



БАЙГАЛЬ ОРЧИН,  
АЯЛАЛ ЖУУЛЧЛАЛЫН ЯАМ



# A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THE TAKHI STEPPE DECLARATION

A summary of activities carried out under “Declaration of Takhi Steppe” of “Great Gobi- 6” initiative



- A contest for creating a logo of Great Gobi-6 (GG-6) initiative was successfully organized, where the six endangered species of Gobi region are represented, for the public recognition and to use it as one of the national proud identities in the future. Under this, we received 25 logos designed by 16 artists and designers and the “GG-6” initiative has had its logo.
- A children’s book “Wonders of Mongolian Gobi” has been published.
- A forum “Youth’s Input to Sustainable Development” was organized for nine northern soums of Govi-Altai aimag and was attended by over 100 young people from the soums. During the forum, the participants had workshop and discussion on concept of sustainable development and practical way of living in harmony with nature.
- A report on current status, priority concerns, and comments and recommendations for proposed conservation actions for the six wild species under the “GG-6” initiative has been prepared.
- Immediate response actions including investigation and monitoring have been taken due to recent outbreak of infectious disease among the Mongolian saiga population. As of March, 2017, there were 4,961 individuals of Mongolian saiga inhabiting within its total distribution range (14,713 km<sup>2</sup>) with a density of 0.34 individuals per 1 km<sup>2</sup>. When compared it to that (10,907 saiga individuals) of the inventory conducted on 07-13 January, 2017, the saiga population was reduced by 54.5 percent. It shows a very sad report that a half of the population has been lost due to outbreak of small livestock plague- rinderpest within two months only.



Meantime, the WWF Mongolia Programme Office (WWF MPO) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Mongolia Representative Office have been working together with regard to emergency responses against the disease among the saiga population through their joint action plan.



- Start-up actions have been put for establishment of natural zoo based on the Administration of Great Gobi SPA (GGSPA) Part “A”.
- The Administration of GGSPA Part “A” organized a trip “GREAT GOBI -6” for local creative artists including poets, writers, journalists, photographers, painters, and researchers from Govi-Altai and Bayankhongor aimags to scenic areas with specific natural formations of GGSPA Part “A” and Trans-Altai Gobi. The trip was taken by 28 local creative artists, who were given with a chance to see and watch natural beauties including their wildlife and their habitats. Under the trip:
  - a. Details on the trip “Great Gobi-6” for creative artists were featured in six subsequent editions of Daily Newspaper for the public.
  - b. The trip and its findings are also featured on portal sites such as [www.mnb.mn](http://www.mnb.mn), <http://www.newscom.mn>; and [www.bayankhongor.gov.mn](http://www.bayankhongor.gov.mn).
  - c. Two series programmes on the trip “GG-6” for creative artists were produced and broadcasted on national and local televisions “Malchin”, “Molor”, and “Minii Nutag”, and put on a local newspaper “Ikh Altain Medee”, and on other some websites.
  - d. The writers and poets who tripped produced 11 series trip notes and poems and have put in press pages for the public.
  - e. Amongst, there is lyrics of a song “Hearth of Border Guard-Soldier” devoted for childish brown faced soldiers of “Khatan Suudal” Military Frontier Unit;
  - f. Photographers and painters are sharing what they saw and caught during the trip which was full of specific features and moments with the public. The people, who have seen their works from the trip to GGSPA, are keen to take trips to the region and enjoy the scenery according to their responses on social media.
  - g. An illustrative book on GG-6 species and their friends for young school children was produced by N. Enkhjargal, a painter, and N. Baymbasuren, a poet from the trippers to Trans-Altai Gobi. The book was published in 6000 copies and has been distributed to children of 1-5 grades schools within Govi-Altai aimag.
- A sub-programme for GG-6 wildlife habitat conservation and promotional activities was prepared in consultation with rangers and environmental inspectors of soums of Govi-Altai aimag and other parts of the SPA and has been adopted as a part of the Aimag’s Master Plan for Environmental Protection (2012-2020).
- An area close to Lake Toli in the territory of Shinejinst soum was designated for an artificial pond and its design and plan has been developed. As preliminary planned, there will be 135 m ditch from Lake Toli to the designated area. The ditch will be built with 40 cm depth, 30

cm wide bottom, and 50 cm wide upper edge. Its inner wall will be made of rocks and its bottom will be covered by plastic. There will be 500 m line going through inconspicuous pipe with 80 cm diameter between the ditch bottoms and floating surface. In the parts, where the line is conspicuous, there will be hollows made, as planned.



