

SUPPORTING PROTECTED AREAS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES - SPACES

CONTEXT

Mongolia's diverse landscapes provide habitats for a large number of plant and animal species. This biodiversity and the services these ecosystems provide, form the basis of Mongolia's economy, culture and development. To protect this basis, the government has established national and local protected areas on almost 30 percent of the country's area. However, the exploitation of natural resources and climate change are threatening the biodiversity and ecosystem services within this extensive system of protected areas.

A large section of Mongolia's rural population lives in buffer zones surrounding protected areas. If these zones are damaged, rural livelihoods are affected. At the same time rural poverty is one of the reasons why the natural resources in and around protected areas are overexploited. The system of protected areas has so far been unable to fully prevent environmental degradation due to insufficient funding as well as a lack of specialists, technical skills and human resources within the responsible authorities.

OBJECTIVE

The framework conditions for the long-term development of protected areas in Mongolia are improved.

APPROACH



Policy consulting (National level)

The project advises the Ministry of Environment and Tourism on the legal framework for protected areas. Thereby, it promotes the financial self-determination of the protected area administrations, allowing them to operate more independently and reinvest their income into managing the protected areas.



Network development (Western Mongolia)

The project improves coordination between actors within selected nature conservation areas. It advocates more coordinated action among government authorities and other stakeholders to better utilise the potential of all parties involved. Thereby it aims to preserve larger areas of natural landscapes and increase the protection of the migration routes of endangered species.

Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-financed by	European Union
Project region	Mongolia
Lead executing agency	Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Overall term	2019-2024
Total budget	10.830.000 EUR



Livelihood improvement

(Western Mongolia)

In order to prevent the exploitation of protected areas the project develops and supports livelihood measures for the rural population living in or close to protected areas. For instance, it supports the development of sustainable community-based tourism in protected areas. Additionally, it aims to create networks of cooperation in the tourism sector among local and national stakeholders.



Environmental Education and Communication

(National level)

The project develops an environmental education and communication strategy for the protected area system and implements selected elements of the strategy. Measures such as social media campaigns and entertaining educational projects are implemented to help visitors, local people and experts be better informed.



Sustainable Forest Management

(Selenge and Khentii Provinces)

The project promotes innovative landscape management and the transition from demand-oriented to environmentally friendly forest use. Sustainable forest management supports livelihoods and increases the resilience against climate change.



To sum it up ...

With all these measures, the project creates the prerequisites for environmentally responsible protected area management in villages, regions and beyond, with the aim of conserving biodiversity and safeguarding livelihoods.

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED SO FAR...



The project has been guiding the revision process for the protected area law and its harmonization with other laws and regulations. A revised draft law will be submitted to parliament in 2022/2023.



A mobile app and a website for identifying and tracking biodiversity were developed to inform citizens as well as engage them in biodiversity monitoring. 1300 registered users already submitted around 4.500 observations.



Together with other development partners, the project is working on the establishment of a National Conservation Trust Fund to fund environmental protection activities.



Financial support for infrastructure and equipment enabled seven protected areas to improve their management capacities.



About 460 community members took part in economic capacity development events with more than 210 individually consulted on developing their businesses.



Trainings in project proposal writing reached over 100 locals. Through a follow-up competition co-organized by the local government 23 participants received financial support and are now successfully running own businesses.



Alternative livelihoods were supported through trainings on vegetable cultivation, beekeeping, dairy production and hide processing.



A women development centre, offering training and working space, has been equipped.



More than 200 participants joined tourism-related trainings that covered topics such as sustainability, income generation, community involvement, hospitality services, networking, promotion, waste management, tour route development as well as souvenir production.



A step-by-step practical guide was published on how to successfully implement community-based tourism in Mongolia that promotes long-term livelihood benefits while safeguarding principles of environmental protection and protected areas.



A National Environmental Education and Communication (EEC) Strategy related to protected areas was developed and endorsed. Based on this a national "My Green Mongolia" media campaign was initiated comprising a website, Facebook group, radio drama series, video clips, comics, and other media and materials.



EEC initiatives in the country have been supported through manuals, toolboxes, curricula, a guideline for visitors of protected areas, comics, animated videos, etc.



Around 100 participants have been trained on interactive and practice-oriented methods, tools and skills of EEC.



Capacity development for sustainable forest management (e.g. planting, thinning, inventory) has begun in six districts of the Selenge and Khentii Provinces. The process is supported through scientific advice from a university consortium of 12 international and national universities.



Published by:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Contact:

Dr. Michael Trockenbrodt
Supporting Protected Areas for the
Conservation of Ecosystem Services - SPACES Project

Naiman Zovkhis Building, 3rd floor Seoul Street
khbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar 14251, Mongolia
T: +976 11 312282
E: michael.trockenbrodt@giz.de
I: www.giz.de



In cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AND TOURISM

On behalf of

German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
GIZ Mongolia

Layout/Photos:

Date:

October 2022

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.