

**13<sup>TH</sup> NORTHEAST ASIAN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL  
COOPERATION  
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Honorary Chair,

Dear colleagues,

**Species restoration**

Mongolia's territory ranges from the super-arid desert in the South to moist Taiga forest in the North, and from rolling steppe grasslands in the East to alpine terrain and glaciated peaks in the West. This varied terrain contains a wide array of ecotypes; many exhibiting unique characteristics found nowhere else on the globe. This unique, varied, and substantially undisturbed territory supports a wide diversity of living organisms, many of which are endemic to Mongolia. Mongolia harbors the last remaining populations of a number of species internationally recognized as threatened or endangered, including the snow leopard, Argali sheep, wild ass, saiga, bacterian camel, Gobi bear, and others.

Mongolian fauna is relatively rich in animal species, which inhabit different habitats of the country's variable natural zones, such as forests, steppes, deserts, and high mountains forming communities according to their ecological requirements. The Mongolian fauna includes many species, which are common in the Siberian taiga, European forests, or West -Asian, and Turarian deserts. But, there are also species, which are endemic to the steppe and deserts of central and East Asia, and are common in Mongolia. In addition, Mongolia is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of prehistoric remains of various animal species.

Special attention paid to studies on Mongolia's fauna, its species composition, ecology and biology during the last 70 years has produced a large amount of data. This report is based on this data and is divided into the following sections: mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, insects and other wildlife. Each sub-section gives information about species composition, their distribution and abundance, conservation, restoration, and use.

Altogether 138 mammalian species belonging to 73 genera, 22 families, and 8 orders, out of which, 13 are insectivorous, 12 chiropters, 6 lagomorphs, 69 rodents, 24 carnivores, 2 perissodactyls, 1 tylopods and 11 artiodactyls, exist in Mongolia.

There are several mammalian species whose population sizes and ranges have become smaller due to either the direct and indirect impact of human activities and the environmental and climate change. There are also several species, which exist, in small numbers in limited areas where the habitat loss may drive the species to extinction. Approval of the Mongolian Law on Nature Protection and the Law on Hunting in 1995 provide the base for all activities related to conservation, proper use and restoration of mammals.

According to Mongolian law, from 1930 onwards, the hunting of more than 10 species of mammals, including the Wild Horse, *Eguus prjevalskii*, Saiga Antelope *Saiga tatarica*, Beaver *Castor Fiber birulai* and the Otter *Lutra lutra* was to be prohibited. Today there is legislation concerning wildlife conservation. The Wild Horse, *Eguus prjevalskii*, The Wild ass *Equus hemionus*, the Wild Dog *Cuon Alpinus*, snow leopard *Uncia uncia* and the Otter *Lutra lutra* have been included in the Red Book of the World Conservation Union.

The new Mongolian Red Book, published in 1997, has 2 categories of endangered species, rare and very rare and it includes 30 species and sub-species of mammals such as Artiodactyls /33.3%/, Rodents /26.7%/, Carnivores /20%/, Insectivores /6.7%/, Perissodactyls /6.7%/, Typolods /3.3%/, Chiropters and /3.3%/.

The protected areas network in Mongolia covers fully the range of the Wild Camel, Gobi Bear, Wild Horse, Saiga Antelope, Elk, Wild Boar, Beaver and Forest Dormouse. About 70 percent of the range of the Snow Leopard, Wild Ass, Eurasian Otter, Musk Deer, Wild Mountain Sheep and the Siberian Ibex have been placed under protection.

A few rodent species such as the Satunin's Jerboa, the Thick-tailed Pygmy Jerboa and Long-eared Jerboa have remained outside the protected areas network.

Mongolians have re-introduced and relocated certain species of mammals throughout history like the Red Deer *Cervus elaphus* and the Siberian Marmot *Marmota sibirica*, which are important hunting resources.

The Muskrat and Raccoon Dog have spread into Mongolia from Russia and China, and the White tailed Gazelle, Saiga Antelope, Wild Horse, Beaver and Siberian Ibex have been re-introduced to the areas where they have become rare. 20 Wild Horses were re-introduced from Europe in 1992 in Khustain Nuruu and in Takhiin Tal.

Additional management activities like re-introductions are needed in the future for many more species, which have become endangered. The situation demands urgent policy measures and action plans in order to reverse the negative trends in a specific timeframe, such as:

- More emphasize needs to be given on conservation aspects while developing policy measures and action plans;
- Action plan could be developed to conserve the rare and endangered species of flora and fauna;
- Continuous monitoring of biodiversity uses would help in reviewing the results of implementation of policies and programs;
- Resources need to be raised for improvement and management of existing protected areas; and
- Eco-tourism could be developed to harmonize the human and ecology interaction, which in turn would provide an economic opportunity for the local people.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**MINISTRY OF NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT**