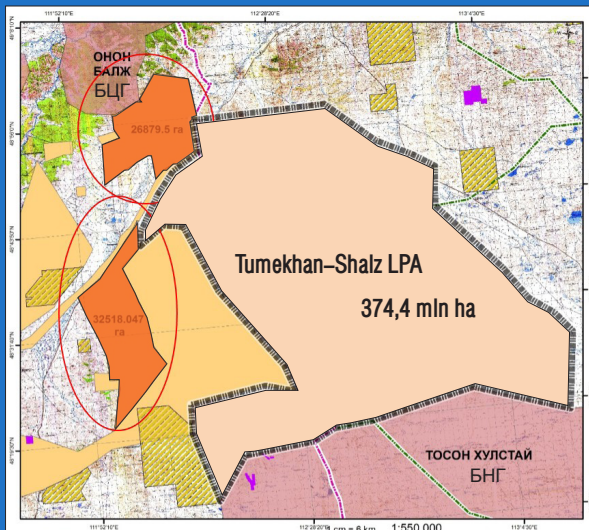
Expanded area under local protection by about **600.0** thousand hectare and created ecological corridor areas

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Created under local protection, the ecological corridors/ connectivity support wildlife movement between the state and local protected areas in west and east regions. These are

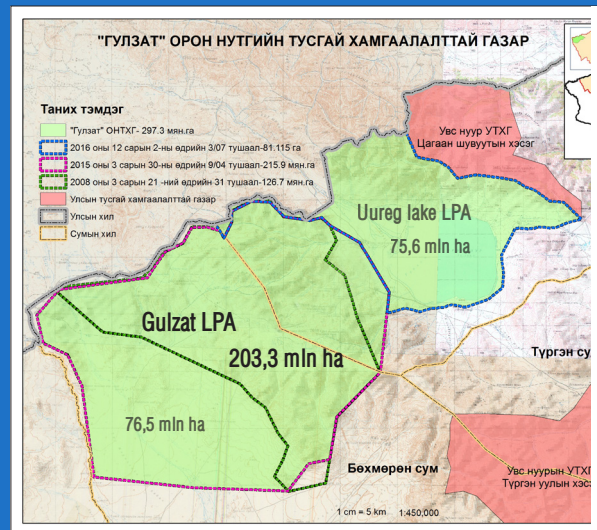
### a. 433,9 thousand ha

Total of 433,9 thousand ha area, a migration and calving land of gazelle located between Tosonkhulstai NR and Onon Balj NP in Bayan-uul, Tsagaan oboo and Norovlin soums of Dornod and Khenti aimags;



### б. 278.9 thousand ha

Argali sheep migration and distribution area of 284.4 thousand ha, that connects Tsagaan shuvuut and Turgen mountain SPAs in Sagil and Buhmurun soums of Uvs aimag.



Created pilot community based management structure, arrangement, and strengthened capacity of parties/ stakeholders

1

In the project three target LPAs the following pilot community based management structures were established to ensure the area protection:

- Within the scope of public private partnership an NGO, a legal entity is granted a contract for conservation management of Gulzat LPA;
- Within scope of the public private partnership a legal entity (locally owned enterprise) is granted a contract for conservation management of Khavtgar LPA;
- Within the existing legislation the soum government is managing conservation of Tumekhan-Shalz LPA.



Protection administrations of the adjacent state protected area play an important role in effective protection of the above three LPAs. E.g., based on the contracts issued between the entity in charge for the management of LPA and the protection administrations of Uvs lake basin PA in Uvs aimag, Protection administration of Khan Khentii PA in Khavtgar, and Dornod SPA in Tumenkhan-Shalz and Onon Balj NR some joint research work, capacity strengthening work for volunteer rangers (VR) and creation of the database were completed.

