

The bureau in Mongolia of International Takhi Group

Tel: +976 11 362064, +976 88112031



The report of the mission in Gobi B in April 2010

Since 17 years the P-Horse reintroducing project has been running successfully in sector B of Great Gobi Strictly Protected Area in cooperation with International Takhi Group and Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia. The takhi groups were adopted well in wilderness of the Djungarian gobi as khulan and the takhi numbers has increased consistently and counted by almost 150 of over 10 herds acclimatizing in the gobi area till winter of 2009.

For the recent periods, rainless years have repeated and precipitation level decreased during summer and fall seasons in Djungarian gobi and beyond Mongolian Altai gobi area according to the global warming and climate changing. Last summer was very dry in takhi pasture fields and rangeland degenerated in a gobi area.

Since November in 2009, Takhi pasture-land had covered with snow and ice, and temperature become to $-40-45^{\circ}\text{C}$, snow thickness on the ground reached to 25-30 cm in gobi area and 50-100cm in ravine and highland area having more snow continuously through January and December. Due to this condition, live stock and wild animals suffered severe winter in Djungarian gobi.



The recent takhi numbers and group structure in Gobi B

Nr.	Sex	Name	ZB-Nr.	Geburts datum	Herkunft	Mutter	Vater	group membership as of 01.05.2010
1	stallion	Bundan	4404	02/07/04	Gobi B	3391	2911	Bundan group, he joined Dorothee and Khatan on March 2010
2	mare	Dorothee	3230	06/06/99	Tachin Tal	3035	2503	she was before in Zagal group
3	mare	Khatan	4751	21/05/06	Gobi B	3230	3069	she was before in Zagal group
4	stallion	Azaa	4529	21/05/05	Gobi B	3230	3069	Azaa group, he joined Udam, Huvhar and Tsovoov on March 2010
5	mare	Udam	3734	15/05/02	Wien (A)	1386	2444	
6	mare	Huvhar	4383	06/06/04	Gobi B	2141	1818	
7	mare	Tsovoov	4398	6/4/2016	Gobi B	2398	1818	
8	stallion	Kharaatsai	3881	06/06/03	Gobi B	3230	3069	Kharaazai group, he joined Khuchit group on January 2010, Khuchit was disappeared that time.
9	mare	Imj	2748	02/08/94	Schwerin	1436	1236	
10	mare	Maral	3387	23/05/00	Tachin Tal	3038	2363	
11	mare	Kherlen	3391	26/05/00	Tachin Tal	3035	2363	
12	mare	Orkhon	3430	15/07/00	Tachin Tal	2645	2363	
13	mare	Saran	3823	09/04/03	Tachin Tal	2645	2363	
14	mare	Buman	4503	29/04/05	Gobi B	2748	3069	
15	mare	Oroo	3755	24/05/02	Gobi B	2787	1818	
16	mare	Erhsaran	5017	03/06/07	Gobi B	3084	3166	
17	stallion	Nomkhon	3717	07/05/02	Gobi B	2141	1818	Nomkhon group
18	mare	Mandal	3758	26/05/02	Gobi B	2940	2866	Nomkhon group
19	stallion	Ugalz	5120	05.05.2008	Gobi B	3758	3750	Mandal foal 2008
20	mare	Holog	4561	30/06/05	Gobi B	2398	1818	Nomkhon group
21	mare	Otgonbor	5038	15/06/07	Gobi B	2398	1818	Nomkhon group
22	mare	Taniya	5018	7/7/1930	Gobi B	4234	3361	Nomkhon group, Zuram foal 2008
23	stallion	Erhes	4932	03/05/07	Tachin Tal	2786	2363	Erhes group
24	mare	Od	2645	23/04/94	Prag	1847	1135	Erhes group
25	mare	Setgel	5148	5/8/2020	Tachin Tal	2,948	2363	Erhes group
26	stallion	Mogoi	4961	11/05/07	Tachin Tal	2586	2363	Erhes group
27	stallion	Zegst	4352	25/05/04	Gobi B	3332	1818	bachelor1
28	stallion	Sooton	4593	08/10/05	Tachin Tal	2948	3233	bachelor1
29	stallion	Doroo	4356	27/05/04	Gobi B	3375	3066	bachelor2
30	stallion	Bars	4511	09/05/05	Gobi B	3430	3069	bachelor2
31	stallion	Hubsugul	3233	21/05/97	Langenberg	1320	1374	Hubsugel
32	mare	Shandas	3312	11/06/99	Ahaus	3312	1852	Hubsgul
33	mare	Zur	3301	06/06/99	KqIn	1022	1852	Hubsgul
34	mare	Tolbo	3807	30/06/02	Wien	2173	2444	Hubsgul
35	mare	Nergui	3708	26/04/02	WPL	2018	2805	Hubsgul
36	mare	Mandhai	3730	13/05/02	Winterthur	1897	1742	Hubsgul
37	mare	Beltes	3047	15/04/97	Ahaus	1987	1118	Hubsgul
38	mare	Audi	4688	09/04/06	Gobi B	3145	3233	Hubsgul
39	mare	Altai	4690	16/04/06	Gobi B	3312	3233	Hubsgul
40	mare	Suvd	4778	30/05/06	Gobi B	3047	3233	Hubsgul
41	stallion	Shandast	4856	01/09/06	Gobi B	3301	3233	Hubsgul
42	stallion	Yanzagahan	4855	25/08/06	Gobi B	3811	3233	Hubsgul
43	stallion	Khaan	5054	25/06/07	Gobi B	3312	3233	Hubsgul
44	mare	Shuudan	5055	25/06/07	Gobi B	3807	3233	Hubsgul
45	mare	Altaisayan	5201	15.07.2008	Gobi B	3807	3233	Tolbo foal 2008
46	mare	Surguuli	5190	01.07.2008	Gobi B	3708	3233	Nergui foal 2008
47	mare	Aptek	5161	01.06.2008	Gobi B	3047	3233	Beltes foal 2008
48	mare	Angarag		05.21.2009	Gobi B	3708	3233	Nergui foal 2009

