

## Was MNT 330,000 paid as compensation for the livestock killed by Snow leopard?



Starting from last year, a pilot project “sheep grant” has been implementing in a Soum of Uvs Aimag. The project beneficiaries are the indigenous herders, who have been living in the remote areas in their preceding generations. The project is implemented in order to lessen complains of herders, who lost their livestock by attacks of Snow leopard.

Under the pilot project the herders who lost their livestock by attacks of Snow leopard are granted a head of sheep per a head of livestock killed by the species. Nature of this pilot project should be clearly understood. For instance, granting sheep to the herders doesn't mean “congratulations for making pastureland of domestic animals overlapped with the wildlife habitat OR sorry for the attacks by snow leopard to your herds of livestock and please take sheep for compensation”. Nevertheless, this pilot project is being implemented to support and assist the herder families, who are used to live in harmony with nature in remote areas next to wildlife habitats and to build more friendly attitudes towards wildlife among local residents.

Since its start, the herders, project beneficiaries, have been happy with the project. However, some local residents try to deceive in order to get sheep in wrong ways. For instance, some herder families, especially not project beneficiaries, come to the programme people to get sheep for the livestock caught by wolf by misleading that “they were caught by Snow leopard”. However, the group of experienced people and experts identifies whether snow leopard or other predators attacked to the livestock killed. According to the latest reports by the group, there were totally six heads of livestock of two herder families attacked by snow leopard on May 14. The herder families were paid with MNT 330,000 as compensation. Not only the project beneficiaries but also other local residents are willing to protect wildlife species. For example, they have initiatives to put saltlicks and saline to wildlife species.