2 Conservation communities have main play in the LPA conservation management. A total of **1243 herders of 418 herder families formed 33 communities in three target LPAs** of the project, and based on the contract with the Governor the communities have made valuable input in alleviation of the stress received by the biodiversity while rationally utilizing rangeland under their accountability. Occurrence of **fire** in Tumenkhan-Shalz cut by **40 per cent** in 2015-2016, and by **80 per cent** in 2016-2017; whereas **illegal hunting** went down by **15 per cent** in 2015-2016 and by **30 per cent** in 2015-2016.



3 There are in total **50 certified volunteer rangers** in 6 soums of the project. They monitor assigned areas following established routes. Volunteer rangers of the project were involved into capacity strengthening trainings to improve their knowledge and skills, and equipped with necessary tools: 72 per cent of volunteer rangers were given GPSs, 51 percent received binoculars, 32 per cent supplied with camera and 20 per cents got motorcycles.



4 Considerable improvement in knowledge and understanding about LPA at aimag and soum levels that revealed common level of understanding, and which eventually strengthened cooperation between the parties. 52 types of equipment, and tools to support conservation efforts, amounting in **280,3 million tugriks** were granted to related institutions. The institutions include Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Protection administrations of Khan Khentii, Onon Balj and Uvs lake basin PAs; Environment and tourism units, Land administration cartography and geodesy units, and NEMA offices in Dornod, Khentii and Uvs aimags; Governor's offices of 6 project soums, 33 communities, 50 volunteer rangers and management entities of Gulzat and Khavtgar LPAs.



5 The Green Gold project in collaboration with the National Federation of Pasture User Group have created **Trust funds** in Norovlin soum of Khentii aimag (**15,8 mln tug**), Bayan uul soum (**35,8mln tug**) and Tsagaan ovoo soum (**25,9 mln tug**) of Dornod aimag with aim to ensure sustainability of the strengthened capacity, the project achievements/ outputs, and enforce policy on integrated protection of rangeland and wildlife.



**Strengthening legal environment on the locally protected area:**

6 Below points were input into the revised draft law on Special Protected Areas that stipulates inclusion of LPA into the state protected areas network; and registration, mapping, and governance shall be regulated by the designated 2 regulations and its related provisions. The draft law is submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The legislation include

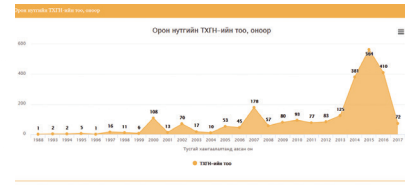
- a. Revised draft "Regulation to taking land under local protection"
- b. A new draft of the "Guideline on granting the management of LPA to legal entities"
- c. A new "Guideline on taking land under special needs" was developed jointly with the Agency of Land administration, Management, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAMGC), and approved by the order A/73 of the Director of the above agency on 16 March 2017.







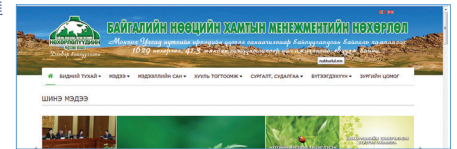
## Creation of the inter-sectoral integrated information system with development of the databases on LPAs and CBOs:



7 The following two databases were created within national environmental database available at <http://www.eic.mn>:

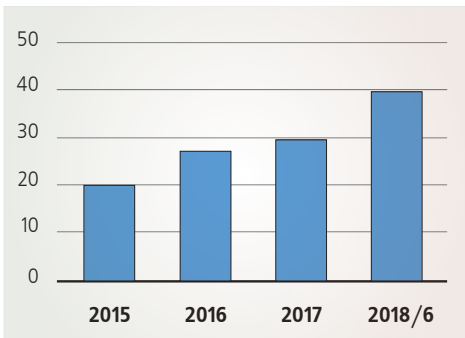
- a. Database on local protected areas ([www.eic.mn/spalocal/](http://www.eic.mn/spalocal/)). As of June 2018 total area of 23.8 mln ha (15.2 per cent of country territory) or 1373 areas were taken under local protection with aimag and/or soums decision. The database is aligned with the Cadastral database available at the Mineral Resource and Petroleum Authority (MRPA).
- b. Database on community-based organizations is available at [www.eic.mn/community/](http://www.eic.mn/community/). As per June 2018, database contains data of 1078 CBOs from 21 aimags.