The weather condition continued becoming worse from January until mid March and having snow storms running for many days in February and March. It caused to winter disaster condition for wild animals such as takhi, gazelle and wild ass in the area.

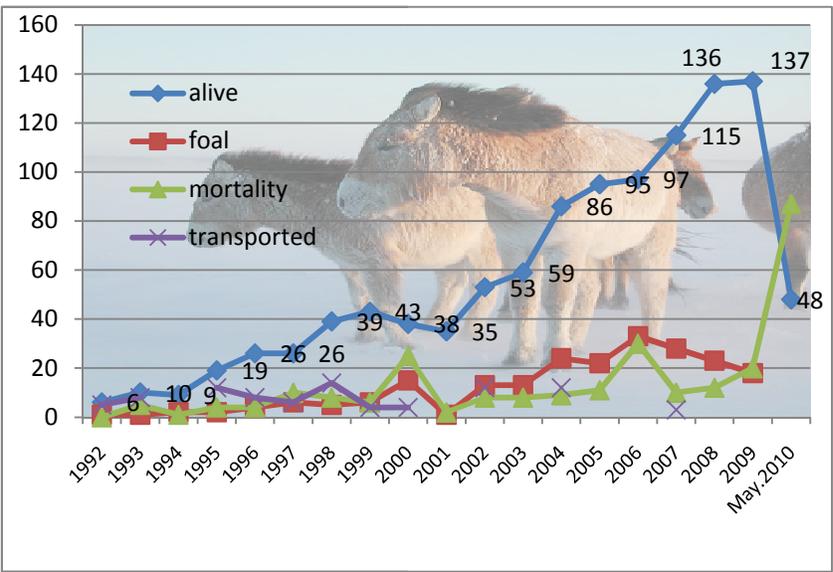
Our takhi herds were passing winter in 3 different part of area including 19 herd p-horses in near camp of Bij river, over 100 wild horses around Khonin us and 19 herd takhis in Takhin us in western park. The main reason of facing with the severe disaster and decreasing the most of takhis was the terrible weather condition snowing much, particularly, in eastern of protected area such as Soyombo and Bij bag of Govi-Altai province.

