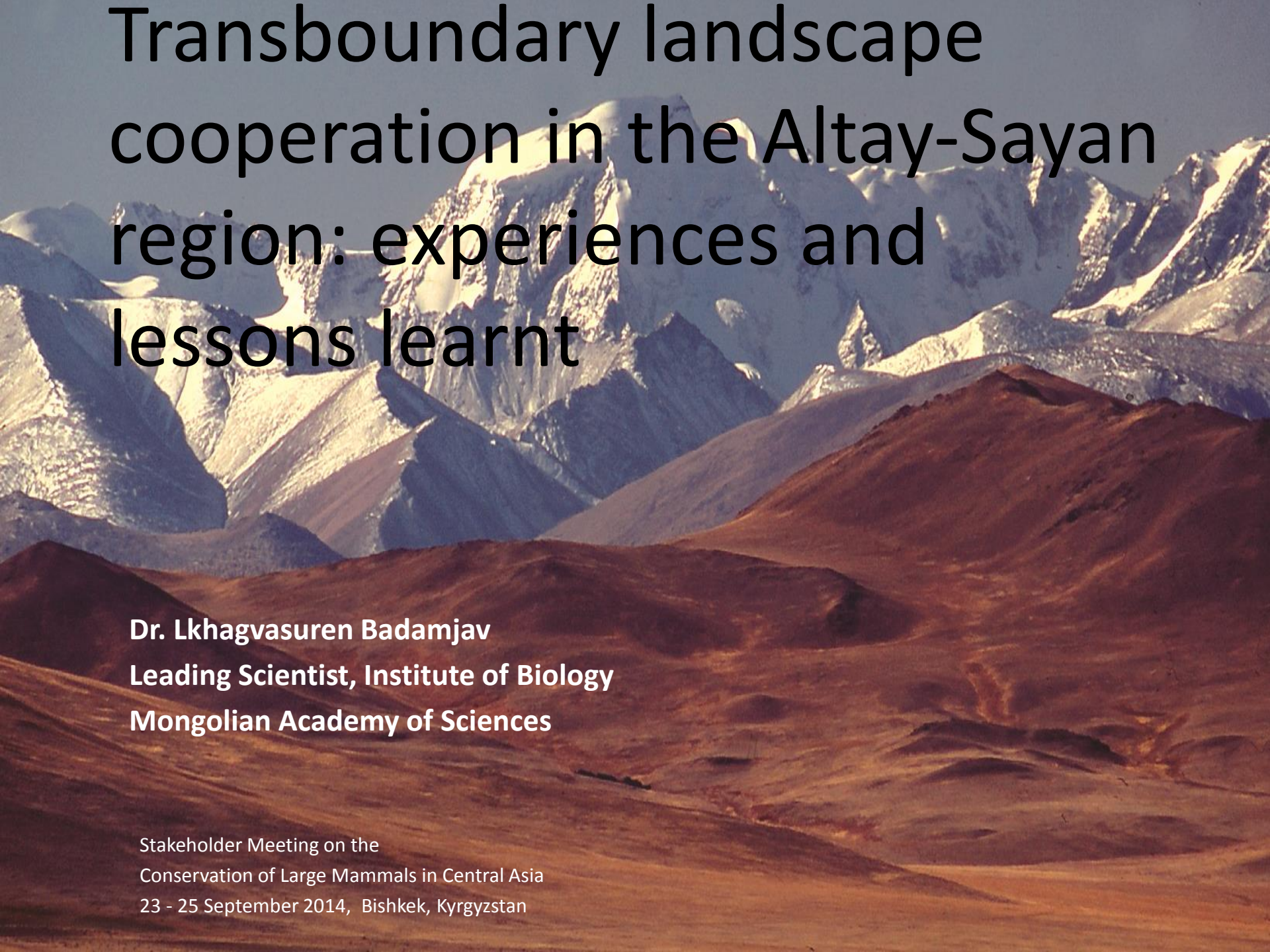
Transboundary landscape cooperation in the Altay-Sayan region: experiences and lessons learnt