8 A new webpage of CBOs is available at [www.nukhurlul.mn/](http://www.nukhurlul.mn/).

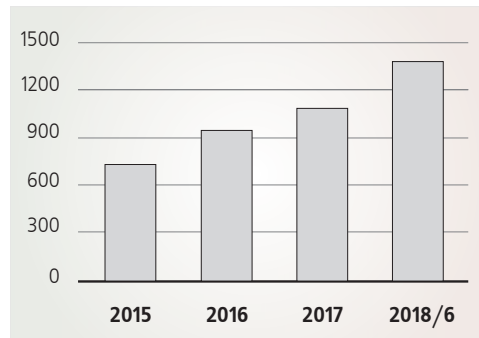


9 During 2014-2017, as the result of joint efforts of ALAMGC, MRPA and MET the **legal violations** in taking area under local protection was **cut by 41 per cent**, which adds the area under local protection by **11 mln ha**.

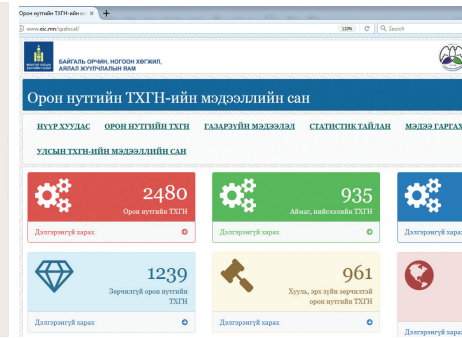
TOTAL ERROR FREE AREA OF LPAs, %



TOTAL ERROR FREE DATA OF LPAs

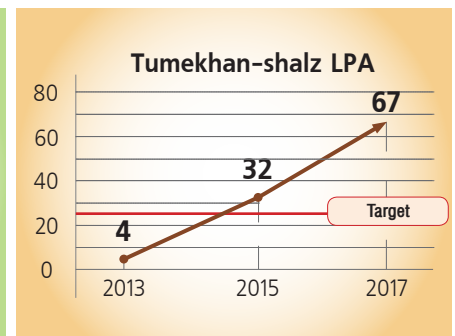
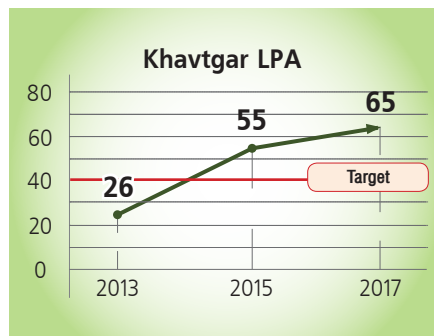
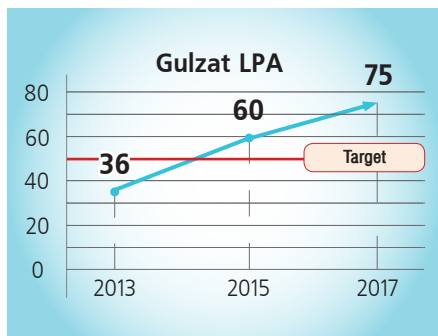


As of June 2018, total LPA area size reached 61,801,756 ha, and total LPA data - 2598.



