



Draft translation

Short report on discussion for strengthening cooperation of projects and programmes on protecting world heritage areas in Uvs aimag

The international organization as UN Development Programme, WWF Mongolia programme office are implementing projects/programmes, as Community-based biodiversity conservation in Altai Sayan ecoregion, with strong accent on nature conservation issues within the territory of Uvs aimag.

Since 1998, WWF Mongolia programme office has begun the implementation of the project on Snow leopard protection within core protective and buffer zones of Turgan and Tsagaan shuvuut mountains' protected area. The project implementation is successfully continuing and achieving some good results. From 2005, within the project area the "Community-based biodiversity conservation in Altai Sayan ecoregion" project started implementing. The aims of the project are to protect endangered species within globally significant areas and support rational natural resource use.

Moreover, WWF Mongolia Programme Office implementing a new project mainly focused on wildlife protection within Altai Sayan transboundary area, started from May 2007.

To discuss how these two projects can be linked in order to facilitate the environmental protection activities in 2008 official meeting have been organized in Ulaangom city on 30th January, 2008.

Attendees:

Community-based biodiversity conservation in Altai-Sayan ecoregion project office in Uvs aimag

Regional manager
Togtokhbayar
Local manager J.Baasanjav

WWF Mongolia Office's project unit in Uvs aimag

Programme manager on Wildlife protection/conservation Yo. Onon
Uvs aimag project regional manager B. Ganbold
Project specialist on Rural development B. Bayarmaa

What we did last year?

WWF Mongolia Programme Office:

WWF Mongolia office with support from the Netherland office started implementing 3 year project, entitled 'Improving long-term biodiversity conservation along Mongolia-Russian transboundary area of Altai-Sayan ecoregion'. The project started in May, 2007, and covers territory of Sagil and Bukhmoron soums. The project was initiated by local population, initiatives supported by Local Citizen's Representatives and our office found the resources to support. The project, thus, become possible with initiatives and supports of multi-stakeholders involvement.

The objectives of the project are: 1. Establish community-based sustainable hunting management practice; 2. Improve transboundary protected area management; 3. Strengthen collaboration of relevant governmental organizations responsible for custom service, legislation and inspection as well as civil society organizations.

During the last 8 months the researches on procedure for permission on hunting have been conducted. Basing on the research results the justification and relevant recommendations to make changes in this procedure, needs and justifications on developing community-based hunting management have been introduced to decision-makers. As a result in December of 2007 Minister of Nature and Environment announced decree to forbid Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) hunting within the territory of Uvs and some other aimags.

The Aimag Administration have researched possibilities in implementation of 'Community based hunting management' and discussed among the Aimag Citizens' Representative Khural. The concept was approved and integrated into the aimag Environmental Conservation Programme.

Support rural initiatives. In order to implement community based hunting management approaching on well organized environmental conservation communities defined as prior. Thus, for establishing such communities multi-stakeholders discussion among households located within the transboundary areas was in place. As results of this multi-stage workshops 7 community initiatives were created. The process of forming into the communities takes some time. First, because of the establishment of the environmental conservation communities is a new field in environmental sector of the country. Second, due to introducing the advantages of rational resource use, team working to take over the barriers for people and calling for community initiatives was not easy. In order to facilitate the implementation of community action plan and support their growth training on use of common resource as wool in household needs and production have been implemented.

During 27-30th January of 2007 training for community steering committee have been implemented. During the trainings participants

learned the ways and approaches on how to come up with any problems faced. Organizers evaluated training had many positive results, for instance, it created open atmosphere to discuss problems among the communities, exchanging recommendations and encouraging cheering each others. The results from the training will be assessed and feedbacks will be received during the discussion will be held in Information, training centre of Yamaat community, Bukhmoron soum in 20-27th June.

The establishment of the Information, training centre by the Citizen's representatives' Hural to support activities of Yamaat nokhorlol were supported by the Community based biodiversity conservation in Ailtai Sayan Ecoregion project and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Mongolian Programme Office. We believe Yamaat communities will organize many activities related to environmental conservation and promote, enhance them through the centre activities.

Tourism industry is rapidly developing in western part of Mongolia, thus the implementation of the environmental conservation activities by communities should be coordinated. Inappropriate tourism has negative impact not only on environment but also on traditions and customs. In order to avoid such negative impact by the decree of Aimag Citizen's Representatives Hural Chairman the Aimag tourism developing programme development started since 2007 with participation of different experts.