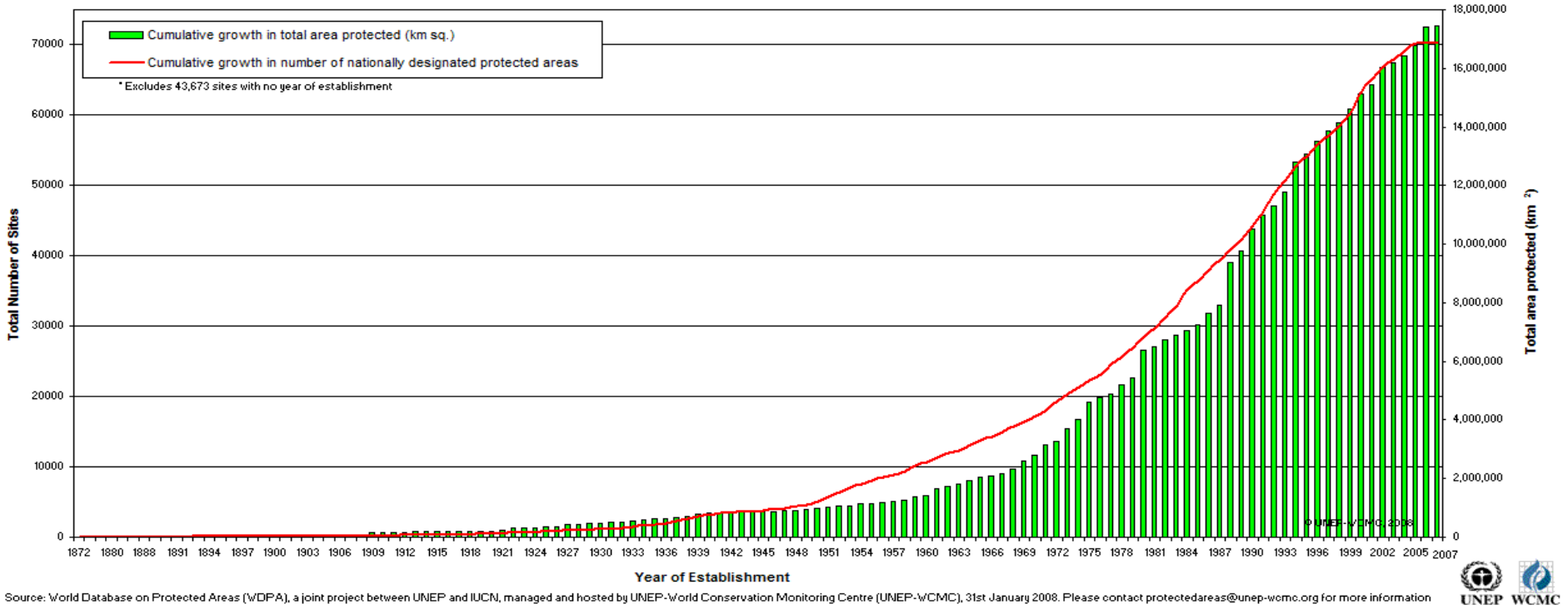


Dr. Lkhagvasuren Badamjav
Leading Scientist, Institute of Biology
Mongolian Academy of Sciences

Stakeholder Meeting on the
Conservation of Large Mammals in Central Asia
23 - 25 September 2014, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

