

MONGOLIA / MONGOLIE

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF
MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS
(CMS)

MONGOLIA
(NATIONAL REPORT)

2000 -2002

CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS)

- 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties -
- Bonn, Germany, 14-28 September 2002 -

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>Name of Party:</i>	Mongolia
<i>Date of report:</i>	September 2002
<i>Covered period:</i>	2000 – 2002
<i>Date of entry:</i>	24 June 1999
<i>Territory:</i>	Mongolia
<i>Reservations:</i>	None
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II. PRESENT STATEMENT

National resources have exploited without any thought to ecological consequences. This has resulted in starvation and poverty. Nations are beginning to realize that the protection of nature and environment is the basis of human well being and that natural resources are not "free".

Mongolia has maintained a tradition of preserving its pristine natural environment since ancient times. With majestic mountains and plateaus, forests, vast open steppes, wild deserts with desert with sand dunes and oases, rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, islands and dense riparian zones, Mongolia is beautiful country that harbors many species adapted to its continental climate, high mountains and low precipitation. Several species found in Mongolia are globally unique and endemic to Mongolia or Central Asia or threatened and listed in the Mongolian Red Book, including Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus fesus*), Asian wild ass (*Eguus humionus*), Przewalski's horse (*Equus przewalski*), Mongolian saiga (*Saiga tatarica*), White-tailed gazelle (*Procatra gutturosa*), Argali sheep (*Ovis ammon*), Ibex (*Capra sibirica*), Black-tailed gazelle (*Gazelle subguturosa*), Snow leopard (*Uncia uncia*), Gobi bear (*Ursus arctos gobiensis*), Mongolian larks, Altai snowcocks (*Tetraogallusaltaicus*), bearded), bearded vultures and etc.

The National Government of Mongolia is trying to balance social and economic development with ecosystem protection. Mistakes of other countries in the past, for example raw material extraction to foreign countries, ecologically damaging technologies and disposal of foreign waste should be avoided. Protection, restoration, sustainable use of biological resources and captive breeding of endangered species are Government priorities.

Mongolia is vast (1.57 million km²) and sparsely populated country in Central Asia. Mongolia is in the difficult process of transforming their country from communist system with a centrally controlled economy to democracy with a free market.

Mongolian biological resources have a key role in the maintenance of ecological balance; providing a healthy and safe environment, alleviation of poverty and sustainable social and economic development.

The fauna diversity is very rich in Mongolia. The vertebrates are represented by 56 fish species (6 in Red Book of Mongolia), 10 amphibian species (4 in Red Book), 22 reptilians' species (5 in Red Book), 427 bird species (30 in Red Book) and 134 mammalian species (30 in Red Book).

Mongolia contains a wide variety of habitats and wildlife, due to its large size and varied ecosystems stretching from the high mountains of Central Asia to the Gobi desert. The population of many plants and animals are decreasing as human settlement has expanded and today some are in danger of extinction.

III. PROBLEM FACED

The fauna and flora of Mongolia suffer from increasing habitat loss, region are already devoid or nearly devoid of large mammals, desertification is expanding, erosion is evident in several areas and several species and subspecies are threatened with extinction. Threats to biodiversity include the impact of mining, deforestation, off road vehicle use, pollution, rapid human population growth, and expanding number of livestock, poaching and the effects of the rapid socioeconomic and cultural change that has accompanied Mongolia's transition from communism to democracy.

Especially, the migratory ungulate species, which need fresh pasture and open water sources throughout the year, such as the wild camel (*Camelus bactrianus ferus*), wild ass (*Equus hemionus*), the Mongolian saiga (*Saiga mongolica*), Mongolian gazelles (*Procarpa gutturosa*) and others were hardly influenced by human pressure, pasture and water competition of livestock.

There are 81 species of the Mongolian birds listed in Appendices I and II of CMS. 4 of them, Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), white-tailed sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus albicila*), Great bustard (*Otis tarda*), and Relict Gull (*Larus relit*) are listed Appendix 1. From Mammalia 12 species of bat, I species of big cats (Snow leopard-*Panthera uncia*) listed in Appendix of CMS. However non of fish species of Mongolia is listed in Appendix.