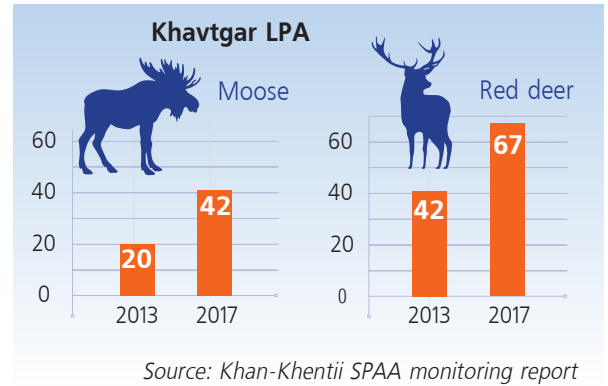
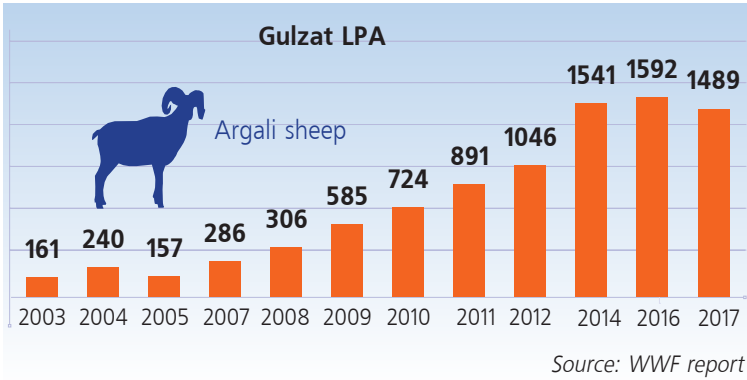
## Improved management effectiveness of LPAs:

10 Management effectiveness of three LPAs of the project has **grown by 35-58 per cent** compared with the baseline data.



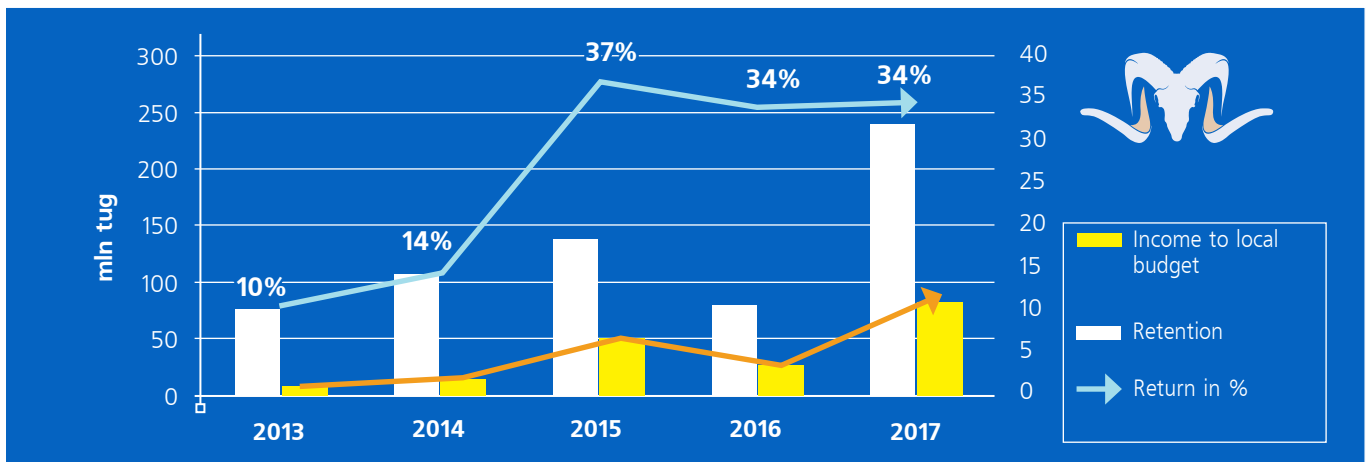
**✓ Increased population size of the key species:**

11 During the project implementation the population size of argali sheep in Gulzat LPA has grown up by 30 per cent (from 1541 to 2000), the population of red deer and moose in Khavtgar LPA and the marmot population in Tumekhan-shalz LPA has also increased expanding its area of distribution.



