



# DECLARATION OF BAYANTOOROI

We, the participants of the second Meeting of the Parties of the “Great Gobi-6” Initiative, do hereby:

**Note** that the Mongolian Gobi is a home to the Central Asia’s endemic species;

**Acknowledge** that the six very rare and rare wild species in the world namely, wild camel, Gobi bear, Khulan, Takhi, Mongolian saiga, and black-tailed gazelle are main fauna representatives of the Mongolia Gobi and desert ecosystem;

**Consider** that the habitat and population of wild camel are increasingly decreasing from time to time; a future status of Gobi bear population has come to a risk of extinction whereas efforts of communities and governmental organizations towards the species safeguarding has been relatively increasing; the world’s last remaining core population of Khulan is in the Gobi region of Mongolia; distribution and location of wild population of Przewalski’s horse or Takhi has become vulnerable; the population of Mongolian saiga, which is endemic to Mongolia and rarely found in the rest of the world, has become very vulnerable due to frequent outbreaks of infectious diseases, and population of black-tailed gazelle has been reduced in the Mongolian Gobi, that is the world’s northernmost distribution range for the species;

**Emphasize** that collaborative efforts and cooperation of stakeholders are vitally important for conservation and sustainable use of the GG-6 species: wild camel, Gobi bear, Khulan, Takhi, Mongolian saiga, and black-tailed gazelle, and maintaining of the Gobi ecosystem balance in Mongolia;

**Join** the GG-6 initiative, as we, the representatives of the Mongolia's governmental organizations, communities, and civic society organizations have recognized our commitments with regard to nature conservation to the international communities;

**Support** that the GG-6 initiative is coming to the centre of the public's attention; and

**Emphasise** that the Parties have been making their efforts in performances of the activities planned under the Declaration of Takhi Steppe.

Therefore, we have all agreed to deal with the following activities under the Declaration of Bayantooroi from the second forum of "Great Gobi-6" organized in an oasis of Zakhuin in Altai Uvur Gobi:

- To establish and run smooth operation of "Coordination Council" to facilitate the GG-6 initiative, ensure balanced multiparty participation, and encourage collaboration efforts under the initiative;
- To cooperate in fundraising and filling shortages in financing of the activities planned under GG-6 initiative;
- To apply approach and mechanism of financing joint activities to be organized under the GG-6 initiative;
- To encourage and expand cooperation with neighbouring countries, where distribution ranges of the six species lie, and other interested countries into the GG-6 initiative;
- To organize the third forum of "GG-6" initiative at international level;
- Parties should organize and publicly disseminate at least three activities through their cooperation under the "GG-6" initiative; and
- To encourage and broadly mobilize the practitioners those are engaged in international research and conservation activities, into the GG-6 initiative;

The Forum Participants, Bayantooroi village,

26 September, 2017

# A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS OF THE PARTIES UNDER “DECLARATION OF BAYANTOOROI”:

- ① To make efforts in establishment and smoothening its operation of Coordination Council and dissemination of information to the parties;
- ② To study water supply sources within important habitats of the GG – six species, systematically protect existing open water bodies, and put in use only automatic pumped wells run by renewable energy sources;
- ③ To compile all the data and information on proposed locally and stately PAs including the existing PAs areas for expansion in the region into the database and define and lobby the priority areas in the nearest future;
- ④ To strengthen anti-poaching and anti-trade of wildlife parts, identify ways of efficient working, and implement activities through joint efforts;
- ⑤ To regularly organize eco-tours joined by mixed groups of trippers including eco-club members- school children, artists, creative artists, famous sports and art people, journalists, etc; and
- ⑥ To provide support in research and monitoring of the GG-six species, in particular, their distributions, resource assessments, movements and migrations, impacts of existing infrastructure, designation of migration corridors, impacts of climate change, food chains, and competition with domestic livestock.