Mongolia is one of the most favorable places for the migratory birds. Traditionally Mongolians do not shoot most of the bird species in Mongolia. Therefore, many of migratory bird species nesting drying the summer in lakes, rivers and ponds of Mongolia.

However, the migratory mammalian species such as wild camel, goitered gazelle, wild ass, Mongolian gazelle, argali sheep, ibex, otter, musk deer, reindeer and Mongolian saiga have been always under direct and indirect human pressure. Especially, these animals feeling badly in neighboring countries such as China and Russia, where poachers trying to kill every animal crossed the border from Mongolia. Therefore the cooperation on transbounding issues of above migratory species between China, Russia and Mongolia is urgently required.

IY. MEASURED PROPOSED

Mongolian Government is bearing in mind to suggest to the Parties of CMS to include above mentioned mammalian and bird species such as Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus ferus*), White-tailed gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*), Wild ass (*Egus humionus*), Black-tailed gazelle (*Gazelle subguturosa*), Swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*), Baikal teal (*Anas Formosa*), Pallas's Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), White-naped crane (*Grus vipio*), Hooded crane (*Grus monacha*) to Appendices of CMS.

Y. BRIEF REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY WILDLIFE SPECIES

Mongolia has taking an active part in the activities of the Convention since 1999 when the country joined it.

In September 1999, Mongolian representatives first time participated in the VI Parties Meeting and IX Scientific Committee Meeting held in Cape town, South Africa.

During the meetings, Mongolian representatives introduced the background situation of the country to other parties and Scientific Committee and, most significantly, emphasized the contribution of our country to further cooperation on implementation of the Convention.

Mr. Arnold Muller-Helmbrecht, Executive Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Douglas, Vice Director and Dr. Galbraight, Chairman of the Scientific Committee had personally met the Mongolian delegates and emphasized the significance of its joining the Convention and expressed their willingness for further co-operation with our country.

In 2002 spring, The Convention Secretary together with the Vice Director officially visited Mongolia by the invitation of the Ministry of Nature and Environment and were introduced with the conservation measures under-taken by the Government on migratory species.

The brochure of the Convention was published in Mongolian language and distributed throughout the country.

As it was tasked from the Cape town Meeting we prepared information and made a presentation on the distribution and population of the Snow Leopard (*Uncia uncia*) at the 10 Meeting of the Scientific Committee in Edinburgh, Scotland, May 2001.

Also, for this meeting, we introduced a proposal to clarify the migratory species in the Annex 1, 2 of the Convention and to get new species.

Due to their population number, distribution area and globally rareness, the following 4 species of mammal and 5 species of bird were proposed for listing in the annex and introduced the background information.

- Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus ferus*), /Хавтгай тэмээ/
- White-tailed gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*), /Цагаан зээр/
- Wild ass (*Equus hemionus*), /Хулан адуу/
- Black-tailed gazelle (*Gazelle subgutturosa*), /Хар сүүлтий/
- Swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*), /Хошуу галуу/
- Baikal teal (*Anas Formosa*), /Байгалийн нугас/
- Pallas's Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*), /Усны нөмрөг бүргэд/
- White-naped crane (*Grus vipio*), /Цэн тогоруу/
- Hooded crane (*Grus monacha*), /Хар тогоруу/

If the Parties Meeting agrees the proposal, there will be created a very favorable international legislative environment to fulfill our obligation to protect the above-mentioned 9 species of wildlife.

Special attention is paid to the white-tailed gazelle, the most migratory caprine species and the Convention Secretariat together with our assistance is planning to develop "Cooperation and Management Plan" to start the first stage works of protecting this animal at the Government level of Russian Federation, China and Mongolia.

By the joint efforts of Russia and Mongolia, 30000 heads of white-tailed gazelle were survived those migrated to the Eastern Siberia Russian Federation during the harsh winter of 2000-2001.

A children's book "King of the Gobi" by a British Scientist John Hare about globally rare and migratory species Bactrian camel was translated into Mongolian language and published 14,000 copies for the Mongolian children.

The Mongolian lakes are the home of the many birds migrating from Siberia to South in autumn and from South to North in spring and were already in the state special protection.

Since 1999 the Convention brings more opportunities to strengthen the conservation management of these migratory birds.

Mongolia strongly believes that more collaborative efforts will be taken for trans-boundary protection of the migratory species in case two our neighbors Russian Federation and China join the Convention.