- Bayankhongor aimag's Citizen's Representative Khural (CRKh) announced March 15 as "Proud Day for Gobi Bear" in order to raise for public awareness on the species and its conservation. Under the Day, there were 22 workshops in 20 soums, five AHA (Questions & Answers), two volleyball game competitions and those were attended by over 2000 locals.
- Khovd Aimag's Green Development programme for 2016-2026 was approved by the aimag's CRKh Decision No: 04 dated October 21, 2016 to ensure green living style through the green economic development, which is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, maintain natural and ecological balances and introduce efficient natural resource use and advanced clean technologies into energy, infrastructure, production, and social spheres.
- The Action Plan of Khovd Aimag's Governor for 2016-2020 includes:
  - a. To manage the actions to take areas with distribution ranges of very rare and rare wildlife (fauna and flora) species, scenic and specific natural formations, upper parts of water bodies and historical and cultural monuments under local and national protection and consequently, to include up to 55 percent of the aimag's territory into the existing Protected Area network;
  - b. To collect and compile all previous research and conservation activity data and information on Takhi, black-tailed gazelle, saiga and Khulan and their habitats into database; and
  - c. To establish routes for eco-tourism;
- A proposal to take some areas (7.8 % of the aimag's territory), which includes the areas such as Khajinga of Tsetseg soum, Baataryn Nuruu and Davst Ulaan of Must soum, and Bort, Bituut, and Ar Khujirt of Duut soum has been forwarded to the Cadastral Division of Mineral Resources Authority for clearance.
- A number of promotional and awareness activities have been undertaken. One of them is a musical drama "Ikh Goviin Naran Dor" (Under the Sun of Great Gobi), which was created based on a book by Tsoodol, a journalist. It was performed by the Khovd Aimag's Theater for Music and Drama in Takhi Tal (Takhi Steppe) and was greatly appreciated by the event participants. Later, the musical drama was shown to the aimag's school children and residents of Khovd aimag, where about 2000 school and kindergarten children and about 300 adults watched it.



- Joined the GG-6 under its social responsibility, the Mobicom, one of leading national business entities, has been taking place in the conservation activities such cloud seeding for increased rainfall in the Gobi bear habitats, installing of motion sensor cameras, putting satellite image transmitting collars on the species for improved data collection, and the other actions such as to open and hold up water sources for wildlife access and to prepare nutritive combined feeds for wildlife through collaboration with other stakeholders.
- Under the GG-6, three vehicles were serviced at expense of the МБЗАСХ. Moreover, some major private sector representatives such as Bodi Insurance, Trade & Development Bank, and Vitafit have already expressed their willingness to join the GG-6 initiative;
- A statue of Gobi bear, the proudest wild species of Govi-Altai aimag, has been built in the aimag centre.
- Billboards for the GG-6 species have been put in the Altai aimag centre and along a central road for the public.
- An article “Tears of Saiga” was awarded with Baldorj Foundation’s grand-pre prize.
- Eco-club member-school children tripped within a home to GG-6 species in part “B” of GGSPA on August 14-16, 2017. The trip was attended by 100 school children and 20 teachers of three aimags.



- Under the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of domesticating of Bactrian camel, one of the GG-6 species, an event “Camel Herds of Bactrian Camel Origin” was organized in Bayantooroi village.
- Under the campaign “For the GG-6 Species”, signs “No Entry” were placed in Limited Use and Pristine zones of GGSPA, where four out of six species do inhabit.
- Darvi soum of Khovd aimag, Khukh Morit soum of Govi-Altai aimag, and Durvuljin soum of Zavkhan aimag have had their plans for Sustainable Development (2017-2025) giving a priority to the sustainable natural resource management.
- Justifications were provided to a proposal to include Khom steppe in the territory of Durvuljin soum into the national PA network and the proposal is ready to be submitted to the Bagh (the smallest administrative unit) Public Meeting and Self-Governing Authority for consideration and approval.
- Essay and drawing contests were organized for 29 secondary schools in Zavkhan aimag.
- While the first edition of “Wonders of Trans-Altai Gobi” awareness raising publication is about the Gobi bear, the second edition is a story “Miracle” about a baby wild camel.

# A SUMMARY OF FUNDING OF GG-6 CONSERVATION AND ITS EXPENDITURES



According to the report on expenditures for the species conservation under the “GG-6” initiative, the highest amount was spent for the activities related to re-introduction of Takhi while the lowest was for the black-tailed gazelle conservation. This shows the latest needs to pay much attention and upgrade conservation, research, and public awareness on the species and its habitat (Table 1). Other details of the report include that 75% of the total expenditure has been spent for improvement of the species habitats, 16% for research and monitoring, and 5% for public awareness activities (Graph 1).

It is seen that the stakeholders have made their efforts and funding for performances of planned activities including conservation, public awareness, research and monitoring, and other activities under Takhi Steppe Declaration. For instance, the Govi-Altai and Bayankhongor aimag Governor’s Offices and Environmental departments have spent considerable amounts of funding for a number of activities including a tour for creative artists to the SPA, publication of promotional materials including publications, public events, and a statue of the wild species within their provinces. In addition to, the Govi-Altai aimag Governor’s Administration Office and its Environmental department, and the Administration of Great Gobi SPA have greatly provided their supports to organization of the second forum of GG-6.



The activities e.g. the contest for GG-6 logo design, the publication (picture book) for children and youth, the forum for youth, anti-disease measures among the saiga population, performances of musical drama “Under the Sun of Great Gobi”, cloud seeding for more rainfall in habitats of the Gobi bear, and servicing three vehicles under the GG-6 initiative have been done with contributions of governmental and non-governmental organizations and business entities in the country.

**Table 1.** A summary of the expenditures for the GG-6 wildlife conservation (MNT thousand)

Expenditures for GG-6 species conservation	Takhi	Saiga	Khulan	Black-tailed gazelle	Gobi bear	Wild/Bactrian camel	Total
Policy & law	10000	0	0		0	0	10000
Law enforcement	111450	96000	0	600	0	0	208050
Research & monitoring	316145	197500	140000	1500	176650	50000	881795
Public awareness	114450	60000	0	300	26900	75000	276650
Habitat restoration & re-introduction	3347768	0	0	24000	320250	437500	4129518
Total	3899813	353500	140000	26400	523800	562500	5506013

**Graph 1.** Expenditure categories of the GG-6 species conservation management





