

# NEMO2 Newsletter

## Welcome!

The Netherlands Mongolia Trust Fund for Environmental Reform, Phase 2 (NEMO2) is nearing the end and has achieved significant results since its start in 2007. In this quarterly newsletter we keep you updated on what happened over the last months. We hope you enjoy the read!

- Want to know what NEMO2 is about? Read more on page 5.



Camera Station Set-up



Moose (Alces alces)

In one of our newsletters of last year, we introduced the **Wildlife Picture Index (WPI)**, a biodiversity based approach for monitoring medium to large terrestrial vertebrates using **camera traps** (Townsend, Galtbalt and Myagmar 2010). The WPI team has now finished their fieldwork and held a **seminar** to present their findings. Relevant people in the environmental sector were invited to this event on September 26-27. Results were presented as well as the methodology and future recommendations. The seminar ended with a discussion on how to proceed and left the team with valuable remarks to include in their final report.

Mongolia is undergoing rapid social and economic changes. At the same time the environment is being threatened by illegal hunting, wildlife trade and economic development. The Wildlife Picture Index can play a role in **biodiversity conservation** by creating a baseline of and mapping trends in wildlife presence. At selected sites, the team put up camera stations that are triggered by

heat differential and movement. For every event, the camera takes three pictures and stores those on its SD card. The pictures are downloaded into explicitly labeled file folders, catalogued and used to calculate **occupancy estimates**. The Wildlife Picture Index can then be calculated for each site. It is scaled so that all changes in the Index are relative to the first year. At Myangan Ugalzat in western Mongolia, the **Index** indicated a 14.8% increase from 2009 to 2010 and then a 38% decline (relative to the baseline) in 2011 in the Buffer Zone. At the same park in the Core Area, the WPI rose 12.6% from 2009 to 2010 and then declined back to 2009 levels in 2011, indicating that biodiversity is staying relatively the same over those three years.

During the implementation of WPI in Mongolia, the team has gathered **thousands of pictures and a significant amount of information** about birds and mammal biodiversity as well as oc-

cupancy estimates for each species reliably detected by the camera station. As this was the last year under NEMO2 that WPI was implemented, it is important to find new sources of funding for this project. **Sustainability** in a project such as this is essential as to create reliable biodiversity information.

**The final report is expected towards the end of this year so keep a lookout on [worldbank.org/nemo](http://worldbank.org/nemo).**



Marmot (Marmota sibirica)



Roe Deer (Capreolus pygargus)

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## INTERVIEW WITH MNET VICE MINISTER JARGALSAIKHAN



Ch. Jargalsaikhan

### What are your thoughts about nature and the environment, and how did you become involved in environmental work?

I think that every Mongolian believes to have an umbilical connection with nature, and I am one of them. I have been working in this sector since I took the post of Vice Minister. Till then I didn't realize thoroughly how nature and environment issues are closely interrelated with our daily lives and how pressing these issues are.

We inherited from our ancestors the traditional customs, nomadic culture, religion, and they have taught us to respect and love Mother Nature and to have a positive attitude towards nature. I grew up with this notion and although I pursued different professions in different sectors, the environmental issues are closer and clearer to my heart as nowadays the science itself has become a much more pragmatic tool and an inter-sectoral utility. In fact, I could say that I am living and working in close connection with Mother Nature and the environment since I was born.

### What activity of NEMO2 lies closest to your heart?

I think there are lots of good activities within the NEMO program, especially the Small Grant Program that matches very well to the program goal. Its project implementation yields are clearly visible among the local people and com-

munities. I see the project as more suited to the current situation as it aims to develop local people's capacities and bring the active involvement of the public while the policy-makers and decision-makers have limited time to work face-to-face with people in every community in every corner of Mongolia. We need to have internationally recognized, specialized and experienced experts in research projects. It would be rewarding if the research works carried out produce constructive and concrete outcomes.

### What will happen on the ministry side after NEMO2 closes?

The big achievement of the MNET is the great experience gained in project coordination, implementation and evaluation as result of the 4-year project implementation period. If possible, there is a need to continue this project and implement many initiatives targeted to the environmental policy implementations. Although the Netherlands government grant aid is coming to an end, the environmental reform work has no end. It is unquestionable that reform will be performed as time progresses and in line with social development. In the framework of this project, the "Environmental Master Plan - 2021" has been developed. This document covers the sector's reform strategy and policy papers, and its implementation plan will be presented to the Cabinet of Government and approved by the Parliament. In this framework, further project and program initiatives

to be implemented with donor countries will surface. This way the project activities are continuing somehow.

### What has NEMO meant to Mongolia?

The NEMO 2 project was very **important** and came as very timely assistance when environmental issues were critical in Mongolia and our country's economic capacity was weak. The project has played a special role in implementing the environmental policy of our country. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the initiator of this project, Mr. Tony Whitten, the NEMO1 and the NEMO2 team, and to the Dutch people and their Government.

### What are the issues and challenges Mongolia's environment is currently facing?

As the mining sector is recognized as the key sector of Mongolia's development agenda, environmental issues are becoming increasingly broader while economic development and living standards of people are improving. In my opinion, there is a need for



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Mongolians to work combining tradition with innovation, to care for and protect the mother land, and to integrate great wisdom with a good mindset. There is also a need for us to work closely with the donors. In addition, there are many other ideas such as environmental auditing and natural resources inventory-



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registrations that couldn't yet be implemented in the framework of the project.

**How should the different impacts from mining, such as economic growth and environmental damage, be managed?**

Environmental protection and rehabilitation works are being carried out continuously in parallel with efforts to reduce the adverse impacts of mining activities, reverse the people's attitude to the positive and introduce environment-friendly innovative mining technologies. Public participatory and monitoring management systems should be improved for the reuse of economic profits generated from natural resources for nature and environmental protection. Also there is an imminent need to implement the concept of Green Economy in its full meaning and improve the accountability mechanism of those who are in charge of this issue.