**✓ Sustainable financing of the LPAs:**

- Within the UNDP BIOFIN project below listed activities commenced in Tumenkhaan-Shalz LPA as a means of sustainable financing e.g., a concept of the meat business model was prepared, which includes estimates of network related expenses, cost benefit analysis; and defined mechanism for the model implementation, and some activities to raise donor's fund were initiated.
- To ensure sustainability of strengthened capacity and the outputs of project, within the scope of integrated conservation of biodiversity and rangeland a **"Pasture users' conservation trust fund"** has been established in three soums through a tripartite agreement among the Green Gold Program of Swiss Development Agency, the project and herder groups. These include fund accumulation in Norovlin soum in Khantii aimag amounting in **15,8 mln tug**, **35,8 mln tug** in Bayan-uul soum and **25,9 mln tug** in Tsagaan ovoo soum of Dornod aimag. The Fund shall finance the nature conservation and restoration activities, and provide loans to member households, as well as allocate resources for gas supply for volunteer ranger's monitoring work, and for VR' promotions.
- Inclusion of some communities of the above three soums into sustainable fibre and cashmere value chain have made CBOs as reliable suppliers for well-known fibre and cashmere companies, and the agreement has become a leverage point for nature and rangeland conservation, and ensuring livestock health (Sustainable Fibre Alliance).
- During the project period revenue from trophy hunting, a main financial income for Gulzat LPA increased by 70 per cent, and retention rate has **grown 3,4 times**.

