



“Great Gobi “B” strictly protected area’s management plan” follow up meeting report

June 9, 2012, Bij river

Meeting theme: What has been achieved after the workshop and the MoU signed by parties last year? What can all stakeholders do in order to improve it?

The presentations on; implementation of protected areas management plan, wild horse reintroduction, activities SDC Mongolia has done carried out, experiences of Khar Us lake protected area and nature conservation law enforcement of both aimags during last year have been presented during the morning session.

During the afternoon session attendees were divided into 4 groups where issues regarding;

- How could aimags help more? Financial and political support?
- Experiences in the collaboration with ITG, SDC and other partners?
- What can we do more in order to implement yearly plan for the protected area?
- Constraints by the implementation of management plan of National park for the locals, the sums and the aimags were discussed and group suggestions presented.

Group findings

1. How could aimags help more? Financial and political support?

1. A compensation system has to be taken place for those who communicate on violations of environmental laws.
2. There is a need to have a financial mean to support environmental groups and partnerships.
3. Establishment of a nature conservation fund out of which considerable amount can be spent for implementation of the management plan.
4. The border defense agency units need to have a budget allotted for nature conservation activities.
5. An installment of automatic cameras along the line of protected areas for better monitoring
6. To provide a volunteer environmental inspectors certificates to border defense unit commander and his deputy
7. There is a need for financial means to do public awareness among the local by soum authority and the protected area administration

2. Experiences in the collaboration with ITG, SDC and other partners?

No	Partners	Suggestions
1	Czech development agency	1. To improve cooperation with Prague zoo
		2. To help to improve the capacity of protected area administration 3. To help local hospital 4. To help development of community based tourism
2	ITG	1. A better management over the wild horse population 2. To help to improve the capacity of protected area administration; technical and working environment capacity 3. Establishment of Disaster risk fund of feed for wild horses 4. To assist with research 5. To help to set SME in the buffer zone
3	SDC	1. To assist to set a proper pasture management 2. To help to improve the capacity of protected area administration 3. To assist with public awareness 4. To assist to handle issues regarding artisanal miners 5. To support eco-education 6. To assist SME establishment. 7. To assist water management well repair and digging 8. To assist with forestry plan implementation 9. To assist with community based tourism development 10. To assist to approach mining companies for support

3. Constraints by the implementation of management plan of National Park for the locals, the sums and the aimags

1. A close cooperation and information provided for new elect aimag meeting representatives specially ones elected from the neighboring area, detailed operation budget request plan has to be provided.
2. An establishment of aimag and soum level committees for implementation of management plan including buffer zone citizens
3. An elaboration of a business plan followed with management plan
4. An establishment of environmental partnerships around the buffer zone, provide support for the initiatives and create better economic incentive system for helping to improve livelihood of citizens
5. A compensation system has to be taken place for those who communicate on violations of environmental laws and public awareness.
6. Special training for volunteer rangers
7. To install signboards marking buffer zone boundaries
8. To help to improve eco-education among school children and involve them and their parents in nature conservation

4. Constraints by the implementation of management plan of National park for the locals, the sums and the aimags

Yearly plan implementation is assessed by the director of the park with 80% realization or 24 activities out of 30 planned have been implemented.

1. Reasons for the gap

- No financial means

- Weak cooperation with local people, government and NGO-s
- No buffer zone fund established
- Weak law enforcement

2. Ways to improve

- To redesign the activities missed and approach donor projects
- To broaden cooperation network
- To carry out a better public awareness on law enforcement
- To not to plan too many activities
- To monitor plan's in between 2-3 times and if needed make amendments

General observation over the activities carried out during last year after MoU signed

- A considerable improvement in regard to cooperation between aimag government environmental agencies and the park administration is observed as witnessed by several joint workshops organized especially one with 2 aimags law enforcement bodies including judges, prosecutors and police.
- The Gobi-Altai aimag environment agency has started with compensation system for information provided on illegal operations and 6 people rewarded with 6 million MNT for valuable information.
- Most of border defense agency units not using saxaul tree for fuel instead using coal and pine trees transported.
- Border defense agency staff's participation with high motivation is noticed that should be continued with regular information sharing and visiting.
- No poaching recorded in the territory of both protected area and the buffer zone.
- A better knowledge and experience sharing among park management in the region is observed
- It would worth to organize such meetings annually so that all parties can be well informed about what one has carried out during the years and share experiences and the knowledge.
- As stated by the director of department of protected areas at MNET, the border defense agency staff needed to be provided with volunteer environmental inspector certificate\ see group findings\ .

Considerations for further SDC interventions

- To continue with community based pasture management project to assist herders in the buffer zone to better manage the land and water resources,
- The support for secondary schools eco-education is crucial for better conservation of the park
- An assistance for better public outreach can be provided for the park and buffer zone soum government staff would worth considerations.
- The help for development of SME in the buffer zone is needed \see group findings\.

The meeting has gathered 36 attendees representing buffer zone soums government officials, herders, 2 aimags environment and tourism agency chairs and staff, head of the special protected areas department of the MNET, border defense agency staff, other park directors and staff and park rangers.