# PROPOSED ACTIVITIES NECESSARY FOR CONSERVATION OF THE GG-6 SPECIES FORWARDED BY THE 2D FORUM OF GG-6 INITIATIVE

## PRZEWALSKI'S HORSE OR TAKHI



- To raise an issue of hybridisation of wild and domestic species and propose and apply a special procedure with this;
- To set up and apply a mechanism of sustainable financing (a good practice of Hustai Nuruu);
- Introduce risk management practices:
  - a. To overcome drought and dzud (heavy snow falls);
  - b. To reduce a risk of grey wolf attack;
- To improve habitat conservation through strengthening Buffer Zone Councils:
  - a. To expand the SPA and Hustai NP and take Khom Steppe under state protection;
- To conduct studies on Takhi habitat carrying capacities and resources, in particular in Hustai NP;

## ASIATIC WILD ASS OR KHULAN

### POLICY AND LAW



- Standards of green infrastructural facilities (e.g. wildlife friendly – net fence, wildlife crossing & tunnel) and their enforcement and follow up action in practice;
- A model of responsible mining (e.g. certain portions of revenues are spent for environmental conservation);
- Investigation of potential conditions, where the wildlife do freely cross border areas in harsh weather conditions through an agreement with border agencies (e.g. agreement with Chinese side);

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Upgrading patrolling and anti-poaching activities to reduce and eliminate illegal hunting;
- Mechanism of improvement of control and exchange of information on illegal trade of wildlife parts (e.g. lung, hooves etc);
- Elimination of poaching and smuggling of wildlife parts by using mass media means including social media;
- Introduction and use of SMART application for patrolling (based on a good practice of GGSPA)

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- Research and monitoring on wildlife populations and resources;
- Remote sensing on wildlife movements and migrations (e.g. location and movement of Khulan to the east and northeast);
- Collection of demographic data e.g. survivability, ages, and sexes of wild species necessary for having their population models;
- Proposing of mitigation measures based on impact assessment of infrastructure (e.g. mining, auto and railroads);
- Designation of migratory corridors;
- Studies on climate change and its impacts;
- Studies on food chain and competition with domestic livestock;

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Raising awareness on international significance of Mongolia and specific local areas;
- Positive behaviours and attitudes (e.g. towards harmful rodents of pastureland, competition with domestic livestock for pasture);
- Studies on potentiality of tourism development;
- Upgrading public awareness on ecology by establishing a capturing and breeding centre;

## HABITAT CONSERVATION

- Studies on potentiality of re-introduction (e.g. in the area from the east of railroad and Great Lakes' Depression);
- Expansion of PA network;
- Establishment of trans-boundary PA (e.g. part B of GGSPA and Kalimal SPA in China);
- Protection of water sources, upgrading of maintaining, and opening of water available for wildlife (e.g. by using devices operated by solar energy source);

## BLACK-TAILED GAZELLE



- Studies – designation of core areas within its habitat and PA expansion (by including wildlife habitats into the national and local PAs);
- Distribution and resource assessment and conservation management at the national level;
- Investigation of roads and their wildlife crossings, existing border barbed net fence for replacement with wildlife friendly fence – seeking for the potentiality of safe and free wildlife migration;
- Illegal hunting – combating with it by establishing and operating “Irvs” anti-poaching unit;
- Restricting illegal hunting by establishing hunting zones for the game species those are naturally restored and introducing sustainable hunting management for hunting and household purposes;
- Establishing water points for the species;
- Studies on black-tail gazelle breeding and reproduction (including studies on impacts of black vulture on the species, in particular, survivability of baby individuals),
- Investigation and piloting of potentiality of re-introduction of the species in its northernmost distribution range;