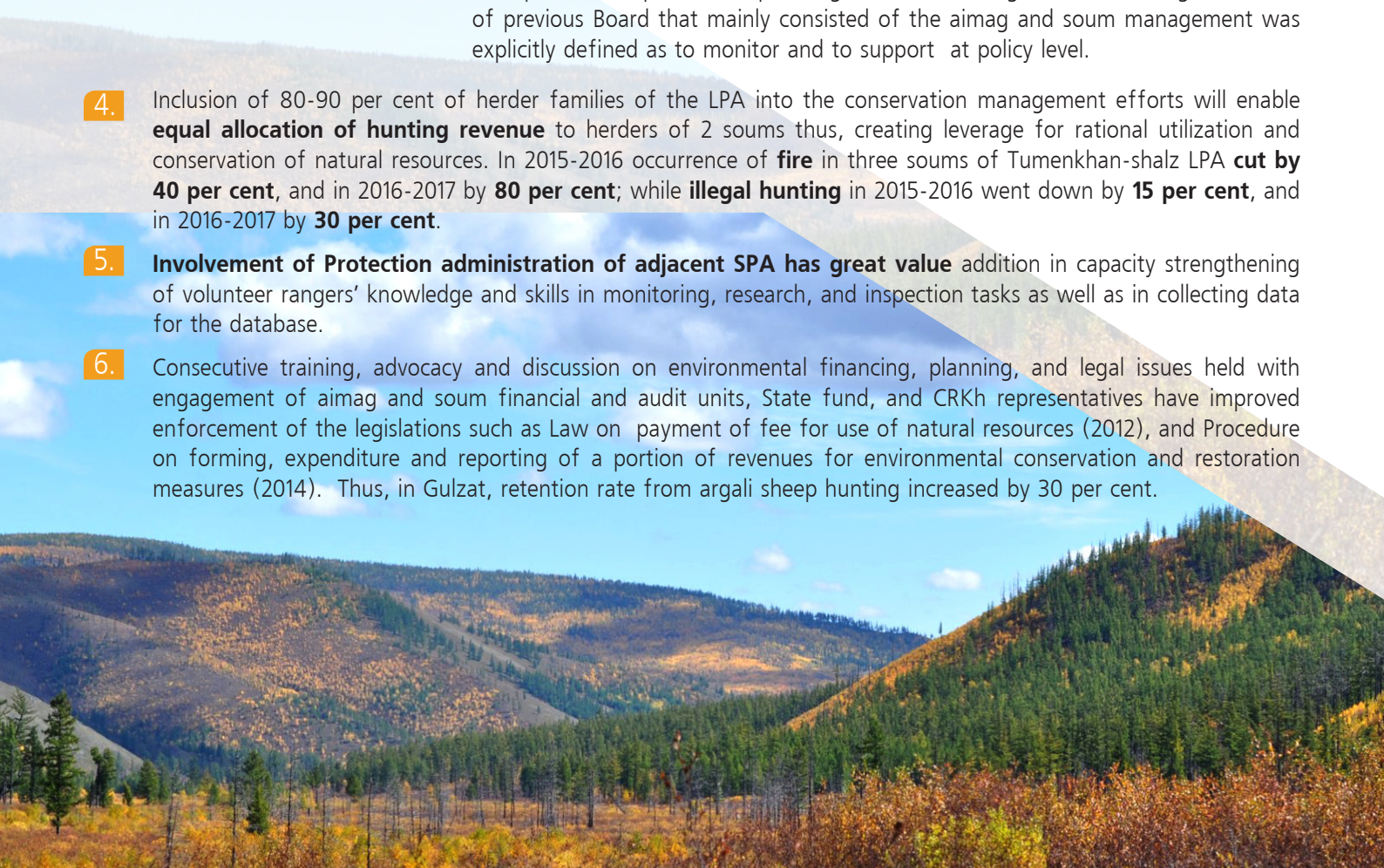




## GOOD PRACTICES:



- 1.** Improved management effectiveness and created favorable condition for adequate allocation of resources with defined mechanisms of collaboration between stakeholders (aimag and soum administration, legal entity responsible for LPA management, aimag environmental unit, state PAAD PA, communities) towards conservation management of LPAs through granting management right to a legal entity in line with the Public Private Partnership. For example, 2018 workplan of the environment unit of Khentii aimag allocated budget for preparation of detailed plan for hunting management in Khavtgar LPA.
- 2. Landscape level protection** of the habitat of large wildlife that is distributed over vast area. This is achieved by taking under local protection the migration corridors of argali sheep, black tailed gazelle and Mongolian gazelle that connect the state and local protected areas.
- 3.** Steering committee or/and Board of the management entity is only comprised of representatives of the communities thus it creates equal opportunity for locals to take part in the process of planning, decision making, and monitoring. The tasks of previous Board that mainly consisted of the aimag and soum management was explicitly defined as to monitor and to support at policy level.
- 4.** Inclusion of 80-90 per cent of herder families of the LPA into the conservation management efforts will enable **equal allocation of hunting revenue** to herders of 2 soums thus, creating leverage for rational utilization and conservation of natural resources. In 2015-2016 occurrence of **fire** in three soums of Tumenkhan-shalz LPA **cut by 40 per cent**, and in 2016-2017 by **80 per cent**; while **illegal hunting** in 2015-2016 went down by **15 per cent**, and in 2016-2017 by **30 per cent**.
- 5. Involvement of Protection administration of adjacent SPA has great value** addition in capacity strengthening of volunteer rangers' knowledge and skills in monitoring, research, and inspection tasks as well as in collecting data for the database.
- 6.** Consecutive training, advocacy and discussion on environmental financing, planning, and legal issues held with engagement of aimag and soum financial and audit units, State fund, and CRKh representatives have improved enforcement of the legislations such as Law on payment of fee for use of natural resources (2012), and Procedure on forming, expenditure and reporting of a portion of revenues for environmental conservation and restoration measures (2014). Thus, in Gulzat, retention rate from argali sheep hunting increased by 30 per cent.