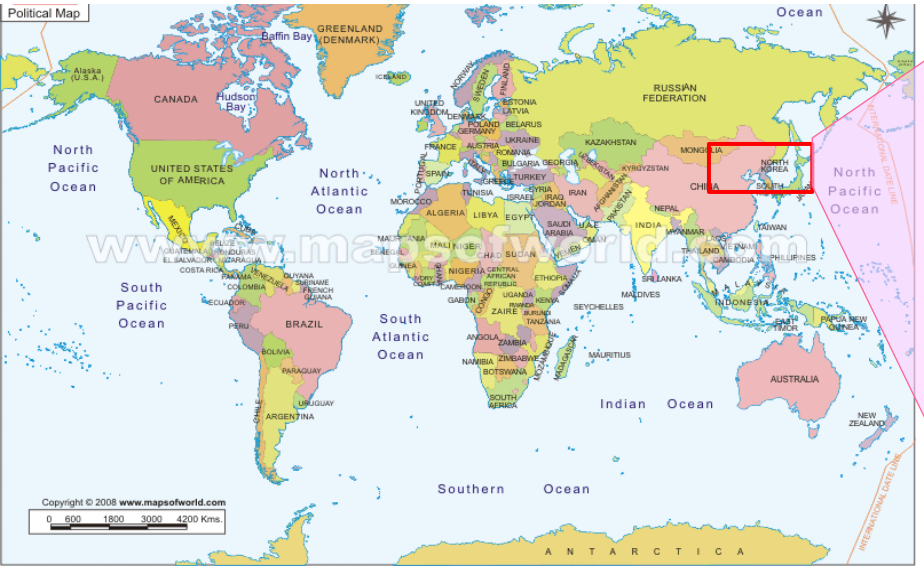
PA IN THE WORLD

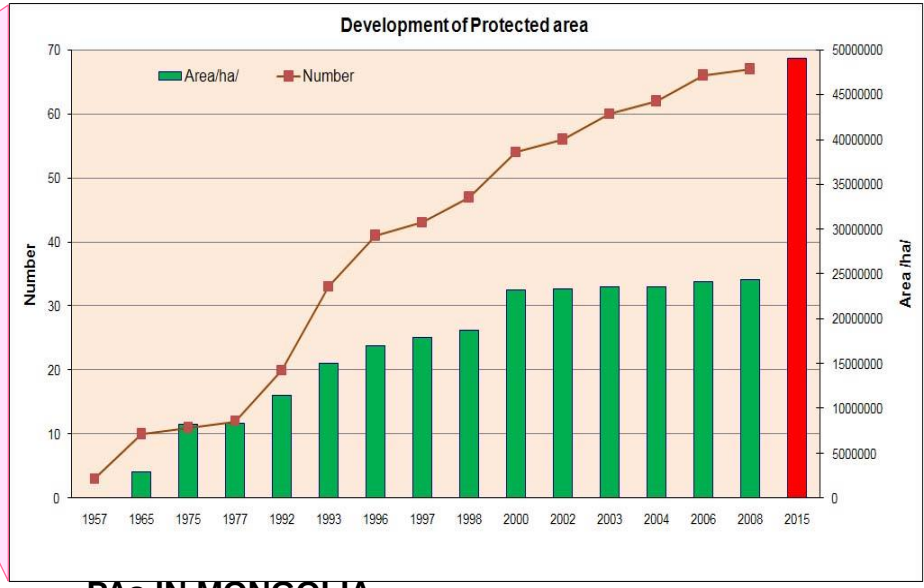
Growth in Nationally Designated Protected Areas (1872 - 2007)*



Source: World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), a joint project between UNEP and IUCN, managed and hosted by UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), 31st January 2008. Please contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org for more information

