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**URBAN RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION FOR INDIA AND MONGOLIA:**  
Curricula, Capacity, ICT and Stakeholder Collaboration to Support Green & Blue Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions

**URGENT PROJECT**  
619050-EPP-1-2020-1-DE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

**REPORT ON EASTERN TRIP IN MONGOLIA AND  
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES  
(Ulaanbaatar-Dornod aimag-Ulaanbaatar)**

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022



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## TRAVEL REPORT ON EASTERN TRIP IN MONGOLIA

### (Ulaanbaatar-Dornod aimag-Ulaanbaatar)

The visit of the URGENT coordination and support unit (Dr. Anton Shkaruba of EMU, the URGENT vice-coordinator and Dr. Anna Skryhan, an assistant to the URGENT external QA officer) to Mongolia has been completed between 29 July and 01 August 2022 (the first meeting was held in Ulaanbaatar before the start of the field trip) with the support of a local coordinator Prof. Ochir Altansukh and project team member Assoc. prof. Namsrai Oyunchimeg (Appendix 1).

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this trip was to spread information about the URGENT project, its activities and deliverables in Eastern Mongolia, and to engage stakeholders to the work of stakeholder collaboration platform created and promoted by the project. The particular rationale behind the trip is that in Western Mongolia project dissemination is managed by the project partner Khovd University, and in Ulaanbaatar by several Ulaanbaatar-based project partners, while Eastern Mongolia is more difficult to reach without a project base in the region.

#### **The first day (22 July 2022) – meetings held in Ulaanbaatar:**

Before the field trip, during the summer training in Ulaanbaatar, on July 22, Dr. Anton Shkaruba and Prof. Ochir Altansukh met with the head of the Water Department, Sh. Myagmar, and discussed the development of blue infrastructure in Mongolia, in particular in Dornod Aimag, and in the context of new hydrotechnical project in the basin of Ulz river.

Also, on the same day, the team met with the director and experts of Itgelt Tugul LLC, who were conducting an environmental assessment of the Ulz river dam.



#### **Day 2 – (29 July 2022) meeting in Dornod aimag:**

After a 10-hour journey from Ulaanbaatar to Dornod aimag, the project team held a meeting at the office of the Dornod Special protected areas' administration office (which is in charge of 5 special protected areas, one of which is the Mongol Dagur). The following people participated in the meeting:

- ~ Mr. Dashdorj. Kh, head of the Dornod Protected Areas Administration
- ~ Mrs. Oyuunchimeg. T, a specialist in charge of research, natural resources and databases of the Dornod Protected Areas Administration
- ~ Mrs. Urtnasan. M, a specialist in charge of training, tourism and land use of the Dornod Protected Areas Administration
- ~ Mrs. Shinechimeg, hydrological engineer of the Meteorological and environmental monitoring department of the Dornod aimag

- ~ Ms. Naran-Erdene, a specialist in charge of training, promotion and information of the Department of Environment and tourism of Dornod aimag
- ~ Mr. Anton Shkaruba, Professor, School of Environment and Natural Resources, Estonian University of Life Sciences
- ~ Ms. Anna Skryhan, researcher, Erda RTE, the Netherlands
- ~ Mr. Altansukh Ochir, Professor of the School of Applied Sciences and Engineering, National University of Mongolia
- ~ Ms. Oyuunchimeg Namsrai, Associate Professor, School of Applied Sciences and Engineering, National University of Mongolia.

During the meeting, the representatives of URGENT project presented various aspects of project implementation and invited the representatives of stakeholder organisations to get engaged into project activities. As a specific example of a possible cooperation area meeting participants discussed the protection situation of the Ulz river, the Onon-Ulz project, which aims to increase the flow of the Ulz river, and the “Rivers Without Borders” NGO, and presented the work plan during the field trip. URGENT representatives further have visited key objects of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) in the city of Choibalsan and discussed with citizens their interests and needs as regards GBI developments.



**Day 3 – (30 July 2022) visit to Bayandun soum and meeting with representatives of local communities:**

The project team traveled 170 km north from Choibalsan, the center of Dornod aimag, to Bayandun soum, and visited the southern part of the Ulz river dam, which is more than 25 km from the center of the soum. In this area, no dam construction was visible, only the excavation site.



On the way back from the dam, the project team met with local nomad communities living in the vicinity of the dam and their leader, and discussed with them the GBI options that may appear and need to be managed when the construction of the dam will be completed, including how this would affect their livelihoods and animal husbandry.



At the end of the day's trip, the project team drove to the north side of the Ulz river dam and got acquainted with the construction process of the dam.



**Day 4 – (31 July 2022) meeting with Bayandun soum governor and in Dornod:**

On the 4th day of the trip, the project team met with Khurelchuluun. Kh, the governor of Bayandun Sum, which includes the area where the Ulz river dam is being built. The team discussed with the governor the issues of GBI development in the soum center, as well as the Ulz dam project. Project representatives have invited the governor to get engaged to URGENT activities and, in particular, to the stakeholder collaboration platform.

The team also had a phone conversation with Mr. Bayartogtoh, head of the Onon-Ulz river basin administration, who is located in the sum.



**The last 5<sup>th</sup> day – (1<sup>st</sup> August 2022) – travel back to Ulaanbaatar**

It took about 13 hours to travel from Bayandun Sum to Choibalsan and from Choibalsan to Ulaanbaatar.

Appendix 1: Travel agenda

## AGENDA

### EXPEDITION TO EASTERN REGION OF MONGOLIA

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#	Time	Activities	Description
29 July 2022 (Friday)			
1	06.00 – 16.00	Departure from Ulaanbaatar to Choibalsan	665 km - paved road. On the way, have lunch at Undurkhaan (335 km – 3.6 hours hours)/ or Tumentsot (480 km – 5.1 hours travel time)
2	16.30 – 18.30	Stakeholder meeting - 1	To involve representatives of the environmental sector organizations such as the Protected area administration, the Department of environment and tourism of Dornod aimag, the Meteorological and environmental analysis department, and the representatives of the Governor's office (e.g., Department of Investment, Development Policy and Planning. Specialist in water use, protection, restoration, water basins, internal work of the organization)
3	19.00 –	Accommodation and free time	"Tashgait" hotel
30 July 2022 (Saturday)			
4	08.00 – 09.00	Breakfast	"Tashgait" hotel
5	09.00 – 14.30	Departure from Choibalsan to Bayandun soum	Distance - 168 km. The road is unpaved and very rough, so it will take about 4 hours.
6	14.30 – 15.30	Lunch	Have lunch at the soum center
7	15.30 – 16.30	Meeting with Onon-Ulz river basin	Meet with representatives of Onon-Ulz river basin administration (specialist Uuganbayar)
8	16.30 – 18.00	Departure from Bayandun soum to Ulz river dam	About 25 km – unpaved road
9	18.00 – 20.00	A tour of the surrounding area and meet with project impacted	Sightseeing tour of Ulz river dam and surrounding areas. Meet with project impacted herders
10	20.00 –	Dinner and rest	Spend the night in a guest house in Bayandun soum
31 July 2022 (Sunday)			
11	08.30 – 09.00	Breakfast	In the guest house
12	09.00 – 09.30	Meeting with soum governor	Meet with Bayandun soum governor Khurelchuluun Kh
13	09.30 –	Depart to UB	
1 August 2022 (Monday)			
14	01.00 –	Arrive in UB	
2 August 2022 (Tuesday)			
16	10.00 – 12.00	Meeting at Water Agency	Meet with Myagmar Sh, the director of Water Agency of Mongolia