## GOBI BEAR



- To have a separate law on the species;
- Revisions to the existing PA law and regulations with provisions on increased community participation;
- Revision to the procedure (1996) /Procedure for Research and Monitoring in PAs);
- Improvement of habitat resource and carrying capacities;
  - a. Reducing illegal detection and mining of minerals such as gold within distribution areas of Gobi bear by getting support from the government;
  - b. Protection and restoration of oasis, natural springs, shrub and reed stands while preventing from desertification, dryness, and improper human activities;
  - c. Opening water available for wildlife in the areas lacking in water, increase in the areas, where additional forages and feeds are put, and supplies of forages and feeds, and putting nutritive feeds in springs, when female individuals have calves;
  - d. Releasing the area along Ekh River that is potential for wildlife use from human appearance in order to ensure integrity of Gobi ecosystem and expand habitats of very rare wild species such as wild camel and Gobi bear;
- Establishing wildlife re-introduction and capturing zones in former wildlife distribution ranges;
- Stimulation of cooperation and partnership of governmental and non-governmental organizations, specialized and professional institutions to mobilize and facilitate the GG-6 initiative activities including genetic funds of the wild species;
  - a. Inbreeding;
- Establishing of park administration and unit in Bayankhongor aimag;
- Fundraising for conservation by collecting payments from those who use the wild species name;
- Visitor information for tourists;
- Video presentations, programmes, and public dissemination via local and international press means;

## MONGOLIAN SAIGA

### POLICY AND LAW



- Investigation of the possibility to re-introduce the species since it is risky/sensitive to harsh weather conditions and infected diseases;
- Upgrading existing categories of PAs and their conservation management;
- Establishing the area under each ranger's responsibility by considering physical conditions and sizes of the areas in detail;

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Combating illegal hunting and trade of parts such as horns –by using new advanced technologies, approaches, and techniques for gathering evidences;
- Use of press and social media as one of disclosure tools on illegal hunting and wildlife part trade cases;
- Introduction and use of SMART application for patrolling (based on a good practice of GGSPA);
- Training and specialization of police and court officers and advocates in environmental fields;

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- Research and database on infectious diseases;
- Paying attentions and taking actions on mitigation of three threats: starving – sickness – hunting;
- Detailed studies on saiga distribution areas and open water bodies including natural springs and protection of heads of the water bodies;

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Conducting public awareness activities on illegal hinting and trades of wildlife parts such as horns for prevention and elimination purpose;
- Dissemination of accurate information on diseases and their outbreaks/spreads;
- Dissemination of the information on the species ecology, in particular the species role in the ecosystem, movement & migration, occupancy, etc among the public;

## HABITAT CONSERVATION

- Improvement of habitat conditions namely pasture, water, and land use management and deciding on the option to have reserve pastures for the wildlife;

# WILD CAMEL

## POLICY AND LAW



- Raise an issue of hybridisation of wild and domestic camels (mini) and develop a special procedure in the concerning area;
- Revision to the contract between the Border Protection Agency and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and a regulation for conducting research and monitoring and conservation in border strips;
- Re-study in detail the wild camel status (500/50);
- Common ground with regard to the policy on future management for domesticated wild camel herds among the parties;

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Prevention from illegal hunting and gold mining by strengthening Buffer Zone Councils;
- Upgrading patrolling on illegal hunting;

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

- Arrangement of accurate studies on wild camel populations in accordance with the methodologies prepared by national researchers with financial supports from donor organizations;
- Studies on the species movement and migration (there are some verbal reports on the species migration crossing the state border, but they are not confirmed yet). To assure them, studies are to be conducted along the state border);
- Demographic studies including survivability, ages, sexes, etc;
- Taking a preventive action from inbreeding problems in domesticated camel herd (e.g. bringing male individuals from a wild population to the domesticated herd in the nearest future);

## PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Conducting promotional activities on the species nationally and internationally since the species is rarely seen not only in the rest of Mongolia but also in the world's zoos;
- Studying the feasibility to develop eco-tourism including ideal travel routes based on the region and GG-6 activities and having the opportunities reflected in the aimags' tourism development programmes;

## HABITAT CONSERVATION

- Restoration of dried and lowered natural springs and wells formerly used (e.g. Gantumur's ephemeral channel, Choiguun Us, etc);
- Maintaining and caring water sources (e.g. wells operated by renewable (e.g. solar) energy sources);
- Establishing trans-boundary PA;
- Restricting entries of humans and those driving vehicles into PAs (e.g. inexperienced and non-guided tourists and visitors are not allowed in particular in springs and autumns, when water bodies are mostly accessed by the species);