

PROJECT BRIEF

The project “*Capacity Building and Institutional Development for Participatory Natural Resources Management and Conservation in Forest Areas of Mongolia*” has been formulated to support the development of responsible, productive and sustainable management of forest resources by local communities to meet local needs and to stimulate local development. The project is funded by the Royal Government of the Netherlands and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the Ministry of Nature and Environment (MNE). The five year project was initiated in April of 2007 and will run until 2012.



The project has been formulated in response to increasing forest lost due to illegal logging, forest fires and insect damage. The primary problem is that no one is actively protecting and managing the forests of Mongolia. This project was prepared simultaneously with the new forest law which has at its core the participation of local communities for their protection and management of forest lands. The passage of the new law coincided with the start of this project and the project is now supporting the development of community forestry as envisioned in the new forest law.

The development objective of the project is “*the maintenance and improvement of the existing forest cover of Mongolia in order to ensure the sustainable livelihoods of the rural population*”.

The immediate objective is “*the implementation and integration of participatory forestry in rural development in pilot areas through capacity building of the main stakeholders and through the development of enabling institutional frameworks at local, regional and national levels*”.

Five specific outputs will be realized with this project:

Output 1: Functional local organizations / entities (Nukhurlul) for forest management established in pilot sites.

Output 2: Adapted management planning for local sustainable forest use, reforestation and conservation.

Output 3: Adequate legislation and regulations for local level forest resources use, reforestation and conservation.

Output 4: Adequate institutional framework at national level for local forest resources use and conservation.

Output 5: Improved knowledge on integrated and sustainable natural resources utilization and conservation.



The project has established *four regional facilitation offices* which are staffed to provide training and technical support to all the forested aimags of northern Mongolia. The four offices are:

1. Ondorkhaan in Khentii aimag which supports Khentii aimag and eastern Tuv aimag
2. Darkhan which supports Darkhan Uul aimag, Selenge aimag and northern Tuv aimag
3. Bulgan which supports Bulgan aimag and Arkhangai aimag
4. Moron in Hovsgol aimag which supports Hovsgol and Zavkhan aimags

Each office works directly with the government Environmental Protection Agency and its staff as counter-parts for project implementation.

The project is working closely with other development partners in the field to establish a process of community forestry development that will result in long term protection and sustainable management of sizable forest areas in northern Mongolia.



The Community Forestry Development Process involves:

1. Site selection
2. Participatory rural assessment
3. Community organization
4. Forest resource mapping
5. Participatory resource assessment
6. Forest management planning
7. Implementation / forest management
8. Participatory monitoring and evaluation

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