**How do nature and its protection play a role in your daily life?**

Today, environmental issues such as air pollution in Ulaanbaatar, water insufficiency and the little supply of organic food are calling for imminent solutions

and mass approaches.

I think if we could solve the pressing environmental issues, my daily concerns will be solved as well. These include, firstly, my granddaughter and all Mongolian children and people being able to enjoy their rights to live and work in a safe and healthy environment as stipulated in the Mongolian Constitution, and secondly, Mongolia prospering as the result of increased productivity of healthy Mongolians by solving the pressing environmental problems.

**Where do you see the Mongolian environment in ten years?**

The Mongolian nature and environmental scene in 10 years from now will be revitalized compared with the present. Every person will contribute to nature and environment protection and will care for their lands. They will plant trees, green lawns, flowers, berries and build gardens and parks. Roads will be improved. Ecotourism will have expanded and developed. Wildlife protection and conservation will be improved, their populations will increase. The plant, butterfly and insect species will increase.

**You travel a lot in Mongolia. What do you take away from your travels?**

Good question. Not even half of our population lives in rural areas and they are who doing most of the work. Particularly, our key en-

vironmental work is carried out in rural areas. The government needs to organize urgent and concrete measures such as starting with the rural area population planning, strengthening the human resources capacity of local governments and primary units with state financial support, protecting the people's health, increasing empowerment and responsibilities, mobilizing unemployed people as support workforce for works of seasonal nature. I am concerned and exhausting my mind about the population concentration and lack of attention to rural areas.

I do believe that real "natural" Mongolians live and work in rural areas. They live in harmony with the environment by respecting Mother Nature, keeping the traditional nomadic livelihood and cultural ethics and customs. I respect their fascinating patience, enormous resource capabilities and authentic facile attitude and recognize them as the "Real Mongolians".

**What is your favorite place in Mongolia?**

I love to be anywhere in the country of Mongolia, it does not matter which province or which corner. I love its four seasons with all their aspects.



By Loes van Emden

## SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM—SUPERVISION

Over the summer three supervision missions were held to ensure the progress of the various NEMO2 activities. Many projects that received grants from the **Small Grants Program** were visited. This program has been giving out small grants to local groups such as NGOs, student clubs and herder communities who have sent in successful environmental project proposals. During the supervision trip it was found that in general the projects were **doing very well** even after the grant period had ended. Some had secured other sources of funding but in most cases the recipients themselves continued activities at their own cost. One of the visited projects focused on **waste paper management**. The pilot project began in 2010 in Arvaikheer and this year it was also implemented in Kharkhorin. Recycling is not yet a very common concept

in Mongolia. The Reduce Paper Waste Project has however already done quite a bit to change people's mentality on the issue. Among their objectives are organizing waste paper collecting activities at the local level and teaching children about the importance of waste collection and **recycling**. In 2010 more than 30 tons of waste paper was supplied to the recycling plant in Arkhangai to be processed into toilet paper. When the team visited the project in Kharkhorin they were shown the special bags (1,7m x 0,77m) that are put up all over town to collect waste paper.

The governor's office and the post office are working together with the project to collect waste paper. **Posters** were put up to inform locals of the importance of the issue and a class about waste paper will even be incorporated in the secondary schools' curriculum.

So far the participants have been really happy with the progress. The **mentality of the people is changing** as they see that collecting waste and processing it is more profitable than just throwing it away, both in economic and environmental terms. This also means that the project does not need a lot of additional funding as the paper is sold which means this can become a sustainable small business.

The above is one of the examples of how the Small Grants Program can have the potential for lasting impacts.

**Find more information on previous Small Grant Program cycles on [world-bank.org/nemo](http://world-bank.org/nemo).**



Bags Used for Collecting Paper Waste  
(by E. Bayasgalan)

## LAW GAPS AND DUPLICATIONS

One of the objectives of the Action Plan of the Government of Mongolia for 2008-2012 is "to improve the laws and regulations by deepening the legal reform obeying principles of ensuring law drafting requirements with scientific backgrounds and by **eliminating gaps, duplications and conflicts** of existing and effective laws and regulations in Mongolia based on thorough studies on their current situation". In order to implement this clause of the plan, each ministry was instructed to establish **working groups** headed by their State Secretaries to eliminate duplication, gaps and conflicts of the existing laws and regulations enforced in their relevant sectors. In this framework, in order to improve the coherence of the environmental legislations, the MNET hired a group of national consultants to conduct an

analysis of the current situation and identify the duplication, gaps and conflicts of the existing environmental laws and regulations with financial assistance of the NEMO2 project. As a **result** 60 duplications, 95 conflicts and 129 gaps were identified in the 23 inspected environmental laws and regulations. Amendments to the above laws for **improvements have been proposed** based on the results of the assessments.



By Loes van Emden

## Netherlands Mongolia Trust Fund for Environmental Reform, Phase 2

### NEMO2 History

The Netherlands Mongolia Trust Fund for Environmental Reform, Phase 1 (**NEMO1**) was set up in 2005. The second phase (**NEMO2**), which was initiated in 2007 with an allocation of 5 million USD, will last until the end of 2011. The Trust Fund, provided by the **Dutch Government**, is administered by the **World Bank** and together with the **Government of Mongolia** the following areas of focus were agreed: 1) environmental resource management, 2) pollution management, and 3) environmental governance. All topics discussed in this newsletter are part of these categories.

- For more information on NEMO2 and the results of NEMO1 have a look on [worldbank.org/nemo](http://worldbank.org/nemo).



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## NEMO2 Team & Contact Information

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