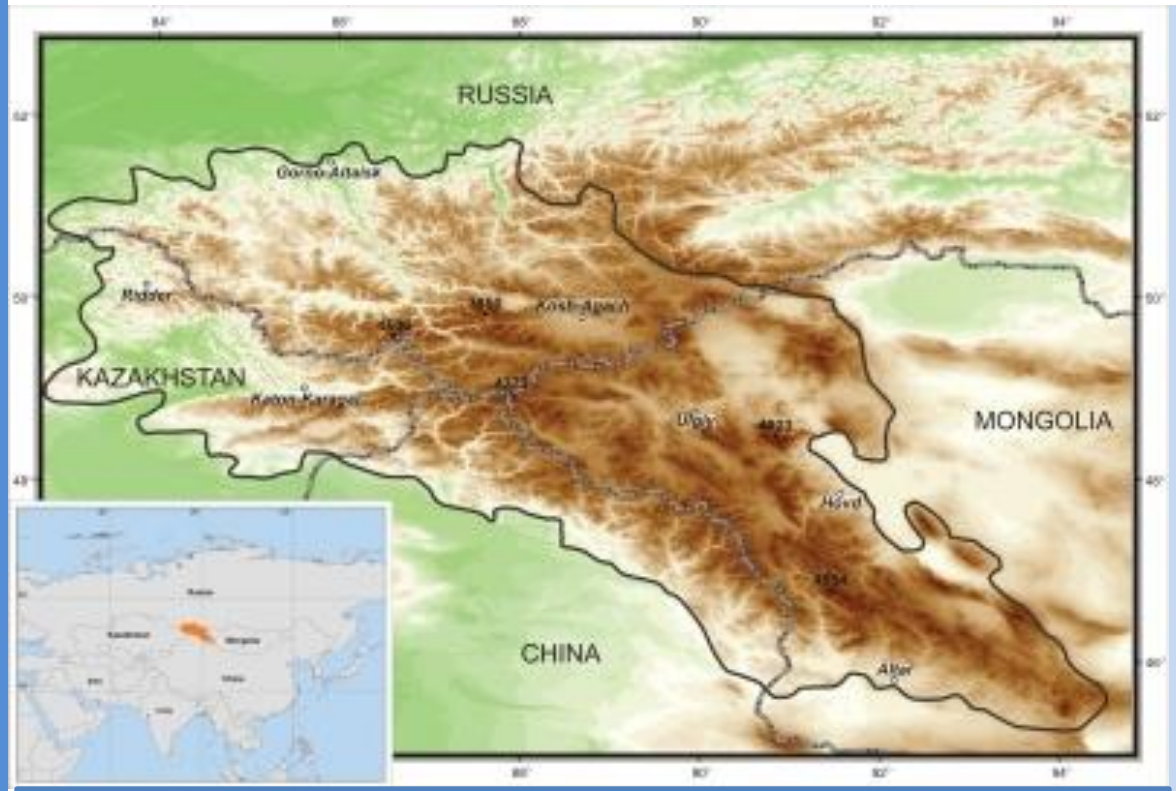
UNEP WCMC





PAs IN MONGOLIA

Altay-Sayan Eco-region description



The Altay Sayan is a mountain range in East-Central Asia, where Russia, China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan come together.

The region represents the most complete sequence of altitudinal vegetation zones in central Siberia, from steppe, forest-steppe, mixed forest, subalpine vegetation to alpine vegetation.

The entire Altai-Sayan eco-region is an area of global key importance in terms of biodiversity. The WWF considered the region as one of the 200 most valuable eco-regions of the world.

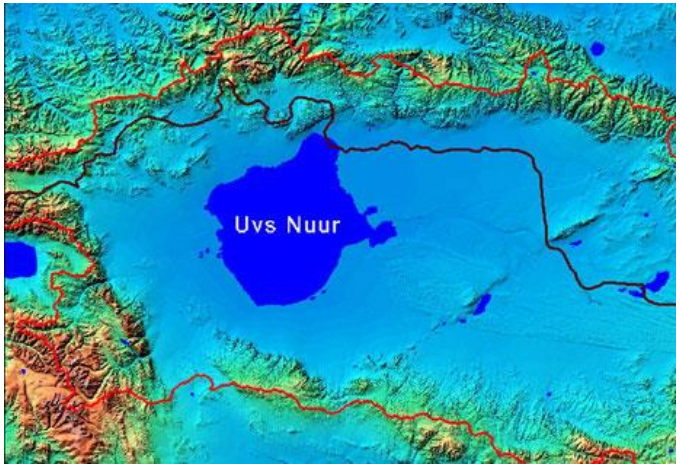
Existing and planned TBPAs in ASER

- Existing:
  - Uvs nuur lake basin PAs of Mongolia and Russia
- Planned:
  - Salugem NR (Russia) and Siilkhem NP (Mongolia)
  - Khuvsgul lake (Mongolia) and Tunkinskii (Russia)

UVS NUUR TRANSBOUNDARY PROTECTED AREA

- Trans-boundary protected areas was established in May, 2011
- Two specially protected areas of the two countries

  were combined to create Uvs nuur nature reserve TBPA:
  - ✓ Ubsanursky basin Zapovednik of Russia;
  - ✓Uvs nur strictly protected area of Mongolia;



Value of Uvs nuur lake basin

- The mountains are an important refuge for the globally endangered snow leopard, argali sheep and the ibex,
- Key habitat of migratory birds,
- The steppe ecosystem supports a rich diversity of birds and the desert is home to a number of rare gerbil, jerboas and the marbled polecat. MAB (1998)
- World heritage site (2003 year)
- RAMSAR site (2004 year)




Joint activities

- ✓ Reporting and planning of activity;
- ✓ Joint research and conferences
- ✓ Ecological education, ecological camps
- ✓ Trans-boundary protected area management plan was approved in 2010,