Our administration staff and rangers worked hard with all their potential looking over the takhi groups in daily for this winter period. Though, snow thickness on the ground reached 30-50cm in gobi area in Jan til March of 2010 and formed hard snow-wreath which caused difficulties to drive to Khonin us direction and to check the horses.

Regardless the condition, rangers were keeping on looking over their responsible area and providing with keep. Rangers spent 2-3 days per trips and a huge amount of petrol, because of shoveling snow to have ways to drive, however, the length is 40-50km to Khonin us for looking over takhis.



Due to this natural disaster, the takhi reintroducing project with much amount of cost and labour in an international framework had a lot of casualty in Gobi B. Only 26 takhis have left from main herd in Khonin us, 4 wild horses in Bij river, 18 wild horses in Takhiin us and in total 48 wild horses left from severe winter condition. During the survey of the takhis, we had registered the carcasses of 45 takhis surround of Bij river and Khonin us. Other 40-50 just disappeared and we are continuing our search in broad area. Hopefully we are expecting that some of horses could be alive and passed winter period in a solitude area in west side of the park. Because of the severe winter, the crowded number of live



stock in a gobi area of Khonin us oases is causing lack of food source that is one of reason to decline the number of takhis.

This winter was the severest that has not passed in the last years for herders live in areas of Bugat, Tonkhil, Govi-Altai province, Barlag and

Altangadas bags of Altai soum in Khovd province in buffer areas to protected area. The circumstance was under the state attention and local and state organization administrations were presented to acquaint with conditions on the areas and provided with humanitarian assist on time for herders. Although, most of herders lost 70-90 percent of their livestock during this winter “natural disaster”. Some bags, particularly, more than 20 families of Bij bag /some families jointly/ of Bugat soum lost their livestock last winter time around a mountain Duut, Khundlon, Mogoi khar duut, Tangadiin khar, Khundlun

By the initiation of ITG, we organized the biotechnical work twice in March and April 2010 to feeding the rest takhis. The hay source was very limited in western Mongolia, in Gobi-altai province had no hay reservation at all. So, we went to all the way to Khovd centre had to collect the hay from state hay reservation as well as to look from some private people who have racing horse. In the two times of transport we brought 700 packages of hay and 115 kg of oats to the Gobi B and distributed to the takhis. The assisting operation was appropriate work and takhi suffered alive by the feed.





Rangers are trying to find dead takhis in the winter pasture and to taking internal organ assay from every p-horses died. We totally found 33 dead p- horses in first search in the second search rangers found 12 more takhi carcasses. The 25 bottle of the internal organ samples and 24 takhi tail samples, 29 pieces of the domestic horse samples totally collected and preparing to send

to a laboratory in Veterinary University, Austria to determine deadly reason accurately. The CITES permission process is going on now.

The International Takhi Group organized humanitarian assist twice for local herders that were depressed because of losing their livestock during the harsh winter at Bij river and transferred to its staff and rangers warm clothes, boots, food and herders necessary medicines and injections together with taking cake for the takhi herds.



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all, the International Takhi Group headquarter, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, deep effort to protect Mongolian takhi horse from rangers leaded by O.Ganbaatar and N.Altansukh of B sector of Gobi B SPA, Head of Natural environment office of Khovd province Tumendemberel and specialist inspector Tseyen-Oidov who helped open-heartedly to finding the hays, army-chief colonel Batbaatar of command, senior trained driver Bekhee and his group staff of Khovd province, who helped hard work to transport the hay twice to the Gobi B.

Prepared by manager N.Enkhsaikhan

The hay transport in the March



April transport



Camp around



Dead takhis and sampling