The tourism development of Uvs aimag closely related to developments of adjacent region. Implementing proper policy for tourism development can bring this sector into the main industry of the region within short period of time.

To allow wildlife to graze borders nets should be removed. In order to implement this at the first stage methodology on monitoring wildlife migration and behavior taught for frontier troops and necessary technical support was given.

To reduce negative impact of the mining surrounding and within the major habitats of Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*) Irbis group in collaboration with Police and Aimag Specialized Inspection series of inspection and monitoring followed by legal actions have been implemented. To introduce local population with negative consequences of illegal mining discovery tours for interested parties implemented. Also, to encourage public to implement environmental protection activities approaches on initiating, planning and implementing actions have been introduced.

The project is implementing for a short period of time, thus it is too early to talk about results.

Community-based biodiversity conservation in Altai-Sayan ecoregion project

Dear Toqtokhbayar please write about the results and lessons learned in 2008 here.

What were the main constraints?

There is no agency or authority which coordinates the implementation of projects/programmes related to environment in Uvs aimag. The community participation in the project initiated and/or implemented activities, thus, is very weak. Usually, project implementing unit or project staff asking people to be involved instead of this people by them should move toward their livelihood and initiatives. Now it is time to change this situation. Local communities should come with their initiatives and projects/programmes could assist those initiatives with recommendations and coordinations. Such collaboration would be more fruitful in environmental protection actions. Somehow local people by them should be masters of their land and resources and for this establishing the system of open information would be essential. Currently we can deliver our message and information to those who are involved in actions, and due to our network is limited the intervention stops. Information sharing and exchange among the projects and programmes not in satisfactory level also.

Mismanagement in coordination of the actions is the establishment of 3 eco-clubs in only one school. The objectives of the clubs are to increase participation of children and youth in conservation activities through increasing their ecological knowledge and challenging other schools. Unfortunately, the clubs are not operating in this way. If the difference and objectives, for instance of 3 clubs as, World Woldlife Fund club, Altai Sayan club and Protected Area club will not be understood and mistakes not corrected the environmental conservation actions will not be effective. In a future such unexpected situations could occur.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - Mongolian Programme office publishing quarterly newspaper, entitled 'Altai Sayan'. The programme office decides to increase number of pages to introduce people on progresses of collaboration. At the end of the meeting action plan for 2008 from both sides was discussed and negotiated to finalize the detailed plan of collaboration in February.

In order to improve collaboration among the relevant stakeholders the open discussion meeting held in Ulaangom city in Uvs aimag branch of the Community-based biodiversity conservation in Altai-Sayan ecoregion project on 31st January, 2008.

Decisions from the discussion meeting of the PARTIES working in environmental field

1. Aimag Environmental Protection Department as a main implementing agency of the environmental decisions made by MNE, thus this organization should responsible for coordinating projects and programmes executed in aimag;

2. The Aimag Environmental Protection Department should received by 2008 action plans from projects, programmes and organizations implementing environmental activities;
3. Upon receiving the action plans of projects and programmes Aimag EPD is responsible for analysis, plan and coordination of activities;
4. Projects and programmes involving research activities should submit their reports to EPD. The department is responsible for developing information for public introducing with their results;
5. The reports should reflect the results of the collaboration and the indicators to measure the successes. The reports should distributed to all the stakeholders;
6. The activities of school eco-clubs should managed by Uvs nuur SPA administration which will responsible for running educational programmes and trainings;
7. Evaluate the results of any actions and supportive programmes;
8. In a future organize official meetings every month in order to strengthen the collaboration.

Please fill out the list of attendees.

Organization	Name	Position	Address
Environmental protection department	Bat-Ochir	Head	
State specialized inspection agency	Enkhtuya	Specialist	
Custom Frontier troops Land authority	Damdinsuren Lhagvasuren	Darga	
Uvs project unit in World Wildlife Fund (WWF) – Mongolian Programme Office	Togtokhbayar		
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – Mongolian	J. Baasanjav Yo. Onon	Wildlife Conservation Manager	onon@wwf.mn 99138247

**Programme
Office**

B. Ganbold	Project regional manager	ganbold@wwf.mn 99255265
B. Bayarmaa	Rural Development Specialist	bayarmaa@wwf.mn 95459997