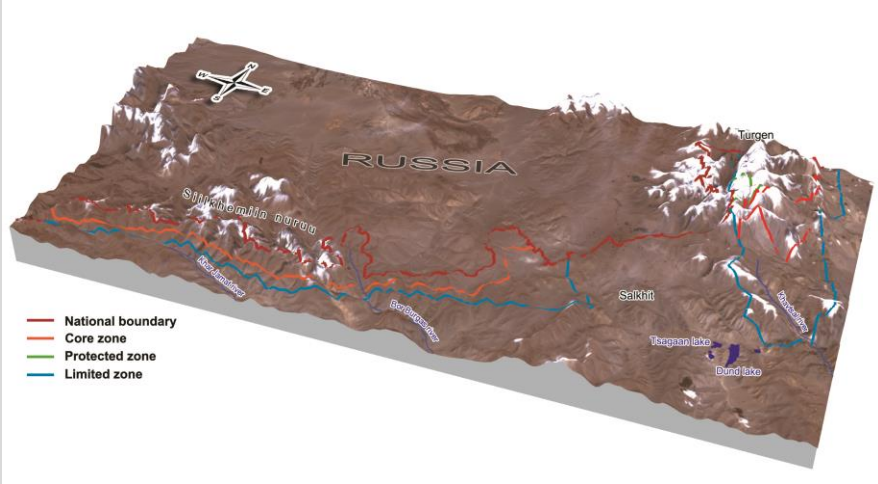



GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT

PLANNED Transboundary Protected areas of Mongolia

2. SIILKHEM-SALUGEM TRANSBOUNDARY PROTECTED AREA

- Two specially protected areas of the two countries were combined to create TBPA:
  - ✓ Salugem protected area of Russia;
  - ✓ Siilkhem nuruu National park of Mongolia;



Value of Siilkhem –Salugem trans-boundary protected area

- The mountains are an important refuge for the globally endangered snow leopard, argali sheep and the ibex,

Activities

- ✓ Joint research expeditions were made,
- ✓ Ecological education, ecological camp,

GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA

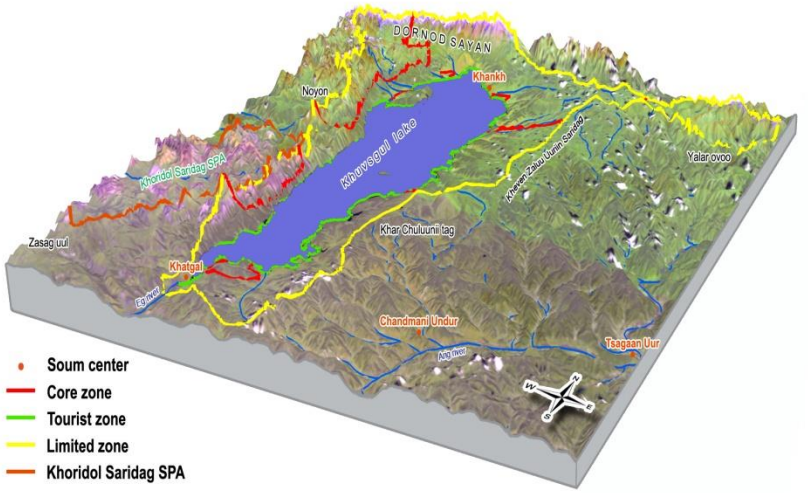
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT

PLANNED Transboundary Protected areas of Mongolia

3. KHUVSGUL LAKE AND TUNKINSKII TRANSBOUNDARY PROTECTED AREA

- Two specially protected areas of the two countries were combined to create TBPA:

  ✓ Tunkinsky Zapovednik of Russia;
  ✓ Khuvsgul lake National park of Mongolia;



Value of the trans-boundary protected area

- The Khuvsgul lake itself is one of the natural wonders of the earth and it is the second largest freshwater lake which contains 1% of the world's fresh water.
- The lake is rich in fish species and the surrounding area abounds in wildlife like diverse species of birds, red deer, reindeer, bear, elk, and moose.

Activities

✓ Reporting and planning of activity;
✓ Joint research and conference;
✓ Ecological education, ecological camp,
✓ Joint patrolling;
✓ Experience sharing meetings and trainings;
✓ Joint fire management activities;

ASER TBPAs: Challenges

- Lack of coordinated activities in Greater ASER including 4 countries: differences in monitoring methodologies etc…
- Uncontrolled pasture grazing in border areas during critical seasons for wildlife: harsh winter, droughts etc…
- Funding deficiency and unsustainability
- Lack of human resources during simultaneous activities
- Sudden weather conditions

…and lessons learnt

- Between Russia and Mongolia:
- Integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation are effective: annual country team meetings with quarterly reporting, monitoring and evaluation
- Economic incentive of local small enterprises: to promote joint fair of local products in both countries, tourism development, experience sharing etc…
- Successful joint research and monitoring activities: snow leopard and argali sheep
- International conferences: research and conservation of ASER biodiversity
- Proposals to create new or expand existing PAs: to Bilateral Governmental Commission on Environmental Cooperation, UNESCO etc.