## LESSONS LEARNT:



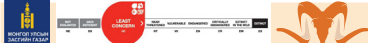







1. At 3 project target sites of local protected areas three potential options to ensure conservation management were demonstrated **through local protection of internationally and regionally significant ecosystems and natural resources that are left beyond the border of the state protected areas network**. As of June 2018 there is an area of **23.7 mln ha (circa 15 per cent** of country territory) of over 1000 locally protected area in Mongolia ([www.eic.mn/spalocal](http://www.eic.mn/spalocal)). Besides, database on 1078 CBOs on conservation of nature, rangeland and forest was made available at [www.eic.mn/community](http://www.eic.mn/community). In the future it is required to define clear objective and criteria for taking land under local protection, and perform land evaluation of the targeted for protection areas. Defined objective and criteria for selection of area should be equivalent to categories IV, V, VI of the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and serve the implementation of dual management objectives on - preservation of biological diversity and improvement of livelihood.

Thus, it will support implementation of Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030 (e.g., by 2015 to increase area under protection to 30 per cent of country territory, of which 15 per cent is comprised of local protected areas), the Green Development Policy (conserve pristine nature and maintain ecosystem sustainability by protecting at least 60 per cent of fresh water reserves and stream formation areas, expanding protected areas by 25 per cent by 2020), and the National program on the Protected Area (conserve pristine nature, ensure ecological sustainability, enrich natural resources, and expand the State protected areas network with land representing features and structure of the natural regions and zone with purpose to protect natural, cultural and historical heritage sites reaching at least 30 per cent of entire territory).

2. Created connectivity between the state protected areas and/ or the state and the local protected areas ensures creation of favorable condition for wildlife movement, and serves as an approach of biodiversity conservation and adaptation.

3. In compliance with a signed MoU by MET, MRPA, ALAMGC each of institutions should exercise its duties, and ensure interoperability of the database on LPA.
4. Required to have an explicit mechanism to assess the performance of the contract with a legal entity granted the management, including
  - a. Defined criteria to assess the contract, which is an integrated part of the contract;
  - b. Clear indication in the contract of when and where/ to whom the management entity reports to;
  - c. Annual review the contract performance, and the decision on extension or termination of the contract is duly informed to the management entity.
5. Conservation communities have membership right in the NGO in charge for the management, and will be in the Steering committee/ Board composition.
6. Participatory assessment of the implementation of the LPA's management plan, and completeness of objectives and indicators of the plan is carried out every second year ("Protected areas Management effectiveness tracking tool" MON-METT Method).
7. Law on payment of fee for use of natural resources, and the Government resolution 43 (2014) on "Regulation on forming, expenditure and reporting of the funds for measures on environmental protection, and restoration" regulate main funding source to ensure implementation of the management plan. Thus, in the future it is required to raise awareness of representatives of aimag and soum CRKh, and financial and budget units about the above legislations, environmental planning and financing.
8. Strengthen related legislation to exercise an open and science based adequate distribution of the hunting quote, and transparent and online selection of the trophy hunting company while giving priority to votes of communities and a management entity, to regulate the license fee of argali sheep in line with the international market value, and to promote trophy hunting of argali sheep as an approach for nature protection.
9. Existence of a sustainable financial source is the main instrument in realization of the conservation management of SPA and LPA. Thus, in the future it is to seek for an alternative funding source (other than state budget) e.g., the most beneficial business based on natural resources, the management costs of which will include conservation costs of the protected area.

## Fauna included in the research

Species	Conservation status	Not in the state SPA %		Area under mining license %	
		Of habitat distribution	Of core habitat	Of habitat distribution	Of core habitat
Argali sheep		73.1	52.6	12.3	8.0
Red deer		67.8	51.2	3.1	1.5
Roe deer		73.2	54.3	3.0	2.0
Musk deer		57.3	41.8	2.3	1.6
Moose		31.6	10.1	2.0	1.0
Wild boar		58.4	28.4	3.0	2.3
Mongolian gazelle		88.3	83.2	9.0	7.3
Crane		75.9	76.4	14.2	2.0



United Nations Development Program - [www.undp.mn](http://www.undp.mn)

Ministry of Environment and Tourism - [www.mpa.gov.mn](http://www.mpa.gov.mn)